

A Tribute to Paddy Ryan

Air (The Bantry Girl's Lament)

Oh who will teach the Trad. Class, now that Paddy Ryan is gone
And who will run the F.E.T.A.C. Course, that Paddy has moved on
Who will play the fiddles now and keep them all in tune
Since Paddy Ryan retired from the V.E.C. in June

Who will teach the Concert-flute, and the Silver-flute as well
And who will tell the stories like, what Paddy used to tell
Who will say ninety-eight times more, like Paddy used to do
When Paddy taught traditional tunes, to people just like you

Who will teach the D scale, that begins with D E F G
And who will teach the scale of C, that begins with C D E
Who will teach the G scale, that begins with G A B C
And who will teach the Tonic Solfa, that begins with do, ray, me

Who will teach the Melodeon and the two row button accordion
And who will strum the guitar strings, to demonstrate a chord again
Who will teach the concertina, the flageolet and the whistle
Now that Paddy has retired and blown out his Clarke's tin whistle

Who will tune the harp strings, with an ear as sharp as a lance
And who will know the steps and sets, that our fore fathers used to dance
Who will talk of The Signatures, The Mode, The Bars and The Format
The Notes per tune, The Tonal Range, Note Values and all that

Who will speak of the founders, of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann
And the nineteen hundred and fifty one, first fleadh Cheoil ná hEireann
Of Leo Rowsome the piper and Cumann na bPiobairi Uileann
And Aggie White's All Ireland win, that makes her one in a million

Who will speak of O'Carolan, who composed his own Concerto
And of Charlie Lennon who christened a reel "The Highest Hill in Sligo"
Of Josephine Keegan whose compositions, include the reel "Aughacashel"
And of Josie McDermott who Double jig, is called "Domnick's farewell to Cashel"

Who will play old recordings, of musicians from by-gone days
Of Coleman, McGuire and Miko Russell, Johnny Doran and P.J. Hayes
Of John McKenna, Peg Needham, Pakie Duignan and Johnny O'Leary
The McDonagh Brothers, James Morrison, John Joe Gardiner and Ed Reavy

Who will speak of those fine musicians, whose music dwells in our memory
The great Joe Burke, Mat Molloy, Joe Liddy, John Regan, and Johnny Henry
Tommy Flynn, Fred Finn, Patsy Hanley, Peter Horan and Paddy O'Brien
Paddy Kenny, Paddy Canny, Paddy McElvaney, Paddy Fahey and Paddy Ryan

Who will run the workshops, when the special guests come along
Will P. J. Hernan play the box and will Colm O'Donnell sing a song
Will Brian McNamara play the pipes, John Carty the fiddle and banjo
And will Paddy do a little workshop too, on the Trad. Course in Drumshanbo

Oh who will teach the Trad. Class, now that Paddy Ryan is gone
And who will run the F.E.T.A.C. Course, that Paddy has moved on
Who will tune the fiddles now and who will choose the Key
Now that Paddy has retired from the Leitrim V. E. C.