



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**.*

Out on the Ocean



A map of the ancient world showing the seven "Celtic" nations. For the most part these tribes of people were "non-literate" in that they passed on their culture and histories via stories and music through a highly refined memorization process.

The tune in this issue is one that has many variations, but few know of its significance within the Irish (and Scots) communities. To see why this tune is connected we need to review what the original seven Celtic nation territories looked like in ancient times, and how the "black Irish" came into the British Isles in Neolithic times.

In ancient times (before 40,000 to 6,000 BCE) there were about seven distinct "areas" or "nations" of Celtic tribes in the known world. Recently more has come to light about the Tartarian "Celtic tribes."

While much is still not known about the Tartarian areas many now believed these Tartarians had influence throughout Russia, Mongolia, India, China and some suspect they even made colonies into America. The Tartarian tribes (or civilization) were a mix of people, and some were called giants (8 to 12 feet tall). The stories about these Tartarians extended into Germany, Serbia, Greece and south across the Caucasus mountains into Turkey (south of the Black Sea). It was there that they mixed with the Galati "Celtic" tribes who began to migrate west approximately 14,000 to 12,000 years ago.

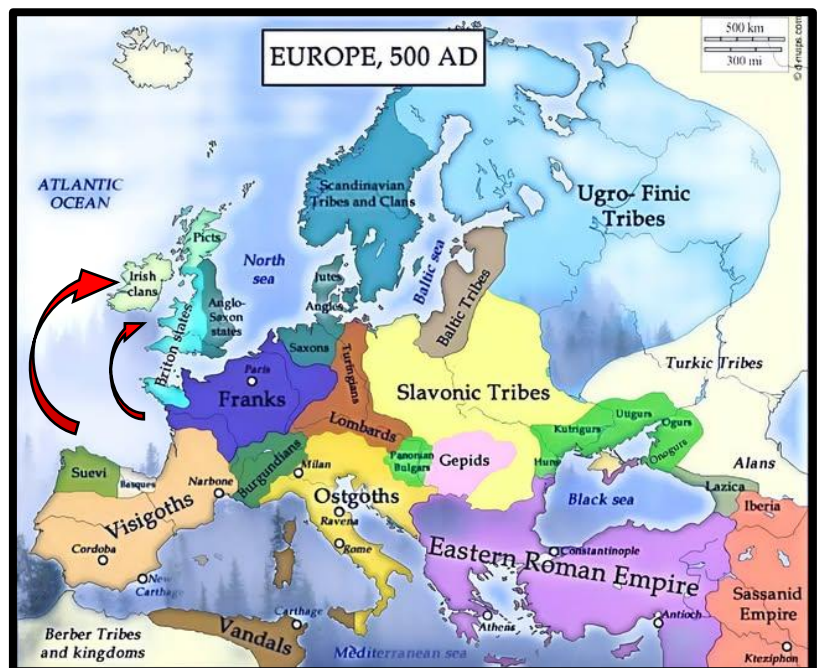
Out on the Ocean

Before Sumera (Approximately 9,000 BCE) the legends, folk lore and folk music speak of the first humans in the area of Galati to be “the black headed” people, and for whatever reason this particular group of people began to migrate west out of southern Turkey along the coastlines of Greece, Italy, and Spain. They also migrated along the coastlines of northern Africa and up along the west coasts of Spain and into France, particularly in the Britanny areas.



Recent evidence shows these Gallati folk also had some Neanderthal, Black, and Serbian genetics. Their skin color could be dark brown to olive white. They had a characteristic eye color ranging from black, brown, hazel to blue or green and rimmed with a darker color. They usually had jet black hair but not to be confused with the reddish hair or blond that came later from the Germanic and Scandinavian tribes who populated Great Britain from the eastern European countries.

