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455 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10016

# *Ireland* America

## The Ties That Bind

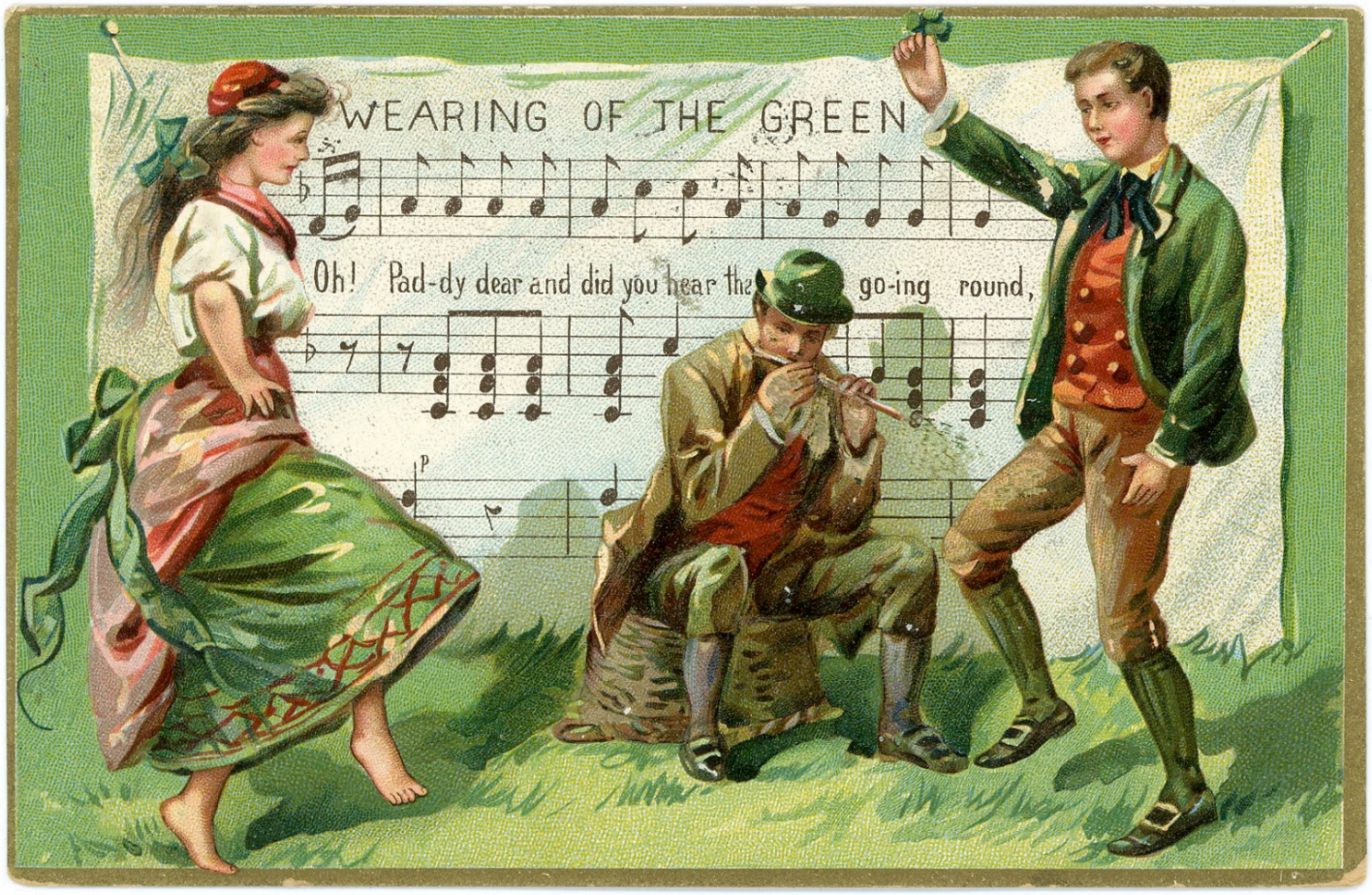
"Irish theater, music, and dance have influenced the development of performing arts in America in the most surprising ways, it's time to explore this story and bring it alive for a new generation."*

March 14-August 13, 2011
The Donald and Mary Oenslager Gallery

The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center

The program and materials are possible from a generous grant from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation

*Eugene Downs, Chief Executive of Culture Ireland, a worldwide Irish arts organization.




**Wearing of the Green.**
St. Patrick's Day postcard, circa 1910.
Mick Moloney Collection, Archives of Irish America, New York University.

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| OBSERVATIONS/INFERENCES | | |
|---|---|---|
| **What do I see?** (What observations can I make about the people and objects included in this image?) | **What do I think?** (What are my responses and reactions to the image?) | **What do I wonder?** (What do I want to know more about?) |

## Document Questions:

Notice the date of this postcard and what the people in the picture are wearing. What in the painting tells you this was or was not the typical fashion of the day?

Do you dress in a special way for any dances or festive celebrations? Why do you suppose folk dancing is performed in specific clothing?

Keep in mind that this is a postcard. Who do you think would have sent it and who would have received it? Why would the sender choose a postcard with this image?

## Write!

Pretend you are sending this postcard to someone. Write your message!

