

GRADE 2 BODHRÁN TUTOR & CD

in support of

2016-2020 Irish Traditional Music Syllabus

LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC EXAMINATIONS – UNIVERSITY OF WEST LONDON



Fergal O'Brien & René de Kat

Traditional Arts Partnership || Ring of Gullion

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GRADE 2 BODHRÁN TUTOR & CD



Author: Fergal O'Brien



Co-author: René de Kat

CD production: Tom Watson

Tin Whistle - Carol Hughes

Bodhráns: Fergal O'Brien all tracks except

Track 21- René de Kat



Michael McCann with farming sieve at Tí Chulainn, Mullaghbawn 2007

Contents full book

Acknowledgements	I
Introduction	II
LCM requirements for Grade 2 Bodhrán	III
Component 1: Performance 60 marks	III
Component 2: Repertoire 20 marks	III
Component 3: Supplementary Tests 20 marks	III
Guide to using the book with the CD	IV
Tunes for performance	1
Legacy Double Jig 6/8 (CD tracks 1-3)	1
Concertina Reel 4/4 (CD tracks 4-6)	5
Ballydesmond Polka 2/4 (CD tracks 7-9)	9
Tunes for repertoire	11
Man from Newry (Swansea Hornpipe) 4/4 (CD tracks 10-12)	11
Butterfly Slip Jig 9/8 (CD tracks 13-15)	15
Brian Boru's March 6/8 (CD tracks 16-18)	19
Lucy Farr's Barn Dance 4/4 (CD tracks 19-21)	23
Sonny's Mazurka 3/4 (CD tracks 22-24)	27
Supplementary questionnaire (further information on CD tracks 25-26)	31
Supplementary questionnaire answers	33
Traditional Arts Partnership	5
Useful reading / tutor DVDs	6
Books	6
DVDs	6
CD	6
Online resources	6
About the author: Fergal O'Brien	7
About the co-author: René de Kat	8



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Introduction

This publication was inspired by thirteen bodhrán candidates from the Traditional Arts Partnership (Ring of Gullion) who took part in the first ever London College of Music (LCM) bodhrán exams in June 2016. All candidates achieved distinctions across grades 2, 4, 6 and 8. St Mary's Primary School in Mullaghbawn hosted the LCM examinations.

The current LCM Irish Traditional examination syllabus is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/z38ccvn> (see p42-p43 for information on the bodhrán).

Further information about LCM exams can be found on the following website: <http://www.uwl.ac.uk/lcmexams>

The purpose of this book is **not** to create a beginner guide to the bodhrán, as there are already a number of good guides and accompanying CDs available (listed later). It is about sharing tunes and knowledge which enabled the Traditional Arts Partnership bodhrán “pioneers” to achieve their success. Performance & repertoire tunes and supplementary tests are from **our own** interpretation of the syllabus and other teachers will have many other examples they will use. A lot depends on the repertoire of the accompanist!

I hope it will be of interest to bodhrán tutors and candidates who embark on similar journeys. It was fun, but be prepared to put time and work into your efforts! Please feel free to drop me a line and tell me what you think was useful and not so useful.

Further copies and a bodhrán buying guide are available via our website <https://bodhrangradetutor.com>

Fergal O'Brien Obrien.fergal@yahoo.co.uk

LCM requirements for Grade 2 Bodhrán

Component 1: Performance 60 marks

The candidate will be expected to accompany **three** tunes of different types, at least one of which should be a **double jig or reel**. The principal requirements at Grade 2 are to keep a steady pulse and reflect different tune rhythms. There is no requirement at this level to vary the tone or dynamic, to use the rim or to use different beaters.

Component 2: Repertoire 20 marks

Five tunes of different types should be prepared and the examiner will invite the candidate to accompany a number of these

Component 3: Supplementary Tests 20 marks

- To beat time (clap or foot tap) in a polka, double jig, reel or march performed by the examiner
- To recognise tune types (air, polka or double jig) when performed by the examiner
- To accompany a polka when performed by the examiner
- To identify instruments (tin whistle, flute, fiddle, accordion, harp) in audio extracts played by the examiner
- To name any five instruments commonly used for Irish traditional music and to describe the bodhrán in detail
- The candidate will be expected to name two prominent players of the bodhrán

“Many congratulations on the publication of the tutor book. This is a very welcome development. Thank you for incorporating the new LCM bodhrán syllabus so firmly into your teaching.”

Patrick Davey, Senior Examiner LCM Examinations



Guide to using the book with the CD

The next sections are designed to help bodhrán candidates understand different tune types, and to be able to accompany tunes. You will need the accompanying CD before you start.

The examiner will ask you to play 3 performance pieces and a selection of tunes from your repertoire, but you need to know all 8 pieces.

Every tune has a time signature at the start. For example, 4/4 means 4 crotchet beats and you count 1 2 3 4. 6/8 means 6 quaver beats and you count 1 2 3 4 5 6, and so on.

