

The Minstrel Boy

March

Trad./Arr. DeGeorge

♩ = 84 bpm



Written by the poet and songwriter Thomas Moore (1779-1852), 'The Minstrel Boy' is a patriotic song that is widely believed to be in remembrance of his friends that were killed in the Irish Rebellion of 1798. The song is set to the Medieval Irish air of 'The Moreen'.

The song recalls the story of the Minstrel Boy who died in battle and whose harp was never played again since its music "was made for the pure and free". Unsurprisingly, the proud, defiant, determined nature of the lyrics struck a chord with many Irishmen that went to war and it became popular with those who fought in the American Civil War (1861-1865) and in World War I (1914-1918). It continues to be a popular today, and is often played at funerals of those who have been killed in service.