

Cader Idris

(Cadair Idris, Arthur's Chair, (My) Sweet Jenny / Jennie Jones)

A composition of the 19th century harper John Parry, 'Bardd Alaw', and named by him after the mountain in Meirionnydd, Wales.

This (as Sweet Jenny Jones) is a tune from the Welsh Borders and was enormously popular throughout England (I don't know about Wales) in the Nineteenth century. It is used as a Morris tune (not gently rocking but with a punchy upbeat three beat) in a couple of traditions. It was pinched by the Northumbrians, renamed Grace Darling after a local heroine and variations were composed..

Comments by various contributors to The Session

Its a memorable tune and deserves to be played boldly. Its certainly got too much fire to tiddle about as a woosey slow waltz. - Noel Jackson

This tune is AKA Cader Idris (Arthur's Chair and there is a Welsh Trad dance associated with it. The dance is very similar to, or the same as a dance I've seen done at Nashville contra dances called The Duke of Kent's Waltz. I can recall seeing the dance done in Vermont as well, but don't know what it was called. When I used to play Nashville dances I would use The Ash Grove for this dance. This was before I learned of the Welsh connection, so my instinct was pretty good on that one. The tunes have a similar feeling and make a nice medley. O'Carolan's Beauty in Tears may also be based on the Ash Grove melody.

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Bardd Alaw

trad. Welsh - FF Version

Waltz

AABAAB

D D Em A D G D G A D

D D A G A D A G A

17 D D Em A D G D G A D

Playing Notes:

- none.