

The Blackthorn Stick

Jig

Traditional Ireland

The musical score for 'The Blackthorn Stick' is written in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 6/8 time. It consists of nine staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. The music features various fingering numbers (0, 1, 2, 3) and slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The Blackthorn Stick is a well known Irish jig that has passed into various fiddling traditions including English and American styles. The wood from the blackthorn is hard and close grained and full of knots. It was the chosen wood from which to make short canes called shillelaghs which could be also used as clubs. Blackthorn's botanical name is *Prunus spinosa* commonly known as the European spiny plum. The tune is found in 'Ryan's Mammoth Collection' 1883