

Mp3 Johnny Faa - Last Night's Fun



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Songs and instrumental dance tunes in the Irish tradition. 18 MP3 Songs WORLD: Celtic, FOLK: Celtic Folk Show all album songs: Last Night's Fun Songs Details: About the music We play Irish traditional music, a music that thrives as part of communities, of ex-pats and blow-ins, around the globe. We play together a lot, in sessions and concerts and for dancing, both locally and around the world, and have done for years. This record captures how we sound, on a good night at home, when the pubs quiet, the punters attentive, the pints are flowing, and maybe some old friends have stopped by. Welcome. Were glad youre here. About the tunes 1 Gan ainm / gan ainm / The Star Above the Garter (slides) Two un-named slides from Roger Landes, followed by one of the most loveliest titles in the tradition, allegedly a reference to the physical geometry of the Order of the Garter though we prefer to think it refers to another sort of splendid physical geometry. 2 The Fair Maid (song: Angie) A song of the sort our fans have come to call a cross-dressing sailor song. In some versions, the girl dresses in mans array in order to keep tabs on the boy, as he goes away to war. But in this version shes more self-actualizing than that: she takes herself away to sea, distinguishing herself on board, and causing searching self-examination for her shipmates. The oldest extant version is The Female Drummer, printed as a broadside by G. Jacques of Manchester around 1850. 3 O Farrell's Welcome to Limerick (slip-jig) This tune appears first in Mr OFarrells Collection of National Irish Music for the Union Pipes (1804), a manual confirming the popularity of the uilleann bagpipes on the London stage, and may have been either composed by, or simply associated with, him. Seamus Ennis invented a much coarser Gaelic title, which he appears to have conjured purely for the purpose of embarrassing monolingual folklorists! 4 Heather on the Moor (song: John) A song which the great Scottish singer Archie Fisher got from Traveler Belle Stewart of Blairgowrie, and which Hamish Henderson in turn linked to Child Ballad #228, Glasgow Peggy. 5 An

Suisin Bn / Tommy Coen's / The West Clare (air reels) The White Blanket was printed in Dublin as early as 1724; Tommy Coen of East Galway (1910-74) was the composer of the second tune; Paddy O'Brien of Offaly (and the great band Chulrua) attributes the third tune to Clares Micho Russell. 6 The Derry Hornpipe / The Staten Island Hornpipe The Derry is known in many different versions, up to six parts, but this 2-part setting is commonly associated with step-dance. The Staten Island is a very widely-distributed tune, whose title is possibly a reference to the quartering of British troops during the American Revolution (though there are many other Staten Islands around the world). This set features the great hard-shoe dancer, and our dear friend, Kathleen Finley. 7 The Coolin (air, adapted) Originally a slow tune, which Francis O'Neill called The Queen of Irish airs. The great Comber flute-player, Tara Diamond (nee Bingham) is the source for this crooked march version. 8 I'll Tell Me Ma / Lisheen Polkas (song: Steve polkas) Also known as My Aunt Jane, after a very popular childrens skipping song whose tune originated with the German Krakovienne (1840s) printed in Boehme but eventually distributed across Ireland, Britain, and the Southern US. The Lisheens with which we follow the song come from the playing of Jackie Daly and Maire O'Keefe 9 The Humours of Ennystimon / The Humours of Ballyloughlin / The Diplodocus (jigs) Two big tunes associated with the piping tradition, and a third by Chicagos MacArthur Genius Grant recipient Liz Carroll. We've come to call this the Neo-Platonic set, for the way the tunes modulate higher and higher. However, it could equally be understood as a reference to Hippocrates Four Humours (Choleric, Melancholic, Sanguine, Phlegmatic): we leave you to determine which Humour applies to which of we four! The Diplodocus is copyright 1992 Liz Carroll and used by her kind permission. 10 Lord Franklin (song: Angie) Originally a broadside ballad referencing the doomed Northwest Passage voyage of Sir James Franklin (1845-48). Bob Dylan borrowed it from Martin Carthy; we got it, all those years ago in the 1970s, from Pentangle. The tune is also related to that commonly employed for the rebel song The Croppy Boy. 11 Port na Bpucai (slow air) / Lord Mayo (march) / The Gypsy Princess (barn-dance) / Maggie McGees (schottische) / Dinky Dorrians (reel) We've come to call this the Crooked Set, for the way that the various tunes take away a beat here and add it there. Evolved over time in our home pub sessions. Special thanks to our Texas session-mates, and to Grey Larsen, source of Michael Kennedys Maggie McGees. 12 Here I Am from Donegal (song: Chris) A bitter song decrying details of the racist caricature of the Irish popular on the vaudeville stages and in the illustrated papers of Victorian England. Originally collected by Len Graham from Eddie Butcher of Derry; this version

