

The Irish Washerwoman

Irish Jig

It seems to me that people can listen to a whole evening of Irish music and not until a jig is played do they say, "Ah, you are playing IRISH music." Somehow the jig defines Irish music for many people, and this is probably the most well-known Irish jig. I sometimes take the liberty of updating the politics by calling the piece "Irish Washerpersion." A jig is counted 1 2 3 4 5 6, with accents on the first and fourth beats. This particular jig has no rhythmic breaks in the melody and so cries out for accents to give interest and variety in the rhythm. On the hammered dulcimer, alternate hammers with each note, LEFT right left, RIGHT left right, and the accents will fall in a different hand with each group of three. On the fretted dulcimer, I strum IN out in, IN out in for the 1 2 3, 4 5 6 beats. This strum pattern automatically sets up the jig feel with accents on the first and fourth beats. Strum all the strings throughout, but only change your fret position when there is a new tablature number.

Arrangement for Dulcimers © Bonnie Carol 2001

Key of G
Ionian Melody
Tune D G DD
Strummed

♩ = 100

Chords: G, D

Bass D	0 0	0 ETC.			
Middle G	0 0	0 ETC.			4
Treble DD	7 6	5 3 3 0 3 3	5 3 5 7 6 5	6 4 4 0 4 4	6 4 6 8 7 6

Chords: G, D, 1 G, 2 G

	0	4	0	0
	5 3 3 0 3 3	5 3 5 7 6 5	6 5 6 4 7 6	5 3 3 3 7 6
				5 3 3 3 10 11

Chord: D

	0	8
	12 10 10 7 10 10	12 10 12 12 11 10
		11 9 9 7 9 9
		11 9 11 11 10 9

Chords: C, G, C, G, D, 1 G, 2 G

	0	4	0	0
	8 10 10 7 10 10	6 10 10 5	6 5 6 4 7 6	5 3 3 3 10 11
				3