

Brian Ború's March

Clan March of Brian Ború

Part A

Part A musical notation, measures 1-9. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with blue letterhead vowels above them. Measure numbers 1 through 9 are indicated above the staff.

1. 2.

B A G F E E B A G F E E A G
What's your true figh-ter's name, what's your true figh-ter's name? Bri - an

3. 4. 5. 6.

F E D D A G F E D D B A G F E E B A G F E E
Bo - rú I am, Bri-an Bo - rú I am. What's your true figh-ter's name, what's your true figh-ter's name?

7. 8. 9.

E G A B A G E E E B A G E E E
Bri - an Bo - rú of Mun - ster I am! What's your Mun - ster I am!

Part B

Part B musical notation, measures 10-17. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with blue letterhead vowels above them. Measure numbers 10 through 17 are indicated above the staff.

10. 11. 12. 13.

E G A B A B A B A G D F G A F A F A G F
Have you been wise and fair and brave My-lord? I have been wise and fair and brave and good.

14. 15. 16. 17.

E G A B A B A B A G E G A B A G E E E
Have you been wise and fair and brave My-lord? Bri-an Bo-rú of Mun-ster I am.

Part C

Part C musical notation, measures 18-25. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written on a single staff. The lyrics are written below the notes, with blue letterhead vowels above them. Measure numbers 18 through 25 are indicated above the staff.

18. 19. 20. 21.

G F E E' E' G F E E' E' F E D D' D' F E D D' D'
Will you be High - king, will you be High - will I will be High - king, I will be High - king!

22. 23. 24. 25.

G F E E' E' G F E E' E' E G A B A G E E E
Will you be High - king, will you be High - king? Bri-an Bo-rú of Mun-ster I am.

Brian Ború (c.941 – 23 April 1014)

Brian Ború was an Irish king who **ended the domination of the High Kingship of Ireland by the Uí Néill**, and probably **ended Viking invasion** of Ireland. Brian built on the achievements of his father, Cennétig mac Lorcaín, and his elder brother, Mathgamain. Brian first made himself king of Munster, then subjugated Leinster, eventually becoming **High King of Ireland**. He was the founder of the O'Brien dynasty, and is widely regarded as **one of the most successful and unifying monarchs in medieval Ireland**.

With a population of under 500,000 people, medieval Ireland had **over 150 kings**, with greater or lesser domains.

The Uí Néill king Máel Sechnaill mac Domnaill acknowledged Brian as High King in 1002. In the decade that followed, Brian campaigned against the northern Uí Néill, who refused to accept his claims, against Leinster, where resistance was frequent, and against the Norse-Gaelic Kingdom of Dublin. Brian was described in the Annals of Ulster as **High King of the Gaels of Ireland and the Norse foreigners and the Britons, Augustus of all north-western Europe**, the only Irish king ever to receive that distinction.



Brian's hard-won authority was seriously challenged in 1013 when his ally Máel Sechnaill was attacked by the Cenél nEógain king Flaithbertach Ua Néill, with the Ulstermen as his allies. This was followed by further attacks on Máel Sechnaill by the Germanic Norsemen of Dublin under their Norse king Sigtrygg Silkbeard and the Leinstermen led by Máel Mórda mac Murchada. Brian campaigned against these enemies in 1013. In 1014, his armies confronted the armies of Leinster and Dublin. **In the resulting Battle of Clontarf Brian was killed**; nonetheless, his army was victorious against the Leinstermen and Norsemen. The battle is widely lauded as a pivotal moment in Irish history, and is well known in popular memory. Brian Ború's burial place, a tomb, is said to be in the north wall of St Patrick's Cathedral in the city of Armagh.

Music

In old Gaelic society, Chieftains wouldn't go too far without their entourage which included **a bard and a harper to praise their fame**. It is said, that Brian Ború loved the music and was an ambitious harp player himself. It is said, that after his death at the Battle of Clontarf, his clan march was played continuously throughout three consecutive days. **"Brian Ború's March" is one of the oldest Irish tunes that is still played today.**