

# Planxty Irwin

Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738)

The musical score for 'Planxty Irwin' is written in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a double bar line with repeat dots. The subsequent staves continue the melody with various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and quarter notes. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The fifth staff begins with a double bar line and repeat dots. The seventh staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The eighth staff contains two endings: the first ending is marked '1.' and the second ending is marked '2.'. The final staff concludes the piece with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The blind Irish harp player O'Carolan composed this piece for one of his patrons, Colonel John Irwin (1680-1752). Irwin lived in Tanrego House on Ballysodare Bay in County Sligo. Donal O'Sullivan (1958) thought it was composed around 1713 after Irwin's return from overseas wars in Flanders. The Irwin family were originally English grantees of lands in Ireland under Cromwellian Settlement in the mid 17th century.