

THE FIDDLER OF DOONEY

Seán Doherty

2022

SATB div. and Violin

TEXT

The Fiddler of Dooney

When I play on my fiddle in Dooney,
Folk dance like a wave of the sea;
My cousin is priest in Kilvarnet,
My brother in Mocharabuiee.

I passed my brother and cousin:
They read in their books of prayer;
I read in my book of songs
I bought at the Sligo fair.

When we come at the end of time
To Peter sitting in state,
He will smile on three old spirits,
But call me first through the gate;

For the good are always the merry,
Save by an evil chance,
And the merry love the fiddle,
And the merry love to dance:

And when the folk there spy me,
They will all come up to me,
With 'Here is the fiddler of Dooney!'
And dance like a wave of the sea.

W.B. Yeats (1865–1939)

PROGRAMME NOTE

Dooney is a rock overlooking Lough Gill, just outside Sligo town. It was immortalised in this cherished poem by W.B. Yeats, first published in 1892. In this poem, the fiddler precedes their clerical relatives through the pearly gates, where the dead await the fiddler in the afterlife and heaven is a céilí at the crossroads. In this piece, the choir perform the set dance, *The Waves of Tory*, in which the dancers represent the rolling waves off the north-west coast of Ireland.

Performance Time: c. 5 mins

PERFORMANCE NOTE

This piece may be performed with the dance omitted.

Tonnaí Thoraigh (*The Waves of Tory*)

This dance is for any even number of couples. Extra singers can encourage and participate from the sidelines. A video of this dance is [available on YouTube](#).

Formation: Two lines facing each other

O	O	O	O	O	O
X	X	X	X	X	X
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reel (32 bars)

1. Advance and retire (8 bars)

The two lines advance towards each other (2 bars) and retire to their original place (2 bars). This movement is repeated (4 bars).

2. Right and left hands across (8 bars)

Each set of four dancers (eg. couples 1 and 2) give right hand across in the centre, shoulder high, and dance around clockwise (4 bars). Then give left hands across and dance around anti-clockwise to finish in original positions (4 bars).

3. Advance and retire (8 bars)

As 1 above.

4. Left and right hands across (8 bars)

As 2 above, but start by giving left hand across, and dancing around anticlockwise.

March (32 bars)

1. Lead off to the right and up the centre

All couples turn to X's left and take inside hands. Couple 1 lead off to the right and down to the bottom of the set, followed by the other couples. Couple 1 turn right again and lead up the centre to original place, the other couples following.

2. The Waves

Couple 1 release hands, turn in to each other and then face down the hall, take inside hands and raise them to form an arch and walk towards couple 2, who pass under the arch made by couple 1, to the top of the set and then turn about. Couple 1 now exchange places with couple 3 in the same manner, except that couple 3 make the arch and couple 1 pass under. Couple 1 continue in the same manner down to the bottom of the set, making arches and passing under alternately.

Couple 2 and each succeeding couple in turn, on reaching the top of the set, turn about, form an arch, and repeat the movement down the set as described for couple 1.

When couple 1 reach the bottom of the set, they turn about, pass under the arch of couple 2 and continue up in the same manner, making arches and passing under, until they reach their original places. Each succeeding couple does the same thing until they reach their original place. When this happens, they stand idle until the 'waves' have been completed.

3. Cast off

Couple 1 release hands. Cast off (O to the right, X to the left), and march down the set followed by the other dancers, who have marched to couple 1's position and cast off in the same manner. When they reach the bottom, couples 1 and 2 take both hands and raise them to form an arch. Couple 3 take inside hands and pass under the arch and go up to the top of the set, followed by the other dancers. When all have passed under, they form two lines, partners facing each other. (The dance may be repeated with couple 3 now leading.)

Commissioned by Sing Ireland for Dr Bernie Sherlock and Irish Youth Choir

The Fiddler of Dooney

W.B. Yeats (1865-1939)

SEÁN DOHERTY (b.1987)

$\text{♩} = 60$
in Irish trad. style

Violin *f*

8

Vln.

S. *mp*
When I play on my fid - dle in Doo - ney, — Folk dance like the wave of the

A. *mp*
When I play on my fid - dle in Doo - ney, — Folk dance like the wave of the

T. *mp*
When I play on my fid - dle in Doo - ney, — Folk dance like the

B. *mp*
When I play on my fid - dle in Doo - ney, — Folk dance like the

12

Vln.

S. *mp*
sea; — My cous-in is priest in Kil - var - net, my bro-ther in Mo-cha-ra - buiee. —

A. *mp*
sea; — My cous-in is priest in Kil - var - net, my bro-ther in Mo-cha-ra - buiee. —

T. *mp*
wave of the sea; My cous-in is priest in Kil - var - net, my bro-ther in Mo-cha-ra - buiee. —

B. *mp*
sea; — My cous-in is priest in Kil - var - net, my bro-ther in Mo-cha-ra - buiee. —

17

Vln.

