



BB'S MOSTLY GEMS

OLD AND NEW

Tunes in an Irish traditional style

Bourne MA

May 2024

All material © Bill Black

HOW TO USE THIS VOLUME

Welcome to the BB Mostly Gems Old and New online tunebook. I like to think there's a lot of good stuff in here and I hope you enjoy the search for "that tune" (or "those tunes") that really appeal to you. I know they're in here somewhere!

There are a number of ways of accessing the material in this book, and I'll provide details for you here. Everything is made to be as "user friendly" as possible.

For example, if you're interested in a quick look at the notation pages, just scroll down from here. Or use the Thumbnails (see below) or do a "Go To Page" search. All easy.

As of now, notation for the first tune (#1) is on page 20. The last tune (#362) is on page 381. (These numbers will change if/when tunes or new "front of the book" pages are added.)

Feel free to experiment with opening the sound files and the notation files simultaneously - your browser may have a command that will allow you to accomplish this. Or you can simply use two browsers - whatever works.

DOWNLOAD:

The contents of this book must be downloaded before any of its functions will work.

You can download either the entire book or individual pages from your browser. Since my browser (Firefox) and yours might work differently, I don't want to give detailed instructions that might work for one but not the other. Remember: you can always experiment without the danger of disturbing the original material!

HOW TO USE THIS VOLUME

THUMBNAILS:

If you download the entire volume, I strongly suggest enabling the "Show Thumbnails" function in your PDF viewer. Because of the additional pages at the front of the book, the tune numbers and page numbers don't match, so "tune 224" is NOT the same as "printing page 224". Always use the thumbnail number for printing.

"DUH" Dept.

- (1) The sound file link won't work once you put the tune on paper! But you can always access the sound file either via the Index (recommended) or via the stand-alone URL (for geniuses). More info below.
- (2) No matter what you do - good or bad - you can't affect the master file as it exists on the server. You can only make changes to what you've downloaded. If you foul something up - known to happen - just return to www.capeirish.com/bb-tunebook.pdf and start over.

THE INDEX:

To find a particular tune (= "search" mode to us web-savvy types) use the Index provided at the beginning of the volume. Each tune title is linked to the appropriate PDF file; clicking on the tune title opens the MP3 in another tab.

The Index also contains links to the sound file and to the ABC file.

Since my system uses file numbers instead of tune names, it would be difficult to find a particular PDF, MP3, or ABC file without using the Index. If you do know the file number, you can easily find its PDF, MP3, or ABC using these stand-alone file paths:

PDF: <http://www.capeirish.com/ittl/tunefolder/12/12-plus/<xxxxx>.pdf>

ABC: <http://www.capeirish.com/ittl/tunefolder/12/12-ABC.html#<xxxxxx>>

MP3: <http://www.capeirish.com/ittl/tunefolder/12/12-mp3/<xxxxxx>.mp3>

HOW TO USE THIS VOLUME

In both these cases, <xxxxx> represents the file number (4 to 6 digits). (Don't use the brackets - they're for demonstration purposes only!)

"BACK TO THE INDEX"

If you're somewhere in the book and want to get back to the Index, you can do a "Go To Page . . ." search and type in "7". Why "7"? Well, there are actually 15 pages in the present Index, but 7 will get you back to a point where you can navigate up or down to find what you want. Again, this works once the book is downloaded.

Also: since the Index pages also show up in the Thumbnails, you can always click on a likely-looking one and go from there.

STAND-ALONE VERSIONS OF THE INDEX:

There are two of these:

- the HTML

(<http://www.capeirish.com/ittl/tunefolders/12/12-table.html>) will open in your browser and its links will be usable.

- the Excel version

(<http://www.capeirish.com/ittl/tunefolders/12/12-table-sortable.xlsx.zip>) has to be downloaded first. Any spreadsheet program should be able to open it thereafter.

The Excel version is sortable, meaning that the user can arrange the entries in whatever way is most suitable (e.g. tune type, key).

NEW MATERIAL:

As of 19 May 2024 there are 362 tunes in this volume. As of 19 May 2025, there may be 462 (unlikely but who knows?) The Index and links will always be updated as new tunes are added. If you've already downloaded "the 362", you can easily download the new tunes individually.

HOW TO USE THIS VOLUME

To know if there's new material, check the update date at the top of the Index page. If it's different from 5/19/24, it indicates that some new tunes have been added. These will appear at the bottom of the Index table (with the dates added after the titles). I might add a few *** in that cell to make it more attention-getting!

POLITE REMINDER:

A polite reminder that all material in this book is copyrighted. Fair use (sessions, concerts) requires no permission, but attribution is always appreciated.

Specific permission to record this material must be obtained first.

Please contact me with any comments, suggestions, etc.

Have fun!

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BB'S IRISH TRADITIONAL TUNE LIBRARY			
BB'S "MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW"	tunefolder 12		
INDEX AND LINKS column A = PDF column B = ABC column C = MP3	updated 5/19/24		
<i>tune</i> <i>PDF link (title sound link opens on download)</i>	<i>file #</i> <i>ABC link</i>	<i>type</i> <i>MP3 link</i>	<i>key</i>
AFTER THE BLIZZARD	12001	JIG	D
ALICE BY THE WINDOW	12002	H'PIPE	D
ANDREA'S	12003	H'PIPE	A
ANDY BROOKS'	12004	REEL	Dm
ANGEL AT THE GIG	12352	REEL	G
ANNE & ALAN'S	12349	H'PIPE	D
ANNE DERRANE'S	12005	REEL	G
ARDFINNAN BRIDGE	12006	REEL	Bm
ARNOLD'S DUCK	12007	JIG	D
BALLYBAY TAILOR	12008	JIG	G
BALLYCONEELY	12009	JIG	A
BALTRASNA	12010	REEL	D
BANAGHER BRIDGE	12340	JIG	D
BARKING SEAL	12011	JIG	G
BASS RIVER	12012	H'PIPE	D
BATTLING JERRY	12013	JIG	G
BAWNARD SLIDE	12014	SLIDE	D
BEACH AVENUE RAMBLE	12335	H'PIPE	G
BEACH HOUSE	12015	REEL	Ador
BEAL BOCHT (Poor Mouth)	12016	REEL	Em
BEANS IN THE POT	12017	POLKA	C
BEARS OF BAFFIN	12018	H'PIPE	Em
BEAUTIES OF BROCKTON	12019	JIG	D
BEST OF THE BANNER	12020	REEL	G
BETTY ANN DALY'S	12021	JIG	G
BEV & THE REAPER	12022	H'PIPE	D
BIG (*) DEAL	12023	POLKA	G

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BIG THREE-FOUR	12024	WALTZ	D
BIG WHITE BOAT	12336	SLIDE	D
BILL FLYNN'S	12025	JIG	G
BILL GLEESON'S (Wooden Wedding)	12026	REEL	G
BILL McEVOY'S FANCY	12027	H'PIPE	D
BITTERSWEET	12028	REEL	D
BLACK ROAD TO LOUGHREA	12029	REEL	Dm
BLACKSTONE VALLEY	12030	H'PIPE	G
BOATLOAD OF HERRING	12333	REEL	D
BOX IN THE BASEMENT (Lucky Mike's)	12345	JIG	G
BOY GENIUS	12031	REEL	G
BOYS AT BOLAND'S MILLS	12032	H'PIPE	G
BRANT POINT	12033	JIG	D
BRAVE LADS OF TYRONE	12034	REEL	A
BRAVE YOUNG BRIAN (Brian the Brave)	12035	JIG	G
BREEZE ACROSS THE LAKE	12036	JIG	G
BROKEN BOW	12037	H'PIPE	G
BRYANT'S BARBECUE	12038	REEL	Am
BUCKET O' NAILS	12039	POLKA	D
CAMEL'S HUMP	12040	REEL	Em
CANAL BRIDGES	12322	JIG	Bm
CANALSIDE WALTZ	12331	WALTZ	D
CAPE COD	12041	H'PIPE	A
CAROL & SID'S (The Pinebrook)	12348	WALTZ	A
CAROLINE'S FANCY	12042	POLKA	A
CASH IN HAND	12043	JIG	A
CASTLE VIEW	12044	JIG	Am

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CHALK AND CHEESE	12045	REEL	C
CHAMBERS OF MELODY	12046	JIG	Em
CHATHAM LIGHT	12047	JIG	Am
CHENANGO COUNTY	12048	H'PIPE	A
CHICKEN IN THE BUCKET	12049	JIG	G
CHIPMUNK'S HOUSE	12050	JIG	D
CHRISTINA REID'S	12051	JIG	A
CHRISTMAS AT THE MAHERS'	12052	S/JIG	G
CHRISTMAS IN JULY	12053	REEL	D
CLARA MOUNTAIN	12054	SLIDE	D
CLASSICAL	12055	H'PIPE	Dm
CLOSE THE DOOR BEHIND YOU	12056	REEL	Dm
COOGAN'S BARN	12057	H'PIPE	G
COTTAGE AT LARRAGA	12058	H'PIPE	Em
COUSIN MIKE'S	12059	JIG	G
COUSINS	12060	REEL	A
COW BEHIND THE FENCE	12061	POLKA	D
CRANBERRY BOG	12062	REEL	G
CRASHING AT MIKE'S	12063	REEL	D
CROAGH PATRICK	12064	REEL	G
DANCING AT DAVOLL'S	12359	H'PIPE	G
DAVE O DOCHERTY'S	12065	REEL	D
DAWN OUTSIDE THE PUB	12066	JIG	Gm
DEEP WATER	12067	JIG	D
DEERING STATION	12068	REEL	G
DELIA O'BRIEN'S	12069	JIG	G
DELIGHTS OF INCHICORE	12070	JIG	G

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DENIS DONOVAN'S	12071	H'PIPE	G
DERRY LASS	12072	REEL	A
DILLON'S OTHER BREAKFAST	12073	REEL	D
DONNA SHEEHAN'S	12337	REEL	G
DONNCHA'S	12074	SLIDE	D
DOWNTOWN	12075	JIG	D
DRUMBEGGIL	12076	H'PIPE	G
DUMETELLA HYNES'	12077	JIG	D
DUN AN UCHTA	12338	JIG	A
DUN LAOGHAIRE SAILORS	12078	JIG	Bm/G
DWYER AND THE LEPRECHAUN	12079	JIG	G
E'TOWN PARADE	12080	MARCH	G
EAST END JETTY	12324	REEL	Em
EAST OF KILLARNEY	12081	SLIDE	G
EATING CRACKERS WITH A FORK	12082	REEL	D
EBLANA'S FAIR DAUGHTERS	12083	JIG	G
ELLIE T'S	12084	JIG	G
END OF THE SEARCH	12085	REEL	D
ENDLESS MOUNTAINS	12086	REEL	Dm
FAIRHAVEN	12343	H'PIPE	Ador
FALL RIVER	12087	JIG	G
FAREWELL TO KERRY	12088	REEL	Dm
FATHER STEWART'S	12089	JIG	D
FERMANAGH'S LOVELIEST	12090	H'PIPE	D
FIDDLE ON THE WALL (Larry Reynolds')	12091	REEL	Am
FIGHTING FISH	12092	REEL	Am
FIRST GRANDCHILD	12093	REEL	Dm

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FIRST PRIZE	12094	REEL	D
FISHAMBLE STREET	12095	JIG	G
FIVE HOUSES	12096	JIG	D
FIVE LAMPS	12097	JIG	D
FLOCK OF BUDGIES	12098	H'PIPE	G
FLY UPON THE BAR (Phil Taylor's Fancy)	12099	JIG	D
FLYING SQUIRREL	12100	POLKA	G
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE	12101	REEL	D
FORTUNE COOKIE	12102	REEL	Em
FRANKIE O'NEILL'S	12103	JIG	Dm
FROGS & SNAKES OF GALWAY	12104	H'PIPE	D
GALWAY LADY	12105	JIG	D
GENE PRESTON'S FLUTE	12106	JIG	G
GENTLEMAN FROM CLARE (Jimmy Hogan's)	12107	JIG	G
GIRL FROM OLD BRIDE STREET	12108	JIG	D
GOOD SHIP ERNESTINA	12109	REEL	G
GRAND BANKS	12110	REEL	A
GRANDA QUINN'S WHISTLE	12111	JIG	D
GRANNY QUINN'S	12112	REEL	D
GREEN BRIAR	12113	JIG	G
GROGAN IN THE CORNER	12114	REEL	D
HALFWAY TO KERRY	12115	SLIDE	G
HAPENNY BRIDGE	12116	REEL	G
HAPPY HAMSTER	12117	JIG	D
HAPPY VALLEY	12118	JIG	D
HARRY'S GREEN SOCKS	12119	REEL	D
HERRING RUN	12323	REEL	Dmix

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HIGH IN THE REEKS	12120	POLKA	Em
HIGHFIELD HALL	12121	REEL	Em
HOLD THE FRIES!	12122	JIG	G
HOME TO MULLACH	12123	JIG	D
HORACE'S TWENTY	12326	H'PIPE	G
HOUSE DOWN THE STREET	12124	JIG	G
HUGH SMITH'S FAREWELL	12125	REEL	Am
HUMORS OF CUTTYHUNK	12126	REEL	G
HUMORS OF KANGI	12127	H'PIPE	G
HUMORS OF LANACANE	12128	JIG	Dm
HUMORS OF PLUMBRIDGE	12129	JIG	G
HUSSEY'S PENGUIN	12130	REEL	D
ICE CREAM	12131	H'PIPE	G
IN DAYS GONE BY	12132	H'PIPE	Dm
IRISH EMBASSY	12133	REEL	Am
IRISH JACK DOHERTY'S	12134	H'PIPE	D
ISLE OF THE BLEST	12135	AIR	A
JACK & ALFIE'S	12346	POLKA	G
JACK HALEY'S	12136	REEL	Am
JACK MURPHY'S	12137	REEL	Dm
JACK'S MAGICAL PIPES	12138	H'PIPE	D
JANEEN SULLIVAN'S	12139	WALTZ	D
JENNY PRIOR'S	12140	H'PIPE	D
JERRY O'BRIEN'S	12141	REEL	D
JIG FOR WILLIE	12142	JIG	Gm
JIM BOYCE'S	12320	H'PIPE	D
JIM McGINTY'S	12143	JIG	G

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<u>JIMMY KELLY'S BANJO</u>	<u>12144</u>	<u>JIG</u>	D
<u>JIMMY MAC'S</u>	<u>12145</u>	<u>REEL</u>	D
<u>JIMMY THE BOX</u>	<u>12146</u>	<u>REEL</u>	G
<u>JOE KELLY'S RETREAT</u>	<u>12147</u>	<u>JIG</u>	D
<u>JOE MADDEN'S BIG DAY</u>	<u>12148</u>	<u>REEL</u>	D
<u>JOHN EYRE'S CASTLE</u>	<u>12339</u>	<u>JIG</u>	Ador
<u>JOHNNY BY GOLLY!</u>	<u>12149</u>	<u>H'PIPE</u>	D
<u>JOHNNY'S WELCOME TO HEAVEN</u>	<u>12150</u>	<u>REEL</u>	G
<u>JOLLY OLD JIM</u>	<u>12151</u>	<u>JIG</u>	D
<u>JUNE BABY</u>	<u>12152</u>	<u>JIG</u>	D
<u>KATHLEEN & CHRISTY'S (The Carndonagh)</u>	<u>12347</u>	<u>WALTZ</u>	D
<u>KATIE'S GHOST</u>	<u>12153</u>	<u>REEL</u>	Em
<u>KAY O'BRIEN'S</u>	<u>12154</u>	<u>JIG</u>	A
<u>KEITH O'NEILL'S</u>	<u>12321</u>	<u>REEL</u>	Dm
<u>KEN VESEY'S</u>	<u>12155</u>	<u>H'PIPE</u>	C
<u>KENNY'S</u>	<u>12330</u>	<u>S/JIG</u>	D
<u>KERRY GOLD</u>	<u>12156</u>	<u>REEL</u>	G
<u>KEYS OF KIERAN</u>	<u>12325</u>	<u>H'PIPE</u>	Am/C
<u>KIDS IN THE POOL</u>	<u>12157</u>	<u>JIG</u>	D
<u>KILBAHA QUAY</u>	<u>12158</u>	<u>JIG</u>	Dm
<u>KILKEE FARMER</u>	<u>12159</u>	<u>H'PIPE</u>	G
<u>KILLEEN'S OWN TOWN</u>	<u>12160</u>	<u>H'PIPE</u>	G
<u>KILMIHIL LASSIES</u>	<u>12161</u>	<u>REEL</u>	G
<u>KILNADEEMA FANCY</u>	<u>12162</u>	<u>JIG</u>	G
<u>KING OF THE HILL</u>	<u>12163</u>	<u>JIG</u>	G
<u>KING OF THE KEYS</u>	<u>12164</u>	<u>H'PIPE</u>	G
<u>KINVARA SHORE</u>	<u>12165</u>	<u>SLIDE</u>	D

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KITTENS IN THE TUNA FISH	12166	H'PIPE	D
LADIES ON THE ROAD	12167	H'PIPE	D
LADS OF LEXINGTON	12168	REEL	Am
LADY AND THE PIPER	12169	REEL	D
LADY EMMA'S	12170	REEL	D
LEMONADE STAND	12356	POLKA	D
LIBERTIES	12171	REEL	A
LILY FAIR	12172	JIG	Am
LIMERICK IN THE MORNING	12173	REEL	D
LIZ WINCHELL'S	12174	REEL	Am
LLAMA'S PAJAMAS	12341	H'PIPE	D
LONELY LOBSTER	12175	JIG	G
LONG NIGHTS OF WINTER	12176	JIG	D
LOUD HOUSE ON HARMONY ST.	12177	REEL	Am
LOUISE'S POLKA	12355	POLKA	D
LURGAN LASS	12178	JIG	Dm
MAAM CROSS	12179	JIG	Am
MAEVE'S MAZURKA	12180	WALTZ	A
MALAMUTE'S FANCY	12181	H'PIPE	G
MARGIE O'DRISCOLL'S	12182	REEL	G
MARK'S MITTENS	12183	H'PIPE	D
MARY JOSEPHINE'S	12184	H'PIPE	D
MARY O'CONNOR'S	12185	POLKA	D
MAUREEN GLYNN CONNOLLY'S	12186	JIG	A
McFADDEN'S GRAND-DAUGHTER	12187	REEL	A
McGILVRAY'S #1	12327	JIG	D
McGILVRAY'S #2	12328	JIG	Am

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McGILVRAY'S #3	12329	JIG	Em
McKEON'S RIDE TO CLARE	12188	REEL	D
MEGAN McGANN'S	12189	REEL	D
MELODIOUS TOMCAT	12190	JIG	D
MEMORIES OF MONK'S	12191	JIG	Bm
MENACING PIGEON	12192	H'PIPE	D
MERRY STAMPMAKER	12193	REEL	Gm
MICHAEL ROGERS'	12194	SLIDE	Em
MICK O'CONNOR'S	12195	JIG	A
MICK O'GRADY'S	12196	REEL	D
MIDLETON LASS	12334	JIG	G
MIGHTY MIKE'S	12197	REEL	D
MIKE FROM KC	12198	REEL	D
MIKE LYNCH'S	12199	JIG	Dm
MILKMAN'S HORSE	12200	REEL	D
MISS BREEN'S HOTEL	12201	H'PIPE	A
MOLLY WILLEY'S	12202	JIG	D
MONEYMORE	12203	JIG	G
MONSIGNOR'S POLKA	12204	POLKA	G
MOONRISE	12205	REEL	C
MOUNTAIN FIDDLER	12206	SLIDE	G
MRS. CONWAY'S CHOCOLATE CAKE	12207	H'PIPE	G
MRS. FEENEY'S BLANKET	12208	JIG	Em
MUSIC AT McGURK'S	12209	REEL	G
MUSICAL CROW	12210	REEL	G
MUSKRAT	12211	H'PIPE	Am
NEW DEACON	12212	JIG	G

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NEW ENGLAND SUMMER	12213	JIG	Am
NEW HILL COUNTRY	12214	JIG	Dmix
NIGHTS AT TOM O'REILLY'S	12215	JIG	Em
NORA FLANAGAN'S	12216	JIG	A
NOT FAR FROM MEATH	12217	JIG	Am
NUALA KELLY'S	12218	REEL	G
OLD HEAD OF KINSALE	12219	JIG	G
OLD MAN AND HIS DOG	12220	JIG	G
ORDINATION	12221	JIG	A
OWEN THOMAS'	12222	REEL	Em
PADDY THE LILTER	12223	JIG	D
PADDY'S LEGACY	12224	REEL	G
PADRAIGIN RUA (Pat the Redhead)	12225	REEL	D
PARK ON SUNDAY	12226	JIG	D
PATRICK KEANE'S	12227	REEL	G
PATRICK SCULLY'S	12228	JIG	A
PATRICK'S PARK	12229	REEL	D
PATRIOT SUNDAY	12230	REEL	Dmix
PATSY THE DUB	12231	JIG	G
PEADAR'S NEW CALF	12232	REEL	D
PEAK OF PERFECTION	12354	REEL	D
PEOPLE'S CHOICE	12233	JIG	D
PHYLLIS' KITCHEN	12234	H'PIPE	D
PINT O' PLAIN	12235	H'PIPE	D
PLANXTY PHELM MEEHAN	12236	JIG	G
PLEASANT HOUR	12237	REEL	Dm
POOKA'S DELIGHT	12238	REEL	D

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<i>tune</i> <i>PDF link (title sound link opens on download)</i>	<i>file #</i> <i>ABC link</i>	<i>type</i> <i>MP3 link</i>	<i>key</i>
PORCUPINE'S FANCY	12239	REEL	G
POTATOES & ONIONS	12240	REEL	D
PRIDE OF WEST DENNIS	12241	REEL	A
PRINCESS GRACE'S	12242	MARCH	G
PRUNES FOR BREAKFAST	12243	JIG	D
PURCELL THE PIPER	12244	REEL	G
QUEEN OF HEARTS	12357	H'PIPE	G
RABBIT RUN	12245	JIG	Am
RAFFERTYS' PARTY	12246	REEL	G
RATHSALLAGH	12247	H'PIPE	D
RECOVERY	12248	REEL	D
RED BLUE AND BEAUTIFUL	12249	REEL	Am
RED HAND	12250	POLKA	G
REMEMBERING REAVY	12251	REEL	Gmix
RETURN TO COROFIN	12252	REEL	D
ROCHESTER LASS	12253	JIG	D
ROCK IN THE RIVER	12254	JIG	G
ROCKCORRY DEPOT	12255	REEL	Dmix
ROCKS OF CONNEMARA	12256	REEL	Dm
ROSCOMMON PLUMBER	12257	REEL	D
ROSIE PRIOR'S	12344	REEL	D
ROSIE ROGERS'	12258	H'PIPE	A
ROXBURY RACES	12259	POLKA	G
RUSSELL'S MILLS	12360	REEL	D
SAINT RAYMOND'S	12260	H'PIPE	D
SANDY CONNOLLY'S	12261	JIG	D
SARA'S PORCH	12262	JIG	D

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SARAH'S BLISS	12263	S/JIG	A
SCRAMBLED EGGS	12264	JIG	A
SEAHORSE	12342	H'PIPE	G
SEAN AT THE WHEEL	12265	REEL	Dm
SEAN BERRY'S	12266	JIG	Am
SECOND CITY	12267	REEL	Am
SHANNON PILOT	12268	REEL	Am
SINGING SISTERS	12269	JIG	G
SIX FOOT SANDWICH (Loretta Egan's)	12270	JIG	D
SIX IN THE MORNING	12271	JIG	G
SLEEPY	12272	REEL	Am
SNOW ON THE ROOF	12273	REEL	G
SNOWY OWL	12274	JIG	A
SNOWY ROAD TO MICK'S	12275	SLIDE	D
SOLANUS CASEY'S	12276	JIG	D
SON OF THE PRAIRIE	12277	REEL	A
SOUTH BANK OF THE SHANNON	12278	JIG	A
SOUTH SHORE LASSES	12279	REEL	D
SPRING AT LAST!	12280	JIG	D
STARFISH	12281	JIG	D
STEVEN PRIOR'S	12282	JIG	G
STEVIE'S BOAT	12283	REEL	G
STONEHILL FAIR	12284	JIG	D
STROLLING WITH ROSIE	12285	JIG	A
SUNNYSIDE UP	12286	REEL	G
SUNSET PARK	12287	JIG	G
SWANS OF GLEN LOUGH	12351	SLIDE	G

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SWEET SKIES OF LOUTH	12288	JIG	D
TALL GREAT ARM (Tom Brady's)	12289	JIG	G
TANGLED OWL	12290	JIG	C
TARBERT FERRY	12291	MARCH	G
TARPAULIN COVE	12292	REEL	Am
TATTOOED LADY	12293	REEL	D
TAWNAMULLAGH	12294	JIG	D
TEN DOLLAR BILL (Aubrey Everett's)	12332	POLKA	D
TERRIER'S DELIGHT	12295	REEL	D
THANKS TO ALL!	12362	H'PIPE	D
THE OLDER YOU GET	12358	JIG	Ddor
THROUGH FIONA'S EYES	12296	WALTZ	A
TICKLE THE PIG	12297	JIG	D
TIDEWATER	12298	REEL	G
TOM NANGLE'S	12299	JIG	D
TOMMY JOYCE'S	12300	REEL	Em
TRACY GALLAGHER'S	12350	S/JIG	Amix
TRIM CASTLE	12301	JIG	G
TRIP TO CLONEE	12302	REEL	Em
TRIP TO THE ISLAND	12303	REEL	G
TRIPPING AT THE TRUCK STOP	12304	POLKA	D
TROLLING THE RIP	12305	REEL	G
TWO RICHIES	12361	H'PIPE	G
UNCLE PAT'S	12353	H'PIPE	D
VALLEY ROAD	12306	JIG	Am
VIRTUOSO	12307	REEL	D
VOYAGE SOUTH	12308	REEL	D

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<u>WALKIN' THE PUPS</u>	<u>12309</u>	<u>JIG</u>	G
<u>WALTZING ARMADILLO</u>	<u>12310</u>	<u>JIG</u>	G
<u>WHALING CITY</u>	<u>12311</u>	<u>REEL</u>	D
<u>WHELAN'S FROLIC</u>	<u>12312</u>	<u>JIG</u>	Am
<u>WHERE CAN SHE BE OFF TO?</u>	<u>12313</u>	<u>H'PIPE</u>	G
<u>WHITE BULL</u>	<u>12314</u>	<u>POLKA</u>	D
<u>WHITE LIGHTNING (MY ASS!)</u>	<u>12315</u>	<u>JIG</u>	A
<u>WINTER MORNING</u>	<u>12316</u>	<u>REEL</u>	G
<u>WOODS HOLE FISHERMAN</u>	<u>12317</u>	<u>REEL</u>	Am
<u>YONKERS PIPER</u>	<u>12318</u>	<u>REEL</u>	G
<u>YOUNG PEARSE'S</u>	<u>12319</u>	<u>REEL</u>	D

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[1] AFTER the BLIZZARD

© BB

D Bm D D A D Bm

D A Bm A D A D

D G D Bm A

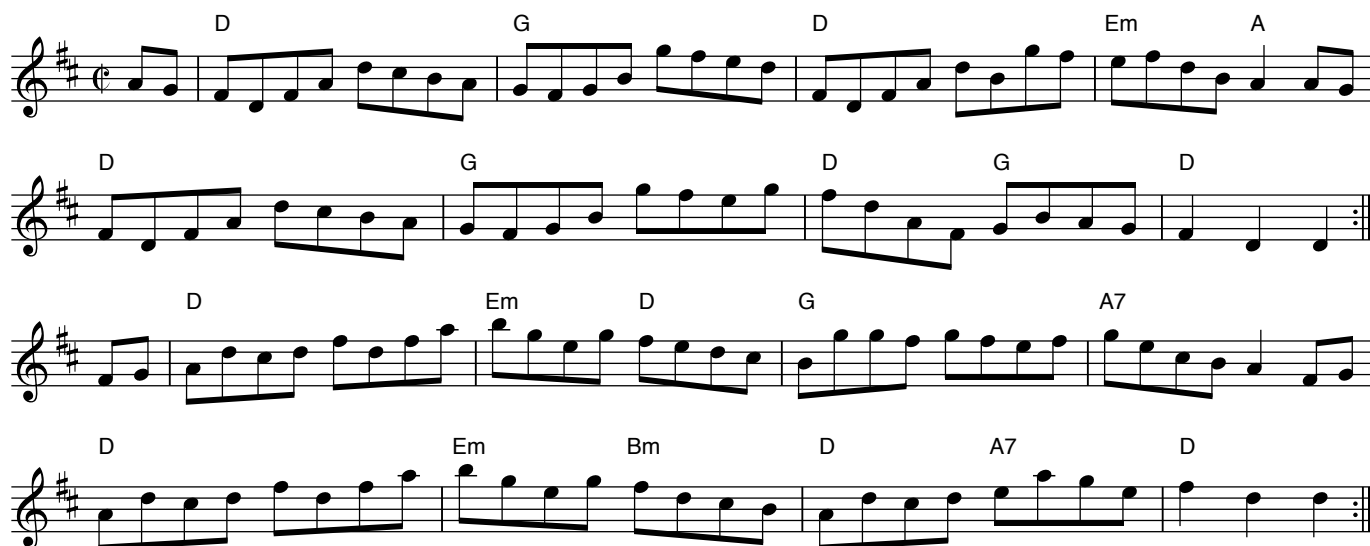
D G D Em D

I don't recall exactly which blizzard this tune is named for - we don't get them all that often on Cape Cod, but when we DO get one, it can be an interesting experience for a few days. Fair play to the local authorities - they usually get the roads back to almost normal within a day or so (power outages maybe not so quickly) . UPDATE: we've since moved into a condo community, which means that somebody else gets to do the plowing and shoveling that we once had to do. And we even have a fireplace to help us keep warm while we watch them work!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[2] ALICE by the WINDOW (hornpipe)

© BB 2005



This was an 80th birthday tune for the 'grande dame' of traditional music on Cape Cod, Alice van Buren. "By the window" refers to the fact that that's where she liked to sit playing her mandolin during sessions. After a long battle with dementia, Alice passed away in 2015.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[3] ANDREA'S HORNPIPE

© BB 2007

Andrea's Hornpipe

Chords: A, F#m, G, E, Bm, E7, D, A

This tune was composed as a raffle prize and a nice lady named Andrea was the winner. I don't recall how much we raised or even who the beneficiary was, but I hope the winner enjoyed her tune!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[4] ANDY BROOKS' Reel

© BB

The musical score for 'Andy Brooks' Reel' is written in 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are in the key of D minor (one flat), and the last two staves are in the key of D major (two sharps). The chords are indicated above the notes: Dm, C, Dm, F, Dm, C, Dm, C, Dm, Am, Dm, D, Bm, D, Bm, A, D, G, Bm, A, D, Bm, A, D.

This is an early tune that goes back to the golden days of IRTRAD. Andy was the son of Jann Brooks, a fine singer and musician who was living in Canada when last I heard. (I'm not a FaceBook expert so I couldn't locate her when I tried recently.) If anyone reading this knows Jann or Andy and how I can contact them, please let me know.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[5] ANNE DERRANE'S (reel)

© BB

Chord progression for Anne Derrane's (reel):

Staff 1: G, Em, G, Am, G, Em, Am, D

Staff 2: G, Em, G, Am, G, Am, D, G

Staff 3: G, D, Em, G, Am, G, A, D

Staff 4: G, D, Em, G, Am, D, G, D, G

It used to be well known in traditional circles that the virtuoso box player Joe Derrane had died back in the 1960s or 1970s (or even earlier). I thought so too until my wife and I sat at the same table with a very much alive Joe and his wife Anne at a wedding in 1990! Unfortunately both Joe and Anne are gone - Anne first, then Joe (who had suffered from COPD for years) in July 2016.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[6] ARDFINNAN BRIDGE [reel]

© BB

The musical score for "Ardfinnan Bridge [reel]" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Bm, F#m, A, Bm, D, F#m, Bm, F#m, A, Bm, F#m, Bm, D, G, F#m, Bm, A, Bm, A, D, F#m, Bm, D, A, Bm. The melody is a continuous line of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing rests or accidentals.

