

The Wind That Shakes the Barley

Robert Dwyer Joyce

First system of musical notation. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 2/2 time signature. The melody is written in eighth notes. Above the staff are the chords: D, Bm, D, G, Bm. Below the staff is the guitar tablature for the first four measures, with fret numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4.

Second system of musical notation. The top staff continues the melody. Above the staff are the chords: D, G, D, Bm, D, G, D, Bm. Below the staff is the guitar tablature for measures 5 through 8, with fret numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4.

Third system of musical notation. The top staff continues the melody. Above the staff are the chords: D, G, D, Bm, D, G, D, Bm. Below the staff is the guitar tablature for measures 9 through 12, with fret numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and fingerings 1, 2, 3, 4.

"The Wind That Shakes the Barley" is an Irish ballad written by Robert Dwyer Joyce (1836–1883), a Limerick-born poet and professor of English literature. The song is written from the perspective of a doomed young Wexford rebel who is about to sacrifice his relationship with his loved one and plunge into the cauldron of violence associated with the 1798 rebellion in Ireland. The references to barley in the song derive from the fact that the rebels often carried barley or oats in their pockets as provisions for when on the march. This gave rise to the post-rebellion phenomenon of barley growing and marking the "croppy-holes," mass unmarked graves into which slain rebels were thrown, symbolizing the regenerative nature of Irish resistance to British rule.