

Red Haired Boy

Irish/American Reel

"Red Haired Boy" is a reel of Irish origin found in the United States and in the British Isles under a number of titles. In Ireland it is sung as "Little Beggarmen." "Soldier With A Wooden Leg" and "Red Haired Boy" are instrumental versions. Fretted dulcimer pioneer, Richard Fariña, recorded it as "Tommy Makem Fantasy." In the US it is a very common string band piece.

Arrangement for Dulcimers © Bonnie Carol 2001

Key of A
Mixolydian Melody
Tune D A DD, Capo 4
Strummed

$\text{♩} = 100$

Capo 4

<p>Bass D 11 9</p> <p>Middle A 0 0</p> <p>Treble DD 0 0</p>		<p>A</p> <p>8 0 0 ETC.</p>		<p>D</p> <p>0 0 0 5 6+ 7</p>		<p>8 9 8 6+ 7 6+ 7</p>
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The first system of musical notation shows a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of two measures. The first measure is marked with a repeat sign and the letter 'A'. The second measure is marked with the letter 'D'. Below the treble staff are three lines for dulcimer fretting: Bass D, Middle A, and Treble DD. Fretting numbers are provided for each measure.

<p>A</p> <p>8 0 0 5 6+</p>		<p>G</p> <p>8 9 10 9</p>		<p>5 0 0 0 0</p>
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The second system of musical notation shows a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of two measures. The first measure is marked with the letter 'A'. The second measure is marked with the letter 'G'. Below the treble staff are two lines for dulcimer fretting: Middle A and Bass D. Fretting numbers are provided for each measure.

<p>A</p> <p>8 0 ETC.</p>		<p>D</p> <p>0 0 0 5 6+ 7</p>		<p>8 9 8 6+ 7 6+ 7</p>
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The third system of musical notation shows a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of two measures. The first measure is marked with the letter 'A'. The second measure is marked with the letter 'D'. Below the treble staff are two lines for dulcimer fretting: Middle A and Bass D. Fretting numbers are provided for each measure.

<p>A</p> <p>8 11 11 9 8 7</p>		<p>1</p> <p>6+ 0 0 0 0</p>		<p>2</p> <p>11 9 . 0 ETC.</p>		<p>6+ 0 0 8 9</p>
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The fourth system of musical notation shows a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody consists of two measures. The first measure is marked with the letter 'A'. The second measure is marked with a first ending bracket labeled '1' and a second ending bracket labeled '2'. Below the treble staff are two lines for dulcimer fretting: Middle A and Bass D. Fretting numbers are provided for each measure.

The Little Beggarman Lyrics:

*I am a little beggarman a beggin' I have been
For three score and more in this little Isle of Green.
And up to the Liffey and down to Tessague,
And I'm known by the name of the Bold Johnnie Dhu.*

*I slept last night in a barn at Currabawn.
A wet night came on and I slipped through the door.
Holes in me shoes and the toes peepin' through
Singin' skiddy-me-re-me-doodlum for old Johnnie Dhu.*

CHORUS:

*Of all the trades that's goin' sure a beggin' is the best,
For when a man is tired he can sit down have a rest.
He begs for his dinner, he has nothing else to do
Only cut around the corner with his old Ricadoo.*

*I must be gettin' home for it's gettin' late at night.
The fire's all raked and there isn't any light.
And now you've heard me story of the old Ricadoo,
It's good-night and God bless you from old Johnnie Dhu.*