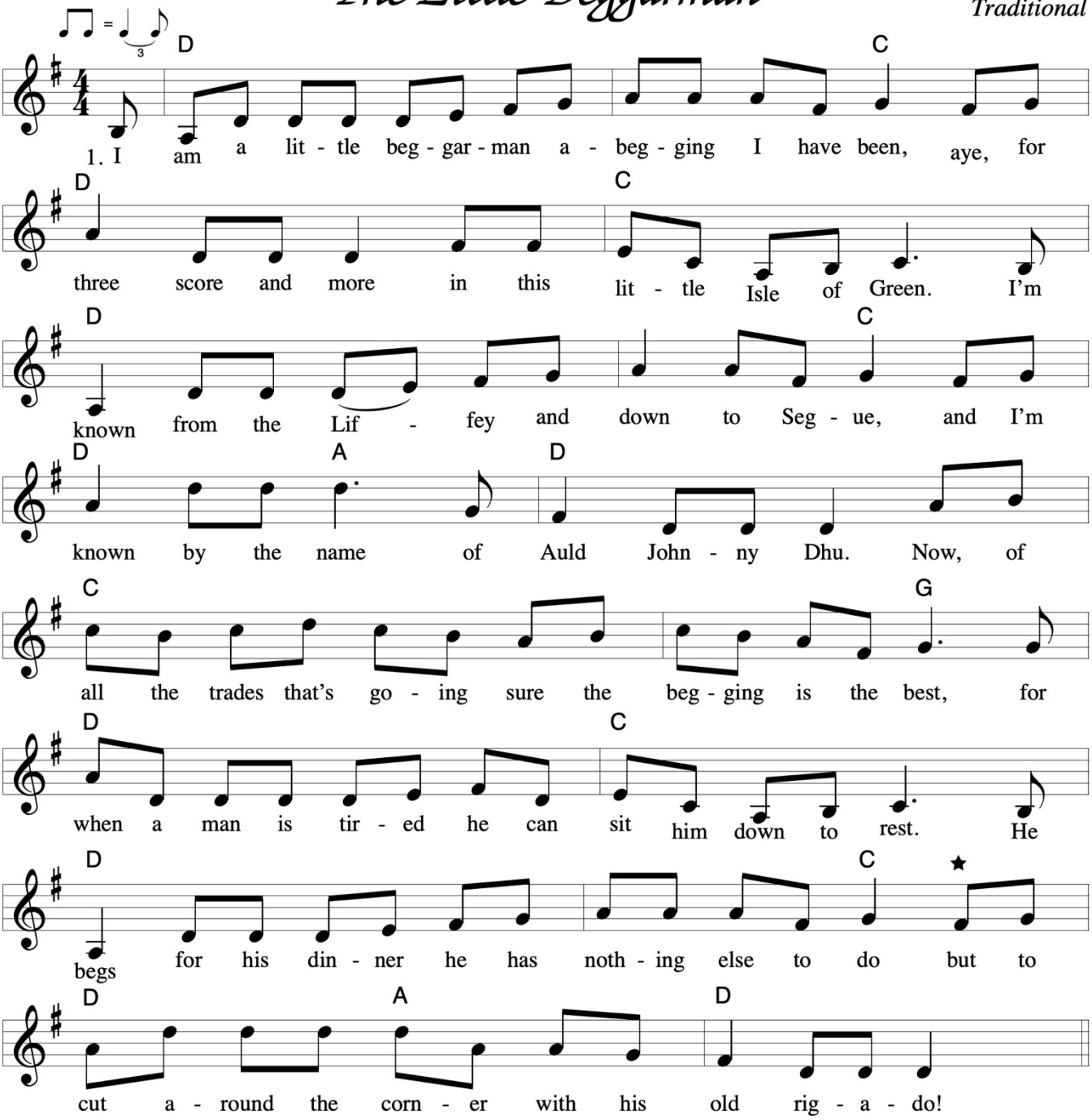
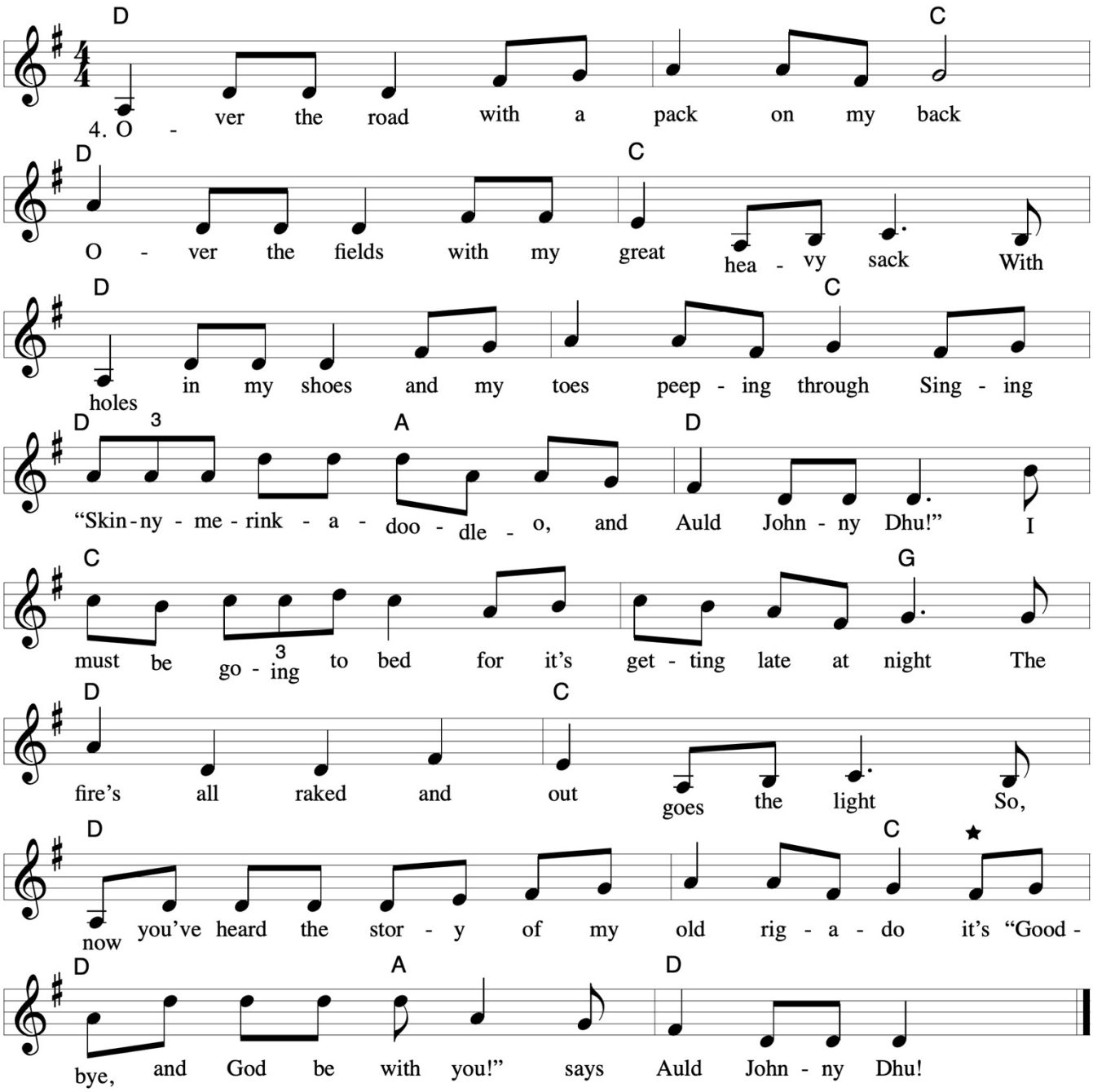
The Little Beggarman