24

Vln.

S. I passed my bro-ther and cous - in:___ They read in their books of

A. I passed my bro-ther and cous - in:___ They read in their books of

T. I passed my bro-ther and cous - in:___ They read

B. I passed my bro-ther and cous - in:___ They read

28

Vln.

S. prayer;___ I read in my book of songs___ I bought at the Sli - go fair. ___

A. prayer;___ I read in my book of songs___ I bought at the Sli - go fair. ___

T. prayer;___ I read songs___ bought at the fair. ___

B. prayer;___ I read songs___ bought at the fair. ___

A
Più mosso

33 $\text{♩} = 100$

Vln.

S. *mf*
When we come at the end of time, To Pe - ter

A. *pp*
Oh___ Oh___

T. *pp*
Oh___ Oh___

B. *pp*
Oh___ Oh___

38

Vln.

S. *f*
sit - ting in state, He will smile on the three_ old

A. *f*
He will smile on the

T. *f*
He will

B. *f*
He will smile

43

Vln.

S. spi - rits But call me_ first through the gate.

A. three_ old spi - rits But call me through the gate.

T. smile on the three_ old spi - rits, first through the gate.

B. on_ me first through the gate.

48

Vln.

S. *mf*
For the good_ are al - ways the mer - ry,

A. *pp*
Oh

T. *pp*
Oh

B. *pp*
Oh

4 53

Vln.

S. Save by an e - vil chance, And the mer - ry

A. Oh And the

T. Oh

B. Oh And the mer -

f

58

Vln.

S. love the fid - dle And the mer - ry

A. mer - ry love the fid - dle And the

T. *f* And the mer - ry love the fid - dle

B. ry love

B Dance *Tonnaí Thoraigh*
(The Waves of Tory)

62

Vln.

S. love to dance, to dance, to dance: 1st time only

A. love to dance, to dance, to dance: 1st time only

T. love to dance, to dance, to dance: 1st time only

B. to dance, to dance, to dance: 1st time only

$\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♪} \rightarrow \quad \text{♩} = 100$

3

Vln. 66

Vln. 70

Vln. 73

Vln. 77

Repeat March *ad lib.*
(optional cut to b. 98)
Doppio meno mosso

Vln. 82

$\text{♩} = 50$

Vln. 86

Vln. 90

Vln. 94

C Doppio più mosso
♩ = 100

98 Vln. *mf*

103 Vln. *mf*

S. A. *mf*

And when the folk there

T. B. *mf*

108 Vln. *f*

S. A. *f*

spy me, They will all come up to me,

T. B. *f*

113 Vln. *f*

S. A. *f*

With 'Here is the fid - dler of Doo - ney!

T. B. *f*

117 Vln. *f*

S. A. *f*

And dance like the wave of the sea.

T. B. *f*

121

Vln. 

S. A. *ff* 
With 'Here is the fid - dler of Doo - ney!'

T. B. *ff* 


125

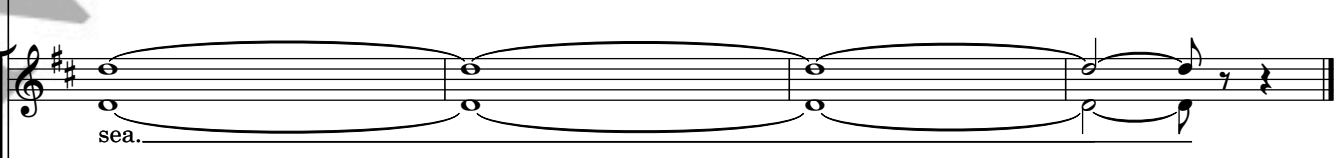
Vln. 

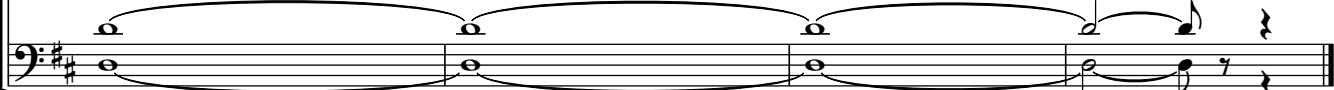
S. A. 
And dance like the wave of the

T. B. 

128

Vln. 

S. A. 
sea.

T. B. 

Violin *Commissioned by Sing Ireland for Dr Bernie Sherlock and Irish Youth Choir*

The Fiddler of Dooney

W.B. Yeats (1865-1939)

SEÁN DOHERTY (b.1987)

$\text{♩} = 60$
in Irish trad. style



Più mosso

A $\text{♩} = 100$



49

53

57

61

64

← . = . → **B** ♩ = 100

68

72

76

79

82

Doppio meno mosso ♩ = 50 Repeat March *ad lib.*
(optional cut to b. 98)

87

93

C Doppio più mosso

Violin

98

$\text{♩} = 100$

102

106

110

114

118

122

126

129