Ardfinnan is a neat town in Tipperary on the banks of the River Suir. If you've ever heard of the song "The Old Rustic Bridge by the Mill", this is the bridge they're talking about.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[7] ARNOLD'S DUCK

© BB

D Bm D Bm A

D Bm D G Bm Bm

Bm A D Em Bm G A

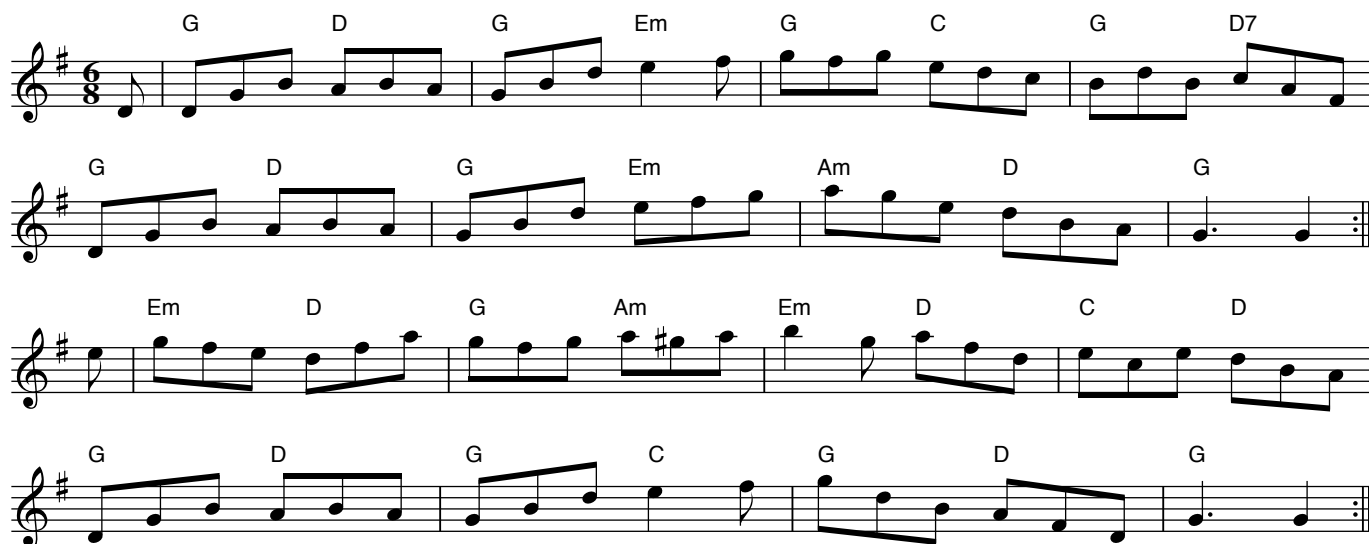
Bm A D Em D A Bm Bm

Many of the older residents of our strange little town know the real story of Arnold's duck, but none of them will ever speak of it to outsiders - especially ones carrying instrument cases of any sort (or looking like Steven King)...

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[8] The BALLYBAY TAILOR

© BB



Ballybay is a town in Co. Monaghan and the "tailor" - who actually owned the local clothing store - was also the official historian for the area. His name was Peadar Murnane, and he was very helpful to me when I stopped in to visit - at tea time (oops!) - to find out more about my "roots"!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[9] The BALLYCONEELY Jig

© BB 2005

The musical score for 'The Ballyconeely Jig' is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chord markings above the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: A, Bm, A, D, A, D, A, E7
- Staff 2: A, Bm, A, F#m, D, E, A
- Staff 3: A, D, A, Bm, E, A, E
- Staff 4: A, Bm, F#m, D, E, A

Ballyconeely is a village way out in Connemara, about as far west in Ireland as you can get!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[10] The BALTRASNA Reel

© BB

The musical score for 'The BALTRASNA Reel' is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords and rests indicated above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: D, Em, D, Bm, D, Em, D, A
- Staff 2: D, Em, D, Bm, D, A7, D, A, D
- Staff 3: Bm, G, A, D, Bm, G, A, D
- Staff 4: Bm, G, A, Bm, G, Bm, A7, D

Baltrasna is the area near Ashbourne, Co. Meath, where Tony Smith - great fiddler and supporter of the music - and his family live. The fact that we (I ?) got horribly lost trying to find the place (in those dark days before GPS) is not any reflection on Tony's fine directions.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[11] The BARKING SEAL

© BB

The musical score for "The Barking Seal" is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, Am7, G, D, Em, D, G, Am7, G, D, G, Em, C, G, Em, C, G, D, Em, C, G, Am, D7, D, G.

There's an aquarium nearby where a couple of noisy seals ("Bumper" and "Luseal") used to live. When they wanted to be fed, you could hear the carry-on half a mile away. They always drew a big crowd around feeding time and they really seemed to love the attention! Sadly both creatures have crossed the Rainbow Bridge to Seal Heaven and as of this moment (May 2024) the aquarium hasn't replaced them.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[12] The BASS RIVER Hornpipe

© BB

Chords: D, D, G, Bm, D, D, Bm, A, D, D, G, Em, D, A, D, D, G, A, G, A, D, A, D, G, A, D.

This tune started life as "The Bubbling Stream", then became "The Kingfisher" - both of which titles, as I found out subsequently, had already been used. I finally gave it the present name after one of our local watercourses (after checking TuneFinder to make sure this name too hadn't been used before!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[13] BATTLING JERRY

© BB 2007

Chords: G, D, G, D, C, G, D; G, D, G, Am, Em, D, G, G; G, D, G, C, Am, D; G, D, Em, G, C, D7, G.

This tune was composed for fiddler Jerry Holland, a battler indeed as he struggled against cancer. He lost the battle in July 2009 but his legacy lives on in many ways. I had the privilege of playing backup for him at a pub concert on the Cape a couple years before he died. I had never met him, never played with him, and due to traffic he arrived just before the show so we never got a chance to practice together. But the show went off without a hitch (I'm still not sure how!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[14] The BAWNARD Slide

© BB 2007

12/8

Bm G D A

Bm D A D

D G D A

D G D A7 D

Bawnard is a little town in Kerry near the southern edge of the Sliabh Luachra area. There don't seem to be any other tunes named for it, so maybe this is the first!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[15] The BEACH HOUSE (reel)

© BB 2014

The musical score for 'The BEACH HOUSE' reel is presented in four staves of music. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in treble clef. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff: Am, D, G, Em, and C. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' and a bracket. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Named for a Cape Cod venue where our "Cat's Melodeon" group had some nice sessions a few years back. It changed hands and name after the pandemic and is now a well-regarded Italian restaurant.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[16] An BEAL BOCHT (reel)

The Poor Mouth

© BB

The musical score is written for guitar in 4/4 time, featuring four staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The chords are indicated above the notes. The melody is written in a single voice on a treble clef staff. The first staff contains 8 measures, the second 8 measures, the third 8 measures, and the fourth 8 measures. The melody is a simple, rhythmic tune with a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The chords are Em, G, Bm, Em, G, Em, Am, G, D in the first staff; Em, G, Bm, Em, G, Bm, D, Em in the second staff; Em, G, D, Em, Am, Em in the third staff; and Em, G, D, Bm, Em, D, Em in the fourth staff. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

A tribute to the great writer Flann O'Brien, to my thinking one of the funniest men ever to put pen to paper. The name "Poor Mouth" refers to Mr. O'Brien's wonderful parody of the 1930's Irish "native speaker" novels much admired (for the wrong reasons, according to O'Brien) by the "literati" of the time.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[17] BEANS in the POT (polka)

© BB

First version of the tune in C major. The notation consists of three staves of music in 2/4 time. The melody is written in treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: C, Am, C, G, C, F, C, F, Am, G, C, Am, C, G, F, C, F, C, G, C, Am, G, Am, G, Dm, Am, Em, Am.

version in D

Second version of the tune in D major. The notation consists of three staves of music in 2/4 time. The melody is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). Chords are indicated above the notes: D, Bm, D, A, D, G, D, G, Bm, A, D, Bm, D, A, G, D, G, D, A, D, Bm, A, Bm, A, Em, Bm, F#m, Bm.

This tune was originally intended to fill what I perceived as the trad repertoire's crying need for a polka in the key of C. I suggested at that time that if your instrument was uncomfortable in that key, you play it in D. To make life easier, I've done the transposing. (Note that if the high C in the second part is a problem, substitute A).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[18] The BEARS of BAFFIN (hornpipe)

Tune 3 of "The Baffin Island Suite"

© BB 2009

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplet markings. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic accompaniment. The score is divided into four systems, each containing two staves. The first system has six measures with chords Em, D, Em, Bm, Em, and C. The second system has six measures with chords Em, Am, D, Em, D, and Em. The third system has six measures with chords Em, D, Em, Am, D, and Em. The fourth system has six measures with chords G, D, Em, D, Em, and Em. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Everybody loves polar bears - who wouldn't love a creature so big and furry and white who could kill you with one swipe of his or her enormous paw? But hey - the cubs are adorable. Just don't mess with them while Mom is around. . .

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[19] The BEAUTIES of BROCKTON

© BB 2007

D modal

D D D C

D D G D A7 D D

D D C C

D A7 D A D D

Brockton is a blue-collar town southwest of Boston, once a thriving manufacturing and mill town but now not much of anything. Its two famous native sons are the champion boxer Rocky Marciano and the late great fiddler Jerry Holland. I should point out that a branch of the Reynolds clan lives there too, which is definitely a point in Brockton's favor.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[20] BEST OF THE BANNER (reel)

© BB 2008

Em C G Em C Em G Bm

Em C G Bm Em Bm Em

G Am Em Bm Em Am G Bm

G Am Em D G Bm Em D Em

Dedicated to the memory of Mary Keating and Nora Flanagan, both fine ladies from the "Banner County" of Clare, whose families have done so much for the tradition in the New York area.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[21] BETTY ANN DALY'S

© BB

Chords: G D Em G Am Em C D Bm Em C D G G C D G Em Am Em G C D G D C D G

Named for a good friend, fine lady, and the mother of several excellent musicians. She and her family were among the first people to welcome us to Falmouth when we relocated there from New York.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[22] BEV & the REAPER (hornpipe)

© BB 2007

Chords: D, A, G, A7, D, G, D, A, D, Bm, A, G, A, D, Em7, D, A7, Bm, G, D, G, D, Em, A, D

A scary time for a fellow musician a while back seemed to be a good reason for a "therapy tune"!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[23] The BIG * DEAL POLKA

© BB

Chords: G, Em, D, G, C, D, G, Em, G, Am, G, G, Em, D, G, Am, G, G, Em, D, G, C, D, G, D, Em, Am, G.

*Composed in January 2000, after we had miraculously lived through the Y2K hoo-hah (remember that?) The * stands for whatever your favorite disparaging adjective might be. (I know what MY personal choice would be, but this publication is meant for family use).*

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[24] The BIG THREE-FOUR

© BB 10/03

Chords: D, A, D, Em, Bm, G, D, A, Bm, Em, A, Bm, G, D, A, D, F#m, D, A, D, E7, A, Bm, F#m, E, F#m, D, A, D, E, A, Bm, E, A.

A three-four tune for a 34th wedding anniversary - cute, huh? (With all my love to Mrs. B. - here's hoping for 34 more!)

Update: 54 (or LIV as the NFL would put it) as of September 2023. Still as madly in love as a couple of senior citizens can be.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[25] BILL FLYNN'S JIG

© BB 2011

The musical score for 'Bill Flynn's Jig' is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, C, D, Em, Am, D, G, A, D, G, Am, G, G, D7, G, D7, G, C, D, G, Am, D, G, C, D, G.

Bill was a local entertainer and friend of the tradition who passed away in November 2011 after a long illness.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[26] BILL GLEESON'S REEL

The Wooden Wedding

© BB 2009

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The melody is a continuous line of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at various points: G, D7, G, F, F, Dm7, G, C, G, D7, G, F, G, G, Em, F, F, G, G, C, D, G, D, G. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Bill Gleeson, to whose memory this tune is dedicated, passed away in September 2009. He was a kind and intelligent man capable of discussing any number of Irish topics. His public claim to fame was his recitation at sessions of a piece called "Clancy's Wooden Wedding". Delivered in Bill's gravelly voice, it never failed to bring the house down!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[27] BILL McEVOY'S FANCY (hornpipe)

© BB

D A G Em D D A

D G Bm Em D Bm D A D

D A Bm D Em Bm Em A

D A Bm Bm7 G A D

Bill McEvoy (RIP 2020) was well known to anyone involved with traditional music in the US. He received many honors and accolades for his efforts on behalf of the music over the years, and I'd like to add this tune to the list!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[28] The BITTERSWEET Reel

© BB

Chords: D Bm D Bm G D C D Bm A D G D A D C D C Am D C D C Am7 D Am D C D A7 D

Bittersweet is a vine which puts out bright red and yellow leaves and berries in the Fall. It belongs to the Celastraceae family (but you already knew that). You see it everywhere - it's certainly pretty but (scary chord please) it has a sinister side - besides being poisonous, it can choke its host tree to death! (Insert 'eeeeewww' here.) It's what botanists refer to as an "invasive species", meaning it came from elsewhere and settled here (which describes about 85% of the local human inhabitants of Cape Cod as well, but at least most of us don't go around choking trees).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[29] The BLACK ROAD to LOUGHREA (reel)

© BB

Chords: Dm, Am, Dm, Am, Dm, Am, Dm, Am, Dm, Am, Dm, Am, Dm, Am, Dm, F, C, Am, Dm, F, C, Dm, F, C, Am, Dm.

A salute to the musicians of East Galway and their great D minor tunes. The name refers to the road that crosses the mountains between Ballinakill and Loughrea - as lonely a stretch of road as I've ever driven on. That was years ago - even in these days of ubiquitous smartphones, Onstar, etc., you certainly wouldn't want to get a flat tire up there!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[30] The BLACKSTONE VALLEY Hornpipe

© BB 2006

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords and other markings above the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: G, G, Am, G, C, G, D
- Staff 2: G, G, D7, G, C, D 3, G
- Staff 3: Em, C, D, Em, G, D, Em
- Staff 4: G, Em, Am7, D, 3, G, 3, C, D 3, G

A group consisting of Jerry O'Sullivan, Mark Oien, Vanessa Millar, Mrs. Black, and yours truly had the honor to be invited to participate in the Blackstone Valley Celtic Festival in Sutton MA in July 2006 - it was a great weekend and the folks in charge couldn't have been nicer. This tune is dedicated to Bob, Russell, and their colleagues who work so hard to make this event an annual success. (I forget what we decided the name of our group would be - the Ad Hocs? Grupa Gan Ainm?)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[31] The BOY GENIUS (reel)

© BB

G Am G G F B \flat Dm

G Am G G Am D G

G F G Am G F

G F G F D G

The original inspiration for this tune (and a few more in this collection) was the movie "Amadeus", probably my all-time favorite. In my not-so-humble opinion, every musician should see it (even if you're not crazy about Mozart or classical music in general).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[32] The BOYS at BOLAND'S MILL (hornpipe)

© BB

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1 through 6, the second staff contains measures 7 through 10, the third staff contains measures 11 through 14, and the fourth staff contains measures 15 through 18. The melody is characterized by frequent triplet rhythms. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, C, G, C, G, D, G, Am, Em, A, D in the first staff; G, C, G, C, G, Am, G in the second staff; Em, G, Em7, G, D, G, A, D in the third staff; and G, C, G, C, G, Am, D, G in the fourth staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the fourth staff.

*Boland's Mill, formerly Dublin's flour mill and a city landmark for many years, is situated in the Ringsend area of Dublin between center city and the bay. One of the first battles of the 1916 Easter Uprising was fought there. My wife's grandfather was one of the combatants. *** The mill shut down in 2001. Like many other of Dublin's older buildings, the mill complex has been adapted for residential/commercial use.*

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[33] The BRANT POINT Jig

© BB 2006

The musical score for 'The Brant Point Jig' is written in D major (two sharps) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, D, Em, A7, D, Em, D, G, A, D, Em, Bm, A, Em, Bm7, A, Em, D, Em, D, A, D.

I wrote this tune shortly after we returned from playing at a wedding on Nantucket, which is where the Brant Point lighthouse is. We didn't get to see much of the island but it certainly looks like a nice place to spend some time (and money, lots of it, especially in the summer).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[34] The BRAVE LADS of TYRONE (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: A mix, A, G, A, D, A, E
- Staff 2: A, G, Em, A, G, E, A
- Staff 3: A, G, A, G, A, G, A, E, A
- Staff 4: A, G, A, G, A, Bm, A, E, A

I was working on a project recently that required me to find one dance tune for each of the 32 counties of Ireland (e.g., "Dublin Porter", "Galway Rambler", "Cork Hornpipe", "Sligo Maid", etc.). I was amazed to discover that there were no dance tunes that included "Tyrone" in the title - at least I couldn't find any. (There is a tune called "Tyrone's Ditches" but I think it's a march.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[35] BRAVE YOUNG BRIAN

"Brian the Brave"

© BB

Chords: G, C, D, G, Em, D; G, C, D, G, Am, D, G; G, Am, G, C, G, Em, D; G, Am, G, Em, G, Am, D, G.

This tune was originally named "Brian the Brave" until I found out that name had already been used for a tune in the Roche collection. Oops. . . The Brian of the title is a young man who had to overcome a lot of adversity early in his life, but never gave up and has done quite well for himself - a good example of bravery indeed. (Note that Brian's proud dad Larry Jr. likes the original name, so it's included here!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[36] The BREEZE ACROSS the LAKE

© BB

Chords: G, Em, G, F, Dm, F, G, Em, D, G, D7, G, G, G, F, F, G, G, F, G, D7, G.

Pick your favorite lake - lots of lovely ones in Ireland and up in the Adirondacks, even a few down here on the Cape - I didn't have any particular one in mind!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[37] The BROKEN BOW Hornpipe

© BB 2009

Chords: G, G, Am, C, D, G, Am, G, D7, G, D, G, Em, Em, D, Em, D, D, G, D, C, G, C, D, G.

This tune is named for a street in Falmouth, unremarkable except for the fact that some very nice people closely related to me live there. Not sure where the name comes from but it might have some historical significance (or not).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[38] BRYANT'S BARBECUE (reel)

© BB



If you ever get to Kansas City, make sure you pay a visit to Arthur Bryant's barbecue place downtown (still on Brooklyn Avenue!). No question that it's some of the best barbecue you'll ever try. The place is always smoky and noisy and crowded - in other words, definitely worth the trip! (PS - if you're fussy, you might want to bring your own napkins.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[39] The BUCKET o' NAILS (polka)

© BB

Chords: D, Em, Bm, A, D, A, G, D, D, C, D, A, D, C, D, A, D.

Someone on IRTRAD (the now-moribund-but-not-totally-dead traditional Irish music mailing list, may its name be blessed forever) once described yours truly as "funny as a bucket of nails" after I had shared one of my usual inanities. In his part of the world (I believe he's English) that's not necessarily a compliment, but I thought it would make a good tune title anyway. (Look, I'll take titles wherever I can get them!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[40] The CAMEL'S HUMP (reel)

© BB

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[41] The CAPE COD Hornpipe

© BB

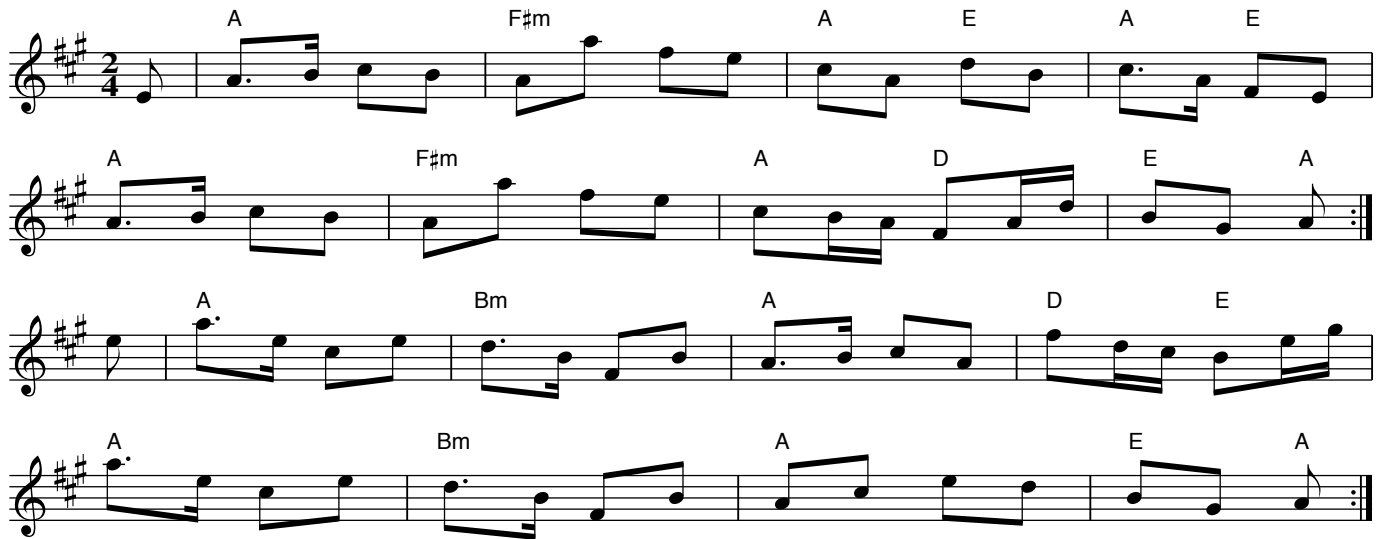
Chord symbols: A, F#m, A, F#m, A, Bm, A, F#m, E, A, Dm, F, Am, F, Am, Dm, Dm, C, Gm, F, C, Dm, Gm, Dm, Gm, Dm, Gm, F, Gm, Gm, F, Bb, F, Gm, D, Bm, D, Bm, D, Em, D, Bm, D, Bm, A, D.

A bit of a musical challenge - try playing it "Donegal style" (= in reverse order the second time through.) Have fun!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[42] CAROLINE'S FANCY (polka)

© BB



For Caroline Doherty Roddy, a good friend and a very talented lady, known and loved in the Boston area and beyond.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[43] CASH IN HAND

© BB 2006

The musical score for "CASH IN HAND" is written in F#m (three sharps) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords are indicated above the notes: F#m, A, D, E, A, D, E, F#m, A, D, A, Bm, E, A, A, D, E, A, D, A, E, A, D, E, A, Bm, A, E, A. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

A musician's preferred means of compensation!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[44] The CASTLE VIEW Jig

© BB

The musical score for 'The Castle View Jig' is written in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Am, Em, G, Am, G, Em, Am
- Staff 2: Am, Em, G, Am, G, F, Em, Am
- Staff 3: Am, Em, G, D, Am, G, Am
- Staff 4: Am, Em, G, Am, G, F, Em, Am

The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, time signatures, and repeat signs at the end of the second and fourth staves.

Our friend Seán O'Driscoll, a fine banjo & box player, lived in Minneapolis for a while but is now back in Cork. Seán grew up in Blarney in a house called "Castle View", apparently because you can't see the famous castle from it (at least I couldn't, but maybe I wasn't looking in the right direction). But it's a good name for a tune. (Travel tip: Blarney Castle is worth a visit, but never EVER kiss the famous Stone. I won't go into detail, but - you've been warned!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[45] CHALK & CHEESE (reel)

© BB

Musical notation for the first version of the reel, in C major (one sharp). The key signature is C major. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3-measure rest. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff concludes the melody with a double bar line and a repeat sign. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: C, Dm, D, G, C, Am, Dm7, G.

version in D

Musical notation for the second version of the reel, in D major (two sharps). The key signature is D major. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3-measure rest. The notes are: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C#5, D5. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff continues the melody. The fourth staff concludes the melody with a double bar line and a repeat sign. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, Em, E, A, D, Bm, Em7, A.

Dedicated with much love to our two wonderful sons, Tedd and Chris, who physically resemble each other not in the least - hence the title (= the Irish opposite of "peas in a pod").

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[46] CHAMBERS of MELODY

© BB 12/06

Em Em G Em Bm D

Em C D Em G D Em Em

Em Em G D G D

Em Em C D Em Em

Dedicated to Boston musician and computer guru John Chambers, responsible for the great "TuneFinder" program that has been so helpful to so many musicians.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[47] The CHATHAM LIGHT

© BB 2013

The musical score for 'The Chatham Light' is written in 8/8 time and consists of four staves. The chords are indicated above the notes. The first staff contains the following chords: Am, C, G, Am, G, Am, Em. The second staff contains: Am, Em, Am, G, C, Am. The third staff contains: C, C, Am, Em, Am, Em, G. The fourth staff contains: Am, G, Am, G, C, Am. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Cape Cod's Chatham Light is one of the oldest and most important lighthouses on the US East Coast. It's been in the same spot since 1808 (more or less) and shows no signs of going anywhere. Long may it shine!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[48] The CHENANGO COUNTY Hornpipe

© BB 2007

A

D

E

Bm

E

A

D

E

Bm

E7

A

A

Bm

F#m

E

D

A

Bm

C#m7

D

E7

A

Chenango County is in the "southern tier" of New York State, east of Binghamton and southwest of Albany. It's lovely hilly farm country dotted with small towns. My mom's family were from the Afton - Nineveh part of the county, right on the "banks of the fair Susquehanna" that someone once wrote a song about.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[49] CHICKEN in the BUCKET

© BB 2007

Chords: G, Am, G, C, G, Em, D, G, Am, G, C, D, G, D7, G, Em, Am, Em, D, C, Am, D, G, Am, D, C, G, Am, D, G.

Our piper friend Colin showed up for a gig on Martha's Vineyard carrying - in addition to his pipes - a huge bucket of Kentucky Fried Chicken plus all the trimmings. He explained that since the locals on MV aren't crazy about fast-food chains, his in-laws who live there asked him to "import" some KFC from the mainland. Being a dutiful son-in-law, he did so, but handling a pipe case and a load of fried chicken on the ferry was more of a challenge than he thought! (We offered to help, but I don't think he trusted us with the chicken.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[50] The CHIPMUNK'S HOUSE

© BB

D Em A D Bm

D Em A D

D Em A E A7

D Em A7 D

There was a colony (pod? flock? gaggle?) of chipmunks (aka "timber tigers") living near us that we always had fun watching. They're feisty little critters who occasionally show signs of a sense of humor. Watching them scoot around on their mysterious errands can really brighten a day!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[51] CHRISTINA REID'S

© BB

The musical score for "Christina Reid's" is written in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. Chords indicated above the staff are A, Bm, A, D, A, Bm, A, and E. The second staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. Chords indicated are A, Bm, A, D, A, D, E, and A. The third staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. Chords indicated are A, D, A, F#m, D, A, and E. The fourth staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line and repeat dots. Chords indicated are A, D, A, F#m, Bm, E, and A.

Named with love for one of the "angels of Dublin" (and sister of Rosie of "Rosie Rogers' Fling", #258 in this collection) - as the saying goes, their like will not be seen again.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[52] CHRISTMAS AT THE MAHERS'

© *BB*

G D G D Am
 G D G C D G
 G C G G C Am
 G Am Em G D G

Fiddler and dance teacher Aidan Maher and his lovely wife Gerry are transplanted Dubliners now living in the Boston area. Aidan happens to like slip jigs and is never shy about playing a few at a session!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[53] CHRISTMAS in JULY (reel)

© BB

Chords: D, Em, Bm, G, A, D, Em, D, G, A, D, D, A7, D, Em, Bm, A, D, Bm, D, A7, D, A, Bm, A7, D.

When you've been waiting for someone for a long time, and then she finally arrives, it's Christmas regardless of what the calendar says!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[54] The CLARA MOUNTAIN (slide)

© BB

The musical score for 'The Clara Mountain (slide)' is written in D major (one sharp) and 12/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, Em, D, Em, D, A, Bm, G, A, G, A, D, Bm, A, Bm, Em, A, Bm, A, D, Em, A, D. The melody is a simple, rhythmic tune with a repeat sign after the eighth measure.

Clara Mountain overlooks Millstreet, a pleasant little town on the Cork side of the Sliabh Luachra area so well-known to traditional music lovers for its great players of slides and polkas.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[55] The CLASSICAL Hornpipe

© BB

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplet patterns. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Dm, C, Dm, Am, F, Dm, C7, Dm, C, F, Dm, Gm, Dm, F, Gm, Am, Dm7, Am, Dm, F, Gm, Am, Dm7, Gm, Dm, C, Dm. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Another tune inspired by that great movie "Amadeus". It may not be the "Magic Flute" but hey - it's catchy in its own way and the kids can dance to it (as they used to say on the Dick Clark Show, you youngsters wouldn't remember it). (Note: the upper notes are for treble instruments - flute, whistle, etc.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[56] CLOSE the DOOR BEHIND YOU! (reel)

© BB 2009

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The chords indicated above the staves are Dm, C, and Am7. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing beamed sixteenth notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The second staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The third staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Inspired by a sign I spotted at the old Cape Cod Irish Village. I thought it would make a good tune title, along the lines of one of the reel titles in the O'Neill collections.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[57] COOGAN'S BARN (hornpipe)

© BB

Chords: G, G, C₃ D, G, Em, Am, D, G, G, C₃ D, G, D, G, G, Em, Am, A, D, Am, D, G, Em, Am, A, D, G.

This tune - which is intended to be played as a barn dance - was composed in honor of box player, session meister, IRTRAD poster, and all-around great guy Jim Coogan, who passed away on Thanksgiving Day in 2007.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[58] The COTTAGE at LARRAGA (hornpipe)

© BB

Em Am D G D G C D

Em Am D G D G Am D G

Em D G Em G D

Em D G D G Em

For many years, Mike and Terry Rafferty would tear themselves away from New Jersey's notorious summer weather to spend a month or so in Ballinakill, Mike's home town in Galway. (Larraga is a "suburb" of Ballinakill.) Not surprisingly, there always seemed to be plenty of musicians around when the Raffs were there! Mike's been gone for a few years now but the sessions in "The Hill" and other venues in the vicinity are still the stuff of legend.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[59] COUSIN MIKE'S

© BB

Chords: G, C, G, C, G, Am, G, Em, G, C, G, C, G, D7, G, G, Em, D, G, C, G, C, G, D7, G, G.

This tune was composed for "another" Michael Rafferty - not the late great New Jersey flute player - who was also from Ballinakill in Galway. This Mike was a singer, the first one I ever heard sing Michael Hogan's great ballad "Horses and Plough", which won the prize for best newly-composed song at the fleadh in 1982. I'm not sure how this Mike is related to "our" Mike the flute player, but I figure "cousin" is probably close!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[60] The COUSINS (reel)

© BB

Chords: A, F#m, Bm, A, F#m, A, E, A, A, F#m, E, A, E7, A, A, F#m, A, F#m, D, E, A, F#m, A, D, E7, A.

Named for a group of - what else? - cousins. I didn't have any in the vicinity when I was a kid but my Dublin wife had loads of them. Some are still around, and she remembers them all kindly. I have therefore dedicated this tune to the Reid family of Dublin!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[61] The COW BEHIND the FENCE (polka)

© BB

D Bm D Bm

D Bm Em D A D

A A A G E

A A D G D

D D A G A

D D A D D

There's a very long story that goes with this tune involving musicians interacting with a cow - a Kerry cow, as a matter of fact. I'd be happy to share the details with anyone interested! Anyone? ANYONE??

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[62] The CRANBERRY BOG (reel)

© BB

G C Bm Em G D 3

G C D C G 1 D7 G 2 D7 G

G D C G Am D 3

G Am G C G 1 D7 G 2 D7 G

There are a number of cranberry bogs here on Cape Cod which produce acres and acres of dark red fruit that can be used for all sorts of great things. A recent description of a cranberry as "a cherry that doesn't like you" is not entirely accurate but their tartness is definitely an "acquired taste"! Try a cranberry juice and soda for a great (non-alcoholic) summer drink.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[63] CRASHING at MIKE'S (reel)

© BB

A D Bm Em Bm D Em

A D Bm G D A D

Bm Bm7 G A Bm Bm D A D

Bm Bm7 G A Bm A7 D A D

The Mike referred to is a Boston musician whose apartment years ago (when he was still single) was open to anyone needing a place to stay. Only 637 people knew where the key was hidden (but you were out of luck if you didn't know what a geranium looked like).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[64] CROAGH PATRICK (reel)

© BB 2006

The musical score for "Croagh Patrick (reel)" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chord symbols above the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: G, Am, C, D7, G, Am, Em, D
- Staff 2: G, Em, C, D7, G, Am7, D, G
- Staff 3: D7, Am7, D, G, Em, G, D, Em
- Staff 4: G, Am, G, D7, G, Am7, D7, G

Croagh Patrick is the mountain in Co. Mayo where St. Patrick (according to the tradition) used to go to pray. It's a lovely spot and even now continues to be a place of pilgrimage for locals and visitors alike.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[65] DAVE O DOCHERTY'S (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Bm, D, G, D, Bm, Em, G, A
- Staff 2: Bm, D, G, D, Bm, G, A7, D
- Staff 3: Bm7, D, Bm, F#m, Bm, D, G, Bm
- Staff 4: Bm7, D, Bm, F#m, Bm7, Em, A7, D

This tune was composed during the 1990 CCE North American convention in Saint Louis. It was named after the talented Mr. O'Docherty (RIP) whom I knew and respected for his various artistic abilities since the days we were both involved in New York's Irish Arts Center.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[66] DAWN OUTSIDE the PUB

© BB 2009

The musical score is written on four staves. The first two staves are in G minor (one flat) and 6/8 time. The first staff contains measures 1-6 with chords Gm, F, Gm, Gm, Cm, and D. The second staff contains measures 7-12 with chords Gm, Cm, Gm, F, Eb, D, and Gm. The third and fourth staves are in G major (one sharp). The third staff contains measures 13-18 with chords G, Am, G, Em, D, and Em. The fourth staff contains measures 19-24 with chords G, C, D7, G, Am, and G. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The "official" pub closing time in Manhattan in the "old days" (sorry) was 4:00 AM. I'm not sure what it is these days but probably about the same. That rule however seemed to apply to new patrons only and didn't affect anyone inside, who could finish their drinks in peace even if they couldn't expect any refills. Most of the places put out all but a few lights as a sign to the cops of their good intentions. Many's the summer Sunday morning we'd emerge from some murky smoke-filled pub into the clear daylight of dawn (as the song so poetically puts it) to make Mass (maybe), have something to eat (probably), and get lots of sleep (definitely) in order to start the whole crazy procedure again later that night!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[67] The DEEP WATER Jig

© BB

The musical score for 'The DEEP WATER Jig' is written in D major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, Bm, D, A7, D, G, Bm7, A, D, G, D, A7, D, Bm, A, D, D, Bm, D, Em, G, Em, A, D, Em, D, Em, G, A, D.

