

SPECIAL FEATURE on FREDERICK NICHOLLS CROUCH and his famous song!

..
born 30th July 1808 - London
died 18th August 1896 - Portland, Maine, USA

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Frederick Nicholls Crouch was an English composer and cellist. He was born in Marylebone in London. He became a member of the King's Theatre Orchestra, and the St. Paul's Cathedral Orchestra, both in London. He was said to be a very fine cellist. Curiously, he was also an occasional trumpet player!

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At 41 years old (in 1849) he decided to make the bold move (in those days!) to go and try his luck in the U.S.A. and settled in Richmond, Virginia. However, he tried various commercial and musical undertakings in the USA without apparent success. By now he was also a serious composer, whose works included 2 operas. His most famous song is undoubtedly 'Kathleen Mavourneen' (see more underneath).

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During the American Civil War, Crouch took up arms for the Richmond Grays and the 1st Richmond Howitzers, Confederacy. In America he also tried conducting, singing and teaching. After the war he travelled around the country, and eventually settled in Baltimore, Maryland. He was the father of the famous French courtesane Cora Pearl.

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He died 18th or 19th August 1896 in Portland, Maine, and was buried on Confederate Hill in Baltimore's Loudon Park Cemetery.



“KATHLEEN MAVOURNEEN” - As mentioned, this is considered his finest musical creation. The song was written in 1837, with lyrics by Annie Crawford. It was popular during the American Civil War. "Mavourneen" is a term of endearment derived from the Irish Gaelic ‘mo mhuirín’, meaning "my beloved." The Irish soprano Catherine Hayes (1818–1861) - the first Irish woman to sing at La Scala in Milan - learned "Kathleen Mavourneen" while training in Dublin. It became her signature tune during concerts, and she sang it for Queen Victoria and over 500 royal guests during a performance at Buckingham Palace in June 1849. "Kathleen Mavourneen" gained popularity with American audiences as a direct result of Hayes' international concert tours between 1851 and 1856. Several silent films were titled Kathleen Mavourneen, the first such drama being produced in 1906 starring Kitty O'Neil, Walter Griswold and H.L. Bascomb. Other such silent films were produced in 1911, 1913 and 1919, the last of these starring Theda Bara. Two sound films with this title were produced, in 1930 and 1937.

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AUDIO - Kathleen Mavourneen sung by John McCormack in 1927

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7XZAJexbIY>

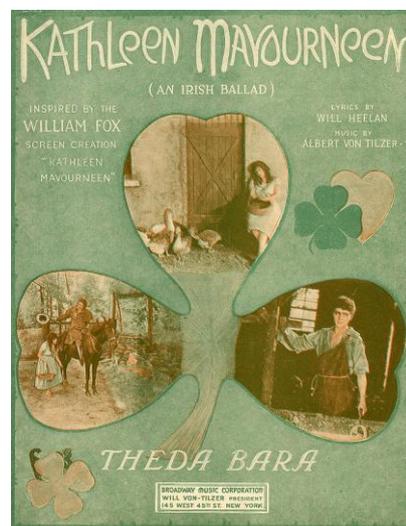
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Also included images:

1] the sheet music cover inspired by the 1919 film

2] the opening bars of the vocal part

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Andante e penseroso

mf *mf* *mf*

1. The musical notation is in 3/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics "Kathleen Mavourneen, the grey dawn is breaking, The horn of the hunter is heard on the hill," are written below the notes.

Kathleen Mavourneen, the grey dawn is breaking, The horn of the hunter is heard on the hill,

Finally, here is the full sheet music to a version for cello and piano, available in

Johnstone-Music: <https://johnstone-music.com/product/z-irish-three-irish-pieces-cello-and-piano/?lang=en> 'documenting the cello'

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