



## Music Review: 99 Irish Dance Tunes arranged by Anne McGinty (1980), Alfred Publishing Company

Review by BJ Nicoletti

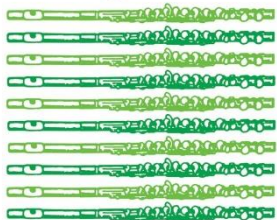


**It's that time of year – St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner.** As usual, I can imagine I am in

good company among GPFS members when I say I have the sudden desire to play Irish music and lots of it. This year I picked up this charming, thoughtfully organized book of Irish dance tunes arranged by [Anne McGinty](#), an American flutist and composer (much chamber with flute/flute ensemble and a prolific concert band composer too). She also owns her own publishing company – [McGinty Music](#).

Overall, this collection arranged specifically for flute is simply a fun St. Patrick's day treat for the intermediate to advanced the flutist - especially for flutists with Celtic heritage in their blood! It also has fun and pedagogical value for the flute student/teacher. Here are some reasons to pick up a copy:

Anne McGinty's  
**99 IRISH  
DANCE TUNES  
for FLUTE**



- The book has 99 tunes, typically four to five lines, of reels, hornpipes, double jigs, long dances, marches and airs. The tunes are edited for flute players so much more suitable than fiddle tune books. Link to book – [99 Irish Dance Tunes](#), Alfred Publishing.
- As a flute teacher, she thoughtfully transposed the tunes to include six in every major key and two in each relative minor.
- In addition, these Irish tunes are an opportunity to practice playing for phrase to phrase versus any emphasis on playing by the measure.

- Most of the tunes, if taken up tempo, offer a chance to practice double tonguing.
- The range of the tunes is typically between first register d to third register f.
- There is a nice balance of tempos – slow and lyrical airs to “rollicking dance tempo.”

Frankly, I find many Irish Tune collections tend to emphasize the faster tunes and not nearly enough of the glorious Irish airs; this collection has an atypical offering of simple, but lovely airs – airs which invite ornamentation and improvisation.

- At the very end of the book, she presents three, more challenging “virtuoso dances” which are up-tempo and in the third register of the flute.
- I enjoyed playing through this book on my silver flute and then trying out the “airs” using my wooden head joint. Turns out it is especially satisfying to play the airs on the alto flute!
- You can learn more about what Anne has arranged or written for flute ensemble/chamber music with flute here: <https://mcgintymusic.com/product-category/woodwind/flute/>

*I have found from my personal teaching experience that young players in particular enjoy playing Irish tunes so much that they do not realize they are developing a high degree of technique and facility. They will not replace daily technical drills, but will supplement them in a most enjoyable and rewarding way.*  
Anne McGinty

Cheers. Or, as the Irish say – Sláinte Mhaith (good health)

And, Happy St. Patricks Day from GPFS

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