

# 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.

Musical score for "The Irish Washerwoman" in G major, 2/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with two pick-up notes (quavers) before the first bar-line. Chords G, Am, and D are indicated above the notes. The second staff continues the melody with chords Am, D, and G. The third staff features a triplet of eighth notes and a chord D. The fourth staff starts with a C chord, followed by G, Am, G, Am, D, and G. The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature.

Taken From Pete Cooper's excellent book 'Mel Bays Complete Irish Fiddle Player' ISBN 0 7866 039 1