



THE CENTER FOR IRISH MUSIC

The first tune is well known from Sliabh Luachra brother and sister fiddler pair Julia Clifford and Dennis Murphy on their quintessential album of the same name. Both were students of the great Pádraig O’Keeffe, and became well known for promoting the music of Sliabh Luachra and County Kerry. The name is perhaps simply a nod to the pubs in England bearing the same name, where Julia spent many years in London playing music as a young woman before recording the album in 1968. CIM instructor Danny Diamond has been teaching the second tune lately and has put a fantastic version on his new album with Brian Miller, *Let Fly*. Since moving here from Sligo last year, Danny has become an invaluable resource for tunes and knowledge in the community, as well as a source of encouragement for many players here. Danny writes this about the tune: “I learned *Where is the Cat* from concertina and accordion player Eoin Begley, of the famed musical family from Corca Dhuibhne in West Kerry. Eoin and I spent 10 years playing sessions in Hughes Pub in Dublin and picked up some of his polkas and slides along the way, as well as belatedly figuring out how to navigate the simple tunes’ deceptively tricky rhythms. I think Eoin learned it from his father Séamus. It seems to have been common in Sliabh Luachra before migrating to West Kerry, having been collected and published by Breannán Breathnach in *Ceol Rince na hÉireann II* (1976), and by Terry Moylan in *Johnny O’Leary of Sliabh Luachra* (1994). For a reference recording check out *Sliabh Luachra fiddle icon Julia Clifford playing the tune on the archival website <https://www.juliacifford.eu>. As per Julia’s rendition, the trick is to bend the intonation of the C naturals in the B part sharp, giving a hint of the cat’s miaow.”*

The Star Above The Garter

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Where Is The Cat?

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