

DERMOT O'DOWD

Irish trad.

lightly swung

Am G /F# Em

5 Am G /F# Em

9 C D Em /F# G

13 Am G Am D

Dermot O'Dowd is a simple and lovely traditional Irish air, notated in *O'Neill's Music of Ireland* as #653, attributed to O'Carolan. It is often notated in the key of A-minor, with all the F# notes marked as accidentals, but in this version for lever harp it is easier to put the F# in the key signature and think of the tune in the mode of A-dorian.

MEDLEY MIX-UP! Since about 1990, this tune has often been mis-identified as *Kathleen Astor*. Numerous arrangements and recordings, and dozens of YouTube videos, are labeled *Kathleen Astor* (with varied spelling) but are actually this tune, *Dermot O'Dowd*. A little sleuthing reveals the cause: in 1985, American folk group Sheila na Gig released their LP album *Holy Well*, and track B4 was a medley of two Irish tunes, *Diarmaid O Dubhda & A Chaitlin A Stor*. The titles on the LP were in the correct order, but someone listening got them mixed up, and since then the error has multiplied wildly. Almost every video on YouTube claiming to be *Kathleen Astor* is actually *Dermot O'Dowd*. But a search for *Dermot O'Dowd* on YouTube is accurate.

(As for *Kathleen Astor*, the correct tune is not well known. You'll find notation for it at the Irish Traditional Music Archive (<https://www.itma.ie/scores/pw-joyce-oifms-816/>) and a few arrangements on YouTube by searching "Kathleen Ashore"!)