

# The Roaming (Rambling) Irishman

1st version (1977)

Musical notation for the 1st version (1977) of 'The Roaming (Rambling) Irishman'. The piece is in 2/4 time with a tempo of 175. The notation consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1 through 8, with measure numbers 2, 4, 6, and 8 indicated above. The second staff contains measures 9 through 14, with measure numbers 10, 12, and 14 indicated above. The third staff contains measures 15 through 24, with measure numbers 16, 18, 20, 22, and 24 indicated above. The melody is written in treble clef and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

2nd version (1977)

Musical notation for the 2nd version (1977) of 'The Roaming (Rambling) Irishman'. The notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains measures 1 through 6, with measure numbers 2, 4, and 6 indicated above. The second staff contains measures 7 through 14, with measure numbers 8, 10, 12, and 14 indicated above. The third staff contains measures 15 through 22, with measure numbers 16, 18, 20, and 22 indicated above. The fourth staff contains measures 23 through 30, with measure numbers 24, 26, 28, and 30 indicated above. The melody is written in treble clef and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

Key as played. The third note being missing, this tune could be interpreted as mixolydian, but dorian seems more appropriate.

Lemmie played the 2 versions of the tune within a minute or two of each other, following each with the words. In April 1982 Gwilym Davies recorded the 3rd and 4th lines of the 1st verse only.

Lemmie spoke words (1977):

1. I am a bit of an Irishman, I travels all Ireland round,  
To seek to work in foreign parts I took it to be a plan.  
With a bundle on my shoulder and a shillelagh in my hand.  
(With my sack all over my shoulder, and me stick all in my hand)  
Around the country I will go like a roaming (rambling) Irishman.
2. Now when I reached to old Plymouth town, the girls (and boys)\* all jumped for joy.  
One unto the other said "Here comes that Irish boy."  
One hand to me the bottle and the other with the can,  
And the toast went round the table "Good luck to the Irishman".

The words in brackets are variants in April 1982.

\* The first time Lemmie spoke the words, she included "and boys". The second time she left it out.

Source: Lemmie Brazil, melodeon and spoken words, recorded Gwilym Davies 13.10.77 at Longworth caravan site