



## Music Classroom Supports Teacher Reflection Tool

This reflection tool accompanies all Oide Music classroom supports. It offers you, the Music teacher, a space to consider how each support might accommodate and further progress your students' learning. We invite you to consider the questions below prior to engaging with these classroom supports.

What year group might engage with this learning?

Why might this learning suit these students? (Prior learning? Student interests? Motivation?)

What learning identified in the Specification, Programme Statement or Syllabus does this learning link to?

Identify the JC Key Skills and/or the SC Key Competencies activated in this learning.

What tweaks do I need to make so this support will suit my students?



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Celebrating Irish  
Female Musicians

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Read about these three Irish musicians and engage with the activities on the following pages.



Photo:

<https://www.itma.ie/people/zoe-conway/>

**Zoë Conway** is an Irish violinist from Co. Louth, trained in both classical music and traditional fiddle-playing. As a soloist, Zoë has performed with orchestras all over the world and works closely with Bill Whelan, the composer of Riverdance. Alongside traditional musicians, Donal Lunny & Mairtín O'Connor, she is a member of ZoDoMo. She was awarded the Best Folk Instrumentalist prize at the RTE Folk Music Awards in 2019. As a composer, Zoë has written many pieces of traditional Irish music for fiddle, guitar & orchestra, including *Starlings* and *Ómós Shéamus* in honour of Seamus Heaney.

**Lisa Canny** is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter and composer from Co. Mayo. A seven-time All-Ireland Champion on banjo and harp, Canny is inspired as much by RnB, pop and hip-hop music as she is by the Irish traditional and folk music she was brought up on. Combining these elements, Lisa's original music is truly unique. Canny has also blended pop music with Irish traditional music in her covers of Ed Sheeran's *You need me, I don't need you* and Britney Spears *Toxic*. She is a founding member of the trad girl group *Biird*. Canny's performances are high-energy, hard-hitting and highly entertaining.



Photo:

<https://oaim.ie/tutor/lisa-canny/>



Photo: <https://zoeclarke.bandcamp.com/>

**Zoe Clarke** is a 22-year-old singer/songwriter from Dublin, Ireland. She released her debut EP 'Safe & Sound' in July 2020 which reached number 1 in the Irish iTunes charts. Zoe took to the main stage in the famous music venue Whelan's in Dublin, Ireland for her first headline show on September 15th 2021. Zoe is also a regular busker on Dublin's Grafton Street.



[oide.ie](https://oide.ie)

[info@oide.ie](mailto:info@oide.ie)





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# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Zoë Conway

**Let's Listen!** Listen to *Starlings* by Zoë Conway [here](#)

What instrument is playing the melody? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe a feature of Irish traditional music heard here. \_\_\_\_\_

*Starlings* is an example of a **slip jig**, an Irish dance in 9/8.

Listen again to the opening of *Starlings* and clap the strong beats. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

**Let's Compose!** Compose a slip jig to celebrate women in Irish Music.

- In your manuscript, compose a 4-bar or 8-bar rhythm in 9/8 time. Choose from these typical slip jig rhythm patterns.



Ba - con



Sau - sa - ges



Egg

- Perform your slip-jig rhythm with a partner.

Irish traditional music often uses modes, an old system of music scales. *Starlings* uses the scale of **G A B C D E F**. This is called the Mixolydian mode in G because the F is not sharpened. Using the notes from the Mixolydian mode, add melody to your slip-jig rhythm to create your traditional dance.

**Note Bank**

**G A B C D E F**

**Let's Perform!** Perform your Irish Traditional Dance.

The accompaniment of *Starlings* features a **drone**, which are long sustained notes that support the melody above.

Let's add a **drone** accompaniment to your slip jig.

In your group, decide who will play the slip jig melody and split the drone between two players and/or one player performs the two notes of the drone.

Have fun!

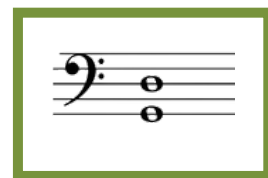


Photo: <https://www.itma.ie/people/zoe-conway/>



[oide.ie](http://oide.ie)

[info@oide.ie](mailto:info@oide.ie)





Lisa Canny

Photo: <https://oaim.ie/tutor/lisa-canny/>

**Let's Listen!** Listen to Canny's song *Freedom* [here](#)

What **features** of Irish traditional music can be heard?

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## Let's Research!

Work in a group to identify the Irish songs referenced by Canny in the lyrics of *Freedom*.

Choose 1 Irish folk song identified by the group, listen to a performance and research the song.

- Who were the original performers?
- When was the piece composed?
- What are the lyrics about?
- What instruments are used in the original performance?
- What features of Irish Music did you hear?
- What's the most interesting part of the song? Why?
- Create a playlist including other versions of this folk song.

She was born in a dirty old town  
A little dark rose they couldn't pin down  
From the mountains of Mourne to the Raglan Road  
They all knew her name though they'd never been told  
Oh oh oh, she shared with the angels the spirit of life  
Oh oh oh, and the people would follow her all day and night  
She was sweet sixteen upon the Fiddler's Green  
Wearing her dancing shoes, she danced the rhythm of the blues  
Under the rising moon beyond the pale and the gloom  
She was igniting dreams of freedom  
She used to sing so loud right in the middle of the crowd  
That when it came in her way before the dawning of the day  
Breaking all of these years by making oceans out of tears  
The people knew she would lead them to freedom  
Lead them to freedom x 3  
Tham da-li a di dam dam dam  
She tamed the wild rover despite his fights  
After three, four, five, six, seven drunken nights  
"To be a nation once again," she said  
"Drop your defences now, dance until the devil's dead"

My group chose \_\_\_\_\_

The original performance was by \_\_\_\_\_

It was first composed in \_\_\_\_\_

The song is about \_\_\_\_\_

What instruments were in the original performance? \_\_\_\_\_

What Irish traditional features did you hear? \_\_\_\_\_

The most interesting part is \_\_\_\_\_

Another version of this song is \_\_\_\_\_

**Let's Listen!**

One of the songs referenced in Lisa Canny's *Freedom* is *On Raglan Road*, a traditional tune with lyrics by Patrick Kavanagh. Listen to this performance of [On Raglan Road](#) by Zoe Clarke.

**Let's Research!**

- What is the name of the original traditional tune this song is based on?
- Find the location of Raglan Road on Google Maps.
- What do you think the song is about?
- When was *On Raglan Road* voted Ireland's favourite folk song?
- Find and listen to another song performed by Zoe Clarke.

Zoe Clarke

**Let's Analyse!**

On Rag - lan Road of an au - tumn day I saw her first and knew

8 that her dark hair would weave a snare that I might one day rue.

16 I saw the dan - ger and I walked a - long the enchan - ted way.

24 And I said, let grief be a fal - len leaf at the dawn - ing of the day.

- What key is this music in? \_\_\_\_\_ Name the 3 notes at X. \_\_\_\_\_
- These notes form the triad of... G major D major F major
- Use different colours to highlight each phrase. Are any phrases similar or the same? Write down the form using letters. \_\_\_\_\_
- Add backing chords to the melody.
- Rehearse and perform your version of *On Raglan Road*.

Photo:

<https://zoeclarke.bandcamp.com/>