

The Answer's Ireland

Written by John Dengate and set by him to the Irish tune Roddy McCorley, to celebrate the musical debt we owe the land of Erin.

Who gave Aus - tra - lia the songs to sing, the tunes of songs so grand.
Songs to in - spire, full of beau - ty and fire? the _ answ - er's Ire _ land.
Know when you sing of Jack Don - a - hue that _ he was a Dub - lin man,
And _ Den - is O' - Reil - ly is trav' - lling still with a black - thorn in his hand.

Who gave Australia the songs to sing, the tunes of songs so grand.
Songs to inspire, full of beauty and fire? the answer's Ireland.
Know when you sing of Jack Donahue that he was a Dublin man,
And Denis O'Reilly is travelling still with a blackthorn in his hand.

Who raised a ruckus at Castle Hill, who there defied the crown?
'Twas the same rebel boys who in '98 'gainst odds would not lie down.
Oh, but they made Samuel Marsden fret and ruffled the silver tails;
Why, the words "croppy pike" were enough to strike fear into New South Wales.

Who agitated at Ballarat for Joe Latrobe's death knell?
Who was it raised up the five-starred flag and damned the traps to hell?
Who was it gathered beneath that flag where solemn oaths were sworn?
Who would not run from the red coats' guns upon Eureka morn?

Ned Kelly's dad was an Irish lad, the Kellys all died game.
Brave Michael Dwyer's bones are buried here: we'll not forget that name.
Who could resist Larry Foley's fist, and Foley wore the green.
Who led the anti-conscription ranks in 1917?

Repeat first verse.