

1 THE IRISH WASHERWOMAN

If there is one tune that announces the stereotype of *Irishness* it is *The Irish Washerwoman*. Used as background music for performances of every kind, from the stage-Irish caricature of Old Mother Riley in Music Hall days to the famous 'Irish' movie *The Quiet Man* starring John Wayne, it has long been the best known of all Irish jigs. Yet, in spite of apparent over-exposure, it remains perennially popular with fiddlers and was recorded as recently as 1991 by Paddy Glackin on his album *In Full Spate* (Gael-Linn CEFCD153). The bowing here is one-stroke-to-a-note. The two quavers before the first bar-line (known as *pick-up notes*) are not accented.

The musical score for "The Irish Washerwoman" is presented in four staves, all in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The notation includes various chords and bowing directions (accents and breath marks).

Staff 1: Chords: G, Am, D. Bowing: accents and breath marks under notes.

Staff 2: Chords: G, Am, D, G. Bowing: accents and breath marks under notes.

Staff 3: Chords: G, D. Bowing: accents and breath marks under notes. A fourth finger (4) is indicated above a note in the third measure.

Staff 4: Chords: C, G, Am, G, Am, D, G. Bowing: accents and breath marks under notes. A 2/2 time signature is indicated above the first measure.