This is dedicated to the local musicians who turn up to keep our sessions successful - needless to say, I'd be in pretty deep water if they decided they wanted to be somewhere else! (Insert "gentle chuckle" emoji here.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[68] DEERING STATION (reel)

© BB

Chords: G, Em7, G, Bm, C, Em, Am, C, G, Em7, G, Bm, C, Am7, D, G, Em, G, G, D, Em7, Em, G, D, G, Em, G, G, D, Em7, G, Am7, D, G.

Deering is the Chicago police station where Chief Francis O'Neill was in charge for many years. Jimmy Thornton, Al Purcell, and I tried to find it the last time I was in Chicago, but it appears that the Chief's police station is no longer there (or is no longer a police station, I forget which). The cops at the "new" Deering Station were very nice to us - Thornton flashed a badge of some sort so they knew we were okay - but I don't think they ever really understood what we were looking for (and why)!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[69] DELIA O'BRIEN'S

© BB

The musical score for 'Delia O'Brien's' is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, G, Am, G, C, Em, G, G, C, Em, G, D7, G, Em, D, G, D, G, Am, Em, Am, G, Am, G, C, G, D7, G.

Delia was the mother of Pat O'Brien, a Sligoman who was one of the session stalwarts here on the Cape. Her son was a fine box player and a real gentleman beloved of all who know him - Delia would be proud! We lost Pat in 2022 and he will be missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[70] The DELIGHTS of INCHICORE

© BB



Inchicore is an area of Dublin's south side (i.e., south of the Liffey) that exudes its own peculiar charm but is not much visited by tourists. It sits on the banks of the picturesque Royal Canal, well known to yachtsmen the world over.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[71] DENIS DONOVAN'S HORNPIPE

© BB

The musical score for "Denis Donovan's Hornpipe" is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chords G, D7, Am, G, Am, and D are indicated above the staff. The second staff continues the melody with chords G, Em, G, D, G, C, and G. The third staff features chords Am, C, G, D, and G, with some notes marked with a tilde (~). The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords Am, C, G, G, D7, G, C, and G. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Denis was a "jolly Corkonian" who left many friends in the Boston area when he passed away a few years back. His rendition of "The Boys of Fair Hill" was guaranteed to be a show-stopper (even Dublin people liked it)!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[72] The DERRY LASS (reel)

© BB 2005

Chords: A, Bm, E, A, F#m, D, E7, A, Bm, F#m, A, D, E7, A, A, F#m, A, D, A, E, A, F#m, A, D, 1 E7 A, 2 E A.

Dedicated to the memory of my great-grandmother Annie Gregg, who left Derry for Philadelphia when she was 21. Annie and husband Sam (of PA Dutch ancestry) raised a family in a tiny railroad town in central PA. In 1938 Annie died in Chicago, where she had been living with one of her sons. She was always referred to in the family as "Mom"!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[73] DILLON'S OTHER BREAKFAST (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Bm, G, A, D, Bm, D, Bm, A, D, A, Bm, D, C, D, A, D, C, A, C, A, D, C, Bm, A7, D, C, A, D. The melody is a reel, starting on G4 and ending on G4. The first staff contains 8 measures, the second 8 measures, the third 8 measures, and the fourth 8 measures. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

A totally unnecessary attempt on my part to immortalize my good pal John Dillon, a fine singer and instrumentalist who has been an important member of the NY traditional scene for many years. We go back to the early days of the trad revival in New York. John has a great memory for names and dates, so I'm thinking he could tell you all the sessions we ran or played at! The Dillon clan was like a second family to us - all great folks, bless their hearts!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[74] DONNCHA'S SLIDE

© BB

The musical score for 'Donncha's Slide' is written in D major (one sharp) and 12/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, Bm, G, Em, D, Em, D, Bm, G, Em, D, A7, D, D, A7, D, D, A, D, Em, A, D, Em, D, A7, D. The melody is written in a treble clef and includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 12/8. The score includes repeat signs and first/second endings.

This is dedicated to dancing master extraordinaire Donncha O Múinecháin, who left the Irish traditional world all too suddenly in January 2005. He was a great dancer and a fine instructor who left behind a loving family and many friends. We dedicated our first Cape Cod Céili Weekend to his memory.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[75] The DOWNTOWN Jig

© BB

The musical score for 'The DOWNTOWN Jig' is written in D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chord markings above the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: D, Bm, D, F#m, D, A
- Staff 2: D, Bm, D, F#m, G, A
- Staff 3: D, Em, A, Em, G, D, Bm7, Em
- Staff 4: D, Em, A, D, Em, A, D

Some years back - 1997 to be exact - box player Mike Reynolds and fiddler Brendan Bulger - native Bostonians - joined us for a gig at one of Don Meade's "Blarney Star" concerts in Manhattan. The lads had never spent too much (? any) time in New York prior to that, and they seemed to enjoy the trip, which included a visit to an all-night deli near City Hall and next day a Lebanese lunch on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[76] The DRUMBEGGIL Hornpipe

© BB

Chords: G, Am, Em, C, G, Am, C, G, D, G, C, G, Em, G, Em, D7, G, G, Am7, D, C, G, D, Em, G, Am, G, Em, G, Em, D, G.

"Drumbeggil" is the Irish word for "bodhrán with a hole in the middle that tastes great with cream cheese". At least that's what somebody told me but you don't know who(m) to believe these days. I DO know that it's also the name of a street in Ennis, Co. Clare, where bagels used to be made back in the days of the Firbolgs (don't get me started on that crowd).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[77] DUMETELLA HYNES'

© BB

D D Em Bm7 D G

D D Em G A D D

D A G D Em A D A

D Em D A Bm F#m D D

This tune was transcribed note for note (well, almost) from the merry singing of a catbird in our back yard.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[78] The DUN LAOGHAIRE SAILORS

© BB 2014

Bm D Bm D A G

Bm D F#m D A Bm

G D G Em7 D

G D C G D7 G

My wife likes to check out a webcam that overlooks Dun Laoghaire (pronounced "Leary") harbor south of Dublin. The harbor is protected by a breakwater but when the breeze blows from the east or north, the sea conditions in the harbor can get pretty ferocious for a little sailboat. But that never seems to stop the intrepid sailors from heading out!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[79] DWYER and the LEPRECHAUN

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chord symbols above the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: G, Em, G, G, Am, Am7, D
- Staff 2: G, Em, G, Am, D, G
- Staff 3: G, Am, G, Dm7, F, G, C, D
- Staff 4: F, G, Dm, G, Am, D, G

"Dwyer" is Cork's own Richie Dwyer. The leprechaun thought to be his "accomplice" refused to identify himself or provide a DNA sample. According to the Bronx police report, the whole incredible incident involving an illicit gefilte fish factory, a 1987 Yugo, and several tall women is still under investigation. New developments are expected shortly.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[80] The E'TOWN PARADE (march)

© BB 2013

Chord symbols: G, D, C, D, G, C, D, G, Am, D, G, D, G, C, G, D, G, D, G, C, D, G, C, G, D, G, D, G.

The Fourth of July Parade in Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard is a wonderful example of a small-town American celebration at its best. A visitor gets the idea that nothing much has changed in the past 125 years or so (except for the cars). Townies and visitors alike enjoy the day, regardless of the weather!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[81] EAST of KILLARNEY (slide)

© BB 2006

Am D C G Em Am7 D7 G

Am D C G D7 G

Em D G Am G

Em D G D G

If you're visiting Killarney in Ireland (and why wouldn't you?) and drive east from the town into the mountains, you'll get to the Sliabh Luachra area where all the great slides and polkas come from.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[82] EATING CRACKERS WITH A FORK (reel)

© BB 2009

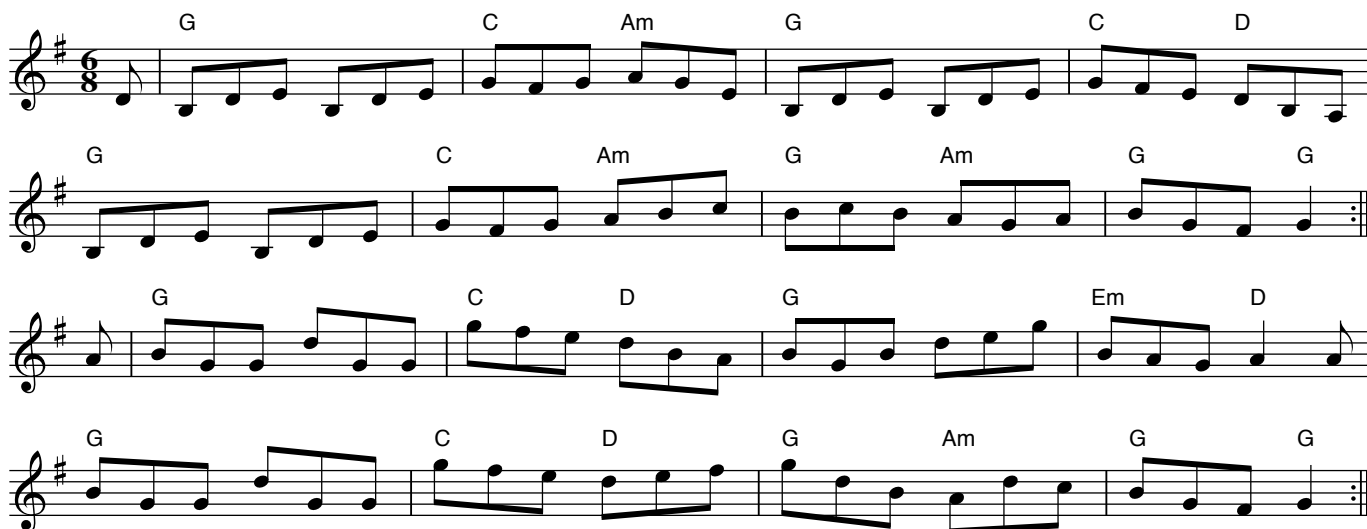
The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, G, A, D, Bm, G, A, D, G, D, Em, Bm, A, D, D, A, G, D, A7, D, Em, D, A, G, D, G, A, D.

We were having lunch with the 2-year-old grand-daughter one afternoon and watched her doing her level best to eat her (then) favorite food politely. It didn't work too well - as she quickly found out - but she really deserved a big round of applause for trying!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[83] EBLANA'S FAIR DAUGHTERS

© BB



First, a history lesson: ""Eblana" is the ancient geographer Ptolemy's name for Dublin. (In "Ptolemy" the "P" in is silent, as in "swimming pool".) (Insert "sophomoric humor attempt" emoji here.) Dublin's name for Mr. P. is not recorded but we can safely speculate that it would have been something like "The Greek with the Beak". History lesson II: the Roman armies never actually set foot in Ireland, having plenty to keep them busy on that other island to the east, but - and you won't read about this anywhere else - apparently a few of the enlisted men snuck over to Eblana for a weekend, spent all their hard-earned sesterces, and had one hell of a good time. Up the Dubs!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[84] ELLIE T's

© BB

G Am G D Em Am D

G Am G Am G C D G

G C D G Am7 D

G C Em G D7 D G

Ellie T. was a local lady who basically won this tune in a raffle at a fund-raising concert. (I never did find out her last name.) That was some years back in the days before CDs or MP3s so I'm not sure she ever got to hear the tune (but she did get a nice copy of the notation, "suitable for framing" as they say).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[85] The END of the SEARCH (reel)

© BB

Chords: D, G, D, G, D, Bm, D, A7, D, G, D, G, Em, D, A, D, D, C, Am7, D, C, D, D, C, Am7, D, G, D, A7, D.

"What we search for sometimes isn't what we find. Life can be full of surprises - it helps if we stay ready for the unexpected. But if we are ready then nothing can be unexpected. Your lucky numbers are 5, 9, 13, 16, and 32." - Unquote the Extra Large Fortune Cookie from Big Wong's Chinese Restaurant, Taunton MA (Speaking of "unexpected": avoid Big Wong's infamous "Sweet 'n' sour pizza". Just saying. Everything else is pretty good.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[86] The ENDLESS MOUNTAINS (reel)

© BB 2007

D dorian

Dm G C F C Am Dm

Dm C Am Dm C Dm Dm

Dm C F Dm G C Dm

Dm C F Dm F Am F C Dm

The Endless Mountain region is in northeast Pennsylvania close to the New York State border. It's a beautiful part of the country, especially in the Fall.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[87] The FALL RIVER Jig

© BB

Chords for The FALL RIVER Jig:

Staff 1: G, C, Am, G, Am, G, D

Staff 2: G, C, Am, G, Am7, D, G

Staff 3: G, Em, G, G, C, Am, D

Staff 4: G, D7, C, Em, G, Am, D, G

Fall River (home town of that interesting lady Lizzie Borden) is a former mill town between Providence and Cape Cod waiting to find some way of having a renaissance (unfortunately it's not alone in that respect). Pre-covid there was a very good weekly session there, and this tune was written in honor of the musicians who had kept it going over the years. (FYI Lizzie's house was a bed & breakfast for a while, but it's been up for sale recently. Any bidders?)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[88] FAREWELL to KERRY (reel)

© BB 2009

The musical score is written in D minor (one flat) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Dm, Am, C, Am, Dm, Am, C, Dm on the first staff; Dm, Am, C, Am, Dm, C, Am, Dm on the second staff; Dm, C, F, Dm, C, Dm on the third staff; and Dm, C, Am7, Dm, Am7, Dm on the fourth staff. The melody is a continuous line of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing ties or accidentals.

Dedicated to the memory of Kerry Elkin, a versatile fiddler from the Cape Cod area who lost a long fight with MS in August 2009.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[89] FATHER STEWART'S

© BB

D modal

D Am C D Am7 C D Am7

D Am C D G C A A

D C D Am7 D C D Am

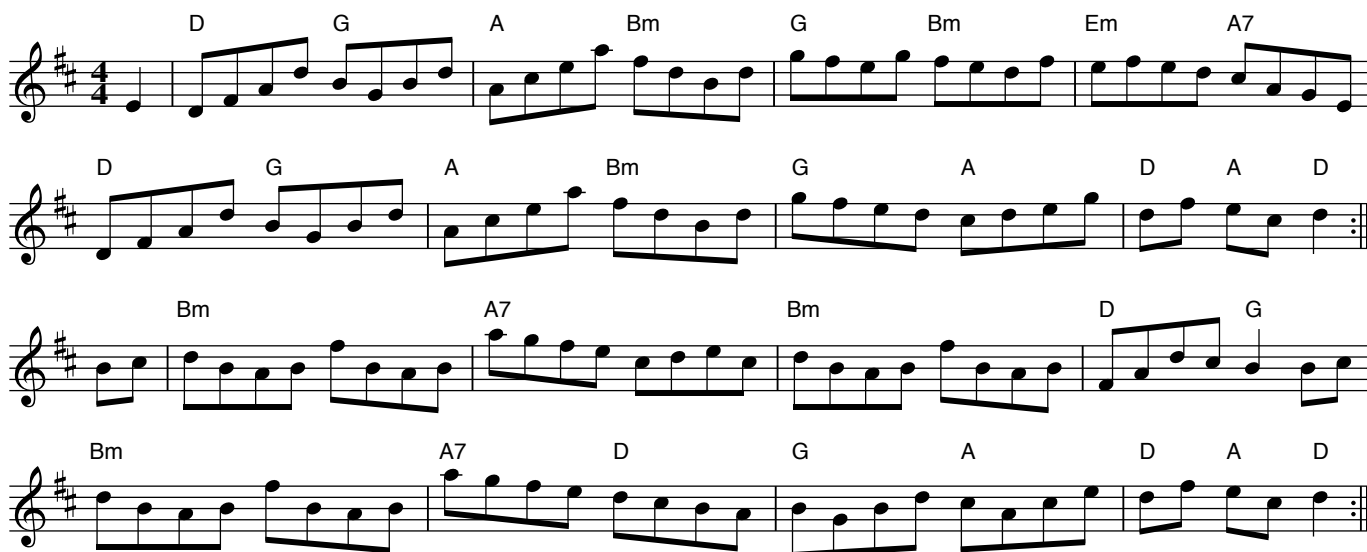
D C D Am 1 D Am7 A 2 D Am7 D

This is a kind of odd little tune that you either love or hate. If I hadn't already named the tune for a friend I might have called it "The Sardine", something else you either love or hate (I'm okay with them, if anybody cares).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[90] FERMANAGH'S LOVELIEST (hornpipe)

© BB



Ireland certainly has its share of beautiful women (including the one I married). Most counties have a tune to proclaim this fact (e.g. "The Pretty Girls of Mayo") but since I couldn't find one for Fermanagh, I thought I'd compose my own! (The truth is that I couldn't find ANY tune with "Fermanagh" in the title, with or without the pretty girls.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[91] The FIDDLE on the WALL (reel)

Larry Reynolds'

© BB

Am G Am G

Am G Am Am7 Em7 Am

Am G Am Em G

Am C G Am Am7 Em Am

There might be people who have done more for Irish music in the Boston area than Larry and his family, but I sincerely doubt it. Irish culture in general, and CCE in particular, owe a large debt of gratitude to Larry for his untiring efforts on their behalf over the years. Larry passed away in October 2012 and this tune was renamed at that time. (Larry's son Seán - the fiddler of the Reynolds brothers - has the instrument now, so it's in good hands!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[92] The FIGHTING FISH (reel)

© BB 2009

The musical score for 'The Fighting Fish' (reel) is written in 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are in the key of D major (one sharp). The last two staves are in the key of A major (three sharps). The melody is written in treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: Am, G, Am, G, Am, Dm, Em, Am, G, Am, G, F, G, Em, Am, A, Bm, A, F#m, D, A, E, A, Bm, A, F#m, Bm, D, E, A. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Around Saint Patrick's Day of 2009 we did a session in a local Chinese restaurant. I was pretty convinced that the management had no idea what I was talking about when I asked about playing there, but they heard 'music' and figured "what the heck" (or whatever the Mandarin equivalent is). As it turned out we had about eight musicians playing in a space in front of the fish tank that could accommodate maybe three comfortably. The patrons were naturally surprised (Irish music in the Peking Palace?) but seemed to enjoy it, as did the fish. As of this writing we haven't been invited back . . . maybe I'll remind the owners after life gets back closer to normal.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[93] The FIRST GRANDCHILD (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written for a reel in 4/4 time, featuring four staves of music. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The chords and notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Dm (F4, A4, Bb4), Am (G4, A4, Bb4), G (Bb4, C5, D5), Am7 (Bb4, C5, D5, E5), F (A4, Bb4, C5), Dm (F4, A4, Bb4), F (A4, Bb4, C5), Am7 (Bb4, C5, D5, E5).
- Staff 2: Dm (F4, A4, Bb4), Dm (F4, A4, Bb4), Am7 (Bb4, C5, D5, E5), Dm (F4, A4, Bb4), C (E4, F4, G4), Am7 (Bb4, C5, D5, E5), Dm (F4, A4, Bb4).
- Staff 3: Dm (F4, A4, Bb4), Am7 (Bb4, C5, D5, E5), Dm (F4, A4, Bb4), C (E4, F4, G4), Dm (F4, A4, Bb4), Am (Bb4, C5, D5), C (E4, F4, G4).
- Staff 4: D (F4, A4, Bb4), C (E4, F4, G4), Am (Bb4, C5, D5), D (F4, A4, Bb4), Dm (F4, A4, Bb4), Am7 (Bb4, C5, D5, E5), Dm (F4, A4, Bb4).

The score concludes with a repeat sign (double bar line with two dots) at the end of the fourth staff.

When some friends of ours welcomed the arrival of their first grandchild some years ago, it seemed to be a pretty big deal to them, so I wrote this tune in commemoration of the event. Then when our own First Grandchild arrived in February 2008, guess what - THAT was a big deal!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[94] The FIRST PRIZE (reel)

© BB 2012

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, G, D, Em, G, D, G, A, D, D, Em, D, Em, A, D, Bm, Em, Bm, D, A, D.

For our "niece" Vanessa Millar, in honor of her taking the first prize in senior accordion at the 2011 All-Ireland. It was great having her on the Cape for a while a few years ago, and we hope she makes it back for a visit some time soon.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[95] FISHAMBLE STREET

© BB

The musical score for "Fishamble Street" is written in 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are in the key of G major (one sharp). The first staff has chords G, Am, D7, G, G, C, D, and G. The second staff has chords Em, Am, D, G, G, Am, D, and G. The third and fourth staves are in the key of F major (two flats). The third staff has chords Cm, Gm, Gm, F, and Gm. The fourth staff has chords Gm, F, Gm, Dm, Gm, and Gm. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Fishamble Street is a little street near Dublin's Christ Church Cathedral that is remarkable for one thing: its "Great Music Hall" was the site of the first performance of Handel's "Messiah" in April 1742, a year prior to its first performance in London. It was expected to be a great success - in order to ensure room for everyone in the hall, gentlemen were requested not to wear swords and ladies not to wear hoops (good advice even today!) The "Great Music Hall" is long gone, although the building evidently still remains (Wikipedia entry is somewhat ambiguous).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[96] The FIVE HOUSES

© BB

The musical score for "The FIVE HOUSES" is written in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Bm, D, G, D, Bm, D, Bm, A (Staff 1); Bm, G, D, G, D, A7, D (Staff 2); D, A, D, A, G, Em, D, A (Staff 3); D, A, G, A, D, G, A, D (Staff 4). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes.

A tribute to the fine musicians of Prince Edward Island in the Canadian Maritimes. It always amazes me that there's so much talent in such a small area! (And a special "tip of the hat" to Cape Cod's own John MacDonald, a fine musician himself, whose roots are from this area of Canada.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[97] The FIVE LAMPS

© BB

The musical score for "The Five Lamps" is written in D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chord symbols above the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: D, A, D, C
- Staff 2: D, C, G, A, D, A, D
- Staff 3: D, G, D, C
- Staff 4: D, G, D, Em, D, A, D

The "Five Lamps" refers to a part of Dublin north of the Liffey, not far from the Amiens St. train station. It's an area that has had a colorful history (to put it politely) but like many other Dublin locales, it has been "gentrified" quite a bit recently.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[98] The FLOCK of BUDGIES (hornpipe)

© BB

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of G major (one sharp), and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and continues with eighth-note patterns. The second staff continues the melody with eighth-note runs. The third staff features a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) and ends with a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4). The fourth staff concludes the piece with a final triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4). Chord symbols are placed above the staff: G, Am7, Em7, D7, G, C, Am7, D7, G, Am7, Em, G, D, G, D, G, G, Am, G, Bm, A, A7, D, G, Am, G, Bm, Em7, D, G, D, G.

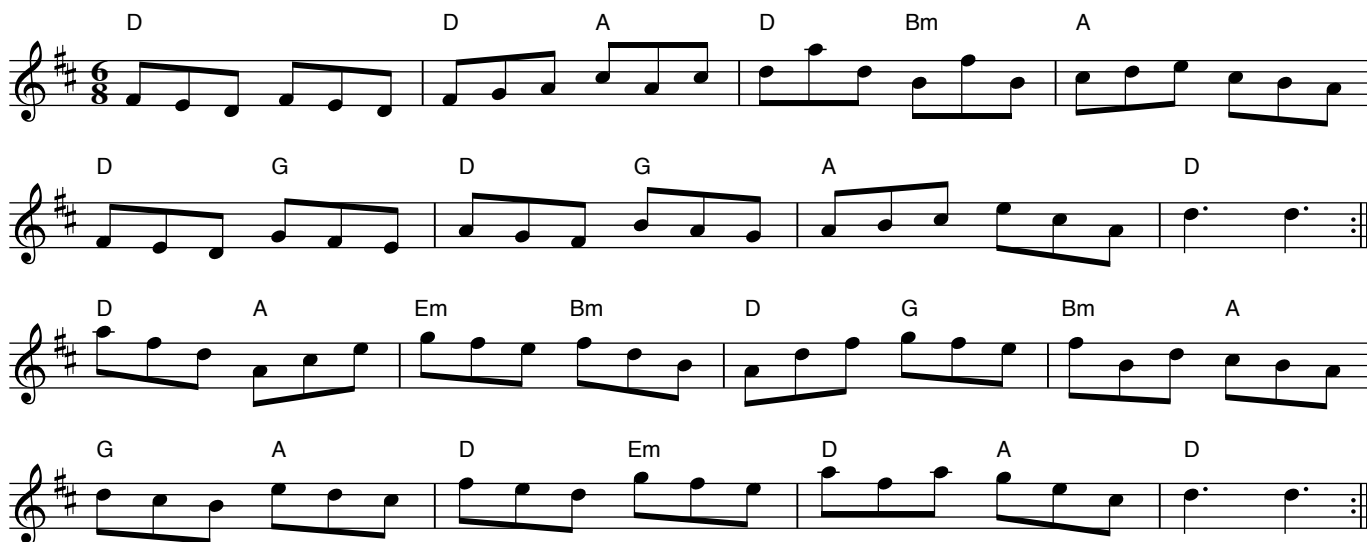
Anyone who may be interested in finding out more about the title of this tune is invited to find and watch a very funny movie called "The Commitments". Or you can just enjoy the tune with the knowledge that a budgie is basically a Celtic parakeet. (But it's still a great movie!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[99] The FLY UPON the BAR

Phil Taylor's Fancy

© BB



Phil Taylor is the man responsible for the "BarFly" ABC program that I have used and really come to appreciate over the years. He has been very patient with my questions and suggestions, and this tune is by way of thanks to him for that patience and for all the work he has done for ABC. Unfortunately it appears that Apple's constant tinkering with its operating system has rung the death knell for BarFly. Fortunately there are folks working on replacements. . .but (wipes away a tear) there will never be another "BarFly".

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[100] The FLYING SQUIRREL (polka)

© BB

Chords: G, Em, D, G, Am, G, Em, G, Em, Am, D7, G, G, D, C, G, D7, G.

Many unnaturally curious people (even those who should know better) have asked if this tune refers to any particular flying squirrel. The answer is emphatically no (or emphatically NO).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[101] FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE (reel)

© BB

Chords: D, Bm, D, G, D, Bm, D, G, D, Bm, D, A7, D, F#m, G, A, D, A, D, A, D, A, D, G, A, G, A, D.

I wrote this tune years back as a kind of wedding gift for some friends of ours. Unfortunately the marriage didn't last, but luckily for me the divorce lawyers couldn't prove that the tune had anything to do with the breakup.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[102] The FORTUNE COOKIE Reel

© BB 2009

The musical score for 'The Fortune Cookie Reel' is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The music is written in treble clef. The chords are indicated above the notes: Em, G, D, Em, G, D, Em, D, G, C, Em, G, Em, D, Em, Em, C, Bm, Em, G, D, Em, C, Bm, Em, D, Em.

Did you ever bite into a fortune cookie before you remembered there was a little strip of paper inside with your very own lucky number? The number that, if you hit it, would make you very wealthy for the rest of your life? On that little piece of paper you have now sogged up and made unreadable? But you could see enough to know that the first three lucky numbers were 5, 9, and 12, and those were the first three numbers of the five that won tonight? And maybe the other two winning numbers were on that piece of paper you almost swallowed?

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[103] FRANKIE O'NEILL'S

© BB

D dorian

Dm Am C Dm Am7 C

Dm Am7 C Dm C Dm

Dm C Dm C

Dm C Am7 C Dm

Frankie was the older brother and musical inspiration of the late NY fiddler Keith O'Neill, one of the founding members of the Northeast Ceili Band. Frankie passed away all too young a few years ago, and this tune is dedicated to his memory. (There's a tune for Keith in this collection as well - #321.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[104] The FROGS & SNAKES of GALWAY (hornpipe)

© BB

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with some quarter notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic accompaniment. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Chord symbols: D, Bm, D, Em7, D, Bm, D, A, D, Bm, D, Em7, G, D, A, D, Bm, Em, A, A7, G, A7, Bm, Em, A, G, A7, D.

There's a very long and probably boring story that goes with the title of this little opus that involves a complete failure on my part to understand the name of a tune shouted at me during a session. Come on, admit it - "Docks and Quays" CAN sound a lot like "Frogs and Snakes", right? Or maybe you just had to be there...

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[105] The GALWAY LADY

© BB

Chords: Bm, Bm, A, A, Bm, Bm, D, A7, Bm, D, Em, D, A7, Bm, A, D, Em, Bm, A, D, Bm, A7, Bm.

Named for Anna Carew, mother-in-law of Northeast Ceili Band drummer Pat Reynolds and a true "Galway lady" who passed away a few years back. Pat and Maureen's grand-daughter Tessie does a fine job with her fiddle version of this tune!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[106] GENE PRESTON'S FLUTE

© *BB*

Gene was a flute player from Sligo who was part of the Boston music scene for many years. He was a member of the Connacht Ceili Band whose record is on my TuneVault website (www.capeirish.com/tune_vault#ccb). Gene's son Joe plays the whistle and was a regular at our local Cape Cod sessions for many years.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[107] The GENTLEMAN from CLARE

Jimmy Hogan's

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, Em, G, Am, G, Am7, D, G, Em, G, Am, G, D7, G, G, Em7, D, G, Em, G, Em7, D, Em7, D, G, C, G, D7, G, G.

Jimmy was a Clareman who graced the Boston music scene for many years with his fine whistle playing and stock of great tunes. He passed away in July of 2007 at the age of 91. (Thanks to Karin Joyce for the "Gentleman" name suggestion.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[108] The GIRL from OLD BRIDE STREET

© BB

D Bm D G Bm G

D Bm G D A D

Bm Bm D A Bm

Bm F#m7 D G D A D

Old Bride Street (as in "Bride Street, Old" not "Street of the Old Bride") is in the heart of Dublin's Liberties. My best pal (for the past 50+ years) grew up there. We went back for a look recently (June 2022) and unlike in other parts of Dublin, nothing much around Bride Street has changed. I hereby dedicate this jig with as much love as I can possibly muster to . . . my Girl from Old Bride Street!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[109] The GOOD SHIP ERNESTINA (reel)

© BB 2005

Chords: G, Am, D7, G, Em, C, G, Am, D7, Bm, C, G, D, G, Em, D, G, Bm, D7, G, D, C, Em, D, G, Em7, D7, G, D, G.

"Ernestina" (now officially "Ernestina-Morrissey", reflecting her original name of "Effie Morrissey") is a Grand Banks schooner with a long and illustrious history. For many years after her retirement she was homeported as a museum ship in New Bedford. She recently completed a lengthy overhaul and is now operated by the Mass. Maritime Academy, for whom she made several trips to warmer climes during this past winter (2024). My wife and I made a voyage from Boston to New Bedford on her a while back, and it was indeed an unforgettable experience.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[110] The GRAND BANKS Reel

© BB 2006

Chords: A, F#m, Bm7, A, D, A, E, F#m, Bm7, E7, A, D, E, A, A, D, F#m7, Bm, E, A, Bm, A, F#m, A, E7, A, E, A.

This tune is supposed to have a kind of Cape Breton-y feel to it - I'll let you be the judge of whether I succeeded or not!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[111] GRANDA QUINN'S WHISTLE

© BB

D Bm D Em D G D A

D Bm D Em D G A D

G A D Bm G D A

G A D Bm G A D

My wife Pat recalls that when she was a little girl in Dublin, she would dance to the music of her grandad's whistle. Maybe this tune sounds like one that John Quinn used to play for her!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[112] GRANNY QUINN'S (reel)

© BB

D modal

D C Am D D C D

D C Am D D C Am D

D C D Am D C G C D

D C D Am G C G Am7 D

My very first composing effort. Named for my late grandmother-in-law, whom I never had the privilege of meeting but who was by all accounts a very special lady! Jerry O'Sullivan does a great job on this, and it was actually recorded by Solas. Apparently it's a fixture in their concert repertoire, for which my sincere thanks to Séamus Egan and co.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[113] The GREEN BRIAR Jig

© BB

Chords for The GREEN BRIAR Jig:

Staff 1: G, G, C, Em7, G, Em7, C

Staff 2: G, G, C, D, G, D7, G

Staff 3: G, Em, Am, G, Em7, G, Em7, Am7

Staff 4: G, G, C, D, G, D7, G

This tune is named for the Boston pub which proudly hosted the longest-running (and most consistently respectable) Irish trad session in town. I'm pretty sure I was at the first one in the early 1990's along with Larry and Mike Reynolds, Joe Joyce, Jimmy Hogan, Fergus Keane, and a host of other "local legends". The session had a great run, but the pub was sold, and the last session held there, in November 2019. (I was at that one too). The pub deserved its great reputation, but you have to wonder if it would have survived the pandemic (as so many other Boston pubs didn't, sad to say).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[114] GROGAN in the CORNER (reel)

© BB

The musical score for 'Grogan in the Corner' (reel) is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, Bm, D, G, Em, G, A, D, Em, D, Em7, D, G, A7, D, A7, A7, D, Bm, F#m, Bm, A7, A7, D, Em7, A, D. The melody is a traditional Irish reel, featuring a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing rests or ties.