As with all tribes, each branch would often raid others to capture “slaves” to help work the fields (or other tasks in the community), and often these captured folk would integrate into the genetic mix of the owning tribes. Evidence shows that the Galati mix were primarily fishermen and mixed with others throughout north Africa, into Spain and parts of France. They eventually made their way into Wales and Scotland onto the Arran Island and into the Galway Bay area of Ireland.



Unlike those Celtic tribes within the interior of Europe and Mongolia, the Galati Celts developed a unique kind of commerce that utilized trade revolving around the use of boats. For this reason, these “seafaring” Celts were often called “the Boatmen.”

Out on the Ocean

As mentioned, the Black Irish were boatmen and fishermen, and they created a special kind of fishing boat that was light weight and durable to use in coastal waters. Some were designed to endure the rough ocean voyages that carried them to the west coasts of Ireland, England, and Scotland. These boats have become known as the “currach” boats.

Currach boats were built with a wicker framework made of strong wood as ribs, and they covered the hulls with thick hides that were soaked with tar to make them seaworthy. This approach made the boats lighter than dugouts or those made of solid wood, and they were lighter and faster, and could be rowed with one or more crew members.



The lightweight skeleton of the currach boats had a dense, flexible skin over the hull that functioned like the skin over a rib cage. This type of construction allowed the craft to give way to ocean forces by reacting to them rather than by opposing them.



There were basically two types of currachs. Many were lightweight for navigating creeks and ponds and could be carried by one person, like a canoe. Those that were intended for long voyages were larger, furnished with masts, and had double or triple hide layers that covered the hulls. These ocean-going vessels were 30 feet to over 40 feet in length.

And, these types of boats are still used today. Each year around the Arran Island in Scotland they have “Arran Boat Races,” and the currach boats with red sails are quite common in the waters of Galway Bay on the west coast of Ireland. Those seen in the Galway Bay are commonly referred to as Galway Hookers (from the Dutch word “hoeker,” meaning long-line “fishing” boat that refers to a method of fishing used with the boats).

Out on the Ocean



While Galway Hookers are used primarily for fishing; they are also used as transports. The larger boats were used to carry turf as fuel across Galway Bay from Connemara and County Mayo to the Aran Islands and to the Burren. In return trips they brought limestone to neutralize the acid soils of Connemara and Mayo. With the absence of cabins, the Galway boats are prone to be swamped in rough seas and sink rapidly, which is why these types of boats are typically used in the shallow waters of the Galway Bay.



There are four main classes of the currach boats with red sails named after the Irish “Galway.” Two of the larger ones are shown. The Bád Mór (big boat) ranges in length from 10.5 to 13.5 metres (35 to 44 feet). The smaller Leathbhád (half-boat) shown to the right) is about 10 metres (28 feet) in length. Both the Bad Mor and the Leathbhad have a deck forward of the mast. Two smaller classes include the Gleoiteog which is about 7 to 9 metres (24 to 28 feet), and has the same rigging as the larger classes of boats. The Púcán hooker is similar in size to the Gleoiteog, but has a lug mainsail and one foresail. Both of the smaller boats are entirely open currachs with no decking.

There is a fifth class of Hooker that is fitted with a cockpit floor over a ballast, making it less prone to sinking, and when the Irish settled in North America and needed a fishing boat, they built the hooker that they knew from Ireland. These boats became known as the “Boston Hookers” or “Irish Cutters.” They were also nicknamed “Paddy Boats.”

The tune “Out on the Ocean” is often associated with the Currach boats and the Boatmen.



Out on the Ocean

Out on the Ocean

Traditional - Seafaring

[illegible]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xOAi9EUR3c>

There are many variations of this folk melody within other themes and titles. I used the Irish tuned, Low Octave Bouzouki to set the melody and blended in the Kerry Mezzo D whistle and the MK1 Low D whistle. Later in the tune I brought in the bodhran. **Earnie Taft** came in with his fiddle, mandolin, and banjo. **Linda King** provided the guitar support and the chording in the sheet music shown above.

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>



**Shaun,
"That KelticDead Guy"
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