

Sheebeg and Sheemore

Si Bheag and Si Mhor *

Irish Waltz

Turlough O'Carolan

♩ = 140

① A D Bm A D

⑤ G A D A⁷ D

⑨ Em D Em A D

⑰ B D G D

⑳ A⁷ F^{#m} G Bm D Em A

㉑ G A⁷ 1. D 2. D

* Carolan left his home in Alderford at the age of twenty-one ... and the career for which he had been equipped was simply that of an itinerant harper--a class of which there were probably scores in Ireland at that time [1691]. ... Though fond of the harp, 'he never struck it with a master hand' and Bunting confirms this by stating that 'he never excelled as a performer: this may be attributed to the fact, that he did not begin to learn the harp til he was upwards of sixteen, at which age the fingers have lost the suppleness that must be taken advantage of in early years, to produce a really master hand.'

His first place of call was the house of George Reynolds at Letterfian, County Leitrim, and ... it was Squire Reynolds who remarked to the young harper that "he might make a better hand of his tongue than of his fingers", suggesting as a subject for composition a battle between the fairy hosts of two neighbouring hills. This resulted in [Carolan's first composition] the graceful song of *Sheebeg and Sheemore*. (from page 33 of *Carolan, The Life Times and Music of an Irish Harper* by Donal O'Sullivan)