

PLEASE NO LILTING

Whenever I saw mention of liltng as an "alternative instrument" on IRTRAD, my blood began to run slightly colder than usual (one of my great-grandmothers was a Komodo dragon - I have a picture here somewhere).

I'm no expert, but I'd bet that liltng is in many respects even more of a potential danger area for inexperienced musicians than instrumental music is.

The thought of sitting at the session table in the Happy Shamrock Pub in Fargo ND surrounded by folks who once struggled to learn an instrument, but have now discovered that their lips, tongues, and vocal cords can be used cheaply for the same purpose (they think), is not a pleasant one. Bodhrán players take a lot of heat, and a reduction in their number at a session may be a desirable thing, but not if "thumpity-thumpity" is to be replaced by "boodle-dee-doopity-yah-bedoo-ble-dee-yoodle-dee-iddle-dee-yah-doo-doodle-dee" (as you can clearly recognize, bars 1-4 of the "Kesh Jig") and similar moist syllables of choice.

Picture if you dare the blubbering sounds that one can expect when three or four members of the Junior Liltng Posse are doing their thing, especially in a set of fast reels. Better have a roll of paper towels at the Honored Session Table, dude, 'cause you're gonna need it.

I was at a New Year's Eve party years ago at the Raffertys' house in New Jersey which numbered among the musicians Mike's brother Paddy (RIP). The good man was encouraged by someone to lilt a tune, and begod he did, for what seemed like thirty minutes. I think it was "Tatter Jack Walsh" but it was hard to tell. Not sure his teeth were in that night (God be kind to him). And this was a man who knew what he was doing! Fleadh prize winner and all!

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I know lirting has an honored place in the history of ITM. On the other hand, firing bazookas (not bouzoukis) has an honored place in the history of warfare. That doesn't mean that everyone is entitled/capable of engaging in either activity to mankind's greater advantage.

Thank you for not scating at my session.

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