



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 that follow the video-based, **KDM Broadside**s for a more complete music-education experience.

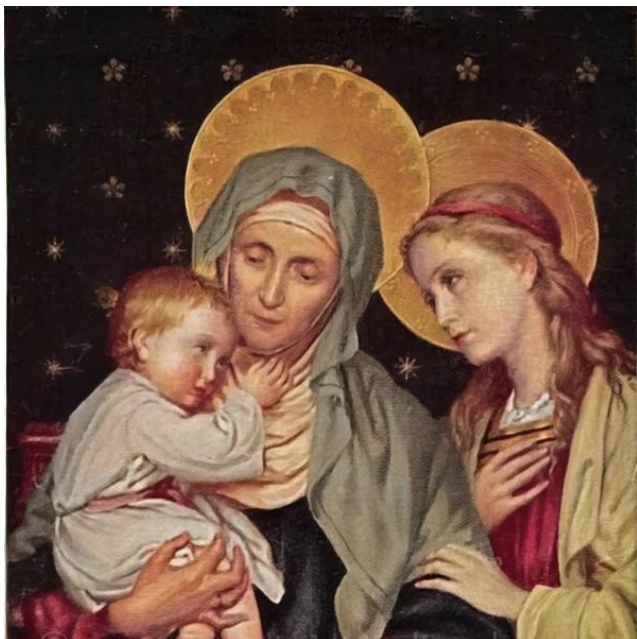


KelticDead Music Broadside

*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 the personal interpretations of the subject and provided by **Patrick O-Shaun Young, KelticDead Music**.*

Saint Anne's Reel

This 4/4 time tune, as a “reel,” is popular in the music traditions out of the Maritime Provinces of Canada, and from Brittany in France. The Maritime provinces include New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, but not to be confused with the entire Atlantic section of Canada which also includes Newfoundland and Labrador. Brittany is a peninsula on the west coast of France with very similar music traditions.



Made public painting. Saint Anne as Grandmother and mother of the Virgin Mary.

For many years Saint Anne was a “patron” saint, or someone with God’s graces, but not “canonized” by the Catholic Church of Rome. The Roman Catholic Church on October 21st, 1584 under Pope Urban VIII officially approved and canonized Saint Anne.

Saint Anne is still viewed as offering protection and support for sailors from storms, and she helps provide support and strength for unwed mothers. The concept of patron saints is somewhat controversial amongst scholars in the Roman Catholic Church, because the idea of honoring patron saints who oversee certain geographical regions, or asking for protection in certain trades or for identification of groups of people sounds very similar to the concept of “patron deities” within the old Roman Empire.

Saint Anne's Reel

There is still an even greater question and debate as to who she actually was. Some scholars say she was one of the priestesses within the Hebrew culture (Hannah) who recognized Jesus Christ as the chosen one when Mary and Joseph brought the child for blessings, and other scholars allude that Hannah (later "Anne") was actually the mother of Mary.

While we have the lineage of Joseph defined in the Bible, practically nothing is mentioned about the lineage of Mary. In (Matthew 1:18) in the New Testament, Mary conceived before Joseph married her, but not much was said about Mary after that.

As for Saint Anne being the mother of the Virgin Mary, many generally believe that Anne and her husband, Joachim, are grandparents. There is a feast held on July 26 concerning this relationship with Jesus and the other seven children by Mary, though there is very little mention of this relationship in the New Testament.

There is a story of the barren Hannah and about her conception by the prophet Samuel (Samuel 1:1) which is found in the 2nd Century Protevangelium of James (First Gospel of James) as well as the 3rd Century Evangelium de Nativitate Mariare (Gospel of the Nativity of Mary).

According to these "non-scriptural" sources, Anne (or Hannah) was born in Bethlehem in Judaea. She and her husband, Joachim, shared a wealthy and devout life at Nazareth, but she grieved the fact that she could not conceive a child.

Anne promised God that she would dedicate her firstborn child into the Lord's service, and soon afterwards, she and her husband received a vision by an angel, who announced that Anne would conceive and bear a most wonderful child and she would be called Mary. When the child was three years old, both Joachim and Anne brought Mary to the Temple of Jerusalem, where Mary became the charge of the Temple.



Spanish painting of Saint Anne of Joachim with her daughter Mary.

Mary was brought up in holy service to God. Mary was considered to be in God's grace and therefore, without sin. These were important concepts in the Christian faith for establishing the Nativity of the Virgin Mary (celebrated on September 8th) within the concept of the **Immaculate Conception**.

While the conception of Jesus Christ is one without the stain of sin, the Immaculate Conception is a doctrine within the Roman Catholic Church that has been described by Pope Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus, on December 1854 as "*The blessed Virgin Mary to have been, from the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, in view of the merits of Christ Jesus the Savior of Mankind, preserved free from all stain of original sin.*"

The Eastern Orthodox Church does not hold to the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, although they do consider Mary to be "all holy," and she never "committed" a sin.

Saint Anne's Reel

One of the problems with the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is that it is not taught in the Bible. The Scriptures do not directly teach the Immaculate Conception, and no where in the Bible does it describe Mary as being anything other than an ordinary woman with whom God chose to be the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

While Mary is a Godly woman (Luke 1:28) and a wonderful wife and mother, and there is no doubt that Jesus loved his mother (John 19:27), there is no reason to believe that Mary was sinless. In fact, the Bible gives us every reason to believe that Jesus Christ is the only person who was not "infected" by sin and was sinless.

In short, the concept of an Immaculate Conception was neither biblical nor necessary. The Bible never hints there was anything significant about Mary, and Mary was not exempt from the Bible's statement that "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23). Mary needed a Savior just like the rest of us (Luke 1:47).

Saint Anne's role in giving birth to a most wonderous child was essential in establishing the basis for Mary's role in being God's cherished vessel in the birth of Jesus Christ. God gave Anne and Mary the opportunity, and they both fulfilled their promises to God.



Saint Anne, Mary, and Child. A made public panel painting.

Within this historical context, the tune of Saint Anne becomes much more real for us, even in our "modern" times. It is a fun tune to play and well worth the effort to play it.

As for this tune selection, there has been a lot talk about "sin" and "being sinful." The word sin and the condition of our being sinful is misleading and often conflicted with the image of being "forever damned."

The Roman context of sin is "not being with God," or "diverting from the grace of God." For the most part, we all live in a material world where we are all distracted by material things, and quite simply that means we are not paying attention to God all the time.

Most true religions are the ones that give us guidance to know how to be with God. Temptation is all those things of this world that distract us.

If we let the things of this world get in the way of finding that path to God, then that is a sin, and should not viewed as eternal damnation. Even "Godly" folk are prone to be sinful in this world from time to time.

The easy fix for that "sinful condition" is to know that and get back on the right path. Sadly, that's easier said than done for most of us sinners. This is why forgiveness is important.

Saint Anne's Reel

Saint Anne's Reel

Arrangement by KelticDead Music

Traditional; Maritime Canadienne Provinces and Brittany, France



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1wn-fWAjZk>

All the tunes and songs are played with live, acoustic instruments, and the audio-video reflects what is written in the sheet music shown above.

I used an Irish-tuned, low octave mandolin (aka "Irish Bouzouki"), a Kerry Mezzo C whistle, and a bodhran for this arrangement. The tune is very popular in the Canadienne Maritime Provinces and in Brittany, France as a dance tune, normally written in D Major, and played quite lively. This C Major arrangement a bit slower, as a thoughtful, melody-only piece.



**Shaun,
That KelticDead Guy
Patrick O. Young**

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://www.KelticDeadMusic.org>