

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my parents, John and Teresa McCann for their love, patience, and company, particularly in the final months. To my father I owe special gratitude for his fastidious proof-reading and editing, his indulgence of my philosophical flights of fancy, and his final 36 hour vigil.

Thanks to my siblings Kathleen, Joseph, Deirdre, Mairéad, and Clare, for their support and encouragement.

Thanks are due to Prof. Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, my supervisor Dr. John O'Connell, and the staff of the Irish World Music Centre for their support. Thanks in particular to Paula Dundon and Joan Cunneen for coordinating the home straight.

Gratitude is extended to the External Examiner, Prof. Anthony Seeger, and to the Internal Examiner, Dr. Lillis Ó Laoire, for their criticism and helpful comments, especially in light of their magnanimous response when faced with pressured time demands.

This thesis would not have been completed without considerable financial subventions from the following organisations, for which I am deeply grateful: The Fulbright Commission; The Government of Ireland; The Irish World Music Centre; The Royal Irish Academy/British Academy; The Department of Social, Community, and Family Affairs; The Tyrone Guthrie Centre; and the Students Union of the University of Limerick.

Appreciation is extended to all those who offered me a chance to formally present portions of this work at various stages of its development: The American Anthropological Association; the Colmcille 1400 Committee; Conradh na Gaeilge, Washington DC; The Department of Ethnomusicology, University of Chicago; The Department of Language and Cultural Studies, University of Limerick; The Interaction Design Centre, University of Limerick; The Irish World Music Centre, University of Limerick; Scoil Samhraidh Willie Clancy, Miltown Malbay; The Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC; The Society for Applied Anthropology; The Society for Ethnomusicology; The Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, Bloomington, Indiana.

I would like to express my gratitude to the staff of the Glucksman Library of the University of Limerick, and also to the staffs of the following libraries: The Bodleian Law Library (University of Oxford); The D'Angelo Law Library (University of Chicago); The Harvard University Law School Library; The Irish Music Rights Organisation, Dublin; The James Hardiman Library (National University of Ireland, Galway); The Queen's University Library, Belfast; The Regenstein Library (University of Chicago); The Smithsonian Institution; The Working Group for Traditional Resource Rights (University of Oxford).

Thanks to Richard Kurin and the staff of the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Thanks to Fintan Vallely and John Moulden, for the inspiration.

Special thanks to the following people who gave much-needed advice on written versions of my work: Harris Berger, Stephen P. Dunn, Jane Edwards, Frank Hall, Amy Horowitz, Charles Keil, Michael Morse, David O'Donnell, Moira Ruff. Also thanks to all those who offered. Apologies to those who experienced system crashes on account of my attachments.

In this regard, I would also like to thank all of those who took the time to talk to me about this thesis and the topics discussed in it. This includes all those who agreed to be interviewed, all those who joined me for breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee, hot chocolate, tea, and other beverages, and all those who chatted with me at length or in passing. I am thankful that this thesis gave me an opportunity to meet so many wonderful people and to make so many great friends.

Thanks to Marjorie, Regina and the staff at downstairs reception; to Dan, Michael, and the security staff; the staff of the Aroma Café, the Allegro Café, and the University restaurant; and thanks to the cleaning staff who kept me company when stuck at the computer on the night shift.

Thanks to all in Rannóg na Gaeilge. Post maith leath na hoibre.

Thanks to Colm McGettrick, John Harris, Colin Tate, and ITD Services for technical assistance.

Gratitude is extended to the staff of the Bank of Ireland.

Best wishes to the Poem of the Week people, all my friends on ANTHAP3, GTAdults, IR-TRAD-L, ITIA-L, SEM-L, PMSSEM-L. May blessings rain upon the inventors of the Internet.

Thanks to the cast and crew of Buffy, Angel, The West Wing, Shortland Street, Neighbours, The Practice, and Charmed. If nothing else, you let me know what day of the week it was.

Thanks to anyone who ever lent me a book, mentioned a source, or sent me in an opportune direction.

Last and most certainly not least, a huge thank you to all my friends, for their love, encouragement, patience, affection, and floor-space. A special thanks for Marcus Aurelius and Bear. They made a difference.

P.S. If you helped me in any way and are not covered by the above, you were meant to be. Thank you.