

A Rake of Tunes - by Randal Bays and Family

Randal Bays, fiddle

Susan Waters, fiddle

Owen Bays, concertina

Willie Bays, flute

Suzanne Taylor, piano (on track 11 only)

1 The Icy Road/The Carraroe/John McHugh's (Randal, Owen, Susan, Willie) - My concertina player son Owen Bays composed The Icy Road. Owen is nine years old and has been listening to Irish music all his life although he only took up the concertina less than a year ago. The Carraroe was one of the first tunes I learned, off an LP by Canny, Hayes, O'Loughlin and Lafferty. Owen taught John McHugh's to the family, having learned it from his concertina teacher Tom Lawrence.

2 The Man From Kilconnell/Mrs. Carolan's/Maids of Mitchellstown - Since I first started the fiddle I've loved the music of Paddy Fahey, of Kilconnell in East Galway. The Man From Kilconnell is my homage to him. We learned Mrs. Carolan's from another great East Galway Musician, Sean Moloney the flute player. The Maids of Mitchellstown is a very well-known tune that I've played for some years in E minor instead of the usual D minor.

3 The Star Hornpipe/Tuamgraney Castle (Randal & Willie) - Willie learned The Star from Sean Moloney and taught it to me.

4 The Cascadia Reel/The Collier's/Ice on the Window (Owen & Randal) - Here are two tunes composed by my son Owen Bays, The Cascadia Reel and Ice on the Window, with The Collier's reel in the middle.

5 Gilbert Riley's/The Nightingale - I composed the first tune and named it in honor of my uncle, Gilbert Riley, who played fiddle and guitar and sang songs for me when I was just a baby.

6 Caher Rua/Captain Kelly's/The Old Pinch of Snuff (Randal & Susan) - James Kelly taught me the Caher Rua.

7 Paddy Fahey's/The Abbeyleix - One of Paddy Fahey's great reels in the key of C, followed by a composition of Sean Ryan, one of my favorite fiddlers.

8 The Rocky Mountain Jig/ Lucy Farr's (Owen, Susan, Randal) - Owen Bays composed The Rocky Mountain Jig, and the second tune I learned years ago from a tape of Lucy Farr brought back from Ireland by a friend after a chance meeting with her on a train.

9 Dillon's Fancy/Dick Cosgrove's - (Willie, Randal, Susan et. al.) - This was recorded live at our now defunct weekly session in Seattle in 2012 when Willie was 11 years old.

10 Father Hogan's/Drowsy Maggie (3 parts) - I couldn't find a name for the first tune. It was given to me by Fr. Michael Hogan, who told me it was a favorite of John Kelly, Sr. Some years ago when I first met Father Hogan, he asked me if I played the third part to Drowsy Maggie, and I told him I'd never heard it. He very kindly sent me a cassette of a very old recording by Frank O'Higgins, including the third part.. *"they all used to play it that way"* said Michael.

11 I'm Waiting For You/The Humours of Tulla (Randal, Susan, Willie, Owen, Suzanne) - This set was recorded at a concert we gave last winter on Vashon Island and I love the ceili band sound. The first tune I learned from the Kilfenora Ceili Band and the second from the Tulla, and I might be the only American fiddler to have sat in with both those groups. I will not say which one I prefer.

12 Hairy Cat's Ear/Mouse in the Cupboard - My wife Susan Waters is an ecologist and she spent some years studying a plant called Hypochaeris Radicata, or Hairy Catsear. This jig came into my head on the day she finished her doctorate, and is for Susan.

13 The Job of Journeywork/Luke Kelly's/The Hairy-Chested Frog - When I was playing with the band Fingal I got the idea of playing the first part of The Job of Journeywork as a slow air. It turns out that no less an authority than Francis O'Neill thought the tune had been originally played that way before being put into a hornpipe rhythm for the set dance. Bobby Casey, another great West Clare fiddler who I've always admired, composed the Hairy-Chested Frog. It's usually played more in a major key, but someone sent me an amazing tape of Bobby playing the tune with Joe Ryan just as I have it here, in G minor.

14 Farewell to Miltown / Star of Munster (Randal & Susan) - I have a lovely tape - actually several lovely tapes - of Bobby Casey playing this set of tunes with Junior Crehan, who was the composer of Farewell to Miltown. I was lucky to meet Junior and Bobby and sit in on a session with them in 1993 at the Willie Clancy Week.

15 Miss McGuinness/ The Ravelled Hank of Yarn (Willie Bays, flute solo) - Willie learned these tunes from a recording of the band NicGaviskey.

16 Gillan's Apples/ The Sporting Pitchfork - I play these jigs on a low-tuned fiddle, in C. They're both played by a fiddler who is one of my all-time favorites, Patrick Kelly of Cree, Co. Clare, on a tape that was made in his home in the early 1970s shortly before he passed on.

17 The Dairy Maid/ The Steam Packet (Randal, Susan, Willie, Owen) - These are two of our family favorites.

18 St. Ruth's Bush/ Last Night's Joy/ The Beauty Spot - The middle tune, Last Night's Joy, is a setting I learned from a tape of Donegal fiddler Mickie Simi Doherty that was given to me by Caomhin MacAoidh.

19 Morning Star/ John Dwyer's - This setting of the beautiful reel, The Morning Star, is

my effort to play it like Patrick Kelly, and John Dwyer's was one of the first tunes I learned. I'm playing them here on the low-tuned fiddle.

20 Martin Kirwan's / Mrs. Dwyer's (Susan & Randal) - I learned the first tune from the earlier mentioned tape of Lucy Farr. She seems to have composed it for her father Martin. Mrs. Dwyer's is a lovely march kind of a tune that I learned from the Hayes family in East Clare.

21 Reilly of the White Hill/ The Humours of Loughrea/ Lucy Farr's - Ed Reavey composed the first tune in this set, and the last one is Lucy Farr's unusual setting of a well-known tune that I found on the tape brought back to Seattle in the early 80's. On the tape she says, *"This is a well-known tune, but I do it my way."*

22 The Mother's Day/ Elizabeth Kelly's Delight - I composed The Mother's Day for my wife Susan. Elizabeth Kelly's Delight comes from the playing of John Kelly, Sr. and is named for his mother.

23 Paddy Kelly's/ The Colonel's Delight - Galway fiddler Paddy Kelly composed the first tune here, and the second is one I learned from James Kelly in about 1982.