Tunes are broken into bars with equal number of beats in each bar. Most tunes will be broken into an A and a B part, with each part repeated. When you see “X 2” it means that a part is being repeated.

When you see a ↓, you play a down stroke.

When you see a ↑, you play an up stroke.

Beats in **bold**, or a thicker arrow mean a stronger accent (*play louder on the beat*).

There are three steps on the CD for each tune:


1. A slow version with the rhyme
2. A version for you to play along with
3. A version for you to hear how the teacher plays it

When you are preparing for the exams practice tunes twice round. In other words, play the AA BB parts, and repeat.

René de Kat has created an alternative sheet music version of each tune, to complement the arrow diagrams, so that candidates who learn best using sheet music will have an alternative way to learn.

The CD contains the performance and repertoire tunes, followed by a number of supplementary exercises. Other helpful information can be found in the supplementary questionnaire.





































Good luck!









Sample Tune







Legacy Double Jig 6/8 (CD tracks 1-3)

Part A X 2







<p>Shake</p>  <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>shake</p>  <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p>	<p>leg - ac - y</p>  <p>1</p>  <p>2</p>  <p>3</p> <p>leg - ac - y</p>  <p>4</p>  <p>5</p>  <p>6</p>
<p>Make</p>  <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>make</p>  <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p>	<p>leg - ac - y</p>  <p>1</p>  <p>2</p>  <p>3</p> <p>leg - ac - y</p>  <p>4</p>  <p>5</p>  <p>6</p>
<p>Shake</p>  <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>shake</p>  <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p>	<p>leg - ac - y</p>  <p>1</p>  <p>2</p>  <p>3</p> <p>leg - ac - y</p>  <p>4</p>  <p>5</p>  <p>6</p>
<p>Down</p>  <p>1</p> <p>the</p>  <p>2</p> <p>drum</p>  <p>3</p> <p>up</p>  <p>4</p> <p>the</p>  <p>5</p> <p>drum</p>  <p>6</p>	<p>ov - er</p>  <p>1</p>  <p>2</p> <p>and</p>  <p>3</p> <p>ov - er</p>  <p>4</p>  <p>5</p> <p>and</p>  <p>6</p>

Part B X 2







Down	the	drum	up	the	drum
					
1	2	3	4	5	6

ov - er	and	ov - er	and		
					
1	2	3	4	5	6







Down	the	drum	up	the	drum
1	2	3	4	5	6

ov - er	and	ov - er	and		
					
1	2	3	4	5	6

Down	the	drum	up	the	drum
1	2	3	4	5	6

ov - er	and	ov - er	and		
					
1	2	3	4	5	6

Make			make		
1	2	3	4	5	6

leg - ac - y	leg - ac - y				
					
1	2	3	4	5	6

Legacy Double Jig

Tune

Bodhrán

Shake shake leg-ac-y leg-ac-y Make make leg-ac-y leg-ac-y Shake shake

6

Tune

Bodhrán

leg-ac-y leg-ac-y Down the drum up the drum ov-er and ov-er and

9

Tune

Bodhrán

ov - er and ov - er and

The image displays a musical score for 'Legacy Double Jig'. It is organized into three systems, each containing a 'Tune' staff (treble clef, key of D major, 6/8 time) and a 'Bodhrán' staff (bass clef, 6/8 time). The lyrics are written below the Bodhrán staff, with rhythmic notation (upward and downward arrows) indicating the timing of the words. The first system covers measures 1-5, the second system covers measures 6-8, and the third system covers measures 9-11. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and repeat signs. The lyrics are: 'Shake shake leg-ac-y leg-ac-y Make make leg-ac-y leg-ac-y Shake shake', 'leg-ac-y leg-ac-y Down the drum up the drum ov-er and ov-er and', and 'ov - er and ov - er and'.

10

Tune

Bodhrán

Down the drum up the drum ov - er and ov - er and Down the drum up the drum

↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑

13

Tune

Bodhrán

ov - er and ov - er and Down the drum up the drum ov - er and ov - er and Make make

↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↓

17

Tune

Bodhrán

leg - ac - y leg - ac - y leg - ac - y leg - ac - y

↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑ ↓ ↑

Traditional Arts Partnership

The Traditional Arts Partnership (TAP) is a community based collaboration; promoting and celebrating Traditional Arts in the South Armagh area. It has a range of tutors teaching 10 different instruments, and sean-nós singing classes in English and Irish. TAP annually attracts between 120-160 children and adults, and is based in St Mary's Primary, Mullaghbawn. Every young musician is encouraged to regard themselves as a teacher, mentor and exemplar for their peers and their community.

A key component of the tuition is the Grúpa Cheoil classes. Here, young musicians play together as a team on a wide variety of instruments, learning and playing intricate arrangements on tunes, and developing individual and collective confidence. TAP is keen to foster social and community development through the medium of happy music-making. Young musicians are given the opportunity to perform at a wide range of community, cross-community, national and international events.

TAP has attracted children from ten primary, and eight post-primary schools from a wide variety of social and cultural backgrounds.

