

The Elephant Seller's Daughter

The musical score is written in 6/8 time and consists of four staves. The first two staves are in a minor key (one flat) and feature a sequence of chords: Dm, Gm, Dm, Gm, Dm, Gm, Am. The third and fourth staves are in a major key (two flats) and feature a sequence of chords: F, C, Dm, F, Gm, Am, Dm. The music is written in a simple, folk-like style with eighth and quarter notes.

“The Elephant Seller’s Daughter” is an ancient tune dating back to before the time of the Red Book. While several references exist to it in manuscripts from the Sligh region, a similar tune is recorded under the title "Shake the Tree" far earlier in documents from the tropical mainland in southeast Karrigland near the Cualí Delta. Although the B part of this earlier tune is set more fully minor it is undoubtedly the same, providing evidence of migration across the continent to Hollean in very early times. It is likely that Mil Harei set down his version of the tune while traveling in Sleih.

- Jiri Hansom Felding
Editor, *The New Red Book of Tunes*
Department of Folklore and Cultural Preservation
Highlands University at Telm

from the book
Tales from the Red Book of Tunes

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