

The Gold Ring (An Fáinne Óir)

Traditional

Musical score for 'The Gold Ring' (An Fáinne Óir) in G major, 6/8 time. The score consists of eight staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 6/8 time signature. The melody is written in eighth notes, with a bass line of dotted eighth notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: D7, G, D7, G, D7, G, D7, D. The second staff continues the melody with chords D7, G, D7, D, and includes a first ending (1. D7 G) and a second ending (2. D7 G). The third staff starts with a repeat sign and a key signature change to F major (one flat), with chords G and F. The fourth staff returns to G major with chords G, D, D7, G. The fifth staff continues with chords G, D, G, D, G, D, D7, G. The sixth staff includes a first ending (1. D7 G) and a second ending (2. D7 G). The seventh staff has chords G, D, G, D, D7, D. The eighth staff concludes with chords G, D, G, D, D7, G.

arr. Peter McLaren

Based on a setting by Louis McManus.

From *The Fiddler's Companion* website: "Caoimhin Mac Aoidh relates Seamus Ennis's story of a piper who had the courage to spend a night hiding near a fairy rath to listen to the wonderful music of the little folk. As usual they returned to the rath at sunrise to sleep, the nights' festivity over, and the piper crept out from hiding. On close investigation of the site he found a tiny gold ring on the ground, dropped by a fairy reveller. The very next evening he returned to the rath and hid in the same place to listen again to the music of the wee folk but this time he also overheard the lamenting of a fairy piper over the loss of the ring. The fairy cried that he would grant any wish to get it back, upon which he man stepped from hiding and offered to return the ring, explaining how he found it lost. True to his word the fairy granted the human one wish, and asked the piper to name it. 'The jig I heard the other night,' said the man, who added he could not quite remember it (due to the fairies blocking the memory of their tunes), and the fairy piper granted the wish on the spot—the tune that has ever since been called in memory of the incident 'The Gold Ring'."