Dermot Grogan was a fine musician who was proficient on several instruments. He came to the New York area from Mayo some years back and quickly became a part of the local trad scene. He eventually returned to Ireland, where he passed away in February of 2006.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[115] HALFWAY to KERRY (slide)

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 12/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords for each staff are as follows:

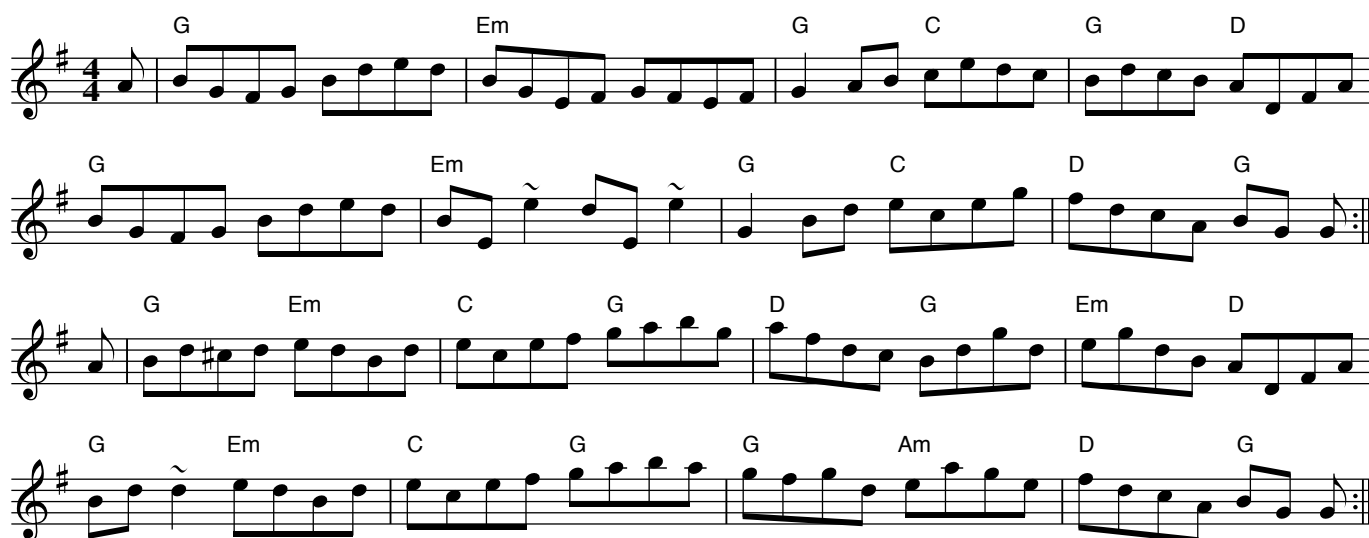
- Staff 1: G, C, G, G, G, Am, C, G
- Staff 2: G, C, G, G, D, G
- Staff 3: G, D, Em, G, Am, C, G
- Staff 4: G, D, Em, D, G

If you're halfway to Kerry, you might as well keep going! A salute to the great people of "the Kingdom" and their wonderful energetic music.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[116] The HA'PENNY BRIDGE (reel)

© BB



The graceful Ha'penny Bridge (a/k/a Metal Bridge or - God help us - Wellington Bridge) is one of the landmarks of Dublin, beloved by tourists and locals alike. In the old days you would throw a half-penny coin off it for good luck. In these days of the euro, I'm not sure what you'd throw (and maybe you'd be arrested for "causing environmental damage" to dear old Anna Liffey if you threw anything at all!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[117] The HAPPY HAMSTER

© BB

D modal

D Am D C D Am7

D Am D Am7 D A7 D D

D Bm7 D C Am7 C Am

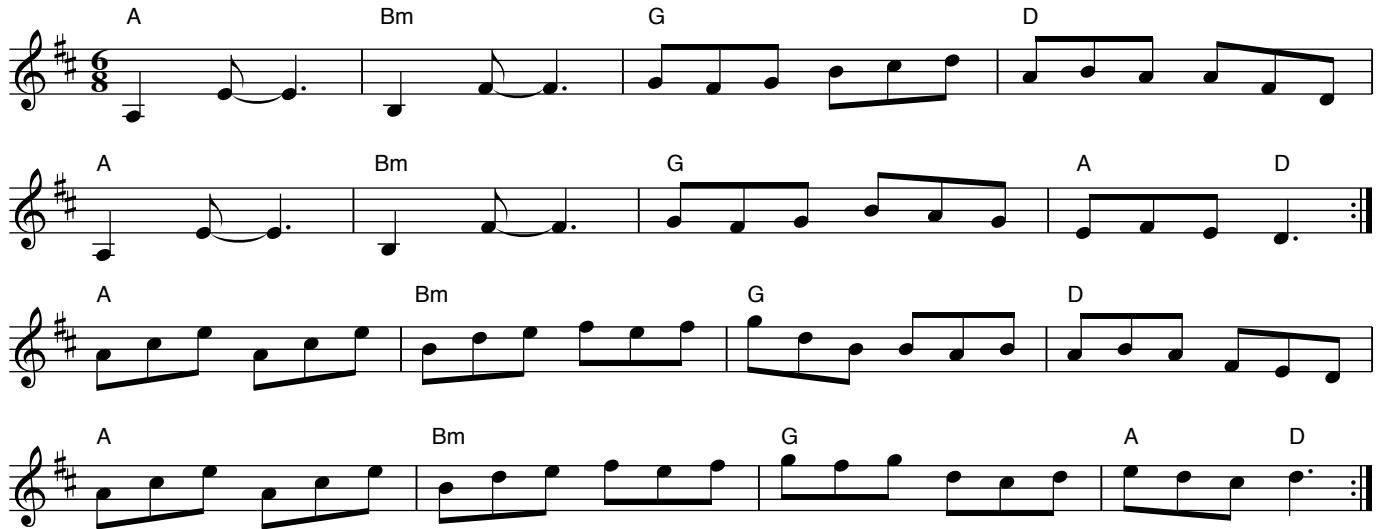
D Bm C Am D A7 D D

Unless you have had a serious relationship with a hamster (or "cricetus aureatus" as preferred by those of us with classical training), you may never be able to appreciate the subtle qualities of this tune, or the fact that the Angel In Charge of Diminutive Rodents has a sense of humor. Unfortunately hamsters don't enjoy a long life span, especially if there's a "felis felis" (cat) in the family.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[118] The HAPPY VALLEY Jig

© BB 2006



For what it's worth, I came up with this tune during the Orange Bowl game in January 2006, won by Penn State. "Happy Valley" is the nickname of the Penn State campus, located in a lovely part of central Pennsylvania. (And by such devious means do tunes find their names...)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[119] HARRY'S GREEN SOCKS (reel)

© BB

The musical score for 'Harry's Green Socks' (reel) is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, Bm, F#m, D, Bm, Bm7, D, G, Bm, A7, D, Em, D, A, D, D, G, D, Bm, G, D, Bm7, A7, D, G, Bm, G, A, D, A, D.

In my humble opinion, nobody who wears green socks can be all bad (UNLESS he or she wears them in public, with shorts and/or sandals, at which point the harshest measures must be taken by the Good Taste Police).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[120] HIGH IN THE REEKS (polka)

© BB

The musical score for "High in the Reeks" is written in 2/4 time and the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Em, Bm, G, D, Bm
- Staff 2: Em, Bm, G, D, Em
- Staff 3: Bm, C, Em, G, D, Bm
- Staff 4: Em, D, G, D, Em

The "Reeks" are MacGillycuddy's Reeks, the tallest mountains in Ireland, located on Kerry's Dingle Peninsula between Dingle town and Tralee. You cross them via Tim Healy Pass or O'Connor Pass - both beautiful drives if the weather is right! (We've crossed the Reeks twice and were lucky 50% of the time.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[121] The HIGHFIELD HALL Reel

© BB 2008

Em Em Bm Bm Em Em D C G Am D Em Em D C Am B Em D Am Em B7 Em

Falmouth's Highfield Hall was in years past the residence of the Beebe family, great benefactors of the town. In the course of time, the building fell into disrepair, but it has been lovingly restored to its former glory through the efforts of many hard-working people. It's definitely worth a visit if you're ever in this part of the world. We have done a few concerts there (2014, 2022, 2023, and 2024), all well-attended and we hope as enjoyable for the audience as they have been for us. The Hall is a delightful venue that we look forward to visiting again.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[122] HOLD the FRIES!

© BB 2006

Chords: G, D, G, F, Dm, G, F, C, G, C, Am7, G, F, Dm, G.

We know we should say the title words a lot, but we don't. Do broccoli and cauliflower (yuck) really make us happier and/or healthier? What the heck are triglycerides anyway? Do nachos have any food value at all? Are triple-glazed chocolate doughnuts really nature's perfect food? I NEED ANSWERS!! (While I'm waiting, you can double-size that order. . .)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[123] HOME to MULLACH

© BB

Chords: D, Bm, A, F#m, G, D, A; D, Bm, A, Bm, A7, D, D; D, G, D, A, D, Em, Bm, A; D, G, D, A, Bm, A7, D, D.

Mullach is a little town north of Miltown Malbay on the Clare coast. I was honored to be part of a session there a while back. I'll always remember the seamless transition from "Humors of Tulla" into "The Soldier's Song" (the Irish national anthem) after the local gárda stopped in around 1 a.m. to suggest - very politely but firmly - that we all might want to think about packing our tools away and returning to our respective dwellings. We did so without a word of complaint.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[124] The HOUSE DOWN the STREET

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, Bm7, C, G, Em7, D, G, C, D, G, D, G, G, Em, G, G, C, G, Em, G, Am7, D, G, Am6, D, G.

Some friends of ours recently became house owners for the first time - a little scary because they had previously both been apartment people, and of course there's a world of difference in the two lifestyles (e.g., no superintendent to call when something goes wrong). But at last report the new homeowners were getting along fine (more or less)!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[125] HUGH SMITH'S FAREWELL (reel)

© BB

Am C Em G G

Am C Em Am7 G Em G Am

Am Am7 Am G Em G

Am Am7 Am G Em G Am

Hugh was a Co. Cavan man who did a great deal to promote the cause of traditional music in his adopted homeland - the USA. When he passed away, he left a great family and a wonderful musical legacy behind him. (Hugh's brother Tony recorded this tune on the CD "Lamh ar Lamh".)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[126] The HUMORS of CUTTYHUNK (reel)

© BB 2006

Chords: G, Am, D, Am7, G, G, Am, G, C, D, G, Em, C, G, Am, D, G.

Cuttyhunk is a tiny island that sits off the southwestern tip of Cape Cod. It reminds me of Connemara - stone walls, green fields, and the ocean close by. It's mostly for summer residents and visiting fishermen, but a few hardy souls live there full time (and commute to the mainland by a long ferry trip, really an adventure in the winter months!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[127] The HUMORS of KANGI(QTURURSIQ) (hornpipe)

Tune 1 of "The Baffin Island Suite"

© BB 2009

Chords: G, Am, D, G, D, G, Am, D, G, C, D7, G, G, C, Am, G, D7, Em, D, G, Am, D, G, Am7, D7, G.

The "Baffin Island Suite" consists of this tune ("Humors of Kangi" for short) and two others ("Stevie's Boat" and "Bears of Baffin") that were composed to commemorate our good friend and fellow musician Dave MacAdam's yearly trip way up north to Baffin Island. Dave made these trips for many years and has assembled a great collection of friends and memories (and pictures).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[128] The HUMORS of LANACANE

© BB

The musical score is written in 8/8 time and consists of four staves. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The chords for each staff are as follows:

- Staff 1: Dm, C, Edim, Dm, F, Am, Bb, A7
- Staff 2: Dm, A, Dm, Bb, Dm, C, Dm
- Staff 3: F, C, Dm, C7, Gm, F, C
- Staff 4: Dm, A, Dm, F, Am, C7, Dm

The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with a repeat sign at the end of the fourth staff.

*Even I admit that this is a weird tune. Joe and Willie Kelly - bless their hearts - took it seriously enough not only to learn it, but to make it sound good - no mean achievement! *** "Lanacane" is a rather obscure parish in South Louth famous (perhaps too strong a word) for its transient population of fruit bats. Apparently the place name derives from Gaelic "lán" meaning "full of" and "Catháin", a family name usually translated as Kane. However no Kanes have ever lived in this parish, a fact which only adds to the romantic mystery that the local tourist board is desperately trying to generate. Furthermore there doesn't seem to be a Gaelic word for "fruit bat". *** I humbly suggest that any connection between Lanacane the place and the popular anti-itch cream of the same name deserves explanation. Any Celtic Studies Ph.D. candidates out there willing to give it a shot?*

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[129] The HUMORS of PLUMBRIDGE

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, Am, G, Em, D7, G, Am7, G, Am, D, G, Em, D, C, Em7, G, Am, G, C, D, Em, G, Am, D, G.

Plumbridge is a little town in the northwest corner of Co. Tyrone that's very special to some good friends!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[130] HUSSEY'S PENGUIN (reel)

© BB

Chords: Bm, Bm, D, G, A7, D, Bm, Bm, D, A, D, A7, D, D, Bm7, Em, D, Bm7, Em, D, G, Em, D, Em, A, D.

The Shackleton Expedition to the South Pole in 1909 included a young man named Hussey. For reasons best known to himself, Mr. Hussey brought his banjo along, and he is responsible for the discovery that the sound of the banjo playing Irish music would attract penguins, while other types of "Celtic" music repelled them (no kidding!). Penguinologists and musicologists have been unable to make much sense of this (although Irish trad musicians might have their own theories). But - as they say - the research continues.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[131] The ICE CREAM Hornpipe

© BB

Chords: G, Am, G, D7, G, D, G, C, G, Am, G, C, D7, G, D, G, D7, G, D, G, Em, C, D, G, D, G, C, G, D, G, D, G.

It shouldn't surprise anyone to find out that this was composed on a warm August night, while visions of a Dairy Queen butterscotch sundae (yes, WITH whipped cream and nuts!) were - as they say - dancing in my head. . .

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[132] IN DAYS GONE BY (hornpipe)

© BB

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplet-like patterns. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Dm, Dm, Am, C, Am7, Dm, A7, Dm, C, Dm, F, Am7, Dm, Dm7, Am7, Dm, Dm, Am7, Dm7, A, Dm, Dm7, Am7, Dm7, Am7, Dm7, A7, Dm7, A, Dm. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Ed Reavy of Cavan and Philadelphia was a prolific composer with many fine tunes to his credit. Unlike many of his composing brethren, Mr. Reavy did not hesitate to give names to his tunes. That fact alone merits this humble effort of mine in Mr. Reavy's honor. (FYI ITTL tunefolder 52 contains all Ed Reavy tunes in print. If you like Ed's music, have a visit - www.capeirish.com/ittl/tunefolders/52/.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[133] The IRISH EMBASSY (reel)

© BB

Am Em G Am G Am

Am Em G Am G Am

Am Em G Am ~ Em ~ D Am

Am Em G ~ Am G Am

We had been living in Falmouth on Cape Cod for a couple of years when we noticed one day that a local pub had been sold and renamed "The Irish Embassy". It quickly became notorious (in a good way, if such a thing is possible) and was the scene of some wonderful concerts and sessions over the years. After a couple of ownership and name changes, it's now a "sports bar". Yawn. . .sic transit etc etc. But we're still friends with two of the original owners, Dublin's own Dermot "Filbert" Quinn and Phelim Meehan (for whom I composed a planxty - #236 in this collection).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[134] IRISH JACK DOHERTY'S (hornpipe)

© BB 2006

Chords: D, Em, D, A, G, A7, D, G, D, A, D, Em, D, A, G, A7, D, D, C, Bm, G, D, A, D, C, D, A7, D.

Jack Doherty was a well-known supporter of all things Irish here on the Cape until his passing in October 2006. He was also a dedicated member of several local veterans' organizations and had the reputation of being the man to talk to if you needed help of any kind. I'm sure his kind soul is enjoying all the tunes in Heaven right now!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[135] ISLE of the BLEST (air)

© BB 2006

ISLE of the BLEST (air)

Most cultures seem to have legends about a place where departed souls will find eternal happiness. We call it Heaven, but it's also known as The Happy Isles or Isles of the Blest. It's a beautiful thought and I can only hope it's where we're all going to wind up (even us banjo players).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[136] JACK HALEY'S (reel)

© BB 2009

The musical score for "Jack Haley's (reel)" is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff lines. The first staff contains chords: Am, Am, Em, G, Am, Em. The second staff contains: Am, F, G, Am, C, Dm, Am, G, Am. The third staff contains: C, Dm, C, F, Am, G, C, G, Am. The fourth staff contains: C, Dm, C, F, Am, G, Am, G, Am. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Jack was a Galwayman, husband of the well-known Boston area dance teacher Maureen Haley. He passed away in January 2009. Maureen is still going strong, thank God!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[137] JACK MURPHY'S (reel)

© BB

The musical score for "Jack Murphy's (reel)" is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The chords are indicated above the notes: Dm, C, Am, Dm, Dm, Bb, C, Dm, C, Am, Dm, Am, C, Dm, F, Dm, F, C, Gm, C7, F, Dm, Dm, Bb, Am7, Dm. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a repeat sign at the end of the fourth staff.

One of the first tunes I ever composed. Jack lived on NY's Staten Island (as we did at the time) and was a great lover of the music, getting to as many sessions as his job on a tugboat would permit!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[138] JACK'S MAGICAL PIPES (hornpipe)

© BB

Chords: D, G, A, Em, A, A7, D, G, A, D, Bm, F#m, Bm, F#m7, Bm, Bm, F#m, D, Em, D, A, D.

There's a great story in O'Neill's "Irish Minstrels and Musicians" about a certain Jack Moore, a mediocre piper who became a great player after the fairies presented him with a new set of pipes. (There are different versions of this tale but, oddly enough, none featuring banjo players.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[139] JANEEN SULLIVAN'S WALTZ

© BB

D D G A D Em D A D G D Bm A D Bm A D F#m G Bm A D F#m G Bm A D

Janeen was a lovely young lady who left family and friends behind far too early - I hope this waltz does justice to her memory.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[140] JENNY PRIOR'S (hornpipe)

© BB

The musical score for 'Jenny Prior's' is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: D, F#m, Bm7, D, G, D, Em, A
- Staff 2: D, F#m, Bm7, D, G, D, A, D
- Staff 3: D, A7, D, F#m7, Bm, G, D, Em, A
- Staff 4: D, A, D, F#m7, Bm, G, D, A, D

For our County Meath grand-niece Jenny, husband John, and kids Jack, Alfie, and Rosie - with love and best wishes to all of them!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[141] JERRY O'BRIEN'S (reel)

© BB

D Bm D Bm D F#m Em6

D Bm D Bm D A7 D

D F#m Bm G D A

D F#m Bm G 3 Em7 A7 D

This tune is named for the melodeon player (originally from Kinsale, Co. Cork) who taught Joe Derrane and other Boston musicians. Jerry also published a tune collection and an accordion tutor (both presently out of print). I have many of the tunes in Jerry's book in ITTL tunefolder 59.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[142] A JIG FOR WILLIE

© BB

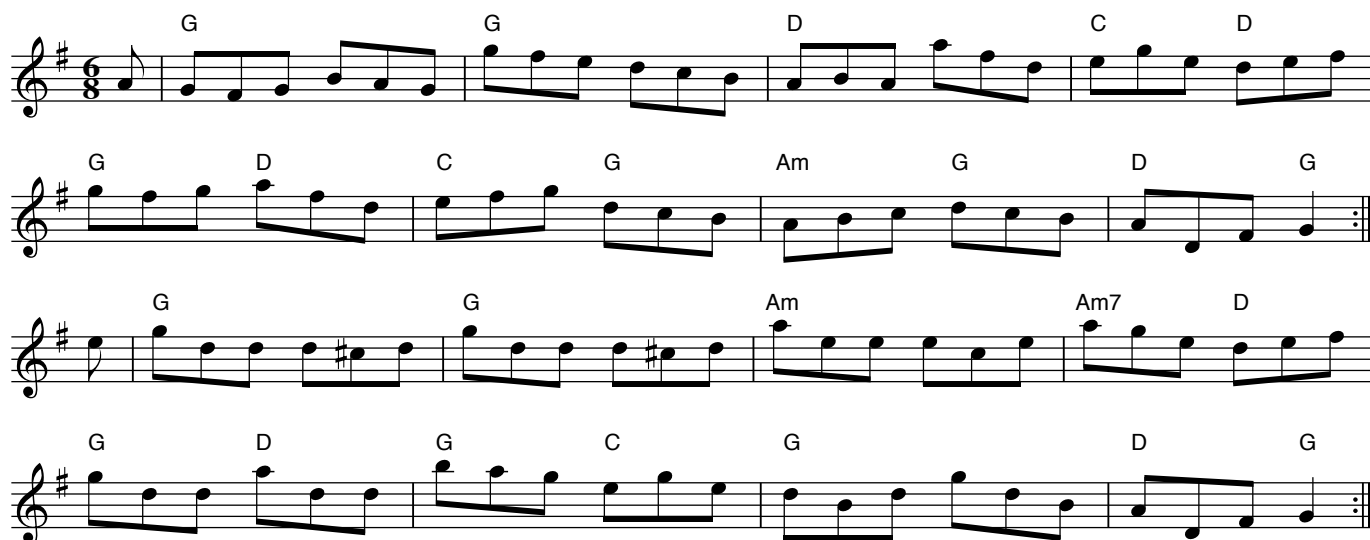
The musical score for "A Jig for Willie" is written in 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are in the key of D major (one sharp). The third and fourth staves are in the key of D minor (two flats). The chords are indicated above the notes: Em, Bm, Em, G, D7, Em, G, C, G, Am, Em, Em, Gm, F, Gm, F, Gm, Dm, Gm, F, Gm, F, Gm, Gm.

Composed for Willie Kelly of New Jersey's fiddling Kelly brothers (Joe - now Father Francis - is the older one) . They're both fine musicians and terrific guys, and we're privileged to consider the Kelly family as friends.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[143] JIM McGINTY'S

© BB 2010

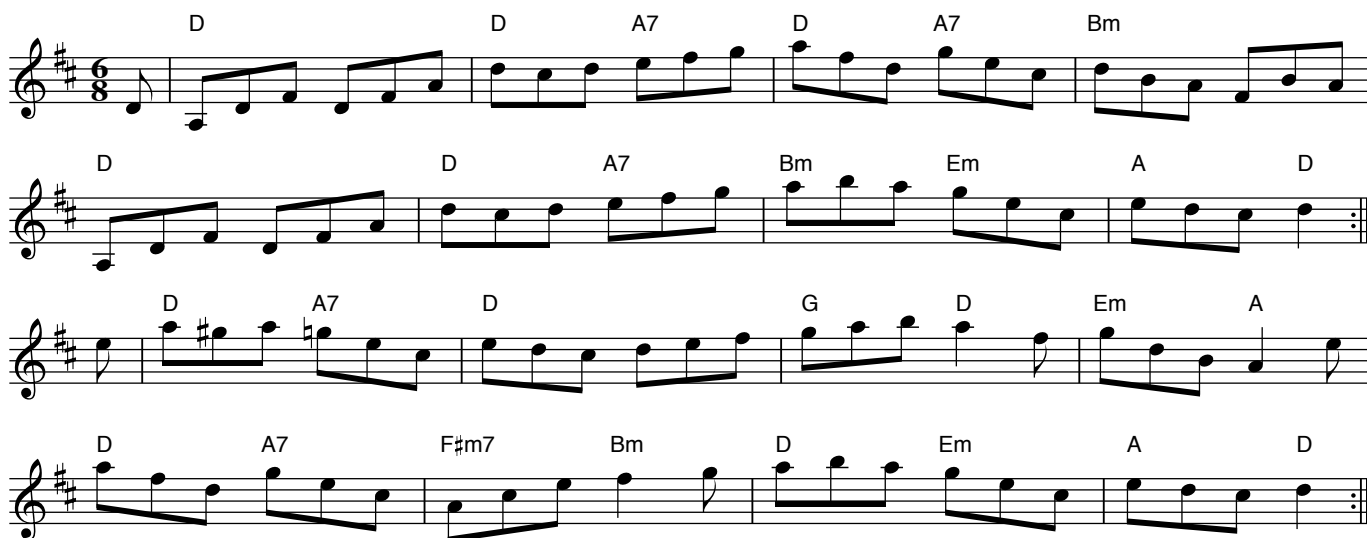


Jim McGinty, who passed away in June of 2010, was a great lover of, and worker for, traditional music. Jim spent all his life as a teacher in the New York area and devoted much of his time and energy to promoting Irish music. He and his wife Barbara were always a big part of CCE and always enlivened its conventions, fleadhanna, and music clubs with their presence.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[144] JIMMY KELLY'S BANJO

© BB



To know Jimmy Kelly was to love him (although it usually took a little time to get used to him!). His banjo style was a lively combination of Irish traditional and American jazz (similar to the Flanagan Brothers). There's a sample of Jimmy's incredible playing on my Tune Vault site (www.capeirish.com/tune_vault#irish). I kept promising myself that I'd sit down with Jimmy one day to find out how he did it, but - as in so many other things - I waited too long.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[145] JIMMY MAC'S (reel)

© *BB*

The image displays a musical score for guitar, written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of six staves of music. Chord names are written above the notes to indicate the harmony. The chords used are Bm, D, G, A, and Em. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and a double bar line at the end of the sixth staff. The overall style is a simple, melodic guitar piece.

This tune is named for Jimmy McGreevey, a fine box player originally from Roscommon who has lived many years in Dublin. I always tried to get together with him for a few tunes when I was in town.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[146] JIMMY the BOX (reel)

© BB 2006

The musical score for 'JIMMY the BOX (reel)' is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, Em, G, Em, Am, Em, G, C, Em, G, Am7, G, D, G, D, G, Em, D, G, Em, D, G, Em, C, G, D7, G.

Dedicated to the memory of Jim Coogan - a/k/a/ "Jim at the Box Office" - accordion guru, session leader, IRTRAD poster, cheerleader for "Cherish the Ladies" (of which group Jim's daughter Mary is a charter member), and friend of anything to do with Irish music. Jim passed away in November of 2006.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[147] JOE KELLY'S RETREAT

© BB

D G Em Bm D D C

D G D A A7 D D

D G C D D G A C

D G D Bm A7 D

The inspiration for this tune was the fiddling of Joe Kelly, the older of the two Kelly brothers (Willie's the other one) who have brought such great music into the world. Joe has for years been Father Francis Kelly and he's been too busy to do much fiddling!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[148] JOE MADDEN'S BIG DAY (reel)

© BB

Chords: D Bm7 D Bm7 D Bm7 D G D Bm7 D Em D G A D Bm Em7 D G D Bm A Bm Em7 D G Bm A D

In February 1992 New York's traditional musicians and fans got together and held a day of tribute for Joe Madden (RIP), Joanie's dad and a great player (box) in his own right. I was privileged to be present for a great day of music in Joe's honor. The event was held at Gaelic Park, but there still wasn't enough room to accommodate all of Joe's friends!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[149] JOHNNY BY GOLLY! (hornpipe)

© BB

The musical score for 'Johnny by Golly!' is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplet markings. The score is divided into four systems, each with a series of chords written above the staff. The chords are: Bm, D, Em, Bm, D, A (first system); Bm, D, Em, Bm, A7, D (second system); G, A, D, G, Bm, G, Bm, A (third system); G, A, D, Em, Bm, G, A7, D (fourth system). The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Fiddler Johnny McGreevy was one of the most respected members of the great Chicago trad music scene up to his death in 1990. His positive influence continues to this day. The title of the tune calls to mind one of Johnny's favorite expressions.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[150] JOHNNY'S WELCOME to HEAVEN (reel)

© BB

Chords: G, Am, Em, G, Em, D7, G, Am, Em, G, D, G, G, Am, G, Em, Em, G, Em, G, Am, G, Em, G, D7, G

This tune was written in memory of the great Kerry-born fiddler Johnny Cronin, who passed away in February 1991 after an interesting (but not sufficiently long) life. Anyone who ever knew Johnny has at least three funny stories about him. Under a rough exterior, Johnny had a great heart, as his thousands of friends will attest. It was a privilege for me to have known and played with him. God rest his kind soul.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[151] JOLLY OLD JIM

© BB 2005

D Bm D D G A7

Bm D G D A7 D D

D Bm G D Em A

D Bm G D A D

There's an old codger who lives down the street who hates puppies, kitties, children, the poor, minorities, the handicapped, veterans, etc etc. And that's not to mention his darker side. But otherwise he's not a bad guy - honestly!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[152] The JUNE BABY

© BB 2009

D F#m G A D A D Bm

G F#m Em D G D A D

A A D D

A A G Em A D

This is a birthday tune for Miss Catherine Sylvia-Everett, born to piper Colin and his wife (and big sister Aubrey) on June 27, 2009.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[153] KATIE'S GHOST (reel)

© BB

Em Bm D Em D Em

Em Bm D C G Bm Em

G Em G Bm

G Em G G Em 1 Bm Em 2 Bm Em

Our former home town of Falmouth MA is the birthplace of Katherine Lee Bates, composer of "America the Beautiful". There's a granite statue of her on the front lawn of the town library, and at night it's illuminated by a spotlight. We were having dinner in a pub across the street from the statue one foggy night when a young friend of ours glanced out the window, suddenly turned pale, and nearly choked on his burger. It took a few minutes for him to get his breath back after we explained to him what had been looking at. (Poor Katie DID look a little spooky that night!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[154] KAY O'BRIEN'S

© BB 2009

A

Bm F#m A Bm A E

A Bm F#m A D E A

E E A F#m

E E A D E A

A jig in memory of Catherine (Kay) O'Brien, a great lady and great fan of Irish music who passed away in August 2009. We like to feel that Kay is with us whenever we play "her" tune (usually with "The Kesh" and "Killaval" as part of the "Three K's" set). I'm sure she and husband Pat (RIP April 2022) are together enjoying the music in Heaven right now!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[155] KEN VESEY'S (hornpipe)

© BB

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over a group of notes. Chords are written above the staff at various points. The key signature has one sharp (F#), indicating D major or B minor.

Chords: C, Am7, C, G, C, Dm, D, G, C, Am7, C, G, C, G, C, G, Am, G, C, C, F, C, Am, Am7, C, F, C, Am, C, G7, C.

Ken is a friend of ours from a great New Jersey musical family who needed some encouragement a few years back. I'm pleased to say he came through his ordeal in fine style!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[156] The KERRY GOLD Reel

© BB 2013

Chord symbols above the staff:

Staff 1: G, Em, C, Am, Em, G

Staff 2: G, Em, G, D, Em, G

Staff 3: G, Am, G, D7, G, C, Am, D

Staff 4: G, F, C, Am, G, D, G, D, G

Next time you're out food shopping you may come across some butter or cheese with this brand name. Take my advice and get some - it's great stuff and you won't be sorry. (Just in case you're wondering - I am NOT an "influencer", just a guy who likes to eat. I haven't figured out a way to make money doing either one yet.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[157] The KIDS in the POOL

© BB

D modal

D C D Am D C D A7 D

Once or twice a summer, friends of ours used to bring their large family (sometimes with the addition of a few cousins) down from Boston to take advantage of our swimming pool. It was comical to watch kids turning blue but still refusing to admit that they were freezing! We always had a great afternoon, but the kids are no longer kids and the house with the pool was sold in 2014. But we still have a lot of fond memories of those afternoons!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[158] KILBAHA QUAY (revised version)

© BB

The musical score for "Kilbaha Quay" is written in 8/8 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. Above the first staff, the chords "D dorian" and "Dm" are indicated. The second staff continues the melody, with chords "Am7", "Dm", "Am7", and "Dm" written above it. The third staff features chords "Dm", "C", "Dm", "C", and "Dm". The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords "Dm", "C", "Am7", and "Dm", and ends with a repeat sign. The overall mood is traditional and melodic.

