

# Irish Music and Dance Association November Tune of the Month

by Amy Shaw

When John McCormick and I travelled to West Kerry last winter, we made the acquaintance of Caoimhín Ó Sé, a flute player, singer, and native Irish speaker from that area. (Caoimhín is pronounced “KWEE-veen”.) Growing up north of Dingle, Caoimhín absorbed the local songs and tunes, which included a wealth of slides and polkas. He often played with his father, box player Maidhc Dainín Ó Sé, in the local pubs and hotels. For the past several years Caoimhín has been living in Bearna in the Connemara Gaeltacht and working as a school teacher in Galway. He plays frequently in sessions in Spiddal with Johnny Connolly (melodeon). Caoimhín is also a member of Maigh Seóla, a group specializing in the traditional songs of North Galway and South Mayo. His experience as a singer in Irish makes him a compelling player of slow airs on the flute.

If you happened to catch him sitting in recently as a guest announcer on ClareFM’s The West Wind program, you’ll know that Caoimhín has a deep knowledge of traditional music. He was filling in for ClareFM announcer Claire Keville one evening last month when, unbeknownst to us, he played a selection from the Doon Ceili Band and dedicated it to John and me. It just so happened that he made this kind gesture on the very day that John’s mother, Mary McCormick, passed away. When we downloaded the podcast several days later, it really lifted our spirits to hear Caoimhín’s greeting from so far away and to recall the tunes we had enjoyed together months ago in West Kerry.

Caoimhín recorded the Bould Thady Quill on *O Thuaidh!*, the duo album he made with his father in 2001. The tune is related to the song of the same name that was recorded by the Clancy Brothers. Caoimhín’s source for the tune is the well-known Sliabh Luachra fiddler Paddy Cronin.

*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.*

## The Bould Thady Quill

The musical notation for 'The Bould Thady Quill' is presented in four staves. The first staff shows the beginning of the tune in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time, starting with a repeat sign. The second staff includes a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' and two first/second endings marked with '1' and '2'. The third staff continues the melody with a fermata over a dotted quarter note. The fourth staff concludes the piece with two first/second endings marked with '1' and '2'.

Rhythm: Jig

Source: Caoimhín Ó Se, *Ó Thuaidh!* (track 8, tune 1)