is a compendium of those by Frank Harte (Dublin) and Mick Moloney (Limerick). 13 The Lady on the Island / The Trip to Durrow / The Silver Spire (reels) The first, a very common tune, is associated (though probably apocryphally) with the Statue of Liberty; the second comes from Breathnachs Ceol Rince na Eireann; the third was recorded in New York around 1930 by the great Sligo expatriate fiddler Paddy Killoran. 14 Willie Calvin's Surprise (song: Steve) I wrote this song in 1990 as a tribute to Willie after making an unannounced visit to where he worked on the Bushmills Road. The song is the story of that emotional return. Rest in peace good man. (Steve) 15 Mrs Crowleys / The Continental (polkas) The first is named after Mrs. Crowley of Kenmare in East Kerry; the second Brendan Larrisey calls The Continental, but its certainly associated with London Bridge, and an old tune, referring to a certain solitary pastime, called Leather Away the Wattle-O. 16 The Humours of Whiskey (song: John) Also known as Stick to the Craythur; collected in Clare by Tom Munnely from source singer Tom Lenihan and published in Munnelys A Mount Callan Garland. 17 The Rambling and Sporting Pitchforks (jigs) In 19th-century Ireland, a pitchfork was a wandering farm laborer: to signal you were looking for work, youd arrive at the market with your tools over your shoulder. Rambling was wandering for work; Sporting was what ensued on quarter-day (payday). 18 There's the Day (song: Chris-live) From the singing of Fermanaghs Cathal McConnell. Recorded by Alan Crossland as good night, or perhaps more accurately, good morning, at the end of an epic pub session. Thanks to the Usual Suspects chorus! About the band Steve Cooper was born in Belfast, immigrated to the US as a child, and inherits traditional music (particularly Northern song) through his father, a noted singer. Angela Mariani is a vocalist and instrumentalist trained in rock, folk, and early musics and teaches in Texas Tech Universitys Musicology Department. John Perrin is trained in rock, classical, and folk styles, with experience at a wide range of traditional musics, and works as a band director in the Austin area. Chris is a multi-instrumentalist and musicologist, the author of Celtic Backup for All Instrumentalists, and directs the TTU Vernacular Music Center. About the recording Personnel: Steve Cooper (flute, tin whistle, guitar, song); Angela Mariani (guitar, mandola, song); John Perrin (bodhrn, song); Chris Smith (bouzouki, tenor banjo, button accordion, guitar, song); Kathleen Finley (step-dance, tr. 6) Recorded mixed Summer/Fall 2006 at Route 1 Acuff Studios, Texas Engineered mastered by Alan Crossland Produced by Alan Crossland the band Cover design by Shelly Teague at Word Publications, Lubbock, Texas Photos: Cover: Dusk, Kilronan, Inis Mr (Michelle Lessing) Back cover: Dun Eochla, Inis Mr (Corey Green) Traycard: Drumcliff Churchyard, Sligo (Michelle Lessing)

Booklet insert: Ballaghaderreen, Roscommon (Michelle Lessing) Band: Klusoz, Lubbock TX (Cate Logan)

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