



# 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 Northmen

The Scandinavian kingdoms were known as seafaring warriors in a general context known as the “Vikings.” They built long ships and raided parts of England, France, Brittany, and Spain as a means to support their economies, and they were also very involved in the slave trade.



*A picture showing typical Viking foot soldiers.*

The Northmen, also known as “Norsemen,” began their seafaring activities in the late 8th century, with the first recorded major attack occurring in 793 at the Lindisfarne monastery off the coast of Northumberland in northeastern England. This marked the beginning of the Viking Age, which lasted until the 11th century.

The Norsemen also expanded beyond Britain, establishing settlements in Ireland, where they founded trading towns like Dublin, Waterford, and Limerick. Some scholars believe the Vikings established colonies in Iceland and in the new world as well. During the late 9th Century, the Northmen attacked northern France by a Norway King, Rollo.

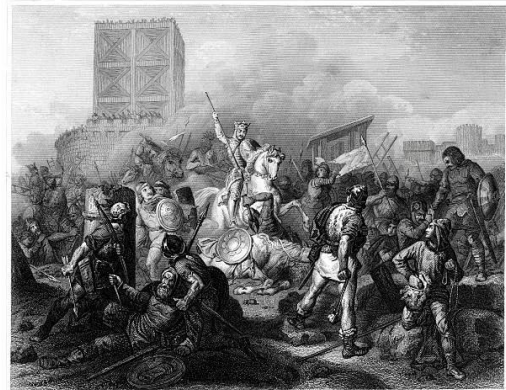
## The Northmen

The reasons for the Northmen's expansion were complex and not fully understood. Overpopulation in Denmark, Norway and Sweden may have played a role, but the early Viking activity seemed to be driven by a pursuit for wealth rather than for territorial gains. In the late 10<sup>th</sup> and early 11<sup>th</sup> Centuries the pursuit changed, primarily in the reign of the Viking warrior, King Rollo.



Rollo was from Norway, and he was known as **Hrólfr or Göngu-Hrólfr** (meaning "Hrólfr the Walker" due to his immense size, which made riding a horse impractical). He led a band of Northmen in raids across northern France in 876 A.D., initially to plunder, but they gradually established a stronghold in the Seine Valley.

By 911, after failed attempts to capture Paris and Chartres, Rollo negotiated the **Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte** with **Charles the Simple, King of West Francia**. Under this treaty, Rollo was granted a large territory in northern France—later known as Normandy, meaning "Land of the Northmen"—in exchange for becoming a vassal of the Frankish king, to cease raids, as well as to defend the region from other Viking incursions.



An engraving (1856) showing the Northmen besieging Paris in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century.



**King Charles the Simple** was not mentally impaired, but rather he spoke in very simple terms to make his meaning clear for those around him. Rollo agreed to the treaty, and as part of the deal he married Charles' daughter, Gisela. Gisela died young, and bore no children for Rollo. However, Rollo had previously fathered a son, William Longsword, with his concubine Poppa of Bayeux which was a practice known as a "Danish-style" marriage, which was common in Norse culture.

Under Rollo's rule the Vikings became a powerful force in Europe, and he implemented strong laws that promoted settlement, encouraged intermarriage with local French women, and fostered a unique blend of Norse and Frankish culture, laying the foundation for the Norman identity.

Rollo also undertook significant infrastructure projects, such as deepening the Seine River at Rouen, a project that remained effective for nearly a millennium. Rollo ruled until around 928, when he abdicated in favor of his son William Longsword, who continued to expand and consolidate Norman power. And, later in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, the Normans would venture into England and Ireland as well.



## The Northmen

KelticDead Music Arrangement, credits to  
In the traditions of Celtic Folk music.

Patrick O. Shaun Young  
Play quickly yet with purpose.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnrUhWC8k3g>

As there is no specific Celtic tune or song about the Northmen, I created one in the “Celtic format” as a made public melody with credits. The sheet music is free to use and specifically arranged to play with the Irish-tuned, low-octave bouzouki or mandolin. I also used the Kerry, mezzo-C whistle, and the bodhran. It has a war-like theme.

**Earnie Taft** provided a very “cinematic” sound for the melody with his 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>