KelticDead Music

Stories, Tunes and Songs in the Traditions of our Celtic Dead

To the Four Ayrts to Guide Us, and For the Four Winds to Get Us There!

The mission of the **KelticDead Music** initiative is to find tunes and songs from around the world that have Celtic, Folk, World, Americana, and Seafaring origins, and arrange them into simple sheet music formats for folk musicians to use and share. In addition, the KDM initiative provides the in-depth stories with possible lyrics for a more complete music-education experience.

*All the selections and sheet music content provided in the **KelticDead Music** initiative are from traditional, made-public, made-public with credits, or cited credits where applicable. This material content is from various internet sources and the personal interpretations of the subject is provided by **Patrick O-Shaun Young, KelticDead Music**. All graphics are either public domain or cited where applicable. Validation and verification are left up to the reader.*

The Rising Sun

While many think this melody and song is of American origins due to the popularity of it during the 1960s with the band called "**The Animals**," the leader of the band, Eric Burdon, revealed that while the band was on tour with Chuck Berry in England, he wanted a distinctive song to take back to the States, and he chose one that he heard sung by a Northubrian folk singer, Johnny Handle, in a club in Newcastle, England.

Eric and the band kept the same melodic background tune, but added an overlay that made it very popular. It was first recorded on a single on May 18th, 1964 as **"The House of the Rising Sun."** to which Alan Price (the singer) was given credit (along with the royalties). The only reason the other members of the band were not given credit was that there simply was not enough room on the album cover to list the other members of the band.

The base melody along with a different version of the lyrics is believed to have originated by a tale of a young girl who killed her alcoholic father, who beat his wife to death in front of her. The girl was later ensnared into the Soho brothel in London in the 16th Century, which led to her imprisonment and her fate to be hung in the morning with the rising sun.

The significant image throughout the ballad is the cell which bounds her. It had a barred window which only allowed the morning sun to shine in.

Made public painting by Hogarth. "A Rake's Progress."

According to musicologists, the melody and theme was based upon a 16th ballad called "The Unfortunate Rake." It was about a young lord who visited the Soho district in England, and he contracted syphilis.

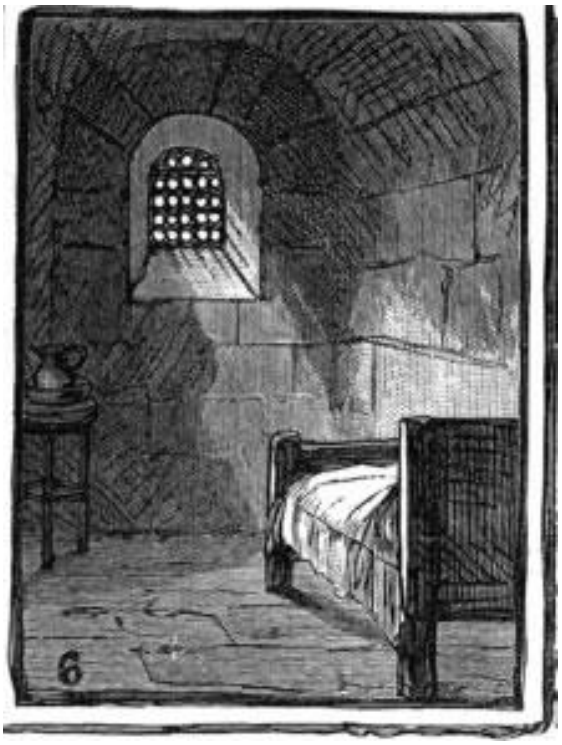
He attended to the infection too late and was destined to die. The central theme of the ballad is to warn others not to do what he did.

KelticDead Music Broadside

The Rising Sun

As with a lot old “Celtic-Folk” tunes, the ballad migrated into America starting in the 1800s, and especially in the 1840s through the 1850s when millions had to flee out of Great Britain due to the Potato Blight. Many families and especially the children suffered with starvation, prostitution, begging, and many died.

The melody was first recorded in America by two Appalachian artists, Clarence “Tom” Ashley, and Gwen Foster, on September 6th, 1933. It was known as “Rising Sun Blues.”



A typical cell in prison for death row.

KelticDead Music adaptation of lyrics.

There is a place where I am bound,
I call the rising sun,
And, many a soul comes here to die,
And Lord, I know I am one.

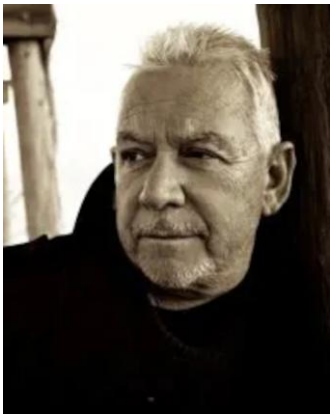
Me Father, he was a gambling man,
My mother, she begged and whored.
And all I knew was misery
To live my life in sin.

While drunk, he beat my mother down.
In rage, I struck him dead,
And now, I await the morning sun,
And end this life of dread.

Picture of children starving in the streets during the late 1800s.

Now, mothers
don’t let your children grow
To do what I have done.
It’s here, I await the morning sun,
And now, my life’s undone.

Eric Burdon was born in 1941, and he became the leader of “The Animals” in the 1960s.



Eric Burdon is still a singer/songwriter today.

KelticDead Music Broadside

The Rising Sun

"Unfortunate Rake" or "House of the Rising Sun"

Arrangement by KelticDead Music

Traditional-Folk

https://www.reverbnation.com/kelticdead2/song/35427430-the-rising-sun--kdm

The KelticDead Music Group musicians:

Shaun Young used a Low-Octave, Irish-tuned, Bouzouki, a Mezzo C Kerry Whistle, and MK1 Low C whistle, a Bodhran, and voices to create the melody and song. He adapted the melody to fit his adaptation of the sheet music and song from circa 1850s when many boys and girls were starving after the Potato Blight that had devasted Britain, Ireland and many other countries in Europe.

Shaun Young

Earnie Taft infused his fiddle sounds into arrangement for a mournful feel.

Earnie Taft

Alan Beck supported the rhythm, base beat, and mood with his guitar.

The song and melody is arranged to bring out deep, strong emotion.

Alan Beck

KelticDead Music Initiative

is a private, on-line music-education initiative. All the music projects are recorded with live, acoustic instruments and performed in accordance with simplified sheet music arranged in eight bar formats (whenever possible) in accordance with the guidelines that are within the Celtic music traditions. For more music videos and stories visit …

https://KelticDeadMusic.org