

# Moll Roe / The Wheels of the World (G major)

traditional Irish Slip Jig

a.k.a.: Mall Rua, Máire Rua, Red Haired Mary

learned from bouzouki player and singer Tim Gray in 2005

there are several different lyrics to this air, e.g. "The Wheels of the World"

Recordings: De Dannan: *The 3rd Irish Folk Festival in Concert, Vol. 1* (1976); Eliot Grasso: *A New Dawn, Uilleann Piping, Another Generation (Compilation 1991)*; Robbie Hannan: *The Drones and the Chanters, Vol. 2 (Compilation 1994)*; Maire Breatnach Band: *Irish Folk Festival - Celtic Roots and Celtic Moods* (1996); Gay McKeon: *Irish Piping Tradition* (1997); Revolver: *Basico 2* (1997); Alasdair Gillies: *The Piping Centre 1996 - Recital Series, Vol. 1* (1997); McNamara Family: *Leitrim's Hidden Treasure* (1998); Hanz Araki: *Traditional Irish Music* (1999); *The Gallowglass Céilíband: Irish Dancing Time* (1999); Dónal Maguire: *Gilded Chains and Sordid Affluence* (2001, song and piping version); Declan Masterson: *Heartland* (2005); Martin McCormack: *Uilleann Pipes and Whistles* (2005); Carol Ashton: *A Children's Ceilidh* (2006); Dean Magraw & John Williams: *Raven* (2006); Dónal Maguire: *Michael Davitt - The Forgotten Hero?* (2006, song version); Frank Harte & Dónal Lunny: *1798 The First Year of Liberty* (2009, song version); Frankie Gavin, Rick Epping & Tim Edey: *Jiggin' the Blues* (2008); Frankie Gavin & De Danann: *Jigs, Reels and Rock n' Roll* (2010); Marla Fibish, Erin Shrader & Richard Mandel: *Three Mile Stone* (2010); Shelta: *Four Men and a Girl* (2012); *The Ned Devines: Live at Finnegan's Wake* (2013); Iain Goodwin & Tim Gray: *As the Crow Flies* (2013, Song version); Rose Clancy & Brendan Dolan: *Fiddle - Piano - Bass* (2014); Craobh Rua: *I'd Understand You If I Knew What You Meant* (2014); Rosie O'Leary, Alan O'Leary, Clare O'Leary: *It Was Great Altogether! The Continuing Tradition of Irish Music in London* (2016); Chris McMullan: *Uilleann Tales* (2017); Cordeen: *Musical Bridge* (2017); Ciana: *Rubicon* (2017); New York Studio of Irish Step Dance: *Dance the Town Green* (2017)

Come all ye true sons of Erin, attend to these few nimble lines  
I'll sing you a song about spinning, it was a good trade in its time.  
Some they spun worsted and yarn, others they spun flax and tow  
By experience, my friends, you can learn how the wheels of the world how they go.

William Pitt he was a great spinner, and so was Lord Castlereagh.  
They spun the Union for Ireland to England they shipped it away.  
Poor Pitt spun out his existence, then took a long trip on a boat.  
Then Lord Castlereagh saved the distance, by cutting the rim of his throat.

Napolean he was a great spinner, he freedom did always advance.  
Over deserts and high lofty mountains, he marched the brave sons of France.  
Old Wellington he went a-spinning, his wheels they were at Waterloo;  
But if Grouchy had never been bribed, thr French would have split him in two.

John Mitchell the true son of Erin, declared that a spinner he'd be.  
He set all the wheels in motion, his dear native land to set free.  
But John Bull that crafty old tyrant, at spinning he was fully bent.  
And to Van Dieman's Land the sons of old Ireland were sent.

The factory owners are spinning, ther wheels are turning away.  
And now they are wanting their hands to work thirteen hours a day.  
They don't give a fig for the poor, they heed not the sighs or the moans,  
Don't give a pin if you work 'til you spin all the flesh off your bones.

The rich they are all famous spinners, of that we are all very sure.  
They are always contriving a sceme to crush down the rights of the poor.  
So if you're compelled to go spinning, let each of your spindles be steel.  
Let liberty then be your motto, and glory will turn your big wheel.