

# May 2013 IMDA Tune of the Month

by Amy Shaw

To whet your appetite for next month's Minnesota Irish Music Weekend, this column features a tune as played by Eamonn Cotter, one of the artists who will be teaching and performing during the weekend. Eamonn is a flute player and flute maker from Kilmaley in West Clare. He has a number of recordings to his credit, including two solo albums and several albums with the group Shaskeen. He is often accompanied on the piano by his sister Geraldine Cotter, and in fact Geraldine will also be here for MIM 2013.

I took Eamonn's flute class at the 2007 Willie Clancy Summer School, and I was impressed with his deep knowledge of the music. I was also lucky enough to hear him play for some Clare sets one evening in Spanish Point, along with Charlie Harris (accordion) and Bríd O'Donoghue (flute and whistle). I recorded every set, and I would do well to learn every last tune played that night, since they were all classics of the repertoire. Touch Me If You Dare, for example, was first recorded in 1928 by the great flute player John McKenna.

Check out the Center for Irish Music's website at [www.centerforirishmusic.org](http://www.centerforirishmusic.org) to learn more about the Minnesota Irish Music Weekend. Whatever you do, don't miss it!

Usual disclaimers: Any transcription errors are my own. The notation here is not meant to be a substitute for listening. It is simply an aid to learning the tune.

## Touch Me If You Dare

The musical notation is presented in four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a repeat sign and a fermata over the first note. The second staff continues the melody with a triplet of eighth notes and a first/second ending bracket. The third staff features a series of eighth-note patterns with triplet markings. The fourth staff concludes the piece with a first/second ending bracket.

Rhythm: Reel

Source: Charlie Harris, Eamonn Cotter, & Brid O'Donoghue in Spanish Point, Co. Clare, 12 July 2007