

Si Bheag Si Mhor

O'Carolan 1670-1738

The musical score for 'Si Bheag Si Mhor' is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The piece consists of ten staves of music. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes), rests, and ornaments (trills and grace notes). Fingerings are indicated by numbers 0, 1, 2, and 3 above the notes. The score is divided into two main sections by a double bar line with repeat dots. The first section ends with a repeat sign, and the second section begins with a first ending (marked '1.') and a second ending (marked '2.'). The piece concludes with a final double bar line.

Si Bheag Si Mhor (Shee Beg SheeMore) refers to two hills in Co. Leitrim said to be inhabited by the spirits of ancient warriors whose mortal remains are entombed within the hills. From time to time these spirits revive their quarrel. O'Carolan, the blind travelling harper composed this tune for his first patron Squire Reynolds who was himself a harper and poet.