Kilbaha is on the Clare side of the Shannon estuary. Looking across to the Kerry side, you can see the famous "Cliffs of Dooneen" that the song celebrates. In the days of sail Kilbaha was the location where the Shannon river pilots would board incoming vessels, hence the title of the great shipwreck ballad "The Five Pilots of Kilbaha" ("the wind sang high on the rocky coast, to the dance of the restless tide") The pilot station is now a few miles upriver at Kilrush.

NOTE: I was contacted on 6/11/23 by Mr. Shawn Cassady who advised me that the original version of this tune and "Frankie O'Neill's" (12321) were the same tune. He was 100% correct and I still don't know how that happened.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[159] The KILKEE FARMER (hornpipe)

© BB

The musical score for 'The Kilkee Farmer' is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplet markings. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic structure. The score is divided into four systems, each containing two staves. The first system has chords G, Am, G, Bm, C, G, and Am. The second system has chords G, Am, G, Bm, Am, D7, G, D, and G. The third system has chords Em, D, Em, Bm, and Em. The fourth system has chords G, Am, G, Bm, Am, D7, G, D, and G. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

This tune was composed for my West Clare banjo colleague James O'Halloran. I met James at the Irish Embassy pub here on the Cape back in the 1980's, and for some reason I thought he was a farmer when he's actually a contractor. I decided to keep "Farmer" in the name anyway, since "Kilkee Contractor" doesn't have quite the same "trad" sound!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[160] KILLEEN'S OWN TOWN (hornpipe)

© BB

Em G C G Am G D7

Em G Am C D G

G A A7 D7 D G

G A A7 D7 D G D G

This is a "tip of the cap" for a good friend and fine musician, Kevin Killeen, founding member of our Northeast Ceili Band and a great man for the tunes! (The town of Killeen - which can mean either "little hill" or "little church" in Irish - is in Co. Mayo.) It's always great to see Kevin, wife Maureen, and daughters Fiona and Grace up here on the Cape. (I keep hoping they'll relocate up here at some point...)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[161] The KILMIHIL LASSIES (reel)

© BB 2006

Chords: G, D7, G, Em, G, Am, G, D, G, D7, G, C, D7, G, Am7, D, D7, Am7, D, C, Am7, D, D7, G, C, D, G.

Dedicated to County Clare's Millar sisters, Vanessa and Caoimhe, fine box players both, who will be adding a lot to traditional music in West Clare and elsewhere in the years to come.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[162] The KILNADEEMA FANCY

© BB

Chords: G, Am, G, G, G, Em, G, Am, Em, G, D, G, Em, D, G, C, Em, D, G, C, G, D, G.

Kilnadeema is a little town outside Loughrea, Co. Galway. Its main claim to fame is the fact that it's where Joe Burke and his wife Anne lived (RIP Joe as of March 2021).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[163] The KING of the HILL

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, Em, C, Gdim, G, Am, Em, C, G, Em, C, Gdim, G, D7, G, G, G, Em7, G, Em7, C, A7, D7, G, Am, G, G, D7, G, G.

This is dedicated to a friend of ours who managed to rise to a position of importance in local politics while also managing to remain a decent human being and family man. I wish there were more like him around these days.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[164] *The KING of the KEYS (hornpipe)*

© BB

Chords indicated above the staff:

Staff 1: G, G, D, D

Staff 2: C, D, G, Am, D, Am, D₃, G

Staff 3: G, Em, G, Em, G, Am, G, D

Staff 4: G, C, D, Em, C, D₃, G

In honor of that finest of piano men and "gentle giant", the late Felix Dolan.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[165] The KINVARA SHORE (slide)

© BB

12/8

D D G

D D A D

Bm A Bm Em

D D A D

Kinvara is a picturesque fishing town on the south- eastern shore of Galway Bay, right "around the corner" from Galway city. Since it's not anywhere near Kerry, it probably doesn't have any other slides (or polkas, for that matter) named after it. (Notice I said "probably" - anyway I couldn't find any.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[166] KITTENS in the TUNA FISH (hornpipe)

© BB 2006

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff has four measures with chords D, D, Em, and Em. The second staff has two measures with chords A, D, G, D, E7, and A. The third staff has two measures with chords A, D, A, and D. The fourth staff has four measures with chords D, D, Em, and G. The fifth staff has two measures with chords A, A, A7, D, G, and A. The sixth staff has two measures with chords D, A, G, D, A7, and D. There are triplets in the fifth and sixth staves.

This tune was inspired by Greg Johnson, a fine multi-instrumentalist who lives here on Cape Cod and runs the long-standing Saturday session at the Olde Inne. I composed it to sound like one of the classic "ragtimey" hornpipes in the Ryan's collection. (Note: no kittens were harmed in the composing of this tune.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[167] The LADIES on the ROAD (hornpipe)

© BB

The musical score is written for a hornpipe in D major, 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: Bm, G, A7, D, Em, Bm, D, and A. The second staff continues the melody, featuring a triplet of eighth notes and a half note. Chord symbols include Bm, Em, G, Bm, D, A, G, A, and D. The third staff shows the melody with a half note and a quarter note. Chord symbols are Bm, F#m, G, A, D, G, D, and A. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line. Chord symbols include Bm, F#m, G, A, D, G, A, and D. The notation includes various musical symbols such as clefs, key signatures, time signatures, note values, rests, and accidentals.

For Joanie Madden and "Cherish the Ladies", who have covered Heaven only knows how much mileage in their years of bringing great music to large cities and tiny towns in pretty much every continent (Antarctica possibly excepted).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[168] The LADS of LEXINGTON (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic accompaniment. The score is divided into four systems, each containing a single line of music. The first system has four measures with chords Am, Am, G, and Am. The second system has four measures with chords Am, Em, G, and Am. The third system has four measures with chords A, G, A, and Bm7. The fourth system has four measures with chords A, G, A, and D. The piece concludes with a final measure in the fourth system with a chord of A.

Our eldest son Tedd went to school at the Virginia Military Institute in lovely Lexington, VA. This tune is dedicated to our son and all his fellow "rats" in the Class of 1996 (the last all-male class at the school, by the way).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[169] LADY and the PIPER (reel)

© BB

Chord symbols: D, G, A, D, Em, G, A, D, G, A, Bm7, A7, D, D, G, D, A7, Bm7, A7, D.

"Lady" is the doggie who helped Mike Rafferty's dad Tom "Barrel" Rafferty become a piper. How exactly she accomplished this is too long a story to tell here, but lovers of Irish music can be grateful for her inspirational efforts!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[170] LADY EMMA'S REEL

© BB

Chords: D, Em, G, A, D, A, G, A, D, Em, D, A, D, G, D, A, D, A, A7, D, A, A7, D, Bm, A, A7, D, Bm, G, D, A, D, A, D.

Emma is our youngest grand-niece - she was still pretty much a toddler when we saw her last. She's a lovely young lady now and has just graduated (2022) with honors in physical geography (or something equally exotic) from UCD (University College Dublin). She was also a lovely maid of honor at her sister's wedding (June 2022).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[171] The LIBERTIES Reel

© BB

A modal

A 3

3

Named for the oldest and truest section of Dublin, the area south of the Liffey around Christ Church and Patrick's Cathedral. You can't say you've been in Dublin unless you've spent time in the Liberties. Brendan Behan - most folks' idea of a typical Dubliner - was born on the other side of the river (God help him) but used to spend most of his time (and money) drinking with the people of the Liberties, who loved him as much as he loved them.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[172] LILY FAIR

© BB 2006

The musical score for 'Lily Fair' is written in 8/8 time and consists of four staves. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. The chords are indicated above the staff lines.

Staff 1: Am, Em, G, Am, G

Staff 2: Am, C, Dm, Am, G, Em, Am

Staff 3: Am, C, Dm, Am, G, Am, G, Em7

Staff 4: Am, C, Dm, Am, G, Am, Em, Am

This tune is dedicated to our friends in "Tripping Lily", a fine local group from the early 2000's. They have since decided to go their separate ways but I wish them all well.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[173] LIMERICK in the MORNING (reel)

© BB

D G C Am7 D Bm Am C

D G C Am7 F C D

D Bm D Bm D A7

D Bm D Bm G Em7 A7 D

Limerick City is situated at the head of the Shannon River and in the center of an area rich in history. Like all the cities of Ireland, it has changed a great deal over the past few years. Whether the change equals "progress" or not depends on your point of view.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[174] LIZ WINCHELL'S (reel)

© BB 2009

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, common time (C). It consists of four staves of music. The key signature has one sharp (F#), indicating D major or A minor. The melody is a reel, characterized by its 8-measure structure and repeat signs. Chords are indicated by letters (Am, G, D, C) placed above the notes. The first staff contains measures 1-4, and the second staff contains measures 5-8. The third and fourth staves provide a second system of the same melody, with the fourth staff ending with a double bar line and repeat dots.

This tune is dedicated to the memory of Liz, a young lady of fine family and great promise who is unfortunately no longer with us. I hope she would have enjoyed this little tribute.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[175] The LONELY LOBSTER

© BB 2006

Chords: G, Am, G, Am, G, C, G, D, G, Am, G, Am, D, G, G, C, G, Am, D, G, D, C, G, Em, C, D, G

In days long past there used to be a session in a local restaurant that kept a lobster tank in a dark and lonely corner of the main dining room. I always felt a little sorry for the poor things that were living out their lives there. I don't know if our music reached them through the glass, but if it did, I hope it cheered them up a little.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[176] The LONG NIGHTS of WINTER

© BB 2005

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Bm, A, D, Bm, F#m, G, A, Bm, A, D, G, D, A, D, D, Bm, Em, Bm, A, Bm, D, A, Bm, G, D, G, A, D.

As the summer season on the Cape draws to a close (usually around mid-October), we have less and less daylight to work with (and traffic to contend with). Pretty soon we'll be waiting for our first snowfall. January, February, and March can be pretty awful around here, but once Saint Patrick's Day arrives, we're on the home stretch to Spring. . .

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[177] A LOUD HOUSE on HARMONY STREET (reel)

© BB

Chords: C, Am, G, C, Am, G, Em, C, G, Am, Em, Am7, D, Em7, Am, A, D, F#m, Bm7, F#m, E, A, D, Bm7, G, E, A.

The title of this tune was taken from an entry in the Police Log of our local newspaper. I thought as soon as I saw it that it would make a great name for a tune. You'll have to decide for yourself if the minor-major key change between parts really works!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[178] The LURGAN LASS

(Shaneen Gaffney's)

© BB 2008

The musical score for 'The Lurgan Lass' is written in 6/8 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first four staves are in the key of D minor (one flat). The fifth and sixth staves are in the key of D major (two sharps). The chords are indicated above the notes: Dm, C, Dm, C, Dm, C, Dm, Am (first staff); Dm, C, Dm, C, Dm, Dm (second staff); F, Gm, Dm, F, C, Dm, C (third staff); F, Bb, F, Dm, Am7, C, Dm (fourth staff); D, A, G, A7, D, G, A (fifth staff); D, G, D, A, Bm, Em, A, D (sixth staff).

Shaneen is a lovely lady from Lurgan, Co. Armagh, who has worked for many years at the Olde Inne here on Cape Cod. She got married in April 2008 and I wrote this to commemorate that happy event.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[179] The MAAM CROSS Jig

© BB

Am Dm E Dm E Am E

Am Dm G7 Am E Dm E Am

A D A Bm A Bm E

A D A Bm D A E A

One of my early composing efforts and another one with a minor-major change between parts. Maam Cross is in the mountains between Galway and Mayo. I personally think it's one of the real beauty spots in a country that's blessed with many of them, but back when I composed this it was a little off the usual tourist routes (? good thing) and wasn't familiar to many people.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[180] MAEVE'S MAZURKA

© BB

The musical score for 'Maeve's Mazurka' is written in 3/4 time and the key of D major (indicated by two sharps: F# and C#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. Chords are indicated by letters and symbols above the staff: A, F#m, C#m7, Bm7, B7, E7, D, and E. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Composed a while back to commemorate the christening of Maeve Elizabeth Flanagan, first child of Mike and Rose (Conway) Flanagan. It's nice to see how thoroughly fiddler Maeve has inherited the musical talent that abounds on both sides of the family!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[181] The MALAMUTE'S FANCY Hornpipe

© BB

Chords: G, Em, G, Em, Am, G, Am7, D7, G, Em, G, Em, G, C, D, G, G, C, G, Am7, G, D, C, D, G, C, G, Am, G, Em, D7, G.

A malamute is a breed of "sled" dog that resembles a wolf. They also resemble the better-known huskies but are distinct in their physique and behavior. "Mals" are gentle and strong and more than a little bit independent. We shared our life with one for thirteen years, so we know! Believe it or not (and you probably shouldn't) they are also quite fond of set dancing and have learned over the years to compensate skilfully for the extra paws that most human set dancers don't have.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[182] MARGIE O'DRISCOLL'S (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written for a reel in 4/4 time, featuring a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a G major chord, followed by an E minor chord, a D major chord, and another E minor chord. The second staff starts with a G major chord, followed by an E minor chord, a D major chord, a G major chord, an A minor chord, a D major chord, and a G major chord. The third staff begins with an E minor chord, followed by a B minor chord, a C major chord, a D major chord, an E minor chord, another E minor chord, a D major chord, a G major chord, and an E minor chord. The fourth staff starts with an E minor chord, followed by a B minor chord, a C major chord, a D major chord, an E minor chord, a G major chord, an E minor chord, a D major chord, and a G major chord. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and accidentals, along with a double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Margie was one of the many hard-working members of Comhaltas USA until she hit a rough patch a few years back. This tune was composed to cheer her up a little as she went through the recovery process.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[183] MARK'S MITTENS (hornpipe)

© BB 2006

Chords indicated above the staff: D, G, D, A, Bm, A, D, G, D, G, A, D, G, D, Bm, D, G, A, D.

When you're playing outdoors and the temperature is about 40 degrees and dropping, what better way to avoid frostbite than by playing fiddle with mittens on? Seemed like a good idea to Mark. The weird thing is that it didn't sound bad, but maybe the cold was affecting our hearing...

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[184] MARY JOSEPHINE'S (hornpipe)

© BB

D G D Bm D Bm7 D A7

D G D D A D G D

Bm Em D Bm D Bm F#m A

Bm Em D Em D A7 A G D

Named for Mary Josephine O'Sullivan, third child and first daughter of Jerry and Frances, born in September of 2000.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[185] MARY O'CONNOR'S (polka)

© BB

The musical score for "Mary O'Connor's (polka)" is written in 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are in the key of D major (two sharps), and the last two staves are in the key of D minor (two flats). The melody is written in a treble clef. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, G, D, D, Bm, D on the first staff; D, G, Em, D, A, D on the second staff; Dm, Am7, Dm, Am, Dm on the third staff; and F, Bb, Am7, Dm on the fourth staff. The fourth staff ends with a triplets symbol (3) and a repeat sign.

Named for the lovely lady at whose Brooklyn apartment many folks once experienced that unbeatable combination - great music and great food. If and when I get to Heaven (not a sure thing), I will not be surprised to find that it bears a strong resemblance to Vince and Mary O'Connor's front room!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[186] MAUREEN GLYNN CONNOLLY'S

© BB

Chords indicated in the score:

- Staff 1: A, Bm, A, D, F#m, Bm
- Staff 2: A, Bm, A, D, E, A, A
- Staff 3: A, Bm7, F#m, A, A, F#m, E
- Staff 4 (1st Ending): A, Bm, A, D, E7, A, A
- Staff 5 (2nd Ending): A, Bm, F#m, A, F#m, E7, A, A

Maureen was one of the fine teachers of Irish music who graced the New York area in the 1970's and 1980's. She was a talented performer on several instruments and many of her students - in New York and in Ireland - owe their excellence to Maureen's patience and teaching skills. Maureen was married to the legendary Johnny Cronin until he passed away in 1990 - Mrs. Black and I were at their wedding in Johnny's home town of Gneeveguilla, Co. Kerry, don't recall the year - but I DO remember playing a couple gigs with Johnny and Maureen in a place called "The Breffni" somewhere in Queens. As they say, God be with the days!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[187] McFADDEN'S GRAND-DAUGHTER (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: E7, F#m, A, D, A, F#m, Bm, F#m
- Staff 2: E7, F#m, A, D, A, D, E, A
- Staff 3: A, D, E, F#m, Bm, A, F#m, Bm
- Staff 4: A, D, E, F#m, Bm, F#m, D, E, A

A tune that I hope will recall "McFadden's Handsome Daughter", that great 3-part reel in the O'Neill collection.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[188] McKEON'S RIDE to CLARE (reel)

© BB 2013

D G D Bm A G A

D G D G Bm A7 D

D Em D A D G D A

D Em D A G Em A D

A few years back piper Gabe McKeon made a bike trip from Dublin to Clare to raise funds for the Pipers' Club. I thought such a worthy endeavor was worth a tune (and a small monetary contribution)!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[189] MEGAN McGANN'S (reel)

© BB

D modal

D D C D Am

D D D Am C D

D C D Am D

D C Am D Am D

Megan is the daughter of the late Andy McGann and his wife Pat. Since there are already a few tunes out there with Andy's name on them, I thought I'd name this one after Megan.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[190] The MELODIOUS TOMCAT

© BB 2009

D modal

D C D C D G C D A7 D D D Am Am D C D A D D

Musician and archivist Alan Morrisroe tells of a saying in his home county of Mayo that refers to anything noisy or discordant as "cat's melodeon" (only coincidentally the name of our local session group!). Alan - no mean melodeon player himself - obviously doesn't take any offense on behalf of his instrument. This tune was composed to commemorate all those box-playing felines of the County Mayo (note that any substitution of "malodorous" for "melodious" will NOT be viewed kindly by either Mr. Morrisroe or myself).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[191] MEMORIES of MONK'S

© BB 2009

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Bm, Bm, D, Bm, A, Bm, G, Bm, A, Bm, D, Em, D, A, D, Em, D, A, D, Em, D, A, Bm, G, A, Bm.

"Monk's Park" in Manhattan was a session pub in the late 1970's when there still weren't a lot of them around. Locals and visitors provided a lot of great music there back in the day! The pub is long gone and if the building is still there, it's probably an ethnic restaurant of some sort. Pad thai chicken, anyone?

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[192] The MENACING PIGEON (hornpipe)

© BB

Chords: D, D, G, D, Bm7, A, D, D, G, D, A, D, D, G, Bm, D, G, D, Em, A, D, D, Bm, Em7, D, A, D.

Naturally there's a story that goes with this title, but for the full details you'll have to ask Chicago box player Jimmy Thornton. Even then you probably won't believe it. (If he pretends not to remember, just say "San Francisco CCE convention, 1997 - birds" and watch his reaction.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[193] The MERRY STAMPMAKER (reel)

© BB

The musical score for 'The Merry Stampmaker' (reel) is written in 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first four staves are in the key of B-flat major (two flats). The fifth and sixth staves are in the key of D major (two sharps). The music features various chords and triplets. The chords are: Gm, Dm7, F, Gm, Bb, F, Gm, Gm, Dm7, F, Dm, C, Bb, F, Gm, F, D, Gm, Bb, F, Gm, F, D, Gm, F, Bb, F, Gm, D, Bm, Em, D, G, A7, D, Em, D, G, A7, D. The music includes triplets (3) and a tilde (~) indicating a grace note. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

I couldn't pass up the opportunity to immortalize (?) John "Squirrel" Casey, almost everyone's favorite North-Cork-almost-Kerry rubber-stamp tycoon. The joy and happiness that Mr. Casey has been accused of bringing into the lives of his "friends" is well-nigh indescribable, especially in a publication intended for family use. He currently resides on East 11th Street in Manhattan and has been known to entertain visitors (appointments suggested).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[194] MICHAEL ROGERS' (slide)

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 12/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: Em, D, G, D, G, D
- Staff 2: Em, Bm, Em, D, C, Em
- Staff 3: Em, G, D
- Staff 4: Em, D, Em, D, C, Em

Young Michael's family roots are in West Cork and Dublin, and as a child he grew up in Meath. It will be interesting to hear what sort of accent he'll have later in life! (UPDATE: Saw Michael in June 2022 - accent is pretty much Meath!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[195] MICK O'CONNOR'S

© BB

Chords: A, A, D, A, Bm, E, A, A, Bm, D, E, A, A, A, Bm, G, E, A, F#m, A, D, E, A.

Mick is the champion banjo player who is never reluctant to act as my 'native guide' when I'm in London. Mick has a lot of friends in spite of his penchant for bad - some might say terrible - jokes (advice: run away and hide if he pulls that little notebook out of his pocket - he'll understand).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[196] MICK O'GRADY'S (reel)

© BB

D Bm G D D Bm G

D Bm D Em D Bm D G

D D Bm D Bm D

D F#m Bm G D A7 D

Mick is a fiddler from Co. Mayo who came to New York in the early Eighties and returned to Ireland after a few years. The last time I saw him was at the 1989 Fleadh Ceoil in Sligo. I understand that as of a few years ago he was living and playing in the Dublin area. Maybe I can track him down next time we're back there.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[197] MIGHTY MIKE'S (reel)

© BB

Chords: D, Bm, D, F#m, G, D, D, G, D, A7, D, A, Bm, G, D, Em, F#m, G, A, Bm7, G, Bm, D, A7, D.

If somebody ever starts awarding prizes for the hardest-working people in Irish music, winner hands-down will be Boston's Mike Reynolds. Mike is the only person I know who can do two gigs - in different states - simultaneously (and set up the sound system somewhere else at the same time!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[198] MIKE FROM KC (reel)

© BB

Chords: Bm, D, A, Bm, D, F#m7, Bm, Bm, D, A, D, G, A7, D, A, D, Bm, F#m, A7, D, A, D, Bm, G, Bm, A7, D.

"Mike" is Mike Dugger, then-fiddler-now-box-player whom I first met back in the late 80's when his group "Scartaglen" was touring in these parts. Mike, who's based in Kansas City, has been involved in various groups since then. I used to see him when he'd venture east to Boston for "Gaelic Roots", but I haven't seen him recently. But I know he's still around because I see his Facebook posts occasionally. I think he has a new band too, so it's great to know he's still involved in the music.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[199] MIKE LYNCH'S

© BB 2009

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 6/8 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some slurs indicating phrasing. Above the staff, chords are indicated: Dm, F, Gm, Dm, Am, Dm, Dm, Am, Dm, Gm, F, C, Dm, Dm, C, Dm, F, Dm, C, Dm, Gm, Dm, C, Dm, Bb, C, Dm. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

When the Irish traditional music scene took off in New York in the early 1970's, one of the folks who was always involved in one capacity or another was Mike Lynch. Over the years he had relocated to the San Francisco area, and I lost track of him until I received news of his untimely passing in the Fall of 2009.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[200] The MILKMAN'S HORSE (reel)

© BB 2010

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Em, Bm, D, A, Em, Bm, G, Em, G, D, Bm, A, Bm, D, Em, D, G, Em, A, D, Em, D, A, Bm.

In the course of a conversation with a friend, he mentioned the fact that in his youth he had worked as a milkman's helper in the Bronx. Given his age, chances are that he rode a truck and not a horse-drawn wagon, but I figured I'd keep "Horse" in the title anyway!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[201] MISS BREEN'S HOTEL (hornpipe)

© BB



This is named for a most interesting Dublin hostelry of days gone by, located in the City Markets on George's Street. The owner was a Quaker lady, good friend of my mother-in-law, and it was for this reason that the "official" name of the place included the word "temperance", implying that you had to go elsewhere for a drink. There was usually ample evidence - most noticeably around the breakfast table - that this requirement did not represent a huge imposition for many of Miss Breen's full-time residents. Sadly, Miss Breen, her hotel, and all its denizens are part of Dublin's memories now - God be kind to them.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[202] MOLLY WILLEY'S

© BB 2009

The musical score for "Molly Willey's" is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chord symbols above the staves are: G, D7, Am, G, C, G, D; C, D, G, Am, G, C, D7, G; Em, D, Em, D, C; G, D, Em, D, G, C, D, G. The melody is written in a treble clef and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Molly, a regular at the Olde Inne, definitely qualified as one of Cape Cod's most enthusiastic fans of Irish music. She died in the Fall of 2009.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[203] The MONEYMORE Jig

© BB 2005

The musical score for 'The Moneymore Jig' is written in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).
- Staff 2: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half).
- Staff 3: G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C#4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (half).
- Staff 4: G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C#4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (half).

The chord annotations above the notes are:

- Staff 1: A, D, A, G, Bm, E
- Staff 2: A, F#m, D, E, A, E7, A, A
- Staff 3: A, E, Bm, A, G, Em7, Bm, E
- Staff 4: A, Bm, F#m, E7, A, D, E7, A

Moneymore is a town in Derry close to where my great-grand- mother Annie was born in 1852. Since there are other towns in Ireland with this name, I was surprised to see that as far as I could determine, no one had ever used it for a tune!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[204] MONSIGNOR'S POLKA

© BB

Chords: G, D, G, C, G, Em, G, D, G, D, G, C, G, Em, D, G, G, Am, D, G, Em, G, D, G, Am, D, G, Am7, G, D, G.

"Monsignor" is none other than Kerry's own Johnny Cronin (RIP). I'm not certain how he got the nickname - Johnny was certainly a great guy in his own way but you'd never mistake him for a member of the clergy! Everyone who knew him has a few stories about him, most of them true. (Check out the Cronin - Burke tracks on my Tune Vault site (www.capeirish.com/tune_vault) if you want a taste of Johnny's playing.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[205] The MOONRISE Reel

© BB 2006

The musical score for 'The MOONRISE Reel' is written in 4/4 time and the key of A major (indicated by three sharps: F#, C#, G#). The score consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: A, Bm7, A, Bm, F#m, E, A, E, D, A, D, Bm7, E7, A, A, F#m, A, D, A, E7, F#m, D, A, F#m, A, D, A, E, D, A, E, A. The melody is written in a treble clef and features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a repeat sign at the end of the fourth staff.

The full moon of December - which the Native Americans referred to as "the cold moon" or "the long night moon" - was peering in the window as I began writing this tune. Bingo - a name! (Hard to believe how bright it was that night!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[206] The MOUNTAIN FIDDLER (slide)

© BB 2006

Chord symbols: G, D, G, G, C, Am, G; G, Em, D, G, C, D, G; G, Am, G, Em, D7; G, Am, G, D, G.

I had originally titled this 2006 tune "The Rushy Mount", which is the English translation of "Sliabh Luachra". That's the area of southwest Ireland famous for all its great slides and polkas (and players thereof) mentioned so often in these pages. However I subsequently came across at least two other "Rushy Mounts" in other collections, so I renamed mine with the title you see here.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[207] MRS. CONWAY'S CHOCOLATE CAKE (hornpipe)

© BB

G Em Am G Am7 G C Em G

G Em Am G Am7 G Am D G

G D G Am G D G D G

G D G Am Em7 G D7 G

I'd bet that no one ever visited the Conway house in the Bronx without coming away at least five pounds heavier. I've never thought of Irish music as fattening, but it surely was on lovely Wallace Avenue. This tune is my thanks to all the Conways, mom Rose in particular (may she rest in peace), for their kind hospitality to our family and to all musicians over the years.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[208] MRS. FEENEY'S BLANKET

© BB 2005

The musical score for "Mrs. Feeney's Blanket" is written in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 8/8. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: Em, C, G, Em, G, Bm, Em, and D. The second staff continues the melody with chords G, D, Em, C, D, and G. The third staff features chords Em, D, Em, D, and Em. The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords G, D, Em, Am, D, and G. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Sometimes new parents forget stuff, and then they need folks like Mrs. Feeney to help out!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[209] MUSIC at McGURK'S (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Em, G, C, Em, G, Am, D
- Staff 2: Em, G, Am, G, D, G, Bm7, Em
- Staff 3: G, Em, Am, G, Bm, C, G, D7
- Staff 4: G, Em, Am, G, D, G, C, D, G

John J. McGurk's pub in Saint Louis was once the Midwest mecca of Irish traditional music. I haven't been in Saint Louis in a long time but a search on the Internet shows that McGurk's is still in existence, with plenty of music - but I'm not sure how "pure drop" traditional any of it is).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[210] The MUSICAL CROW (reel)

© BB

Chords: G, Em, Am7, G, Am7, D7, G, Em, Am7, G, C, D, G, Em, C, Am, G, D, G, Em, C, Am, G, Em, D, G.

Crows were considered highly intelligent, magically gifted creatures by the early Celts, and while I normally would never argue with such an opinion, I occasionally wonder: if crows are so smart, how come none of them can carry a tune? Okay, so maybe they can count up to 29, but have you ever listened to them trying to sing? Yikes!! They make ME sound good!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[211] The MUSKRAT Hornpipe

© BB 2009

The musical score for 'The Muskrat Hornpipe' is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Chord annotations are placed above the staff lines. The sequence of chords across the staves is as follows:

- Staff 1: Am, Dm, Am, G, C, F, G, Am
- Staff 2: Am, Dm, Am, G, C, F, G, Am
- Staff 3: C, Dm, Am, G, Am, G
- Staff 4: C, Dm, Am, Dm, G, Am

The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the fourth staff.

*"The muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), the only species in genus *Ondatra*, is a medium-sized semi-aquatic rodent native to North America." (Thanks, Wikipedia!) We had a family of these happy beasts living in a pond behind our house - we hope they enjoyed watching us as much as we did them!*

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[212] The NEW DEACON

© BB

Chord symbols: G, C, G, Am, G, D, G, C, G, D, G, G, G, C, Am, Em, Am, A, D, G, C, Am, G, D, G, G.

Our good friend Joe Kelly (now Father Francis Kelly) is mentioned frequently in these pages. This tune was composed to commemorate his ordination to the diaconate in May 1997.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[213] NEW ENGLAND SUMMER

© BB 2010

The musical score for 'New England Summer' is written in 6/8 time on a treble clef staff. The melody consists of 24 measures, organized into four lines of six measures each. The notes are as follows: Line 1: G4, A4, B4, C#5, D5, E5; Line 2: F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, B5; Line 3: A5, G5, F#5, E5, D5, C5; Line 4: B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4. The chords indicated above the staff are: Line 1: Am, G, Am, G, D, C; Line 2: Am, G, C, G, Am, C; Line 3: C, G, Am, Em, Am, D; Line 4: Am, Em, G, C, Am, G. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots after the final measure.

This tune sounds nicer played at a slower tempo, which I hope will be suggestive of the lazy days of Summer in this part of the world ("crazy" might actually be more accurate than "lazy", since the population of the Cape normally triples in July and August - and forget about making any left turns!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[214] The NEW HILL COUNTRY Jig

© BB 2007

D modal

D C Am D C Am D

D C Am D G A7 D

D C D C D C D

D C D C D G A D

This commemorates the Hill Country of central Texas and its inhabitants. Nice place, especially if you like open space - and nice people (especially Butch and Jackie Greene of Burnet, to whom this tune is dedicated).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[215] NIGHTS at TOM O'REILLY'S

© BB 2009

Em G Am Em D

Em Bm Em C D Em

Em D Em D C D

Em D Em D Em

In the late 70's and early 80's, Tom O'Reilly's pub on Park Avenue South in Manhattan was one of the few places where you could rely on hearing some great traditional music. The place is long gone - I haven't been in Manhattan in many years, so I'm not sure what's there now - but it certainly remains a fond memory for a lot of musicians. (There are more notes on this topic included with "Dawn Outside the Pub", tune 66.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[216] NORA FLANAGAN'S

© BB 2008



This tune is dedicated to the memory of our friend Mike Flanagan's mom Nora, who passed away in January 2008.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[217] NOT FAR from MEATH

© BB

The musical score is written in 8/8 time and consists of four staves. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some slurs indicating phrasing. Chords are indicated by letters (Am, G, Em, C) above the staff. The first staff contains 8 measures, the second 8 measures, the third 8 measures, and the fourth 8 measures. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The chords for each measure are as follows:

Staff	Measure	Chord
1	1	Am
	2	G
	3	Em
	4	Am
	5	C
	6	G
	7	Am
	8	G
2	1	Am
	2	G
	3	C
	4	G
	5	Am
	6	G
	7	Am
	8	Am
3	1	Am
	2	G
	3	Am
	4	G
	5	Am
	6	G
	7	Em
	8	Am
4	1	Am
	2	G
	3	Am
	4	Em
	5	Am
	6	G
	7	Em
	8	Am

I was surprised to find that in spite of its historical importance - e.g. as the site of the Hill of Tara, seat of the High Kings of Ireland - County Meath didn't have any tunes named after it. I can't imagine why, but in any event that situation is hereby remedied.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[218] NUALA KELLY'S (reel)

© BB

Em G Am G Bm G Em

G C G C D G

G Em G D Em G Em7 D

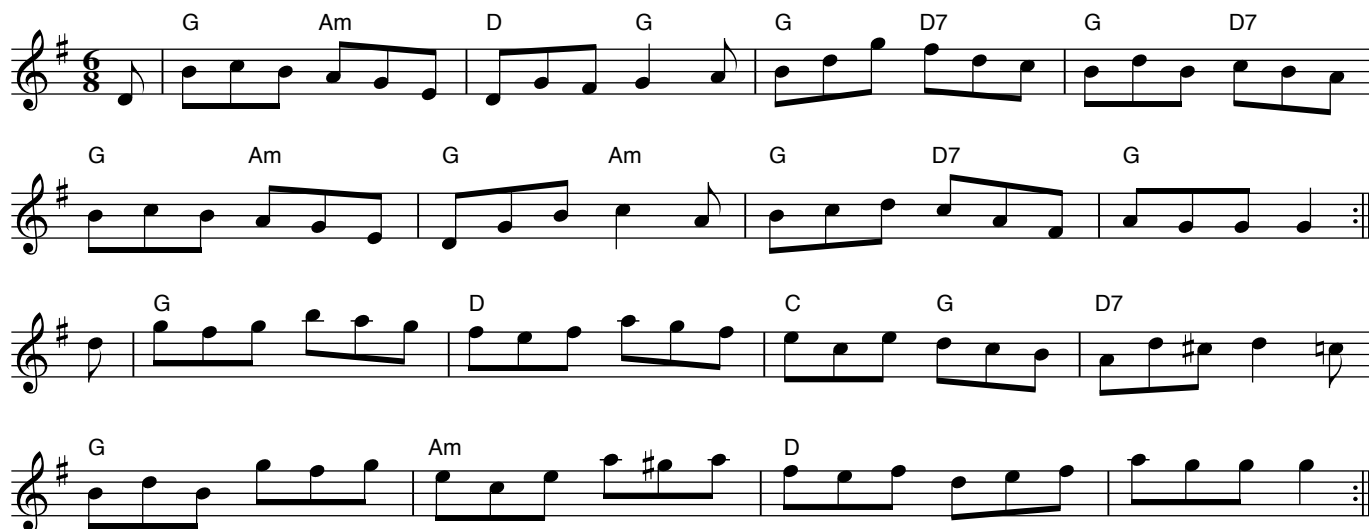
G C Am G Em D G

Nuala is the oldest daughter of Willie and Siobhán Kelly, a pair of excellent musicians who live in New Jersey. We first made Nuala's acquaintance when she was about two, and now suddenly she's grown up, finished college, and started her own family. REALLY???