From 2014, it has been engaging in successful cross-community traditional arts collaboration with the Markethill area.

TAP has a close association, and affiliation to the Ring of Gullion Comhaltas. Its musicians play at its well established Tuesday night session in the Welcome Inn, Forkhill and have brought honour to the branch at all levels of Fleadh Cheoil. It annually produces upwards of 100 young musicians taking part in local Feisanna and Fleadh Cheoil.

In 2016 it became an accredited centre for LCM examinations and its first cohort of 19 students enjoyed great success in their first traditional music exams. We are delighted that our bodhrán tutors led by Fergal O'Brien have produced this bodhrán examination publication, and their enthusiasm, commitment and dedication shines through every facet of this publication.

Elaine O'Sullivan, Musical Coordinator TAP



Useful reading / tutor DVDs

Books

- Andy Kruspe, *The Bodhrán Primer* (2014)
- Bill Woods, *Bodhrán The Basics: A Beginner's Guide to Playing the Bodhrán Book/CD* (Mel Bay, 2009)
- Conor Long, *Absolute Beginner's Bodhrán Tutor vm 1405 Cassette* (Waltons, 1998)
- Fintan Vallely, *Companion to Irish Traditional Music, 2nd Edition* (Cork University Press, 2011)
- Micheál Ó Súilleabháin, *The Bodhrán* (Dublin, 1994)
- Peter Houlahan, *The Irish Drum – An Bodhrán* (Mel Bay, 2007)
- Steáfán Hannigan, *The Bodhrán Book and CD* (2005)

DVDs

- Eamon Murray, *Bodhrán Soup*
(<http://eamonmurray.ie/tutorial-vids/>)
- Tommy Hayes, *Bodhrán, Bones and Spoons*
(<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Tommy-Hayes-Bodhran-Bones-Spoons/dp/B000T4U13I>)

CD

- Various Artists, *Pure Bodhrán: The Definitive Collection*, (2005)

Online resources

- Videos for beginners including tutorials on different playing styles <https://bodhrangradetutor.com/videos>




About the author: Fergal O'Brien

- From a traditional music family in Portglenone - mother Ann won the All Ireland Slow Air Fiddle Competition in 1976
- 1979 & 1980 All Ireland winner of Slógadh with Clann Lughaidh who appeared on BBC's '*As I Roved Out*' and at the Interceltic festival in Lorient
- Teaching bodhrán at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels since 1986 in Belfast and from 2006 with the Traditional Arts Partnership
- 2001 Member of Loughshore Traditions group who published '*Together in Time*' (featuring compositions from John Kennedy)
- 2002 '*Dawntide*' - played on Irish/Persian CD with Zarb
- 2004 Player and coordinator on re-recording of '*Tubular Bells*' under original producer Tom Newman, a large scale community project
- 2006 & 2008 Member of All Ireland winning Mullaghbawn Scór Instrumental Group
- 2007 Produced '*What's the Scór?*' CD celebrating talent from Mullaghbawn performing music, song and poetry
- 2008 Produced '*Bodhrán for Beginners*' CD
- 2012-2016 Bodhrán coordinator/player in '*Titanic Drums*' - a musical extravaganza created by John Anderson & Mark Wilson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hsZS1wtiRE>
- 2014 & 2015 Performed in Osteria Grutli, Switzerland with Finbar Magee, Breige Quinn and Patrick Martin
- 2015 Guest appearance with "Stonewall" folk group in Atlanta, Georgia
- 2016 Achieved distinction in grade 8 bodhrán - LCM

About the co-author: René de Kat

- Originally from The Netherlands where he studied the organ, piano and drums.
- 2012 Moved to Ireland and picked up the bodhrán.
- 2013 Created and organised The PigGig festival in South Armagh with fellow musician Terry Conlon. Acts have included The Rapparees, Kevin Conneff of “The Chieftains”, and David Martin of “The Irish Tenors”.
- 2014 Founder member of Gullion. Other members included guitarist Darágh McNulty and box players Catherine McCann and William Dundon.
- 2015 until present: teaching bodhrán at beginner and intermediate levels with the Traditional Arts Partnership
- 2016 Bodhrán player in ‘*Titanic Drums*’
- 2016 Performed in the Dublin Institute of Technology Conservatory of Music and Drama with fiddler Róisín Ward Morrow.





"Fergal is a lovely player and has brought many great young players through his tuition ranks. What he's put together here is a wonderful breakdown of rhythm along to specific melodies from the tradition and will no doubt be a great aide to players coming through. More and more people want to learn through some kind of system of notation. Fergal and René's notation is simple to pick up and ideal for this kind of learning. Mighty work from mighty men."

Eamon Murray

"I have read many tutorials over the years, but found this one in particular to be really well delivered, with clear and creative instructional methods used throughout. Fergal's long history of teaching is evident within the publication and a sincerity comes off each and every page. In today's world of bodhrán playing there are many methods of learning and I thoroughly advise you to pick up a copy of this fantastic tutorial. Happy playing!"

John Joe Kelly