

The Fleadh Down in Ennis

Song

Robbie McMahon



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The Fleadh Down in Ennis (1956)

Will you sit back a while til I sing you a song
'Tis not very short or its not very long.
It's about the Fleadh Cheoil down in Ennis you see
So to me will you pay your attention?

I'm not a great singer but I know there are worse
I cannot help trying to sing you a verse,
Or to let you all know how the Fleadh Cheoil got on
And for you now who couldn't attend it.

They came from the North and they came from the East
From the West and the south 'twas a thriller to see
With fiddles and bagpipes and piccolos too,
And drumsticks to keep them in order.

They came down from Dublin so hearty and gay
They brought Leo Rowsome to show them the way
Himself and Seán Seery they played all the way
With their flute played Vincent O'Broderick.
Scithereee-idle dum dithery-dum dithery-di-dee.

They came down from Cavan so far, far away
I'm sure they were travelling for most of the day
With singers and players, the best I can say
To compete at the Fleadh down in Ennis.

Their players were good and their singers were keen
But Margaret O'Reilly was the best of the team
And big Doctor Galligan he worn the báinín
Just to swank at the Fleadh down in Ennis.

From the Kingdom of Kerry they all made their way
And brave Denis Murphy he started to play
The auld 'Flogging Reel' and the black 'Cup of Tea'
Sure you'll feel ten times younger right after.

From Limerick's fair city they came by the score
And Johnny McMahon he played an encore
And the bold Andy Keane sure he played us much more
And to finish he played 'Colonel Fraser'.

From Wicklow and Carlow they all fell in line
And up from Portarlinton came Johnny Ryan
He resined his bow and he watched every line

For he won the first prize on the violin.

From Galway they came every man and his wife
With Eddie Moloney who played on the fife
And young Kieran Collins would make the dead rise
When he played us 'The Lark in the Morning'.

There was music and song from all over Clare
The Macs of Crusheen and sure all the Mulkeres
The Mike Preston Trio and Martin Mulhaire
Not forgetting the Mister Joe Leary.

Mrs. Crotty she came all the way from Kilrush
She took a high note for 'The Bird in the Bush'
She played all the day and she never did blush
'Twas good girl yourself, Mrs. Crotty.

Now Peter O'Loughlin from Connolly came
He brought Paddy Murphy sure 'twas all in the game
They played a duet and they made a big name
For they won at the Fleadh down in Ennis.

And down from Belharbour Chris Droney he came
He played on a matchbox I thought 'twas that same
Til someone said, 'Robbie, what's that you are saying?'
Isn't that his own small concertina?

They came down from Quilty to sing and to play
With big Martin Talty from Miltown Malbay
And the bold Willie Clancy he gave a display
Sure we know he's The King of the Pipers.

And someone said then, 'who's that man over there?'
Isn't that Jimmy Ward from the north side of Clare?'
He plays on the banjo with music to spare
For he plays with the great 'Kilfenora'.

Our own Paddy Canny he took o'er the fair
He played through the streets and right up to the square
Said Daniel O'Connell my life I knew there
And I think you're the best of them all sure.

And o'er from America more of them flew
And Paddy O'Brien he was one of the few
He played on the accordion you'd swear there were two
He got so many notes in together.

Now Ciarán MacMahon was busy, bedad,
Recording them all sure, the good and the bad,
But for him our music was gone to the bad
So 'tis welcome Ciarán Mac Mathuna.

'Tis all over now but was something to see
So thanks to Seán Reid and the great Committee
So I wish you good health now and good luck from me
Until we all meet in Dungarvan!
Scithereee-idle dum dithery-dum dithery-di-dee.