SÍ BEAG, SÍ MÓR ("Sheebeg Sheemore")

T. O Carolan (1660-1738)



SI BEAG, SI MOR



One of the best-known of O'Carolan's harp pieces. The title means "Little Fairy, Big Fairy" and evidently refers to a pair of hills near the County Leitrim estate of the Bard's good friend and patron George Reynolds. Local folklore tells of a battle between two fairy bands - presumably the Littles and the Bigs - for whom the hills were named. (It should be noted for the sake of accuracy that this is not the only explanation of the title.)

Roughly 350 years after its composition, this pleasant lilting tune remains a staple in the repertoire of today's session musicians and makes a handy waltz when one is required.