



# The *Pure* Drop

## Study Guide for Episode 6 — The Tune



*Adrian Barker from Melbourne band Trouble in the Kitchen.*

### Before you start

Print this study guide and then use The Pure Drop website to complete the activities relevant to you.

The resources referred to in this study guide can be found on The Pure Drop website in Episode 6 — The Tune.

[http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep\\_tune/](http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_tune/)

### Curriculum Links in this study guide

Music \_\_\_\_\_ pages 2-8

HSIE/SOSE \_\_\_\_\_ page 9

English \_\_\_\_\_ page 10



# The Pure Drop

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The Tune

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## Activities for Music Curriculum topics

Go to Episode 6 on The Pure Drop website [http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep\\_tune/](http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_tune/)

Watch The Tune video.

Answer the following questions...

1. According to Adrian, what does a great player add to the music? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What gives Irish tunes their character? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why can't you write down a traditional tune? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What makes Irish traditional music distinctive? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Listen to the final piece in the video. What instruments are used and what role do they have in the music?

Instrument	Role



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In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:

 What is Irish traditional music?

Answer the following questions...

1. What is the name of the band discussed here? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What style of music do they play? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What instruments do they play? Go to the Instruments section of the website and list everything you didn't know about these instruments. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Before the 20th century, Irish music mostly focused on what element of music? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the term used to describe several instruments playing the same melody at once? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In the 1940s, traditional Irish music changed significantly. Describe the changes to:  
Line-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Accompaniment \_\_\_\_\_  
Harmony \_\_\_\_\_
7. In the 1960s, traditional Irish music changed again. Describe these changes:  
Influences \_\_\_\_\_  
Accompaniment \_\_\_\_\_  
Harmony \_\_\_\_\_




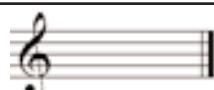


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8. Give a definition and notated example for each of the following then play them on an available instrument.

Musical Term	Definition	Notated Example
Drone		
Modal chord		
Suspended chord		
Augmented chord		

9. Why does Trouble in the Kitchen's guitarist Kate Burke change the tuning on her guitar? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Try tuning a guitar to DADGAD as Kate does. Now play some chords you know. What do they sound like? Experiment with some chord progressions. Try to create your own alternative tuning for the guitar but be careful not to stretch the strings too much! \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What does the term 'virtuoso' mean? Why did traditional Irish music performers have to become more virtuosic? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:

 Meet Trouble in the Kitchen.

Answer the following questions...

1. Where do Trouble in the Kitchen come from and where do they perform? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How is traditional Irish music being kept alive? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Go to Episode 6 on The Pure Drop website [http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep\\_tune/](http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_tune/)

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:

 Jigs: The Road to Skye/Elaine Jefferys' — watch the video.

Answer the following question...

1. By referring to the elements of music, describe how Trouble in the Kitchen arrange traditional Irish tunes to make them more interesting. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:

 Reels: Contentment is Wealth / Gorman's Reel / Road to Ballymac / The Rainy Day.

In The Big Picture  refer to the following article:


Read more about abc notation.

Answer the following questions...

1. What is a set? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What musical features does a jig have? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the suggested way to learn an Irish tune if you're a beginner? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is abc notation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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In Dig Deeper  refer to the following link:

 Jigs: The Road to Skye/Elaine Jefferys'. Print these tunes from the (printable) pdf file on the website.

Answer the following questions...

1. What key are the two versions of The Road to Skye in? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What time signature do they use? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Learn to play both versions on your instrument.
4. Compare and contrast the two versions of The Road to Skye. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_




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In Dig Deeper  refer to the following links:


 Jigs: The Road to Skye/Elaine Jefferys'. — Print these tunes from the (printable) pdf file on the website.

Listen to The Road to Skye at Learn the tunes whilst following the notation.

Answer the following questions...

1. Which version of the notation is the closest? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Now play the piece again and try playing it with the right 'feel'. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Listen again and this time close your eyes and imagine you are playing it.
4. Now play the piece again without the notation. Keep doing this over and over again until you've got it memorised and are playing The Road to Skye with the right 'feel'.
5. The next step is to add in your own ornamentation. Try adding grace notes or quick notes between notes that aren't next to each other in the scale or add the note above just before the real note. Another thing you can do is take out the notes that aren't on the beat and add in your own notes.
6. Keep experimenting until you have your own version of the tune and give it a name. Record your version on a tape recorder or computer using a music sequencing package. Write it down using abc

Go to Episode 6 on The Pure Drop website [http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep\\_tune/](http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_tune/)

In The Big Picture  refer to the following link:

 The session

or traditional notation.

On The Session website. <http://www.thesession.org>

1. Sign up and add your new tune. People who play folk music accept beginners and people with new ideas, so don't feel threatened or awe-struck.




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In The Big Picture  refer to the following article:

Read more about melody in world music.

Answer the following questions...

1. What is a melody? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does the author believe melody is the main element and root of all world music? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Go to Episode 6 on The Pure Drop website [http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep\\_tune/](http://thepuredrop.com.au/ep_tune/)

In The Big Picture  refer to the following links:

★★★★★ [irishtune.info](http://irishtune.info). Rhythm Definitions - Irish Traditional Music Tune Index.

1. Give a definition of the following:  
reels \_\_\_\_\_  
jigs \_\_\_\_\_  
hornpipes \_\_\_\_\_  
polkas \_\_\_\_\_  
slides \_\_\_\_\_  
single jigs \_\_\_\_\_  
slip jigs \_\_\_\_\_  
set dances \_\_\_\_\_



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## Activities for HSIE/SOSE Curriculum topics


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Watch The Tune video.

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following links:

 What is Irish traditional music?

 Meet Trouble in the Kitchen.

In The Big Picture  refer to the following link:

 The Session.

Answer the following questions...

1. How were traditional tunes passed down through the generations? What are some of the modern ways tunes are passed on?
2. How have tunes developed throughout history? Why have they developed? Is it realistic to expect that they will stay the same? Should the first version of a tune be the only version and be reproduced faithfully?
3. What is meant by the term 'oral tradition'? Irish music is part of the oral tradition. What are some other examples of an oral tradition?
4. Where is Skye and what country is it in?



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## Activities for English Curriculum topics

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Watch The Tune video.

In Dig Deeper  refer to the following links:

 What is Irish traditional music?

 Meet Trouble in the Kitchen.

In The Big Picture  refer to the following link:

 The Session.

Read the following excerpt from *The Tune* main video.

Write a 200-word essay discussing the concepts dealt with here.

*Adrian Barker*

*'If you were to look at an Irish tune written down, what you see at the most, really, is just bare bones, you know, it is kind of like the skeleton. You can't actually write it down in the way it sounds, we just don't have the notation to do it. In a sense it lives in here so I suppose there is a freedom which you have as a traditional musician.*

*And I suppose what it doesn't have — it doesn't really have the lilt or the rhythm in it. But also it just doesn't have all those nuances, all those variations and ornaments that make the music distinctive, I mean, that is why it maintains itself as an oral tradition because that is the only way that you can get it.'*