

The Lads of Kilkenny

It's the boys of Kil - ken - ny are stout ro - ving blades, And if

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The first system of musical notation for 'The Lads of Kilkenny' consists of four staves. The top two staves are treble clefs, and the bottom two are bass clefs. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are repeated on each staff.

5

e - ver they meet with some nice lit - tle maids, They'll

e - ver they meet with some nice lit - tle maids, They'll

e - ver they meet with some nice lit - tle maids, They'll

The second system of musical notation starts at measure 5. It follows the same four-staff format as the first system, with treble and bass clefs and the same key and time signatures. The lyrics are repeated on each staff.

9

kiss and they'll court them and spend their mo - ney

kiss and they'll court them and spend their mo - ney

kiss and they'll court them and spend their mo - ney

The third system of musical notation starts at measure 9. It follows the same four-staff format as the previous systems, with treble and bass clefs and the same key and time signatures. The lyrics are repeated on each staff.

free; And it's down in old I - re - land, Kil - ken - ny for me.

free, And it's down in old Ire - land, Kil - ken - ny for me.

free, And it's down in old Ire - land, Kil - ken - ny for me.

The musical score consists of four staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and folk-like, with lyrics written below each staff.

In the town of Kilkenny there runs a clear stream;
 In the town of Kilkenny there lives a fair dame.
 Her cheeks are like roses, her lips much the same,
 Like a dish of fresh strawberries smothered in cream.

Her eyes are as black as Kilkenny's famed coal,
 Which through my poor bosom has burnt a large hole.
 Her mind like its river is mild, clear and pure,
 But her heart is more hard than its marble, I'm sure.

Kilkenny's a pretty town it shines where it stands,
 And the more I think of it the more my heart warms.
 And if I was in Kilkenny I should think myself at home,
 For there I had sweethearts but here I have none.

I'll build my love a castle on Kilkenny's free ground;
 Neither lords, dukes, nor squires shall ever pull down;
 And if anyone should ask you to tell him my name,
 I am an Irish exile and from Kilkenny I came.

Sung by Mrs Berry (who learnt it from her father), Leith Hill Farm, Surrey.

Collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams in Sept or Oct 1904.

In the 1901 census, Mrs Philis [sic] Berry (55) is listed as living at Leith Hill Cottages with her husband, Edmund (59), a coachman, and their sons Joseph (30), an agricultural labourer, and Ephraim (26) a groom. They also have a visitor, Rose Longhurst (26). By 1911 they had retired to Forest Green, living next door to Joseph, now a farmer and 'cartage contractor', but Ephraim continued to work as a groom at Leith Hill.

RVW's MS has only lines 1, 2 & 4 of v1; remainder supplied from a broadside 'The Boys of Kilkenny' printed by Harkness of Preston.