

The Geese in the Bog (Viola)

Jig

Traditional Ireland

The musical score is written for Viola in 3/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a double bar line. The second staff contains a measure with a sharp sign. The fifth staff contains a measure with a sharp sign. The sixth staff contains two first endings, labeled '1.' and '2.', which are separated by a double bar line. The seventh staff concludes with a double bar line.

Sligo fiddler Michael Coleman recorded a version of this tune back in the 1920's. The Geese in the Bog can be traced back to 1799. Roger Sherlock gives an account of Michael Coleman's brother Jim who played at house dances in rural Ireland, "Well, then he'd put the fiddle in its case and outside he had a flock of geese that would accompany him to and from the dances. The geese used to follow him everywhere. He had fifteen to eighteen geese. And he used to walk from our house to a place called Drumacoo, would be roughly about seven miles. And the geese would be with him all the time."