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[219] The OLD HEAD of KINSALE

© BB



The Old Head of Kinsale is a peninsula in south County Cork famed for its lighthouse looking far out over the Atlantic. Also looking out on the Atlantic - or at least a part of it - was the Kinsale Pub, located in Mattapoissett on the "South Coast" between Cape Cod and Providence. We had some great sessions there until it changed hands, and with new owners came a new name and focus that didn't involve Irish music. Too bad - it was a great venue.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[220] The OLD MAN and HIS DOG

© BB

Chords: G, D, G, C, G, D, G, D, G, D7, G, G, G, D7, G, C, D, G, D, G, D7, G, G.

This is a familiar tune arranged as a jig (and with a second part added). It's dedicated to a couple of local characters of years gone by. (You can speed this up a bit and try it as a slide too.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[221] The ORDINATION Jig

© BB

A Bm F#m E D A Bm

A Bm F#m E D E7 A A

A Bm A Bm A D Bm E

A Bm A Bm D E7 A A

Catholics who care about the future of their faith bemoan the fact that not enough young men are going into the priesthood these days. We pray that situation changes soon. In the meantime this tune is dedicated to a couple of our friends who heard the call and responded accordingly!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[222] OWEN THOMAS' (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Em, C, D, Em, D, G, D, G, D, Em, G, Em, Bm, Em, C, D, Em, Em, D, Bm, Em7, G, Bm7, C, Em, G, C, G, C, D, Bm7, Em.

Owen Thomas - fiddling son of Donegal, adopted son of Brooklyn - is one of the first musicians who ever had the patience to sit through my attempts at playing tunes. I haven't seen Owen in many years - I'm not even sure he's still alive - but he'll always hold a place in my heart!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[223] PADDY the LILTER

© BB

The musical score for 'PADDY the LILTER' is written in D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, Em, D, Em, D, G, A on the first staff; D, Em, D, Em, A, D, D on the second staff; A7, D, A, A, G, A7, D on the third staff; and A7, D, Em, D, Bm, A, D on the fourth staff. The melody is a simple, lilting tune that ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The late flutemeister Mike Rafferty's brother Paddy was a great man for the lilting - he's on one of Mike and Mary's recordings, and I believe he won a medal in the All-Ireland at least once. The Rafferty brothers are no longer with us, but I hope this tune will capture some of Paddy's "nyah"!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[224] PADDY'S LEGACY (reel)

© BB 2014

Chords: G, C, D, C, G, Am, G, D, G, Em, G, F, D, G, G, Am, G, Am, G, C, Am, G, Am, G, Dm, G7, Am, D, G.

Dedicated to the memory of the great Tipperary box player and composer Paddy O'Brien, one of the most influential trad musicians of the past sixty years.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[225] PADRAIGIN RUA (reel)

Pat the Redhead

© BB

The musical score for 'PADRAIGIN RUA (reel)' is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Bm, D, Bm, G, Bm, F#m
- Staff 2: Bm, D, A, G, Bm, G, D, A, D
- Staff 3: D, Bm, A, D, A7, D, A, Bm
- Staff 4: G, D, Bm, Em, Bm, Em7, A, D

With thanks and all my love to...Pat the Redhead!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[226] The PARK on SUNDAY

© BB

D A D G A D A

D Em D G D G A D

D A7 D Bm G A D A

D A G A D G A D

Could be any park, any Sunday, but in this case Gaelic Park in New York in February 1992 for the big testimonial in honor of box player Joe Madden, father of Joanie and one of the really great guys in the trad scene of past years. "Joe Madden's Big Day", a reel that can be found elsewhere in this collection (#148), refers to the same event.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[227] PATRICK KEANE'S (reel)

© BB

The musical score for 'Patrick Keane's' is written in 4/4 time and the key of D major (indicated by two sharps: F# and C#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The chords are indicated above the staff as follows:

- Staff 1: G, Bm7, G, C, Am7, G, D
- Staff 2: G, Bm7, G, Em, D, G
- Staff 3: Em, C, Em, D7, G, C, D
- Staff 4: Em, C, Em, G, G, Em, D, G

Composed in memory of Patrick Keane, Aughnish, Co. Clare, father of Fergus and grandfather of John, both for many years stalwart members of the Boston traditional scene. Patrick passed away in November 1995.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[228] PATRICK SCULLY'S

© BB 2009

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords are indicated above the notes:

- Staff 1: A, Bm, F#m, A, D, A, E
- Staff 2: A, E, F#m, A, D, E, A
- Staff 3: A, F#m, D, E, A, D, A, E
- Staff 4: A, Bm, F#m, A, E, A

Pat Scully and his wife Frances were regulars at the Olde Inne Saturday session from its inception until Pat's passing in early March 2009.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[229] PATRICK'S PARK (reel)

© BB 2011

The musical score for "Patrick's Park (reel)" is written in D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: D, Bm, D, A, G, D, A
- Staff 2: D, Bm, D, F#m, Bm, A7, D
- Staff 3: D, Em, D, A7, D, Em, A7
- Staff 4: D, Em, D, Bm7, G, Bm, A, D

Patrick's Park adjoins St. Patrick's Cathedral in the Liberties of Dublin. It's a lovely quiet green spot in the middle of an otherwise typically hectic urban area!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[230] PATRIOT SUNDAY (reel)

© BB 2006

D modal

D D C Am D A D D G D C Am7 D G D C G D A D

A large part of New England's population - including musicians, unless they're in the middle of a gig - is glued to the television on Sundays during football season. We're watching the Patriots, winners (to date) of six Super Bowls. Probably the best team in NFL history with the best QB (now retired) and coach (now departed). Lots of changes recently, not all for the best, but we're confident the Pats will be back in contention sooner rather than later!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[231] PATSY the DUB

© BB

The musical score for 'PATSY the DUB' is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords for each staff are as follows:

- Staff 1: G, D, G, Am, D
- Staff 2: G, D, G, Am, D, G
- Staff 3: C, G, Am, D, Em, A, D
- Staff 4: G, D, Am, G, C, Em, D, G

This tune commemorates Patsy Whelan, a fiddler who lived on the Cape but originally hailed from - where else? - Dublin! He passed away in 2018.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[232] PEADAR'S NEW CALF (reel)

© BB

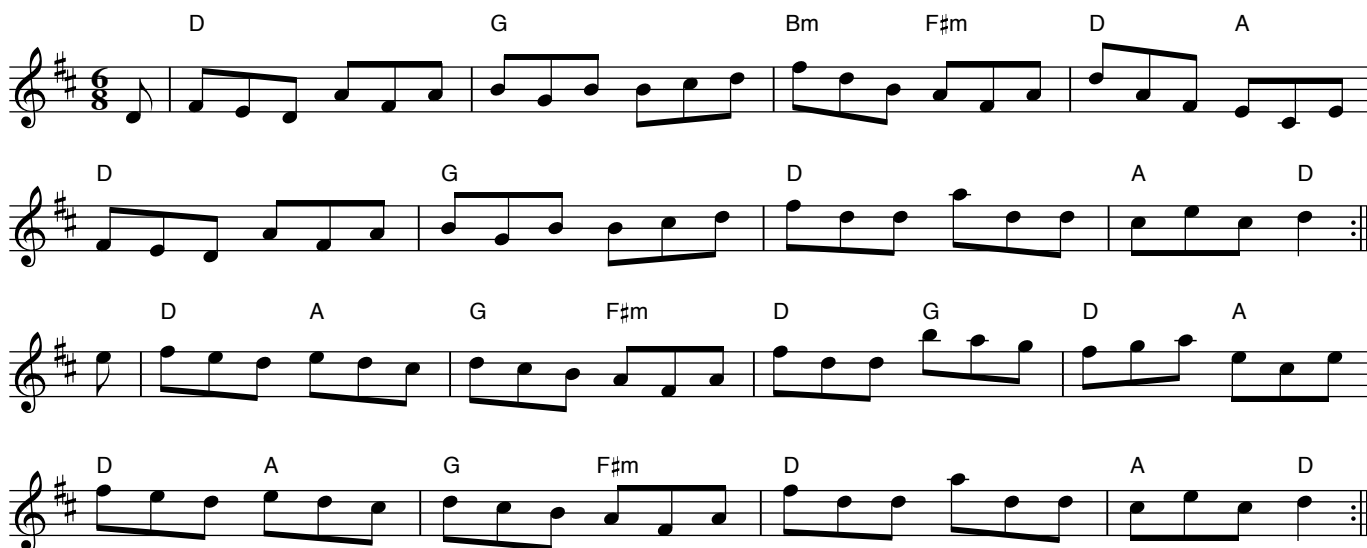
Chords: D, Bm, A, D, A, D, G, A, Bm, F#m, Bm, Em, D, A, D, Bm, G, D, Bm, Em, A, Bm, F#m, G, D, Em, Bm, A, D

Years back, one of the regular flute players was missing from a West Clare session I was attending. When I asked about him, I was told he was assisting at the birth of a new calf back on his farm. Everything must have gone well because he was back in the thick of the music not long after!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[233] The PEOPLE'S CHOICE

© BB



In memory of Boston's own Joe Joyce, may he rest in peace. Joe in his lifetime qualified as a real honest-to-goodness cultural treasure. It's a gift to be able to make so many people happy, and Joe certainly had that gift - he was indeed "the people's choice" that his accordion so proudly proclaimed!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[234] PHYLLIS' KITCHEN (hornpipe)

© BB

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-4, the second staff measures 5-8, the third staff measures 9-12, and the fourth staff measures 13-16. The melody is characterized by eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at the beginning of measures: D, C, D, G, C in the first staff; D, C, D, C, Am7, D in the second staff; D, C, D, Em, G, C in the third staff; and D, C, D, C, Am7, D in the fourth staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the fourth staff.

Dedicated with love to Phyllis Reynolds, for her kindness and patience with all kinds of Irish musical lunatics (most of whom have slept on her living room floor at one time or another). For many years she was in the middle of a crazy scene but she seemed to enjoy it - most of the time anyway! Phyllis passed away in November of 2020 .

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[235] The PINT o' PLAIN (hornpipe)

© BB

D G A7 D G D Bm7 A

D G A7 Bm D7 G A D

G A Bm A7 D Bm G A

G A D A7 D Em A D

This tune is in the original BB Tunes volume as "The Playoff Hornpipe" but I wasn't satisfied with the way it sounded, so I re-did the first part and gave the tune a new name. The second part is pretty much the same as the original. Title is borrowed from Flann O'Brien's "At Swim Two Birds" ("a pint o' plain is your only man"), required reading in BB.World (wherever that is).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[236] PLANXTY PHELM MEEHAN

© BB

Chords: G, Em7, Am7, G, Em7, D; G, Em7, Am7, G, C, D, G; G, Em, Am7, G, D, G, Em; G, Em, Am7, G, D7, G, G; G, C, G, G, Am, G, Em; G, C, D, G, C, D, G.

Until June 2006, Phelim was one of the co-owners of the Olde Inn, our Sunday session pub down here on Cape Cod. Both Phelim and Dermot (a/k/a/ Filbert) Quinn were the perfect pub owners to play for - they appreciated the music but had no interest in telling musicians how to play it. What could be better? Thanks, guys! (Oh, yeah - they poured a pretty good pint too.) * * * Update: Phelim gave up the pub business for a career as an EMT - big deal, rescuing folks, saving lives, blah blah blah - but you never know when he (or Filbert) might reappear behind a bar somewhere . . .

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[237] The PLEASANT HOUR (reel)

© BB

Em D Em C Bm7

Em D Em Am7 D Em

G Am Bm C Bm

G Am Em D 1 Bm7 Em

This is named for a New York pub of bygone days called - optimistically perhaps - "Kerrigan's Pleasant Hour". According to Chief O'Neill's "Irish Minstrels and Musicians", Tom Kerrigan was a piper from Longford who spent some time in Chicago before heading east to New York to open his "free and easy" (the Chief's words), where Kerrigan himself was the main entertainment. We are not told when the place was opened, but Kerrigan died in 1901, evidently leaving the management of the place to his children. The Chief doesn't mention how long the place survived Kerrigan's death. Google (for once!) is no help, and I seriously doubt that there's anyone alive today who would remember.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[238] The POOKA'S DELIGHT (reel)

© BB

Chords for the first staff: A7, D, F, G, Cm, D7, G7, Cm7.

Chords for the second staff: A7, D, F, G, G, Ddim, A7, D.

Chords for the third staff: A, D, Bm7, D, C, A.

Chords for the fourth staff: D, G7, Cm7, A, D, A7, D.

*I'd like to think that there are actually musicians out there in the world crazy enough to try playing this little gem. (By the way, a pooka [púca] is a sort of mischievous sprite from Irish folklore. I've known a few in my life and they're really not bad sort if you know how to handle them.) * * * Update, sort of: This is the hyper-ultra-revised version of this tune. Feel free to move on to the next entry - I won't be insulted.*

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[239] The PORCUPINE'S FANCY (reel)

© BB

Chords: G, Em, G, D, G, Em, D, Em, G, Am, G, D, Em, D, G, D, G, G, Am, G, Am, G, Am, D7, Em7, G, Am, G, Am, Em, C, D, G.

As most of you may be aware, a porcupine is a small mammal, kind of like a hedgehog, with spines instead of fur. Why this is the case is beyond the scope of this document to explain. If you want to know more about these amiable creatures, Google has 10,500,000 entries on them (or so they say - who really knows?) Their significance to Irish music has yet to be determined but reliable minds are working on it (between pints).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[240] POTATOES & ONIONS (reel)

© BB 2005

Chords: D, Em, D, Bm, G, A, Bm, D, Em, A7, D, G, A, D, Em, G, D, G, Em, G, Bm, D, 1 G Bm, 2 A D.

For Seán and Sheila Reynolds' kids Liam, Seán, Declan, and Bríd - I'm not sure who's a potato and who's an onion, but they're all great kids (young adults now, almost 20 years after this tune was composed!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[241] The PRIDE of WEST DENNIS (reel)

© BB

D F#m7 A E D Bm F#m7 E

F#m E A F#m7 Bm F#m7 E7 A

Bm D E F#m Bm D A Bm7 E

Bm D E A D E D E A

West Dennis is a village on Cape Cod whose "Olde Inn" has hosted a lot of great traditional music over the past 20 years. I ran a Sunday session and produced concerts out there for the original owners, and was happy to return in late 2017 to co-host a new Thursday session. Then covid shut down all the pubs and by the time it lifted, the owner had made other arrangements. Oh well . . . The place hasn't changed much over the years (except the name - it's now "O'Shea's Olde Inne"). I guess those final "e's" are important.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[242] PRINCESS GRACE'S MARCH

© BB 2007

Chords: G, C, G, Em, G, Am, G, D

Chords: G, C, G, C, G, Am, D, G

Chords: G, Bm, Em, C, G, Em, Am, D

Chords: G, C, D, Em, G, Am, D, G

This tune is dedicated to Miss Grace Ann McHugh, born March 2007, granddaughter of Mike and Trudy Connolly. It can be played at march tempo (mm = 200) or as a polka (180), or maybe a fling (150). Or whatever.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[243] PRUNES FOR BREAKFAST

© BB

Bm A G D G D E A

Bm D G D Em A D D

D C D G E A

G D C A Bm A D D

Some people might like prunes, others might not. Some people might like this tune, others might not (but they'd better have a good reason!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[244] PURCELL the PIPER (reel)

© BB

The musical score for 'the PIPER' is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-4 with chords G, Em, G, C, G, and D7. The second staff contains measures 5-8 with chords G, Em, G, D7, G, D, and G. The third staff contains measures 9-12 with chords G, D, C, G, Am, C, D, and G. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16 with chords G, D, C, G, Am, C, D, and G. The music is a lively reel, and the final measure of the fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Al Purcell, Detroit piper originally from Dublin, was one of those rare people that you meet once and think you have known and liked forever. I did some judging with him at a fleadh in Chicago years back, and although I had not met him before, we ended the weekend like old pals. Sadly Al has since passed away but his music and teaching skills are still remembered fondly.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[245] RABBIT RUN

© BB 2006

The musical score for 'Rabbit Run' is written in 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are in the key of D minor (one flat). The third and fourth staves are in the key of D major (two sharps). The chords are indicated above the notes: Am, G, Am, F, G, Em, Am in the first staff; Am, G, F, G, Am, C, Em, Am in the second staff; A, G, A, D, G in the third staff; and A, G, A, G, Em, A in the fourth staff. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

You can see lots of bunnies around here in late Autumn busily gathering provisions for the winter. Then they sort of disappear for awhile but return in the spring when there's plenty of tasty new vegetation to enjoy!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[246] The RAFFERTYS' PARTY (reel)

© BB

Chords: G, Em, G, C, Bm7, Em, G, Em, C, G, Bm7, D7, G, Am, G, C, G, D, C, D7, G, Am, G, C, G, Am, D, D7, G.

Every New Year's Eve for many years, musicians from all over the New York - New Jersey area would gather at Mike and Terry Rafferty's house in lovely Hasbrouck Heights to welcome the New Year. The list of those in attendance would go past the bottom of this page! Always a great night deserving of all thanks to the host and hostess (and their terrific kids who were always there to assist).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[247] The RATHSALLAGH Hornpipe

© BB

D D Bm D Em D A7
D A Bm D Em7 D A D
D A D C A D
D A D G D Em7 A D

Rathsallagh is a lovely spot in Co. Wicklow near Dunlavin (where the "Dunlavin Green" of the great 1798 ballad is located). There's an eighteenth-century house there that's available for wedding receptions and similar gatherings. We spent a few pleasant nights there a number of years ago and we hope we can get back there some time.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[248] The RECOVERY Reel

© BB

Chords: D, Bm, D, F#m, G, D, Bm, A7, D, G, D, Bm, Bm7, D, Bm, A, D, Bm, D, A, Bm, D, A7, D.

It should surprise no one that this tune was composed to assist a good friend's recovery from a serious illness!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[249] RED BLUE and BEAUTIFUL (reel)

© BB 2010

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The chords indicated above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: Am, Em, G, Am, Em, Am, G
- Staff 2: Am, G, C, G, Am, G, C, G, Am
- Staff 3: C, G, Am, Am, G
- Staff 4: Am, G, Am, G, Am

This is for our grandson Tedd Jr. (born February 2010) , who - like his dad - is blessed with the unusual combination of red hair and blue eyes. He's a great kid and we're blessed to have him along for the ride!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[250] The RED HAND (polka)

© BB

Chords: G, D, G, Am, G, D, G, C, D, G, G, Am, G, D7, G, C, D, G, G.

On the theory that you can never have too many polkas (especially if the Kerry Set is as popular with the dancers of your area as it is in Boston), I respectfully offer this contribution to the polka repertoire for your kind consideration. (Disclaimer: I know "The Red Hand" has more to do with Donegal than Kerry, but it seemed like a good name anyway.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[251] REMEMBERING REAVY (reel)

© BB

G modal

G F G F Dm7

G F G D7 G

G F G G F

G F G F D7 G

I hope this tune sounds sufficiently like an Ed Reavy composition to justify the name! "The Plumber" composed a lot of masterpieces that will be enjoyed as long as there are traditional musicians to play them. (Note that all Ed's tunes are at ITTL folder 52.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[252] The RETURN to COROFIN (reel)

© BB

Chords: D, G, D, Bm, G, A, D, G, Em, A, D, D, G, Bm, A, D, G, Em, A7, D

This Corofin - one of several in Ireland - is a lovely town west of Ennis in Co. Clare. It's not very large, but there's plenty of music there nonetheless - just as you'd expect from a town in Clare!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[253] The ROCHESTER LASS

© BB

The musical score for 'The Rochester Lass' is written in D major (two sharps) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, G, A, D, A, D, D, D, G, Em, Bm, A, D, D, D, G, D, A, D, D. The melody is a simple, folk-like tune with a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

A tune dedicated to Tiffany Rozenas and her parents Bronie and Cheryl, who make a fine fiddle - guitar - bodhrán trio (when they're not raising alpacas - whole 'nother story!) "Rochester" in the title is the farm community in Mass., not the home of Eastman Kodak over in New York!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[254] The ROCK in the RIVER

© BB 2006

Chords: G, Bm, G, D, G, Bm, C, G, D, G, Em, Am, D, G, Em, C, G, D, Em, C, D, Em, G, Em, D, G.

There's a river in Galway with the unlikely name of "Suck". In this river there's a magical rock that always remains above water no matter how high the river gets. Local tradition says that if the rock ever does get covered, it's probably the end of the world (or some equally unpleasant event).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[255] ROCKCORY DEPOT (reel)

© BB

D modal

D C Am D C D A

D Am Bm Em A D

D Am G D Bm C D A

D Am G D Bm G A D

Rockcory is a town in Co. Monaghan that I had reason to believe (wrongly as it turned out) was the birthplace of my great-grandmother. The depot is the old railway station out in the country, now used by a local farmer for storage - the railroad is long gone.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[256] The ROCKS of CONNEMARA (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplet markings. Above the staff, guitar chords are indicated for each measure. The chords are: Dm, Dm, Am, Dm, Am7, F, C, Dm, Dm, A, Dm, Gm, Am, Dm, F, Gm, A, Dm, C, Dm, F, C, Am, Dm, Am7, Dm. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

There's no question that Connemara has a lot of rocks - in fact, it's famous for them. Folks come from all over the world to look at them and take selfies with them and generally enjoy their company.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[257] The ROSCOMMON PLUMBER (reel)

Martin O'Grady's

© BB 2006

Chords: D, Em, D, A, Bm, A, D, Em, D, A, D, A, G, A, D, Em7, A, A, G, D, G, A, D.

Philadelphia had "the Cavan Plumber" - Ed Reavy. New York had a plumber of its own - the late Martin O'Grady from Roscommon. This tune is in recognition of his love and support of Irish traditional music in the New York area.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[258] ROSIE ROGERS' (fling)

© BB

Chords: A, A, F#m, A, F#m, E, A, A, D, A, F#m, E, A, F#m, A, D, A, Bm, A, E, A, F#m, A, D, Bm7, D, E, A.

This tune is named for my late mother-in-law, one of Dublin's fairest flowers and a resource for anyone wanting to know about Dublin in "the rare old times". I was honored to have her welcome me into the family. I couldn't have asked for a better mother-in-law!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[259] The ROXBURY RACES (polka)

© BB

The musical score for 'The Roxbury Races' (polka) is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Em, G, Em, C, G, Em on the first staff; G, C, D, G, G on the second staff; Em, D, Em, D, Em, D on the third staff; and C, D, G, Em, D7, G, D, G on the fourth staff. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Roxbury is the Boston neighborhood where all the Irish and Canadian dance halls were to be found in days gone by. (Susan Gedutis Lindsay's great book "See You at the Hall" will give you all the details.) Roxbury is a center of the black community now but I was surprised to see that Hibernian Hall is still there, although it looked pretty run-down. I believe that part of the city is now referred to as "Nubian Square".

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[260] SAINT RAYMOND'S (fling)

© BB

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic structure. The chords are: D, G, D, D, Bm, A, D, G, A, Bm, D, Bm, A7, D, D, Bm, G, A, D, Em, D, G, A, D, Bm, A, D, D, G, A7, D.

Saint Raymond's is a huge cemetery in the Bronx that serves as the final resting place for people like Michael Coleman, James Morrison, Johnny Cronin, Andy McGann, and I don't know how many other musicians. Of course there are sessions every night but folks think it's just the sound of the wind. . .

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[261] SANDY CONNOLLY'S

© BB

The musical score for "Sandy Connolly's" is written in D major (two sharps) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-4 with chords D, G, D, Bm, A, G, and A. The second staff contains measures 5-8 with chords D, Em, D, G, D, A, and D. The third staff contains measures 9-12 with chords D, G, Em, D, G, D, and A. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16 with chords D, G, Em, D, G, Bm, A, and D. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots in the final measure of the fourth staff.

In memory of Séamus Connolly's late wife Chryssandra (RIP after losing a long battle with cancer in March 2011).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[262] SARA'S PORCH

© BB 2013

The musical score for "Sara's Porch" is written in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: D, A, D, G, D, A
- Staff 2: D, G, Em, D, A7, A, D
- Staff 3: D, G, A, Bm, Em, D, A
- Staff 4: D, A, D, G, A, D

This tune is a tribute to Sara Piazza, whose front porch in Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard always has room for a few visiting musicians!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[263] SARAH'S BLISS

© BB

A G A A G A

A G A G Em A

A G A A Em

A Bm A G Em A

A while back our friend Sarah Murphy opened an Irish gift shop called "Celtic Bliss". She asked if we would play for the grand opening, which we were happy to do. I wrote this tune to commemorate the big day!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[264] SCRAMBLED EGGS

© BB 2009



Scrambled eggs were at one time our grand-daughter Rosie's favorite cuisine. Sometimes if she was really hungry the refinements of fork and/or spoon would be dispensed with, and fingers would be put to good use to get the yummy golden stuff into the mouth (or close thereto) in the quickest way possible! (And which of us has not felt the same desire even as adults? Talking to you M&M freaks out there...)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[265] SEAN at the WHEEL (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written for a fiddle in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves end with a repeat sign, and the last two staves end with a double bar line. Chords are indicated above the notes: Dm, C, Dm, Dm, Am, Dm, C, Dm, C, Dm, Am, C7, Dm, Dm, Dm7, Dm, C, Dm7, Dm, Dm, Am, C7, Dm.

Anyone who has tried to steer a van down an interstate and play tunes on a fiddle at the same time will appreciate Seán Reynolds' efforts not to get us all killed. (This tune has been brilliantly recorded by fine fiddler and Solas member Winnie Horan - thanks, Win!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[266] SEAN BERRY'S

© BB

The musical score for 'Sean Berry's' is written in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes. Chord annotations are placed above the staff lines. The first staff contains chords: Am, G, Am, G, C, G, Am. The second staff contains: Am, G, Am, C, G, Am, Am. The third staff contains: Am, G, C, G, Am, G, G, Em. The fourth staff contains: Am, Em, G, Em, Am, G, Am, Am. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Seán was a Connemara man well known in Boston music circles for his support of all things Irish. He passed away in September 1996.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[267] The SECOND CITY (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of six staves. The chords are as follows:

- Staff 1: Am, Am, F, C, Dm, G
- Staff 2: Am, Am, Dm7, G, F, G, Am
- Staff 3: C, C, Am, C, Em, Am
- Staff 4: C, C, Em, Am, G, F, G, Am
- Staff 5: Am, Am, G, Am, Em, Am, G
- Staff 6: Am, Am, Em, C, Am7, F, G, Am

The score ends with a repeat sign (double bar line with two dots) after the final measure of the sixth staff.

This tune has existed for many years as "Seventh City" which I always thought was a nickname for Dublin (although I couldn't figure out why). Well, there's a good reason: it turns out the phrase is "Second City", as in "Second City of the British Empire" (London of course being Number One). Even though Ireland has not been part of the Empire for many years, I'm sure it's comforting to Dubliners to know that their home town was once thought of so highly by their neighbors next door (so to speak).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[268] The SHANNON PILOT (reel)

© BB

Am G Em Am D G

Am G Em Am Em7 Am 3 G Am

Am G Em Am D Em Am

Am G Em Am D G Am

When we were travelling in West Clare some years ago, I had the opportunity of taking a ride out on the Shannon River with one of the river pilots who was going out to board a ship. It was quite a treat for a ship enthusiast like me to be able to spend an hour or so on the "broad majestic Shannon"!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[269] The SINGING SISTERS

© BB

Chords: G, Am, Em, C, G, Am, G, Em, G, Am, Em, C, D, D7, G, G, Em, C, G, D, Em, Am, G, Em, Em, C, G, C, G, D7, G, G.

For the Deck sisters, Rosalie and Rosamund - sisters by birth and sisters in religion - who were both fine musicians and beloved teachers at Sacred Heart High School in Kingston MA. May they rest in peace.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[270] The SIX FOOT SANDWICH

Loretta Egan's

© BB

D D G D Em A7

D G Em D G A

Bm A

Bm D A Bm

The first time I ever encountered one of those notorious six-foot sandwiches was at a session at box player Loretta Egan's apartment in Manhattan many years ago. I can affirm that there wasn't any kind of known cheese, cold cut, or salad that wasn't represented somewhere in that sandwich. (The music was pretty good too!) I last saw Loretta when she was visiting the Cape a few years back and dropped in to play at our session. It was great to have her stop by!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[271] SIX IN THE MORNING

© BB

G Am Em G Em D G Am

G Am G Em Am Em D G

G Am Em G C G Am D

G Am Em G C G D G

Certainly not my favorite time of day, but there are people who actually LIKE IT!!!. They're usually NOT musicians but strange people like fishermen, golfers, joggers, and other assorted sociopaths that it's always best to avoid even though they might pretend to be normal . . .

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[272] The SLEEPY Reel

© BB

The musical score for 'The SLEEPY Reel' is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff lines. The key signature has one sharp (F#), indicating D major or B minor.

Staff 1: Am C Am Am7 C Am Em G

Staff 2: Am C Am Am7 Am D Am G Am

Staff 3: Am G Em Am Em G Am G Am

Staff 4: Am G Em Am Am D Am G Am

Named for everyone's (well, NEARLY everyone's) favorite Hollywood dwarf. After doing the Snow White movie, Sleepy returned to Ireland to run a B & B in Kerry called "Leprechaun Lodge" with his partners Grumpy and Sneezy. Unhappily the venture failed after a few years. (Thanks to Win Horan and Mick McAuley of Solas for recording this tune a few years ago!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[273] SNOW on the ROOF (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, Em, Bm, C, D, Em, Bm, D, G, Em, C, Am, G, D7, G, Em, Bm, G, D, C, D, Em, C, D, Em7, Em, Bm, C, Bm, C, G, D7, G.

It happens that Cape Cod can go for years without more than six or seven inches of snow during the winter (which sometimes lasts until mid-April). Other years we'll get blasted with two storms a week. Problem is that you can never tell which kind of winter it's going to be - the "Farmer's Almanac" and Punxsutawney Phil the groundhog are usually guessing the same as the rest of us!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[274] The SNOWY OWL

© BB 2014

The musical score for 'The SNOWY OWL' is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: A, F#m, A, F#m, Bm, A, D, E, D, A, D, E, A, F#m, D, A, F#m, Bm, A, E, D, A, D, A, EA, A.

