

Jay's Notes on the Tunes

The New Arrivals: Written when I first met bouzouki/guitar player John Coyne and his wife Lisa (flute & whistle) at the Rí Rá Pub in Providence. Many hours of great music followed with them.

The New Year: A hornpipe for turning the page — bright and steady.

Kevin O'Brien's Favourite: This tune got its name long after being written. My good friend Kevin O'Brien — Boston piper/whistler/fiddler and a bit of a "traditionalist" — finally liked one of my compositions when I played this for him. High praise indeed!

Closing the Pub: Patrick's Pub sessions "ended" at 11, but when Kevin O'Brien arrived late from Boston and Jimmy Murphy was tending bar, we often played and talked well past last call.

Denis & Dermot's: For fiddler Denis Liddy and fluter Dermot Lernihán, who stayed with me after a house concert at Brad Maloney's. They were gracious guests despite my cramped apartment!

Tony Duffy's: For Patrick Griffin's cousin Tony Duffy — a priest and fine box player from Manchester, England. He visited Patrick's Pub years ago and we had some great nights of tunes.

Murphy's March: Written for Jimmy Murphy, longtime bartender at Patrick's and cousin of fiddler Sheila Falls (All-Ireland champion). He wanted a march with his surname in Irish, but since I don't speak Gaelic I settled on "Murphy's March."

Laurel's Visit: After a session run by Jimmy Devine where fiddler Laurel Martin (a student of Seamus Connolly) visited. The chemistry was so good the tune came in one piece from the ether.

The Flying Clock: Composed after a very late birthday party for Tony Gutierrez. We played until 4:30 a.m. Brad asked the time; Tony answered. Expletives followed. Time flies.

The Small Hours: For fluter Josh Kane, who ran a cleaning business into "the small hours."

The Mockingbird: Another slip jig for Josh, to go with *The Small Hours*.

The Long Wrong Turn: On a trip with Kevin O'Brien to visit Jim Gleeson's session at Stone's Pub (Ashland, MA). Directions were vague: "take a left." We took the wrong one

and drove 45 minutes lost. Found it eventually, had a good hour of music, and went back often with better directions.

The Sets at the Pub: For many Sundays at Rí Rá Pub where Barry & Pat Callahan led Kerry sets. Playing for dancers is great craic; slides are a favorite of mine. Double in octaves.

Barry & Pat's: Another slide inspired by Barry & Pat Callahan's Sunday dances at Rí Rá Pub.

The Windham Reel: Came while driving through Windham, CT one October afternoon in 2010. Foliage was brilliant; I wrote the tune that night. Works well in Edor too.

Jack Duggan's Barndance: An adaptation of a thoroughly repellent song (not *The Unicorn*, don't worry). I reshaped the melody into a barndance instead.

Compliments to Captain Simon Fraser: Inspired by Captain Simon Fraser's *Airs and Melodies Peculiar to the Highlands of Scotland and the Isles* (collected 1715–1745). An unfathomable source of inspiration; I hope more trad players discover it.

Untitled Jig: A bright jig in D. Never titled it.

The Smiling Fiddle: For Brendan Tonra (1935–2014). His fiddle never produced gloom; even minor keys sounded bright when he played. Rest in peace, my friend.