

Red Haired Boy

Irish/American Reel

"Red Haired Boy" is a reel of Irish origin found in the United States and in the British Isles under a number of titles. In Ireland it is sung as "Little Beggarmen." "Soldier With A Wooden Leg" and "Red Haired Boy" are instrumental versions. Fretted dulcimer pioneer, Richard Fariña, recorded it as "Tommy Makem Fantasy." In the US it is a very common string band piece.

Arrangement for Dulcimers © Bonnie Carol 2001

Key of A
Mixolydian Melody
Tune D A DD, Capo 4
Strummed

$\text{♩} = 100$

Capo 4

Bass D 11 9 : 8 0 0 ETC.

Middle A 0 0 : 0 0 0 ETC.

Treble DD 0 0 : 0 0 0 5 6+ 7 8 9 8 6+ 7 6+ 7

Bass D 8 0 0 5 6+ 8 9 10 9

Middle A 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 0

Treble DD 0 0 0 5 0 0 0 0

Bass D 8 0 ETC.

Middle A 0 0 0 5 6+ 7

Treble DD 0 0 0 5 6+ 7 8 9 8 6+ 7 6+ 7

Bass D 8 11 11 9 8 7 6+ 0 0 0 0 : 11 9 : 0 ETC.

Middle A 0 0 0 0 0

Treble DD 0 0 0 0 0 : 6+ 0 0 8 9

The Little Beggarman Lyrics:

*I am a little beggarman a beggin' I have been
For three score and more in this little Isle of Green.
And up to the Liffey and down to Tessague,
And I'm known by the name of the Bold Johnnie Dhu.*

CHORUS:

*Of all the trades that's goin' sure a beggin' is the best,
For when a man is tired he can sit down have a rest.
He begs for his dinner, he has nothing else to do
Only cut around the corner with his old Ricadoo.*

*I slept last night in a barn at Currabawn.
A wet night came on and I slipped through the door.
Holes in me shoes and the toes peepin' through
Singin' skiddy-me-re-me-doodlum for old Johnnie Dhu.*

*I must be gettin' home for it's gettin' late at night.
The fire's all raked and there isn't any light.
And now you've heard me story of the old Ricadoo,
It's good-night and God bless you from old Johnnie Dhu.*