



# 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.



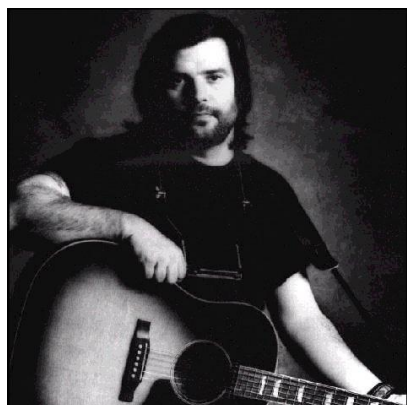
## KelticDead Music Broadside

*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**.*

# The Galway Girl

## Credits to Steve Earle and Sharon Shannon & Friends

This "new," made-public (with credits) folk song was released by Steve Earle and Sharon Shannon in 2000. In the following years Sharon and her friends "Mundy & Friends" enhanced the "folk" melody parts with the characteristic Celtic music formats, and it became so popular throughout Ireland, and throughout the world, that it was officially labeled as an "Irish Standard."



*A picture of Steve Earle in 2000  
at the time of the release of "The  
Galway Girl."*

**Stephen Fain Earle** was born on January 17, 1955 and is still currently an American country, rock, and folk singer-songwriter. He began his career as a songwriter in Nashville, Tennessee, and he released his first EP in 1982.

Earle was born in Fort Monroe, Virginia, where his father was stationed as an air traffic controller. The family moved to Texas before Earle's second birthday, and he grew up primarily in the San Antonio area.

Earle began learning the guitar at the age of 11, and at 13 he entered a school talent contest. He was a rebellious kid, and at age 14 he ran away from home to search for his idol, singer-songwriter Townes Van Zandt. Earle dropped out of school at 16, and he moved to Houston with his 19-year-old uncle who was also a musician.

Steve was opposed to the Vietnam War, and only because the U.S. Selective Service ended the draft in 1973 that he avoided going to Vietnam. When Earle turned 19, he moved to Nashville and began working blue-collar jobs during the day and playing music at night. Earle released an EP called **Pink & Black** in 1982, featuring the Dukes, and in 1983 Earle's manager, John Lomax, sent the EP to Epic Records where they signed Earle to a recording contract. In the same year Earle signed a record deal with CBS and recorded a "neo-rockabilly album."

## The Galway Girl

In 1996, Earle formed his own record label, E-Squared Records, and released the album **I Feel Alright**, which combined the musical sounds of country, rock, and rockabilly. Earle released the album **El Corazon** (The Heart) in 1997, where one reviewer called it "the capstone of this [Earle's] remarkable comeback". Steve also had contacts in Ireland, and it was in 1999 that he met and played with Sharon Shannon and other musicians in the Galway Bay area.

**Sharon Shannon** was born on June 8, 1968. She is an Irish musician, and she is best known for her work with the button accordion and fiddle technique. She also plays the tin whistle and melodeon.

Her 1991 debut album, **Sharon Shannon**, was the best-selling album of traditional Irish music ever released in Ireland. Her work demonstrates a wide-range of musical influences, and in 2009, she was awarded the lifetime achievement Meteor Award.

Shannon recorded with Steve Earle on the song "**The Galway Girl**", which was released on both Earle's album *Transcendental Blues*, and in **Shannon & Friends' The Diamond Mountain Sessions**. Both albums were released in 2000.



*A made public image of Sharon Shannon in her earlier career.*



**An early picture of Edmond Enright or "Mundy."**

Lesser known in the story of The Galway Girl melody and song was **Edmond Enright**. Edmond was born on May 19, 1975 and known professionally as "**Mundy**."

Mundy is an Irish singer-songwriter and founder of the independent record label Camcor Records. He released his debut album **Jelly Legs** in 1996 on the Epic Records label. The album included the song "**To You I Bestow**", which was featured on the best-selling soundtrack to Baz Luhrmann's film adaptation *Romeo + Juliet*.

In 2000, Mundy was dropped by Epic while working on his second album, **The Moon is a Bullethole**, which was about to be recorded. Although a four-track EP of that title was released, much of the material for the canceled album was eventually incorporated into **24 Star Hotel**, Mundy's 2002 album.

There was actually a cover version of **The Galway Girl** song, which was released by Mundy and Sharon Shannon that reached number one on the charts and became the most downloaded song of 2008 in Ireland.

## The Galway Girl

While there are a lot of slight variations of the lyrics, they are still credited to Steve Earle, and it was a simple song about a young man who met a pretty Galway girl in Salthill, Ireland while on the “Long Walk” promenade that is built in the town overlooking the bay. It was a short-lived romance, but the young man always remembered that girl whose hair was black and her eyes were blue.

Well, I took a stroll on the old “Long Walk,”  
Of a day I ay, I aye,  
And I met a little girl, and we stopped to talk  
On a fine soft day I ay, I aye.

And I ask you friend ...  
What’s a fella to do,  
‘Cause her hair was black and her eyes were blue?

And I knew right then  
I’d be taking a whirl  
‘Round the “Salthill Prom” with a Galway girl.

We were halfway there, when the rain came down  
On a day I ay I aye,  
And she took me up to her flat downtown  
Of a day I ay I aye.

And I ask you friend ...  
What’s a fella to do,  
‘Cause her hair was black and her eyes were blue?

So, I took here hand ...  
And I gave her a twirl,  
And I lost my heart to a Galway Girl.

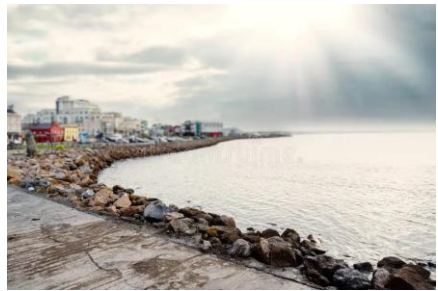
Well, when I woke up, I was all alone  
On a day I ay I aye,  
With a broken heart and a ticket home  
On that fine day aye I aye.

And I ask you friend ...  
What’s a fella to do,  
‘Cause her hair was black and her eyes were blue?

I’ve travelled around ...  
All over this world,  
But I’ve never seen nuthin’ like a Galway girl.



*A made public image of Sharon.  
Shannon and Mundy circa 2008.*



*A picture of Salthill in the Galway  
Bay area that has the famous  
“Salthill Prom” (Promenade)  
overlooking Galway Bay. The  
promenade is also called the “Long  
Walk.”*



*A more recent picture of Steve Earle at the  
Mastersons Concert.*

The rumor has it that it was Steve who met the girl on the Long Walk, but Sharon says the girl wished to remain anonymous. According to Sharon Steve and the girl are still friends today.

## Galway Girl

Arrangement by KelticDead Music

Credits to Steve Earle and Sharon Shannon

Bouzouki Arrangement



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjdPVz9tDFs>

A very lively tune. I played and sang the song with an Irish-tuned, low-octave bouzouki, a Kerry Mezzo D Whistle, and MK1 low D whistle, and a stomp-board. **Earnie Taft** provided the fiddle.

Visit <https://www.reverbNation.com/kelticdead2> for a growing list of KDM audio and video broadsides.



**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://KelticDeadMusic.org>