

Fiddle Shop Talk

Unfortunately, the Sunday sessions are no longer continuing at Brennan's pub. The pub was sold to a Dutch developer and apparently it's going to become a disco bar ! There's some good news though, another Old Triangle pub is opening up in the old playhouse in Charlottetown. Perhaps there will be some new session starting up there. Thanks to everyone who came out to the Benevolent Irish society to support the fundraiser for Jim Faye's wife Maria and their son Seamus. Jim died in Toronto in October . Jim was a talented musician who played around the Island for several years He will be sorely missed.

I've included a new waltz tune to try out. I wrote this for my aunt Millie and I play it a little on the slow side and with some dignity although she was a very energetic and vibrant lady. She operated a little cafe in Vancouver called the Strawberry Lane and my brother and I loved the french fries and strawberry milkshakes which she was famous for. I recorded it on mandolin on my new CD. You can have a listen to part of the tune at www.royjohnstone.com.

Here's few things to remember when you're learning a new tune. Check what key it's in, in this case A major, three sharps. Notice the the time signature is 3/4 so it's likely a waltz or perhaps slow air. Tempo is not indicated but I play it around 72 beats per minute. Part of the challenge in this tune is to keep the string crossings smooth and even so you don't lose the 3/4 rhythm. Slide your first finger into third position on the high A in bar 33. There's quite a bit of slurred bowing so just try it out and develop your own feel for the tune. Have fun.

Keep your bow rosined and the fiddle in tune.

Roy Johnstone