

Baptist Johnston

Turlough O'Carolan
(1670-1738)

The musical score for 'Baptist Johnston' is written in D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The notes are as follows: Staff 1: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. Staff 2: F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4. Staff 3: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. Staff 4: F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4. Staff 5: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. Staff 6: F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4. Staff 7: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, G, D, A, D, A, G, D, A, D, Bm, G, A, D, A, G (tacet), A, D, G, D, G, D, A, D. The piece ends with a double bar line.

arr. Peter McLaren

This piece, sometimes titled Planxty Johnston, was composed by Carolan in honor of Baptist Johnston of Tully, Co. Monaghan, who was High Sherrif for that county in 1728.

Although notated in the key of C in Donal O'Sullivan's Carolan, The Life and Music of an Irish Harper, it is commonly performed in the key of D. The punctuated g-note (and accompanying chord) in bar 10 of the B-section, is a purely interpretive feature sometimes employed for effect by modern performers, and not something indicated in transcriptions of the piece that have been handed down through the years.