



Belfast Commercial Chronicle  
Wednesday 24 August 1808, page 3

**PROSPECTUS**  
**THE ENTIRE OF**  
***THE ANCIENT MELODIES***  
**OF**  
**IRELAND,**  
**ADAPTED TO THE PIANO FORTE,**  
**By EDWARD BUNTING**  
*NOW NEARLY READY FOR PUBLICATION.*

In offering a Work of this kind to the Public, after a long but necessary delay, it is proper to state briefly the objects which he had uniformly in view, and the means employed to render it worthy of Patronage.

It being the intention of the Compiler that the Work should comprehend, as nearly as practicable, *the entire body* of the ANCIENT MUSIC OF THE COUNTRY, those Airs which were published by him ten years ago will be interspersed in a more correct form; the whole making an aggregate of about an hundred and fifty.

There will be added a number of the Original Songs, *in their native Language and Character*, with Prose Translations; and for several of the finest Airs, arranged for the Voice, with an Instrumental accompaniment ENGLISH WORDS will be prepared by Gentlemen of acknowledged poetical talents.

It will contain an old Irish LESSON and PRELUDE, played in this Kingdom for several generations, and latterly by DENNIS HEMPSON, the Harper of *Magilligan*, from whom it was taken down shortly before his decease. Also, TWO CELEBRATED IRISH AIRS, with their ancient VARIATIONS, as practised on the Harp for many years.

With these will be given, AN ORIGINAL MELODY, or RECITATIVE, which the Compiler had the fortune to discover, as sung in artless strains by the aborigines of different parts of Ireland, to OSSIANIC POEMS.

TO THE MUSIC WILL BE PREFIXED

**AN EXTENSIVE MEMOIR ON THE HARP**

In this, various original matter will be produced, connected with a subject at once curious and little explored. Particularly, the distinctive difference between the Music of Ireland, and the aboriginal Music of neighbouring Countries, and an account of the principles upon which the IRISH HARP is tuned and played – of a multiplicity of *technical terms* in the Irish language respecting the Instrument, its proportions, and measurements, as well as the alterations it has undergone from the Saxon times to the present. — An attempt will also be made to trace the affinity of the present Harp to still more ancient instruments.

The predominant object throughout has been to preserve the Music, unadulterated, for which this island was celebrated from remote ages, and which occasioned the Harp to be quartered in her arms. It has fallen to the lot of the Compiler to rescue many airs that, in their native simplicity, lead directly to the heart and were on the point of being lost for ever. – The only repositories of them have paid the debt of nature since the commencement of this undertaking, leaving hardly a successor in their art.

From this imperfect abstract of a plan to which the Compiler has devoted a great portion of his life, it will appear that his aim has been to gratify the curiosity of the Antiquarian, as well as to entertain the lover of Music.

The whole is to be contained in Two Volumes Folio, with elegant Engravings to elucidate the subject. *As it will be produced in the best style of the London Press*, it becomes necessary to ascertain the degree of encouragement to be expected. Subscriptions will therefore be received at all the principal Music-Shops in the United Kingdom, and by the Booksellers in Belfast. The price of the First Volume, One Guinea – of the Second, Fifteen Shillings British; one half paid at subscribing for either volume, or for the entire work. – Each volume a crown additional to non-subscribers.

Subscribers' Names to be printed, and a copious Table of Contents.



The extent of the impression will be governed by the Subscriptions; *early* applications are therefore required

Belfast, August 20, 1808