Traditional



2. I slept in a barn way down a Currabawn
A wet night came on and I slept until the dawn
With holes in the roof and the rain coming through
And the rats and the cats, they were playing peek-a-boo!
Now, who should awaken but the woman of the house
With her white-spotty apron and her calico blouse?
She began to frighten, and I said "Boo!"
"Don't be afraid, ma'am – it's only Johnny Dhu!"

3. I met a little flaxy-haired girl one day
"Good morning, little flaxy-haired girl!" I did say
"Good morning, little beggarman, and how do you do,
With your rags, and your bags, and your old rig-a-do?"
I'll buy a pair of leggings, and a collar and a tie
And a nice young lady I'll fetch by and by
I'll buy a pair of goggles and I'll colour them blue
And an old-fashioned lady I will make of her, too!

arr. Peter McLaren

The Little Beggarman

Words & music: Traditional

D C
I am a little beggarman, a-begging I have been
D C
Aye, for three score and more in this little Isle of Green
D C
I'm known from the Liffey and down to Segue
D A D
And I'm known by the name of Auld Johnny Dhu
C G
Now, of all the trades that's going sure the begging is the best
D C
For when a man is tired he can sit him down to rest
D C
He begs for his dinner, he has nothing else to do
D A D
But to cut around the corner with his old rig-a-do!

D C
I slept in a barn way down a Currabawn
D C
A wet night came on and I slept 'til the dawn
D C
With holes in the roof and the rain coming through
D A D
And the rats and the cats, they were playing peek-a-boo!
C G
Now, who should awaken but the woman of the house
D C
With her white-spotty apron and her calico blouse?
D C
She began to frighten, and I said "Boo!"
D A D
"Don't be afraid, ma'am – it's only Johnny Dhu!"

D C
I met a little flaxy-haired girl one day
D C
"Good morning, little flaxy-haired girl!" I did say
D C
"Good morning, little beggarman, and how do you do,
D A D
With your rags, and your bags, and your old rig-a-do?"
C G
I'll buy a pair of leggings, and a collar and a tie
D C
And a nice young lady I'll fetch by and by
D C
I'll buy a pair of goggles and I'll colour them blue
D A D
And an old-fashioned lady I will make of her, too!

D **C**
Over the road with a pack on my back
D **C**
Over the fields with my great heavy sack
D **C**
With holes in my shoes and my toes peeping through
D **A** **D**
Singing “Skinny-me-rink-a-doodle-o, and Auld Johnny Dhu!”

C **G**
I must be going to bed for it’s getting late at night
D **C**
The fire’s all raked and out goes the light
D **C**
So, now you’ve heard the story of my old rig-a-do
D **A** **D**
It’s “Goodbye, and God be with you!” says Auld Johnny Dhu!