



# 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 is left up to the reader.*

## Whiskey in the Jar

This "Ceili music style" ballad is about a famous highway robber in Ireland during the late 16th Century. The "highwayman" robber was Patrick Fleming who was born into an Irish potato farming family in Athlone, Ireland in the mid 1600s.

At age 13 he went into service with Elizabeth Nugent (Countess of Kildare), but he was soon removed after he discovered the priest in the household sleeping "in an obscene position" which caused a scandal. Before leaving, however, Patrick stole over 200 pounds and fled to join a gang located around Dublin.

Unlike the romanticized version portrayed in this ballad, Patrick was ruthless, and he killed, maimed, and robbed over 125 people. The version of this song begins with Patrick robbing an English nobleman of 250 pounds, and because of that the Irish viewed Patrick as a sort of ruthless hero.

Patrick was caught and transported to a prison in Cork, but he escaped by climbing up a chimney in the jail. Patrick continued robbing in an area around Dublin and his gang of 14 men were often seen in an Inn near Dublin. In real life there was no "Jenny" and in some versions, she was called "Molly."

Unlike the song, it was the landlord who soaked the gang's firearms in water while they slept, and he summoned the sheriff to arrest Fleming and his gang. Fleming and his gang were unable to fight back, and they were taken to Dublin where they were promptly hung on April 24th, 1650.

There was no "Captain Farrell" and in some versions the sheriff was known as "Colonel Pepper."



A made public etching of a highwayman robbing a wealthy man.

## Whiskey in the Jar

As I was goin' over,  
the far famed Kerry Mountains,  
I met with Captain Farrell,  
and his money he was countin'.  
I first produced me pistol,  
and then drew me rapier  
Sayin' "Stand and deliver,  
for ye are a bold deceiver.

**Chorus:**  
Mush-ring, Cuma-du, Cuma-daahh ...  
Wack for the Daddy-o,  
Wack for the Daddy-o,  
There's whiskey in the jar.

I counted out his money;  
it made a pretty penny.  
I put it in me pocket,  
and I took it home to Jenny.  
She swore she'd never leave me;  
she never would deceive me,  
But the devil take the women,  
for they never can be easy.

### Chorus

I went up to her chamber,  
for all to take a slumber.  
I dreamt of gold and jewels,  
and for sure it t'was no wonder,  
But Jenny drew me charges,  
and she filled them up with water,  
Then sent for Captain Farrell  
to be ready for the slaughter.

### Chorus

There's some that take delight in  
the carriages a rollin',  
And others take delight in  
the hurlin' and the bowlin',  
But I take delight in  
the juices of the barley,  
And courtin' pretty maids  
in the mornin' bright and early.

### Chorus

If anyone can aid me  
'tis me brother in the army.  
If I can find his station  
in Cork or Killarney,  
And if he'll go with me,  
we'll go rovin' in Kilkenny.  
I'm sure he'll treat me better  
than me own sportin' Jenny.

### Chorus

Highwaymen were either on horse or on foot. Those that were on foot were called "raparees" or "footpad" robbers. The term, "rapparee" means pike wielding person.

There were many roadside robbers from the Jacobite wars during the 1690 Williamite War in Ireland.

"Carriages a rollin'" refers to those who focus on mill work businesses in the 1650s. "Hurlin'" referred to the sport of hatchet throwing, and is still used today.

"Bowlin'" refers to a game of rolling biased balls on a field, so that they stop closer a ball called a "jack" or "kitty."



A made public painting of Claude Duval robber by William Powell Frith in 1860.

## Whiskey In The Jar

Arrangement by KelticDead Music

Traditional Folk



<https://www.reverbNation.com/kelticdead2/song/35391069-whiskey-in-the-jar--kdm>

The simplified sheet music arrangements was used in creating the KelticDead Music audio-music project. The KDM project used live voices and live acoustic instruments. **Shaun Young** provided the voices, with a Kerry Mezzo D whistle, and MK1 Low D whistle, and a bodhran. **Michael Carroll** provided the guitar, Bass guitar and mandolin. **Earnie Taft** provided the fiddle.

The KDM initiative chose to approach the sound audio in the Celtic, Ceili Pub Style of play.



**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>

Also visit the KelticDead **SoundCloud** for this and other KDM projects.

<https://soundcloud.com/kelticdead>