

JOHN STENSON'S REEL No. 1

In Irish music sessions, two or three tunes of the same type are often played one after the other in a 'set'. The set will usually be the same type of tune, such as jigs or reels, and is often named for the musician that starts and is known for that particular set, such as John Ryan's Polkas or Dinny Delaney's Jigs. Apparently, Stenson was known for a set of reels called John Stenson's #1 and #2. This is the middle tune in a set of three recorded by Irish fiddler Kevin Burke on his 1978 solo album. It is believed that Stenson was an accordion and banjo player from a farm by the lake near Sligo, Ireland. There is a commemorative statue of a young man named John Stenson on the outskirts of the village Riverstown in County Sligo who was shot in 1908 during a cattle drive of the "Ranch Wars".

Tuning: DAD

Style: Strum all, but reach down and pick middle string notes to follow the melody

Structure: AABB

Traditional Irish Reel
arr. Gwen Caeli

For easy fingering, create a chorded melody with 'pivot' points, holding an anchor finger on the middle string while pivoting on the melody string:

Example of first two measures:

0 0_ 0_ 0_ 0_ 0_ 0_ 0_ 0_ 1_ _____
 3 3_ 3_ 3_ 3_ 3_ 3_ 3_ 3_ 0_ 2_ _____
 0 2_ 4_ 2_ 4_ 5_ 4_ 2_ 1_ _____