Yeah, I know - another owl title, right? Here's the story: I needed a name for a tune and while I was racking my brain (never a pretty sight) I happened to see a copy of the kids' version of "National Geographic". Can you guess what pretty white birdie was on the cover? (I guess I should be glad it wasn't a turkey vulture - eeeeeww!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[275] SNOWY ROAD to MICK'S (slide)

© BB

Chords indicated above the staff:

Staff 1: D, F#m7, A7, D

Staff 2: D, F#m7, G, A7, D

Staff 3: Em, D, D, G, D, A

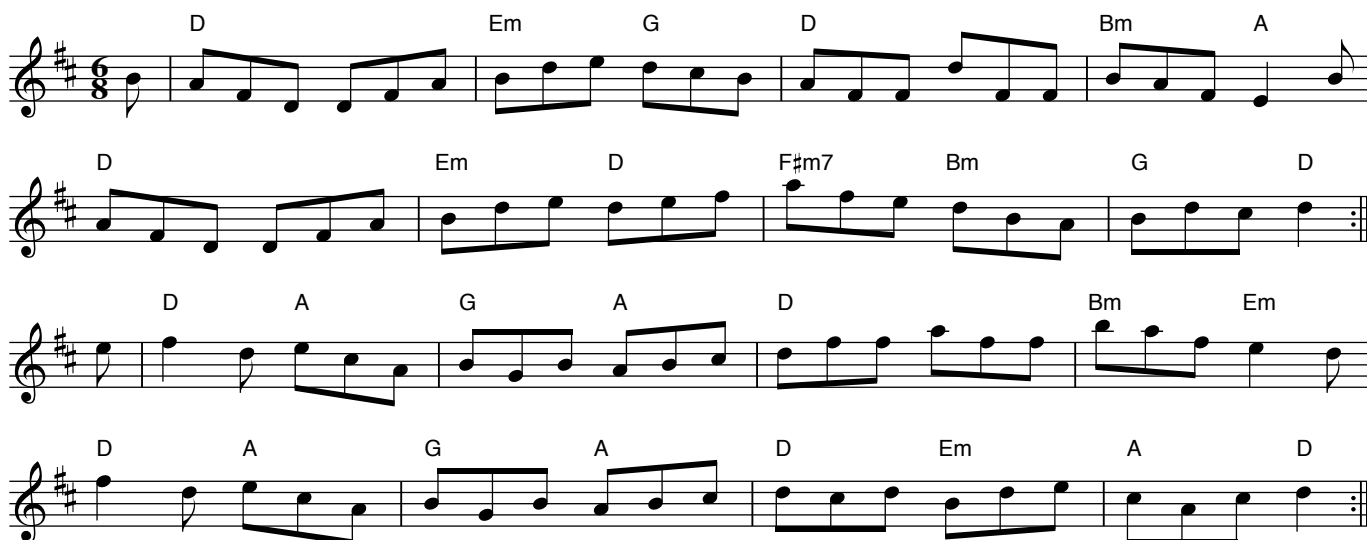
Staff 4: Em, D, Em, A, D

To commemorate a never-to-be-fully-explained trip to Mick Cronin's farm in the wilds of Sliabh Luachra. Ostensible purpose: to deliver a bag of Latino vegetables and a carton of assorted fermented spirits being sent by Mick's brother Johnny in Brooklyn. Additional details are available (to adults only) upon request. "From a Kerryman in New York to his brother," I told the agriculture inspector at the airport when I arrived in Ireland carrying two paper bags. "Right so!" says he, and he waved me through without even checking the packages. (Airport security wasn't as big an issue in those innocent days...)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[276] SOLANUS CASEY'S

© BB



After many years of consideration by whoever is in charge of these matters, Capuchin Father Solanus Casey OFM (1870-1957) was beatified in November 2017. Eventually - nothing moves quickly in Rome - Solanus is going to be the first Irish-American saint. Deservedly so: his life and works are models of patience and piety as well as immense love for his Lord, for the Blessed Mother, and for his fellow man. Solanus' biography mentions the fact that he was also a fiddler, but evidently his musical efforts were not always appreciated by his fellow monks! Judging by the brief sound clip on the website, you can kind of understand why. . . He's my "go-to guy" when help is needed. I'm sure he wouldn't mind being yours too.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[277] A SON of the PRAIRIE (reel)

© BB 2007

A Bm A Bm A ~ D A E

A ~ Bm ~ E F#m A Bm E A

A E Bm F#m A D A E

A E Bm F#m A Bm E A

3

A fiddling friend of ours (looking at you, Mark!) is a native of the great state of North Dakota. I've never been out that way but I understand that (in the words attributed to Gertrude Stein) "there's a lot of 'there' there"!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[278] The SOUTH BANK of the SHANNON

© BB

A E7 F#m D A E7

A E7 A D E7 A

E7 A A F#m D A E7

A Bm A D A Bm E A

The ride along the south bank of the Shannon from Limerick west to Tarbert is a lovely one. We did it on a fine sunny day a number of years ago and were very impressed. There wasn't too much traffic on the road either, which is always nice when you're travelling in an area where you might want to stop and take a few pictures (we did). By the way: I added "Bank" to the title after I discovered an older tune named "South of the Shannon".

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[279] The SOUTH SHORE LASSES (reel)

© BB 2011

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, Bm, D, F#m, D, Em, D, G, D, Bm, D, F#m, G, D, A, D, G, A, D, Bm, Em, G, A, D, Em, A, D, Bm, Em, G, A7, D. The melody is a simple, rhythmic tune with a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, and some rests.

A tip of the hat to fiddler Laura Ridarelli and her talented colleagues! Good music and fine musicians playing it were to be found in abundance on the "South Shore" (= the sixty miles or so between Boston and Cape Cod) in the pre-pandemic days - let's hope everything will continue to return to normal (or close to it).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[280] SPRING AT LAST!

© BB

D Bm A G D Em D A

D Bm A G D G A D

G D Em D G A Bm A

D Bm A G D Em7 A D

I don't recall the exact circumstances under which this tune was composed, but I presume it had something to do with the departure of a particularly harsh winter and the arrival of the forsythia, crocuses (or croci), the peepers in the marshy places, and the first sighting here on Cape Cod of cars with out-of-state license plates and bumper stickers proclaiming loyalty to non-New England sports teams. Of course there's no accounting for visitors' tastes but we try to make them (and their money) as welcome as possible.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[281] The STARFISH Jig

© BB

Chords: D, G, D, A7, D, G, A, D, A7, D, Bm, D, Bm, A7, G, D, D, G, D, Em, D, A7, D.

To a child of three-and-a-half, a starfish found on a beach is a marvellous thing, to be treasured for at least two days.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[282] STEVEN PRIOR'S JIG

© BB

The musical score for 'Steven Prior's Jig' is written in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chord symbols above the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: G, F, G, G, F, G, D
- Staff 2: G, F, G, G, Am, D, G
- Staff 3: G, Am, G, F, Dm, G, D
- Staff 4: G, Am, G, F, G, Am, D, G

When this tune was first composed, Steven (my wife's grand-nephew) was a young lad of six or so. Now he's thirty-something, has a lovely family, and lives on a farm not far from Trim (Co. Meath). It was great to see them all when we were back in Ireland June 2022 .

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[283] STEVIE'S BOAT (reel)

Tune 2 of "The Baffin Island Suite"

© BB 2009

Chords: G, C, D, C, D, D, G, C, Am, G, Am, D, G, G, C, D, G, Am, Em, D, G, C, D, G, Am, D7, G.

The Stevie of the title was an Inuit friend of Dave's whose boat was always at the disposal of visitors to the area.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[284] The STONEHILL FAIR

© BB

Bm D A Bm D Bm

Bm D A D G A7 D

Bm F#m D Bm D Em D Bm

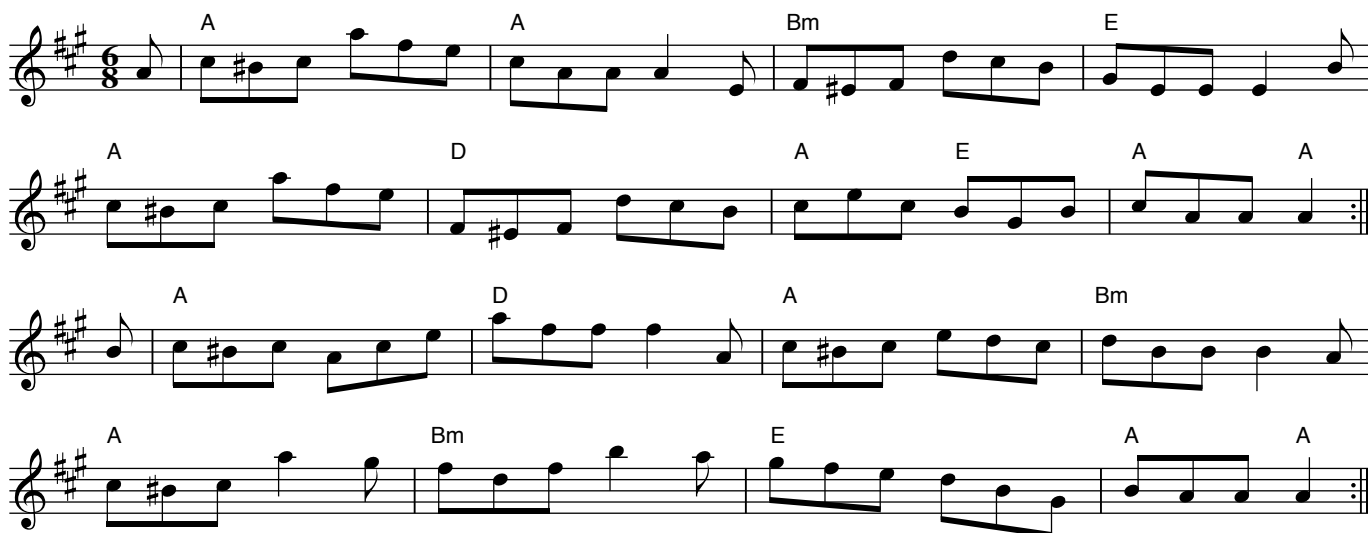
Bm F#m D G D A D

Boston's Irish Fair - originally held at Stonehill College in Easton, now at the Irish Cultural Center in Canton - used to draw huge crowds every June. The Chieftains, Solas, De Danann, Cherish the Ladies, and other first-class traditional acts were once featured (and appreciated) over the thirty-plus years of the Fair's existence. But it's been scaled back considerably in recent years - plenty of "Dropkick Murphy" wannabes, but not much trad music any more. Even the legendary "ceili tent" that provided 20+ hours of set dancing on a weekend is history: the ceili has been moved inside and runs one day for a few hours. Oh well . . . great days while they lasted!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[285] STROLLING WITH ROSIE

© BB 2009



This tune was written the day after we heard that our first grandchild McKenna Rose (a/k/a/ The World's Most Beautiful Person) had decided to start walking! Time flies (I just made that up!) and Rosie already has her "learner's permit" . . . yikes!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[286] SUNNYSIDE UP (reel)

© BB

Chords: G, D, D7, C, Am7, D, G, D, D7, G, C, G, D, G, G, Am, Am, D, G, Am, G, Am7, D7, G.

The Sunnyside neighborhood of Queens in New York City has always attracted young people needing a place to live relatively inexpensively. It's a short commute by subway to mid-town and has a lot of quiet streets and well-kept apartment buildings that make living there a very pleasant experience. In my days as a New Yorker, Sunnyside had a sizeable Irish population, second I would guess only to the Bronx in that respect. Of course things have changed a lot over the years, but I'm sure there are still plenty of Irish accents to be heard in Sunnyside even today.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[287] The SUNSET PARK Jig

The musical score for 'The SUNSET PARK Jig' is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chord symbols above the notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: G, Am, G, Am7, G, C, G, Am
- Staff 2: G, Am, G, D7, Em, D7, G
- Staff 3: G, Em, C, Am, D
- Staff 4: G, Em, C, G, D7, G

Sunset Park is a neighborhood in Brooklyn not far from Prospect Park. It was always of mixed ethnicity when I was growing up a few miles away, and I doubt much has changed. Green-wood Cemetery, last resting place for more than one Irish patriot, is located to the area's northeast - a beautiful tract of quiet green in the middle of a busy city.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[288] The SWEET SKIES of LOUTH

© BB

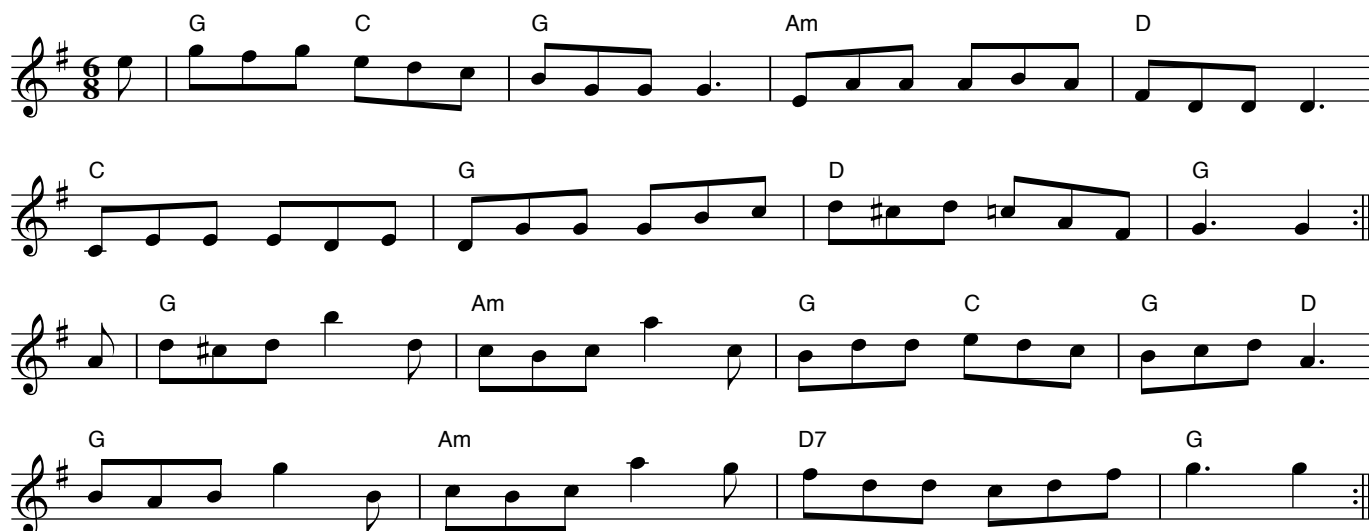


Louth is the county that adjoins County Dublin to the north. It seems to be a quiet county whose existence is often overlooked - for example, I couldn't locate any tunes that had "Louth" in the title. Possibly that's due to the fact that the word "Louth" is not particularly pleasant-sounding; the Gaelic version is "Lú", which sounds a lot nicer (and is easier to rhyme in both languages!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[289] TALL, GREAT ARM (Tom Brady's)

© BB 12/07



Sports fans in New England and elsewhere will recognize the reference to the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time) in this tune's title. Love him (we do) or hate him (everybody else), Mr. Brady won six Super Bowls for us and is a sure first-ballot Hall of Famer. Unfortunately he didn't finish his career with the Patriots, but we wish him luck in his retirement (from active playing, that is).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[290] The TANGLED OWL

© BB 2006

The musical score for 'The Tangled Owl' is written in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff lines. The first staff contains chords C, Am7, C, Em7, C, and Am. The second staff contains C, Am7, Dm, Am, Em, and Am. The third staff contains C, Am, G, Am, Em7, and Am. The fourth staff contains C, Dm, C, G, Am, G, Em, and Am. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Yet further evidence (as if any were needed by now) of just how desperate I can get in the search for tune names. This was inspired by an article in the local paper about animal rescues, one of which involved an owl that had somehow or other gotten tangled in a car's roof-rack. As usual with the local media, no details were provided, so it was left to our collective imaginations to figure out how the poor bird got itself into such a predicament. Anyway the wayward owl was freed, so the story ended happily (and I got a tune title).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[291] The TARBERT FERRY (march)

"Pipe-Major C. Macdonald Frazier, 3rd Orkney Dragoons"

The musical score for 'The Tarbert Ferry' is written on four staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G, Am, D, C, Em, Am7. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

There are Tarberts in Ireland and Scotland so it seemed that this would be a good name for a march with an Irish/Scots feeling to it - try it if you're playing for a "Gay Gordons" set!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[292] TARPULIN COVE (reel)

© BB 2006

The musical score for "Tarpaulin Cove (reel)" is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The key signature has one sharp (F#), indicating D major or B minor. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and ties. Chords are indicated above the staff lines. The first staff contains chords: Am, F, Em, G, Am, F, C, G. The second staff contains: Am, F, Am, Dm, G, Am. The third staff contains: C, Am, Em, C, G, Am, G. The fourth staff contains: C, G, Em, Am, F, Em7, Am. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Tarpaulin Cove is a lovely quiet harbor on the east side of Naushon Island, one of the Elizabeth Islands off the southwest tip of Cape Cod. Nice place to anchor a boat for a picnic lunch and a cool swim!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[293] The TATTOOED LADY (reel)

© BB 2006

Dmix

D C Am7 D C D C

D C Am7 D C A D

D C D Am G Am D C D

D C D Am D G D A D

Okay, so here's the deal: this tune is in mixolydian mode (seventh is natural, not sharp). "Lydia" is the name of the tattooed lady in a Marx Brothers movie called "At the Circus". (This is known as the "stream of consciousness" method of naming a tune.) If you're really interested in knowing more about this absurd topic, you can search for "Lydia the Tattooed Lady" and hope for the best. (I'd use DuckDuckGo for the search - don't want to get your name on any more strange mailing lists, right?)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[294] The TAWNAMULLAGH Jig

© BB 2008

A modal

A

A

G

D

G

A

G

A

G

A

A

A

G

G

A

G

E

A

This tune was composed in honor of Mayo melodeon player Alan Morrisroe, who has done such a great job of collecting old tunes that might otherwise have been lost. I transcribed many of these tunes from Alan's 2007 CD "Irish Melodeon Masterpieces" and they can be found in ITTL tune folder 41. The title of this tune is the name of a townland near Alan's native Swinford.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[295] The TERRIER'S DELIGHT (reel)

© BB 2006

The musical score for 'The TERRIER'S DELIGHT (reel)' is written in D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, A, G, D, C, D, A, D, A, G, A, D, C, D, A, D, D, C, D, C, D, C, D, C, D, A, D, A7, D, Em, A7, D. The melody is a lively reel, starting with a D4 quarter note and ending with a D4 quarter note. The key signature is D major, and the time signature is 4/4.

Dedicated to the Class of 1965 of my Brooklyn alma mater, St. Francis College. The Franciscan Brothers who founded the school back in the 19th Century were from Ireland, so naturally the school's mascot is an Irish terrier!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[296] THROUGH FIONA'S EYES

© BB

1 Bm F#m Bm E

2 Bm F#m7 E7 A

This little tune is for Fiona Killeen, daughter of Kevin and Maureen. Fiona has been coming to our Cape Cod Ceili Weekends since she was a very little baby. The banjo used to fascinate her, but fortunately she came to her senses and last I heard was learning fiddle and flute (and - hard to believe - will shortly be finishing college!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[297] TICKLE the PIG

© BB

D modal

D C D A D C D C D Am G D D Am D Am C D Am G D

Pigs are clean, intelligent animals who spend time in muddy situations as a means of keeping cool, not just to be . . . well, piggy. Google can provide about 27 gazillion hits for pigs in case you want to know more. I'm not really sure how ticklish they are - if anyone reading this knows, maybe they could share that (useless) information with the rest of us!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[298] The TIDEWATER Reel

© BB

G Em C G Am Em G Am G D

G Em C G Am Em G D7 G

D C G Am Em G C D G

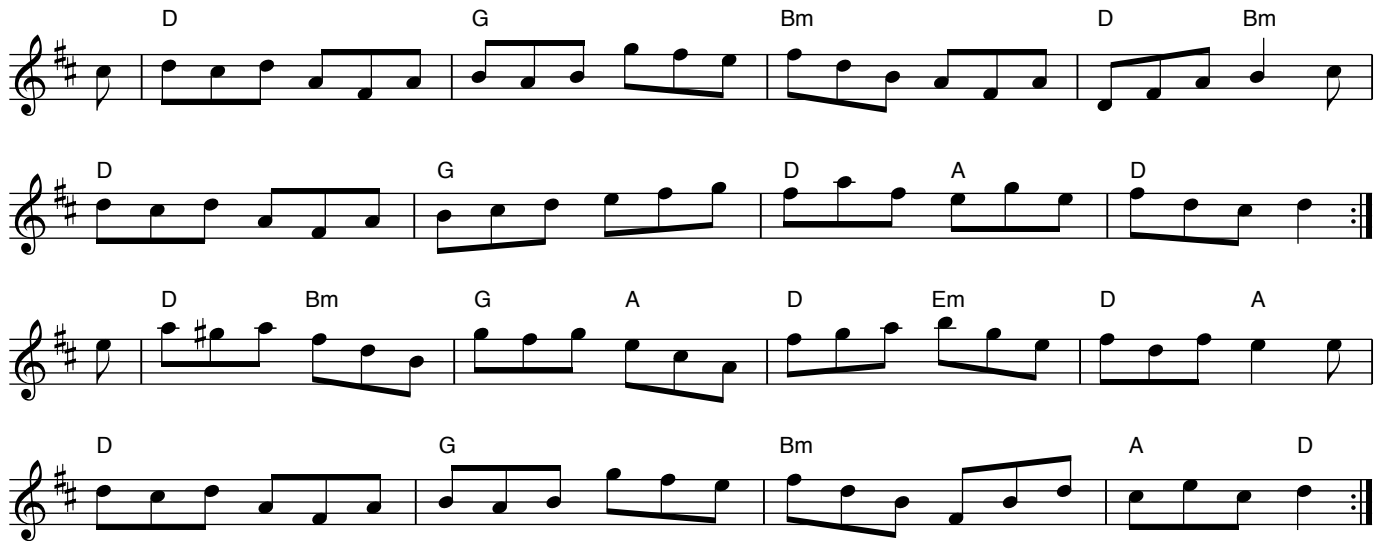
D G C G G Em7 D G

Part of this tune was composed on an Amtrak train travelling from Washington to Boston. There's certainly some lovely scenery along the upper reaches of Chesapeake Bay (the Tidewater country) that you can't see from plane or car.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[299] TOM NANGLE'S

© BB 2008



Tom was the brother of Sligo flute/whistle player Carmel Gunning. He passed away in December 2008 after a long illness.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[300] TOMMY JOYCE'S (reel)

© BB

Em G A Bm Em D Em

Em G A Bm Em D Em

Em D Em G D Em

Em D G D Em D Em

Tommy was the brother of Boston's "People's Choice", Joe Joyce. Like his brother, Tommy was a great supporter of the music (although I don't think he played an instrument). This tune was composed in his memory.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[301] The TRIM CASTLE Jig

© BB



Trim Castle is a beautiful spot on the banks of the River Boyne in Co. Meath. Mel Gibson and his pals accidentally set fire to it during the filming of "Braveheart" (or maybe I don't have the story quite right - fake news?). In any case, the locals had such a good time during the filming that they're all hoping and praying for a sequel ("Son of Braveheart"? "Braveheart Meets the Avengers"?). It was a good movie anyway!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[302] The TRIP to CLONEE (reel)

Em G Em G C G D

Em Bm Em D Em G C D G

Em G C Em G Am G D7

G Am D G Em D C D G

Clonee is a town so far west in Co. Dublin that it's almost in Meath (if the locals are to be believed, the county border goes right through the town). I had a lovely night of music out there a few years back with some musicians who played everything at a lovely Joe Burke kind of tempo, for which I will be eternally grateful.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[303] The TRIP to the ISLAND (reel)

© BB

Chords for the first staff: G, Em, C, G, Am, G, Em, Bm, Em.

Chords for the second staff: G, Em, C, G, Bm, Em, D7, G.

Chords for the third staff: Em, Am, G, Am, A, D.

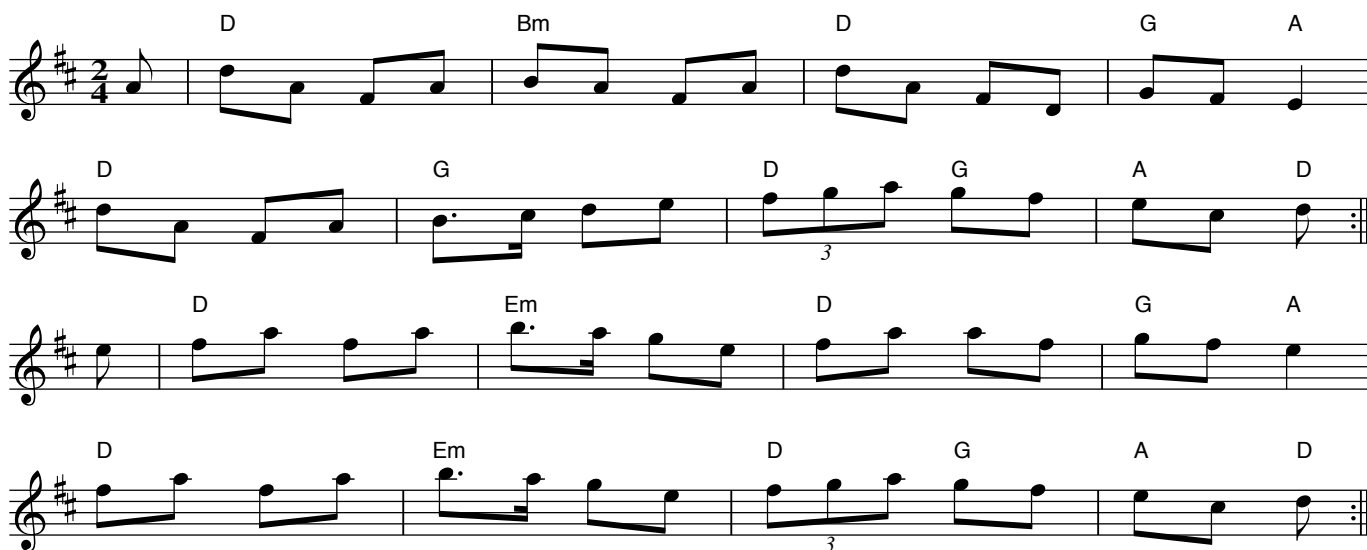
Chords for the fourth staff: G, D, C, G, Bm, Em, D7, G.

I didn't have any particular island in mind when I wrote this, even though we have some pretty nice ones not far away! (SHAMELESS COMMERCIALISM ALERT) : The "Island Queen" (my summer employer) will get you to Martha's Vineyard in 35 minutes! Mention my name when you make your reservation and perhaps - just perhaps - something neat will happen . . . or not (IQ is passengers only - no cars.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[304] TRIPPING at the TRUCK STOP (polka)

© BB



On the way to the CCE North American convention in Syracuse, NY, in April 1993, a bus loaded with Boston musicians and dancers broke down somewhere along the Mass Pike. While waiting for another bus, we decided to start a few sets in the parking lot - why waste time? I'm sure the truckers who saw us are still talking about it. The one state trooper who stopped to investigate decided to keep driving - too many lunatics for one guy to handle on his own, and anyway we weren't really bothering anybody!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[305] TROLLING the RIP (reel)

© BB 2005

Chords: G, D, G, Em7, G, C, D, G, D, G, Am7, G, C, D, G, G, Em, D7, G, Am, G, D, G, Em, D7, G, D, G, D, G.

There aren't many nicer ways of spending a Cape Cod summer afternoon than being out on the water chasing a few fish. "Trolling" slowly through a tide rip is the most successful way of getting a few bluefish or striped bass for dinner!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[306] The VALLEY ROAD

© BB 2011

The musical score for 'The Valley Road' is written in 8/8 time and consists of four staves. The chords for each staff are as follows:

- Staff 1: Am, Am, G, G
- Staff 2: Am, C, Em, Am, G, Am
- Staff 3: Am, Am7, Am, Em, G, G
- Staff 4: Am, Am7, Am, G, Em, G, Am

Just when you think that everything is asphalt and shopping malls, it's nice to be surprised by an old-fashioned two-lane country road running through actual farmland (with real cows!) in the Boston - Providence 'corridor'. You have to wonder how long such a pastoral scene will survive ... This tune was composed a while back, so everything has probably changed by now. If I remembered where it was, I'd go back and check! (Or maybe I was there and didn't recognize it!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[307] The VIRTUOSO Reel

© BB

Bm G A7 Bm D A Bm

Bm D G D A G D A D

D A Bm A F#m7 D Bm G A Bm

D A Bm A F#m7 G Em D A D

Like some other tunes in his collection, this has been inspired by the movie "Amadeus". Could be a great tune in the right hands (maybe!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[308] The VOYAGE SOUTH (reel)

© BB 2009

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Bm, Bm, F#m, F#m, Bm, G, A, F#m, Bm, A, F#m, Bm, D, A, D, Bm, D, Bm, Em, D, A, Bm, D, G, D, A, D.

My tune tribute to Captain George Anthony and the hardy crew of the New Bedford schooner "Catalpa" who managed to rescue six Fenian prisoners from Australia in 1876. It's a terrific story that I think deserves to be better known, and as usual Wikipedia is there to supply the details. My song "New Bedford's Brave Catalpa" also celebrates this event (www.capeirish.com/bbsongs/catalpa)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[309] WALKIN' the PUPS

© BB

Chords: G, Em, G, C, Em, Am, D, G, C, Am, G, D7, G, G, D, C, G, Bm, G, D, G, Am, G, C, G, D, G.

A tune that jumped into my head as I was accompanying a couple of malamute pups on their morning stroll!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[310] The WALTZING ARMADILLO

© BB

G G Em Em G Em D G Am D G G Em G D G Am G G Am G G D G D D G D D C G Em G Am G

This tune is dedicated to Larry Mallette and the other musicians of Houston who for many years gathered weekly at the "Mucky Duck" for their session. By the way - I just found out that German prisoners of war interned in Texas during WW II referred to armadillos - not found in Europe - as "panzer-schweine" [= "armored pigs"]. Pretty good description, huh? And hunters will tell you that a 'dillo coming through the brush does indeed sound very much like a tank. Any other questions?

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[311] The WHALING CITY Reel

© BB 2009

D Bm D G D G Bm A

D Bm D G Bm A D

D Em Bm G D A Bm A7

D Em Bm G D Em A D

The downtown "historic" area of New Bedford MA is preserved to remain much the same as it was in the days when Herman Melville wrote "Moby Dick", whose opening chapters take place in the town. New Bedford and its western neighbor Fall River have fallen on hard times recently because of changes in fishing regulations (NB) and mill closings (FR) but the locals remain optimistic about their future. This tune is my tribute to the fine musicians of the "South Coast".

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[312] WHELAN'S FROLIC

© BB

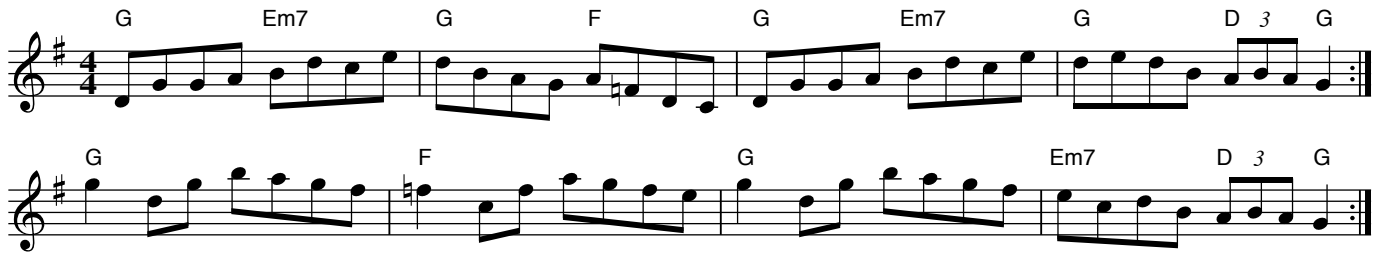
The musical score for "Whelan's Frolic" is written in 8/8 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first two staves are in the key of A minor (no sharps or flats). The third staff changes the key signature to A major (one sharp, F#). The fourth and fifth staves remain in A major. The chords indicated above the notes are: Am, G, C, G, Am, D, C, G, Em, Am, G, C, G, Am7, Am, A, A, A, G, A, G, Em, A, G, Em, A.

A kind of "experimental" tune inspired by John Whelan, who qualifies as one of the premier box players in the traditional scene today. I've known John since he came to the US from England many years ago. (He hasn't changed a whole lot over the years!) I also got to meet his UK family - very nice folks who made me feel very welcome!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[313] WHERE CAN SHE BE OFF TO? (fling)

© BB



I don't recall the inspiration for this title - I think it had something to do with a cat. But maybe not.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[314] The WHITE BULL (polka)

© BB

Chords: D, G, D, Bm, A7, D, G, D, A, D, D, Em, D, G, Bm, A7, D, Em, D, G, D, A7, D.

A few years back I was confronted with the question: do bovines sleep on their sides like dogs and cats? Driving in the country recently I observed a bull in this position, and it occurred to me that I didn't recall ever seeing a cow (or sheep) stretched out like that. I hoped he was okay but wasn't sure how to check on his well-being (which a bull might not have responded kindly to anyway). I probably could have stopped at the farmhouse to ask but I didn't have the time. Any help with this fascinating topic would be appreciated! Hello ...?

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[315] WHITE LIGHTNING, MY ASS!