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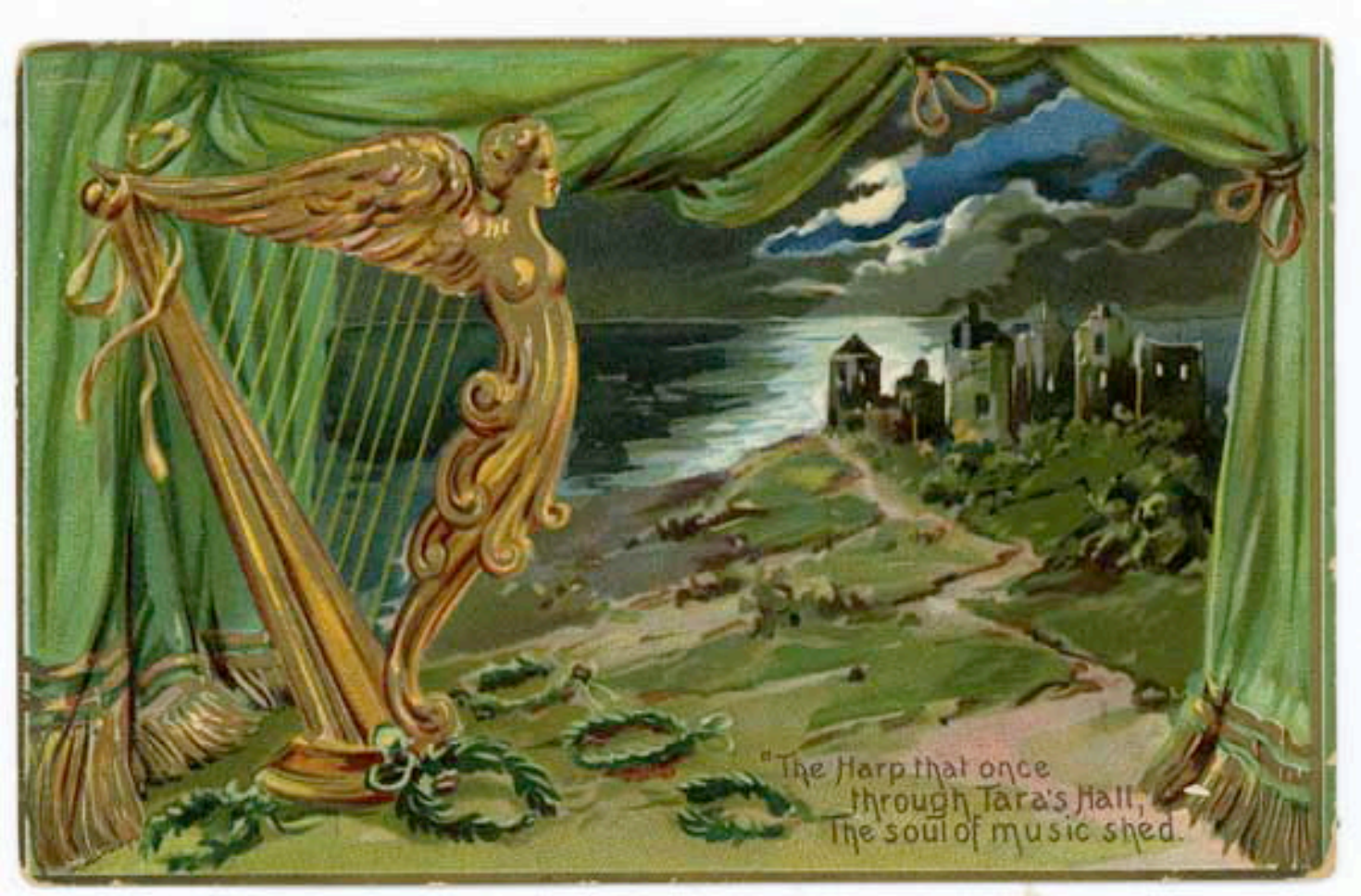


**Gramachree Molly**
Thomas Moore wrote "The Harp that once through Tara's Hall" to this old Irish air. Reproduced from *O'Neill's Music of Ireland* (Chicago: Lyon & Healy, 1903). Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

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## Document Questions:

Why do you think the artist used a curtain to frame this picture?

Who do you think the wreaths belong to? Why are they on the floor?

## Write!

If you could place yourself anywhere in this painting, where would you be? Why? Write about what is around you.

**Colleen Bawn Songster**
*The Colleen Bawn Songster*, 1873
Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

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## Document Questions:

What do you think a songster is? Who do you think might have used one? Why?

What are some words that come to mind when you look at this picture?

How do you think this girl might feel? What do you see that makes you say that?

## Write!

Imagine what is on this girl's mind. What questions do you have for her?

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## Hearth Chauncey Olcott

Chauncey Olcott in *Isle O'Dreams*, the play which introduced "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling"(1913)
Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing
Arts

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## Document Questions:

What do you think is going on in this scene?

Where do you think this scene take place? How can you tell?

Describe the setting and time period of this scene.

## Write!

Imagine this is the last act of a play. What do you think came before?

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Write seven words to describe this scene.

**Fitzgerald & Allgood Juno**
Barry Fitzgerald and Sara Allgood in the 1940 Broadway revival of *Juno and the Paycock* by Sean O'Casey

Photograph by Vandamm Studio
Vandamm Studio Collection, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public

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Library for the Performing Arts

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## Document Questions:

What do you think is happening in this scene? Look closely, what do you think just happened?

Describe the setting. What do you notice?

## Write!

Imagine what these people are saying to each other. Write a short dialogue they might be having.