© BB

Chords: A, Bm, F#m, A, Bm, A, E

Chords: A, Bm, F#m, E, E7, A, A

Chords: A, Bm, E, A, E

Chords: A, Bm, E, E7, A, A

Anyone who takes offense at the name of this tune (and I know you're out there!) should know that it refers to an actual donkey named "White Lightning". This noble beast carried two young American musicians around Ireland for awhile until it disappeared from outside a pub one night. The creature's subsequent fate is (alas) unknown. (My epic poem "Voyage of the Heroes" is almost 100% historically accurate! - copy available on request).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[316] A WINTER MORNING (reel)

© BB 2006

The musical score for 'A Winter Morning' (reel) is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: G, D, C, G, Am7, G, D; G, D7, G, Am7, D, G; G, D, Em, C, D, G, D; G, D, G, C, G, D7, G. The melody is a continuous line of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Temperature the morning that I wrote this tune was 21F with a 20 mph breeze, putting windchill in the sub-zero range somewhere - no doubt Winter had finally arrived. I kept wondering if the time had at last come for serious thoughts about a houseboat in Key West. . .

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[317] The WOODS HOLE FISHERMAN (reel)

© BB

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 5, with chords Am, G, Am, Am7, C, G, and Am7. The second staff contains measures 6 through 10, with chords Am, G, Am, Am7, C, G7, C, G, and Am. The third staff contains measures 11 through 15, with chords C, Dm, Am, C, and Am. The fourth staff contains measures 16 through 20, with chords C, Am, Dm, Am, G7, C, G, and Am. The score ends with a repeat sign in the final measure.

Woods Hole is a pleasant village on the southwestern tip of Cape Cod, part of Falmouth where we used to live. Besides the Martha's Vineyard ferry terminal, Woods Hole has a number of laboratories and academic institutions, all involved with the oceans and the creatures that live in them. There's also a neat aquarium, a couple of pastry/coffee shops, and several nice restaurants - in short, well worth a visit if you're ever up this way!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[318] The YONKERS PIPER (reel)

© BB

Chord symbols: G, Em, C, G, Am7, G, D; G, G, Em, C, G, Em, D7, G; G, Em, Am, D7, G, Em, G, D; G, Am, Em7, Am, D, G, Em, D, G.

This tune is a "tip o' the cap" to master piper Jerry O'Sullivan, a good friend of ours who was a Yonkers resident for many years. Not much else notable about the town itself, except that there's still (or was until recently) an active Irish scene up there, especially around McLean Avenue.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[319] YOUNG PEARSE'S (reel)

© BB

The musical score for 'Young Pearse's' is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Bm, Bm7, G, F#m, Bm, D, A, Bm, Bm, Bm7, D, Em, D, A, D, A, Bm, A7, D, A7, D, A, D, A7, D, Em, Bm, G, A, Bm.

This tune was named for one of the lads who in years past was one of the stalwarts of the Boston trad scene. Time has moved on, and so have they, sometimes to distant hostile places like Iraq and Afghanistan. But they all know they have a warm welcome awaiting them when they come back to Boston!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[320] JIM BOYCE'S HORNPIPE

© BB 2015



Composed in honor of Cape Cod musician, luthier, boat builder, and flagpole raiser (and good friend) Jim Boyce, who passed away in October 2015. The Falmouth Fiddlers - the group that he founded almost forty years ago - will keep Jim's memory alive for many years!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[321] KEITH O'NEILL'S (reel)

© BB 2015

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Dm, F, Dm, Dm, ~, C, Dm, C, Dm, Am, Dm, Dm, Am, Dm, C, F, Dm, C, Dm, Dm, C, Am, Dm, F, ~, C, F, C, F, Dm, Dm, C, Dm.

In memory of a terrific musician and great guy - founding member of our Northeast Ceili Band - who passed away unexpectedly in October 2015. I will always be grateful for the opportunities I had to play with him.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[322] The CANAL BRIDGES

© BB 2016

The musical score for 'The Canal Bridges' is written in G major (one sharp) and 8/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Bm, D, A, Bm, D, Bm, D, A, Bm, A, Bm, Bm, D, A7, Bm, F#m, Bm, Bm, A7, D, A, Bm.

Since June 2014 we have lived along the banks of the Cape Cod Canal - between the Railroad Bridge and the Bourne Bridge - and we're enjoying it thoroughly. To watch the tides and currents of the Canal in their daily rhythms is to understand the meaning of James Joyce's reference to the "everchanging" and "never-changing" nature of the sea. There are two elderly highway bridges spanning the Canal that will be replaced within the next ten years (or so they say) - hope we're around to see the new ones!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[323] The HERRING RUN REEL

© BB 2016

D modal Em Am D C Em

D Am D C D C D Am D

D C D Am Am7

D C D Am D Am D

In several locations around Cape Cod there are herring runs, through which the fish travel on their ancient journey between the sea and fresh water. When the time comes in the Spring, good folks are on hand at each run to protect the herring as they leave the sea to spawn. Eventually the youngsters will head out to sea again to begin the process anew in the following year.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[324] The EAST END JETTY (reel)

© BB 2016

Em Em D7 G D C Bm Em

Em Em D7 Em G D7 G

Em D D7 G Am Em D

Em D Em D C Bm Em

Out at the east entrance to the Cape Cod Canal is a long stone jetty that was constructed many years ago to keep sand from building up and interfering with navigation. At the end of the jetty are the "traffic lights" that let incoming vessels know when it's safe to commence transiting the Canal. The lights date back to the days when not all ships had radios or radar. But they're still there, and they still work!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[325] The KEYS of KIERAN (hornpipe)

© BB 2016

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at various intervals. The first staff contains measures 1-4, the second staff contains measures 5-8, the third staff contains measures 9-12, and the fourth staff contains measures 13-16. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots in the final measure of the fourth staff.

Am Dm G Em Am Dm Am Dm C G

Am Dm G Em Am G F Em Am

C G C G Dm F Dm F

C G C Dm F ~ G ~ C G C

At the 2016 and 2017 Cape Cod Ceili Weekends the Northeast Ceili Band was joined onstage by Kieran Flanagan, Rosemary and Mike's keyboard-playing son. It was a great treat to have such a fine young musician playing with us. I composed this tune to commemorate the occasion. He's welcome back any time!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[326] HORACE'S TWENTY (hornpipe)

Tune 1 of the "Cape Cod Veterans" Hornpipe Set

© BB 2016

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major, using a treble clef and a common time signature. It consists of four staves of music. Chords are indicated by letters above the notes: G, Am, Em, D, A, D7, C, G, and Em7. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The "Horace" of the title is Horace Thayer, fellow Cape Cod Veteran and husband of Martha, a fine fiddler and one of our Cape Cod session regulars. Horace has been doing the Project Bread "Walk for Hunger" for 40 years - it's about twenty miles (hence the other word in the title) and Horace and his colleagues do it rain or shine. Over the years we musicians have raised a few dollars for the cause (we play tunes in air-conditioned comfort while Horace is out walking in the hot sun - somehow it doesn't seem fair...)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[327] McGILVRAY'S #1

Tune 1 of the "Tribute to Kenny" set

© BB 2016

Chords: D, Bm, D, A7, D, G; D, Bm, G, D, A, D; D, Em, D, C, G, C, A; D, A7, D, A, G, D, A7, D.

Cape Cod lost a great guy when Kenny McGilvray passed away in 2016. I don't have room here to go into all the reasons why so many folks loved him - suffice it to say that he will be sorely missed, not only by his family and many friends, but also by all the musicians and patrons of the Olde Inne, where he served so many years as greeter, maitre d', performer, and dispenser of sincere Irish hospitality. It was truly a blessing to have known Kenny.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[328] McGILVRAY'S #2

Tune 2 of the "Tribute to Kenny" set

© BB 2016

The musical score for McGILVRAY'S #2 is written in 8/8 time and consists of four staves. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes. The chords are indicated above the staff lines. The first staff contains measures 1-4, the second staff contains measures 5-8, the third staff contains measures 9-12, and the fourth staff contains measures 13-16, which end with a repeat sign. The chords used are Am, C, G, F, Dm, Em, and G7.

Am C Am G Am G C F

Am G Dm Am Em Am G Am

C Em C G Am G C F

C Dm C G7 C Am G Am

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[329] McGILVRAY'S #3

Tune 3 of the "Tribute to Kenny" set

© BB 2016

The musical score for McGilvray's #3 is written in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The chords are indicated above the notes: Em, C, Em, D, G, D, Em, G, C, D, G, Em, Em, C, G, D, Em, D, Em, Em, G, D, C, Em.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[330] KENNY'S SLIP JIG

Tune 4 of the "Tribute to Kenny" set

© BB 2016

Chords indicated above the staff:

Staff 1: D, G, Em, G, D, D

Staff 2: A, G, A, 1 A7, D, D, 2 A7, D, A

Staff 3: D, G, A

Staff 4: D, G, A, A7

Staff 5: D, G, Em, G, D, D

Staff 6: A, G, A, A7, D, D

This is an attempt to re-work "Carrickfergus", one of Kenny's favorite songs, as a slip jig. Not sure if it worked or not but I'm sure he'll forgive me!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[331] The CANALSIDE Waltz

© BB Jan 2019

D F#m D G D G A

D Bm Em7 A D A A7 D

Bm Bm A A

D F#m Bm G D F#m A7 D

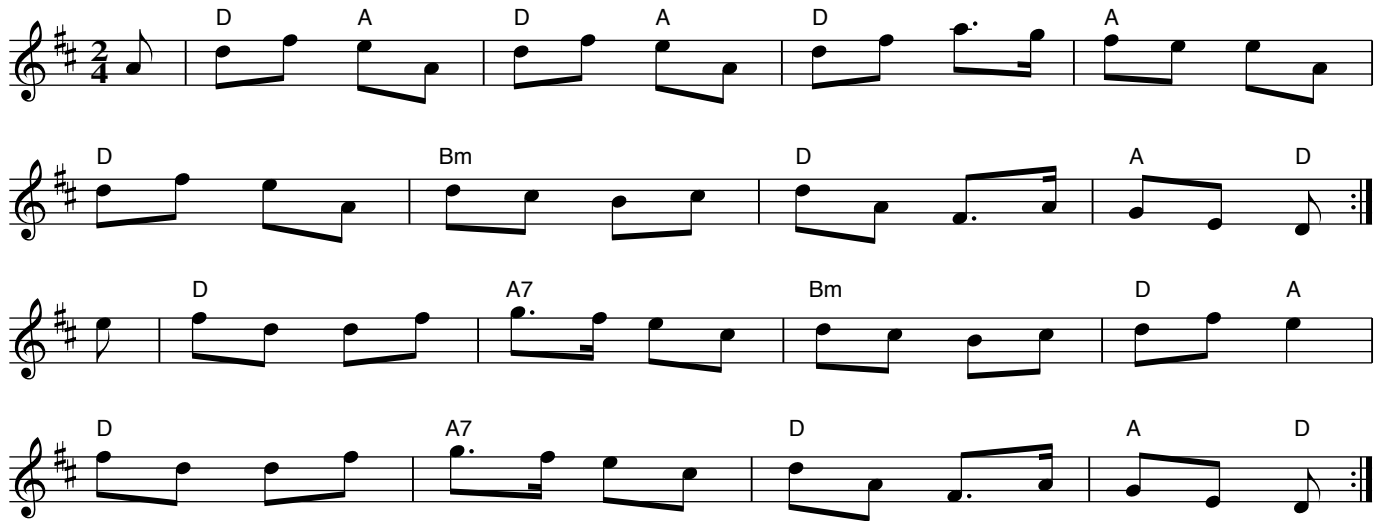
This is the instrumental portion of "The Cape Cod Canal Shantata" that I wrote for the New Bedford Sea Shanty Chorus.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[332] The TEN DOLLAR BILL

(Aubrey Everett's Polka)

© BB 3/19



This tune was written for piper Colin Everett's daughter Aubrey, who was learning accordion at the time. She played with us at a 2019 Saint Patrick's Day concert in Quincy. The ten dollars refers to her compensation for the gig!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[333] A BOATLOAD of HERRING (reel)

© BB Feb. 2020

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first two staves represent the melody, and the last two represent the accompaniment. Chords are indicated above the notes.

Staff 1 (Melody): D A D G D A G A

Staff 2 (Melody): D A D G D G D A D

Staff 3 (Accompaniment): Em A G D D A G A

Staff 4 (Accompaniment): Em A G D Bm G D A D

For fiddler Tessie Stokinger and her granddad (and Northeast Ceili Band charter member) Pat Reynolds (who has been known to drive a seafood truck on occasion).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[334] The MIDDLETON LASS

BB 5/20

Chords: G, Am, D, G, G, Am, C, G, Am, D, G, Em, D, Em, G, D, C, D, Em, D, Em, G, C, D7, G.

This tune is for the late Catskills flute player Mike McHale, who hailed from Tulsk, Co. Roscommon. His grand-niece Hannah, a fine piano player, is from Middleton, Co. Cork, hence the name of the tune!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[335] The BEACH AVENUE RAMBLE (hornpipe)

© B.Black 6/20

G Em G Am G Am C Am 3 3 3 3 D 3 3 3 3

G Em G G A D7 G 3 3

Em G C Em Em Am G Em

Em G C Em G A D7 G 3 3

Beach Avenue is a street in the Bronx which is notable for not much in particular, except for the fact that my future wife Pat once lived there. As if that's not exciting enough, box player Luke O'Malley did too. Although they were totally unknown to one another, the coincidence is . . . well, coincidental. But still - isn't it a small world? (Insert cliché emoji here.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[336] The BIG WHITE BOAT (slide)

© B.Black 6/20

The musical score is written in D major (two sharps) and 12/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: D, Bm, Bm, D, A, D, Bm, A, G, D, G, A, G, A, Bm, A, G, A, Bm, A, D. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some slurs and ties. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Dedicated to the crew and shore staff of the ferry "Island Queen", my summer employer for the past eleven years! (In case you're interested, I serve as a "vehicle placement counsellor", i.e. parking lot attendant.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[337] DONNA SHEEHAN'S REEL

A Reel Will Do No Harm

© B. Black 7/20

Chord progression for Donna Sheehan's Reel:

Staff 1: G, Em, Am, G, Am, Em

Staff 2: G, Em, D, G, Am, D, G

Staff 3: G, C, G, Am, G, Em, D, C

Staff 4: G, D, C, G, G, C, D, G

I composed this tune to keep up the spirits of the lady of the title, who was battling a serious illness at the time. She and her family fought the good fight, but unfortunately she didn't make it. She did get to hear the tune, however, and I understand she really enjoyed it. May she rest in peace.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[338] JOHN EYRE'S CASTLE

Tune 1 of the "Tribute to Martin Mulhaire" (1936-2020)

© B.Black 9/20

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four staves of music. Chord annotations are placed above the notes: Am, C, G, Am, Em, Am, G on the first staff; Am, C, G, Am, D, Em, Am on the second staff; Am, D, Am, Am, Em, C, G on the third staff; and Am, C, G, Am, G, Em, Am on the fourth staff. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing beamed eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Martin's home town is named after Sir John Eyre, a 17th Century English adventurer (d. 1685) who was rewarded with an estate for his service to the Cromwellian cause. He also served as Mayor and Sheriff of Galway City. The castle is now a ruin (and exists mainly to provide a title for this tune and keep a few cows out of the rain).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[339] DÚN an UCHTA

Tune 2 of the "Tribute to Martin Mulhaire" (1936-2020)

© B.Black 9/20

Chords: A E A E F#m C#m A E

Chords: A E A D A D E A

Chords: A D A A E A E

Chords: F#m E A D A E E A

This is the Gaelic name for Martin's home town of Eyrecourt, Co. Galway. I couldn't find a translation that made sense ("dún" = "fortress", "ucht" = "bosom", maybe here referring to some natural land feature where the "dún" was situated).

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[340] BANAGHER BRIDGE

Tune 3 of the "Tribute to Martin Mulhaire" (1936-2020)

© B.Black 10/20

D G D Bm Em A D A7

D G A D Em D A D

Bm A Bm A D G

D G D Bm Em D A7 D

Banagher Bridge is a landmark some 8 miles from Martin's home town of Eyrecourt, Co. Galway. It crosses the Shannon River between Counties Galway and Offaly. "The present bridge, constructed between 1841 and 1843 has six masonry arches." (thanks, Wikipedia!)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[341] The LLAMA'S PAJAMAS

Tune 1 of the South Coast Hornpipe Set

© B.Black 10/20

Musical score for "The LLAMA'S PAJAMAS" in D major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody starts with a triplet of eighth notes (D, E, F#) followed by a quarter note (G), then a half note (A), and a quarter note (B). The second staff continues the melody with a quarter note (C#), a half note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The third staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The fourth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The fifth staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The sixth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The seventh staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The eighth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The ninth staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The tenth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The eleventh staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The twelfth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The thirteenth staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The fourteenth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The fifteenth staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The sixteenth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The seventeenth staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The eighteenth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The nineteenth staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The twentieth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The twenty-first staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The twenty-second staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The twenty-third staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The twenty-fourth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The twenty-fifth staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The twenty-sixth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The twenty-seventh staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The twenty-eighth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The twenty-ninth staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The thirtieth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The thirty-first staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The thirty-second staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The thirty-third staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The thirty-fourth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The thirty-fifth staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The thirty-sixth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The thirty-seventh staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The thirty-eighth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The thirty-ninth staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The fortieth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The forty-first staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The forty-second staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The forty-third staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The forty-fourth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The forty-fifth staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The forty-sixth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The forty-seventh staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The forty-eighth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The forty-ninth staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The fiftieth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The fifty-first staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The fifty-second staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The fifty-third staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The fifty-fourth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The fifty-fifth staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The fifty-sixth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The fifty-seventh staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The fifty-eighth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The fifty-ninth staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The sixtieth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The sixty-first staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The sixty-second staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The sixty-third staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The sixty-fourth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The sixty-fifth staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The sixty-sixth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The sixty-seventh staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The sixty-eighth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The sixty-ninth staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The seventieth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The seventy-first staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The seventy-second staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The seventy-third staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The seventy-fourth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The seventy-fifth staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The seventy-sixth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The seventy-seventh staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The seventy-eighth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The seventy-ninth staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The eightieth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The eighty-first staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The eighty-second staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The eighty-third staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The eighty-fourth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The eighty-fifth staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The eighty-sixth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The eighty-seventh staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The eighty-eighth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The eighty-ninth staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The ninetieth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The ninety-first staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The ninety-second staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The ninety-third staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The ninety-fourth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G). The ninety-fifth staff has a half note (A), a quarter note (B), a quarter note (C#), and a quarter note (D). The ninety-sixth staff has a half note (E), a quarter note (F#), a quarter note (G), and a quarter note (A). The ninety-seventh staff has a half note (B), a quarter note (C#), a quarter note (D), and a quarter note (E). The ninety-eighth staff has a half note (C#), a quarter note (D), a quarter note (E), and a quarter note (F#). The ninety-ninth staff has a half note (G), a quarter note (A), a quarter note (B), and a quarter note (C#). The hundredth staff has a half note (D), a quarter note (E), a quarter note (F#), and a quarter note (G).

This tune, "The Seahorse" [342], and "The Fairhaven Hornpipe" [343] are dedicated to Colin, Neil, Steve, Dana, and the other South Coast musicians who did their best to keep a session going during the pandemic. (Disclaimer: the animals who inspired the title of this tune are actually not llamas. If you can come up with a catchy title that includes the word "alpacas", please let me know.)

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[342] The SEAHORSE

Tune 2 of the South Coast Hornpipe Set

© B.Black 10/20

This title is taken from the local name for Dunseith Park in lovely Mattapoisett, where Colin & co. do an outdoor session in the warmer months. There's a big seahorse at the park entrance which has been there for many years - I think it belonged to a gift shop which is long gone - but the locals evidently couldn't bear to part with it. Good call!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[343] The FAIRHAVEN Hornpipe

Tune 3 of the South Coast Hornpipe Set

© B.Black 10/20

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at various intervals: Am, G, G, Em, Am, G, Am on the first staff; Am, G, Em, Am, C, Em, Am on the second staff; Am, C, D, C, Am, G, C, G on the third staff; and Am, G, C, Am, Am, G, G, Am on the fourth staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Fairhaven, between Mattapoisett and New Bedford, is a nice little town with a lively maritime industry. My beloved "Island Queen" goes to a shipyard there every so often for a "make-over", as do many other local ferries, trawlers, and pleasure craft. Nice to see the business continuing to thrive!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[344] ROSIE CARNEY'S REEL

Chords: D, A, D, G, D, A, D, A7, D, A, D, Em, A7, D, A, A7, D, A, A7, Bm, A, A7, D, A, D, G, D, A7, D.

Composed to honor the arrival (in Trim, Co. Meath) of our great-grand-niece Rosie - third one in the family and named after her great-great-grandmother Roseanna (RIP) . We met young Rosie in June 2022 and can assure the world that she's a sweetheart!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[345] The BOX in the BASEMENT

Lucky Mike's

© BB 2/21

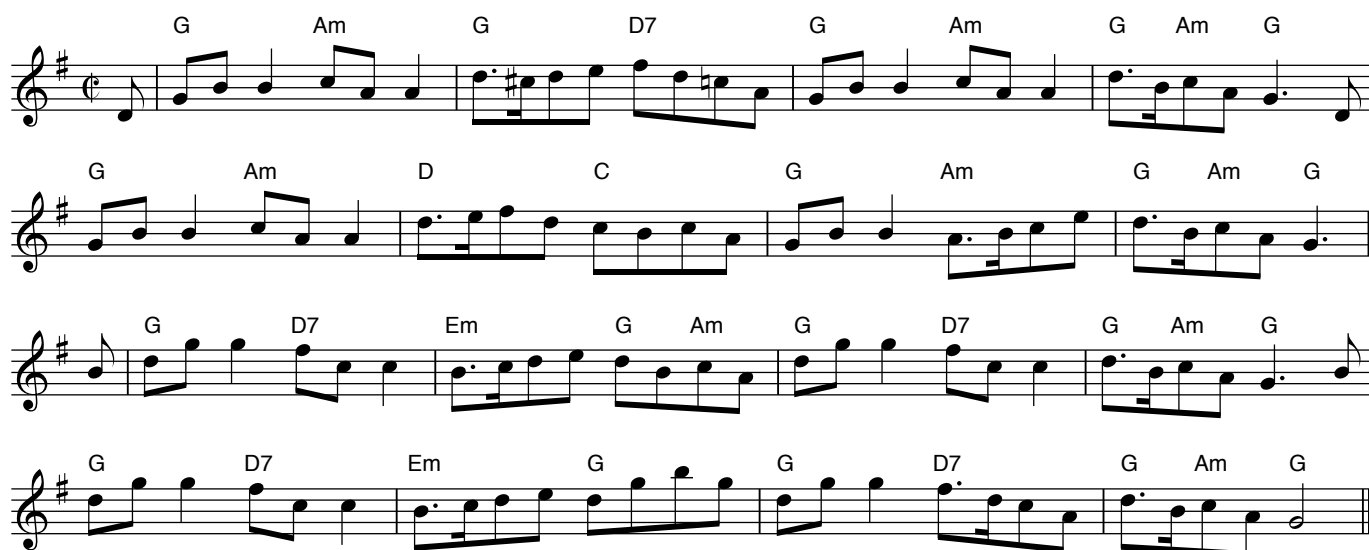
Chords: G, G, C, G, Bm, C, D, C, G, Am, G, Am, D, G, Em, G, D, Em, Am, Bm, Em, C, G, Em, D, Em, D7, Em.

Most musicians that I know have had a beautiful dream in which they come across an instrument of incredible value, or a collection of rare and wonderful instruments (in top condition, of course) (this is also known as "The Banjo Collector's Fantasy" but it could apply to anyone). Well, it actually happened to Mike the box player when one of his relatives found such a gem in her basement. (Details available on request.) He still can't believe it happened!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[346] JACK & ALFIE'S POLKA

© BB 2/21



The musical score for "Jack & Alfie's Polka" is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1-4, the second staff contains measures 5-8, the third staff contains measures 9-12, and the fourth staff contains measures 13-16. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some dotted rhythms. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: G, Am, G, D7, G, Am, G, Am, G in the first staff; G, Am, D, C, G, Am, G, Am, G in the second staff; G, D7, Em, G, Am, G, D7, G, Am, G in the third staff; and G, D7, Em, G, G, D7, G, Am, G in the fourth staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Jack and Alfie are two young Irish lads who live with Mom, Dad, and their new baby sister in Trim (Co. Meath). We met them when we were back in Ireland in June 2022. They're great kids, and one of them is probably going to be a musician at some point. He will probably be surprised to find out that his great-grand-uncle- in-law (???) in America composed this!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[347] KATHLEEN & CHRISTY'S WALTZ

The Carndonagh Waltz

© BB 2/21

Chords indicated in the score: D, F#m, Em, A, F#m, G, Bm, A, D, Em, A, D, G, Em, D, A, D, A, G, Bm, F#m, D, D, A, D, A, G, Bm, D, D, Em, D.

For two of the nicest folks I know - my Dublin brother and sister-in-law Kathleen and Christy Rogers, who in 2021 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. We actually joined the celebration on Zoom! We're happy that we got to join them in person at their grand-daughter's wedding in June 2022. Just in time, unfortunately - Kathleen passed away that October. A great lady - as they say, her like will not be seen again.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[348] CAROL & SID'S WALTZ

The Pinebrook Waltz

© BB 2/21

Chords indicated in the score: E, A, A, E, D, A, F#m7, E, A, E, D, A, Bm, A, D, E, A, A, F#m, F#m, E, F#m, D, A, Bm, F#m, E, A, A, E, A, Bm, E, A.

Another "anniversary" waltz, this one for our niece Carol and her husband Sid, who celebrated forty years of domestic bliss in 2022. It doesn't make us feel any younger to recall that Carol was flower girl at our wedding . . . (By the way each of their kids - Steven, Jennie, and Emma - has his or her own tune in this collection.) Love to the lot of them!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[349] ANNE & ALAN'S HORNPIPE

© BB 2/21

D G D A D G F#m A7

Bm A G A ³ ³ D Em A D

D A Bm F#m Bm D Em D A

D A G A D Em A D

This "family tune" is for our nephew Alan and his partner Anne, both proud Dubliners and doing a great job of keeping an eye on the "older" folks during these crazy times! We hope to see them again soon.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[350] TRACY GALLAGHER'S

Tune 1 of "Tracy's Trilogy"

© BB 10/21

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 8/8. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some beamed eighth notes. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff: A, Bm, A, F#m, A, G on the first staff; A, Bm, A, G, A on the second staff; A, D, A, A, D, G on the third staff; and A, Bm, A, G, G, A on the fourth staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

This tune and the two following ("Swans of Glen Lough", #351, and "Angel at the Gig", #352) were composed in memory of Tracy Gallagher, a good friend and fine musician who passed away at the age of 52 after a long illness. Tracy, mom Diane, and sister Niki were members of "Celtic Tide", probably the first trad band on the Cape!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[351] The SWANS of GLEN LOUGH

Tune 2 of "Tracy's Trilogy"

© BB 10/21

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 12/8 time. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets. Chords are indicated by letters above the staff: G, Am, D, G, G, Am, G, D, G, Am, G, A, D7, G, Am, G, D, G. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The letters of the title (S, G, L) are for the three Gallagher kids - Séamus, Gráinne, and Liadán (in order of age). Glen Lough is in Donegal and probably has zero connection to the family beside the "acronymic" one!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[352] The ANGEL at the GIG (reel)

Tune 3 of "Tracy's Trilogy"

© BB 10/21

Chords: G, D, Em, G, A, D, G, C, G, D, Em, D, G, G, Em, Em, G, C, C, Em, G, D, Em, C, Bm, G, G.

Tracy passed away peacefully at home while our trad group "Cat's Melodeon" were performing onstage at a local festival. The title reflects the feeling that we all had when we heard the news - that we did indeed have "an angel at our gig"!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[353] UNCLE PAT'S HORNPIPE

© B.Black 10/21

1 Bm Bm D A G A 3 3

2 Bm G D Em A7 D Em A7 D

Bm D G A G A

Bm D G D Em A D

"Uncle Pat" is Pat Clancy, piano-accordionist and singer from Charlemont, Co. Armagh, who passed away in October 2021 at the age of 89. He leaves a large loving family behind, including his niece, Cape Cod's own Rose Clancy. May he rest in peace.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[354] The PEAK of PERFECTION (reel)

© BB 7/22

Chords: Bm, D, G, A, D, Bm, D, A, D, Em, D, Em, A, D, A, Em, A, D, G, D, G, A, Bm, A, D, A, D, Em, A7, D.

Stu Peak is a fine local musician who has performed with many of our locals over the years. As of this moment- May 2024 - he's a member of "Connacht", Mike McDonagh's highly-regarded trad group.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[355] LOUISE'S POLKA

BB 8/22

Chords: D, Bm, D, G, A, D, Bm, D, A, D, D, Bm, Em, G, A, D, G, D, A, D.

Originally a "cheer-up" tune for a nice lady fiddler who loves polkas. I'd like to think it's a South Coast "session favorite"!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[356] The LEMONADE STAND

in memory of Peggy Roach RIP

BB 10/22

D Bm A D Bm G

D Bm D G A D

D Em D G D Em A G A

D Em D G D G A D

Peggy and Jim Roach, married for 60+ years, were stalwarts in the Boston trad music and set dancing scene for more years than I can recall. They were both "charter members" of the Irish Cultural Center and were involved in many other activities as well. We consider ourselves blessed to have had them as friends, and we send our love to Jim and the family with this tune.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[357] *The QUEEN OF HEARTS (hornpipe)*

BB 5/23

The musical score for 'The Queen of Hearts' hornpipe is presented in four staves. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The first staff contains measures 1-4 with chords D, Bm, Em, and G. The second staff contains measures 5-8 with chords A, Em, D, A7, and D. The third staff contains measures 9-12 with chords A, F#m7, G, D, G, and D. The fourth staff contains measures 13-16 with chords A, G, D, A7, and D. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

For a young lady doing her best to overcome some serious health problems.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[358] THE OLDER YOU GET

BB 6/23

D dorian

The musical score is written in D dorian mode, 8/16 time. It consists of four staves of music. The chords indicated above the notes are: Dm, C, Dm, Am, Dm, C, Am7, F, C, Dm, Am, C, Dm, Am, G, C, Am, Dm, C, Dm, C, Dm, C, Am7, F, C, Dm.

This tune was written to replace another tune which I had already written but had another name than the first one. Same tune, two names. Confused? Me too. Don't know how it happened but in any event not a good sign for someone who doesn't believe that getting older necessarily means getting dumber. . .

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[359] DANCING at DAVOLL'S (hornpipe)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of G major (one sharp), and common time (C). It consists of four staves of music. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over a group of notes. Chord symbols are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic accompaniment. The chords are: G, D, G, Am, D, A, D, G, Am, G, Em, G, Am, D, G, G, Am, G, Am, G, Am, G, Am, D, A, D, G, D7, G, D, G. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Davoll's is a lovely pub located in a little corner of New England called Russell's Mills (part of Dartmouth, MA). The surroundings and the pub itself would remind you of Ireland!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[360] The RUSSELL'S MILLS REEL

BB 6/23

D A D Bm D A Bm G

D Bm D G D G A7 D

D Bm D G D Bm D A

D Bm G A D Bm A D

Russell's Mills is a quiet little enclave in the countryside between New Bedford and Fall River MA. There's a nice pub there (see tune 359) where I have been part of some very pleasant sessions as guest of the "South Coast" musicians!

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[361] The TWO RICHIES (hornpipe)

Tune 2 of the "Cape Cod Veterans" Hornpipe Set

@ BB 3/24

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The melody is a continuous hornpipe tune. Chords are indicated above the notes: G, Am, G, Em, G, Am, G, D, G, Am, G, Em, G, C, D, G, Em, Bm7, Em, D, C, Am, D, G, Bm7, Em, C, Em, Am, D, Em.

With sincere thanks to Richie Sayers and Richie Riehle, the two "main engines" of the Cape Cod Veterans.

BILL BLACK'S MOSTLY GEMS OLD & NEW

[362] THANKS TO ALL! (hornpipe)

Tune 3 of the "Cape Cod Veterans" Hornpipe Set

@ BB 3/24

The musical score for "Thanks to All!" is written in D major (two sharps) and 3/24 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a Bm chord and ends with a G chord. The second staff begins with a D chord and ends with a D chord. The third staff begins with a D chord and ends with a G chord. The fourth staff begins with a Bm chord and ends with a D chord. The score includes various chords such as Bm, D, A, G, A, Bm, D, Bm, G, D, A, G, A7, D, Em, D, A, D, D, A, G, A, Bm, F#m, D, A, G, A, F#m, G, Bm, A, Bm, A7, D, Em, D, A, D. The score ends with a repeat sign.

"All" in this case being the men and women who have served their country and are proud to call themselves "veterans". "Bravo zulu" (= "well done") to each one!