

# The Spree

Sung by Tom Brandon 1958  
Collected by Edith Fowke  
Chord suggestions by Ian Bell

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody line is in treble clef and the bass line is in bass clef. Chord suggestions are placed above the melody and below the bass line. The lyrics are written below the melody line.

There was John-ny Mac - a - doo and Mc - Gee and me and an - ot - ther two or three went  
for a spree one day Oh we had a beet of two which we knew how to blew and the beer and whis-key flew and we all felt gay.

Tom Brandon bumped the key up a semitone for each succeeding verse:

Then to visit Humpy Dan, MacLaman, Mary Ann  
And from there into the Swan, our bellies for to pack  
What they brought us, big or not, cold or hot, little or lot  
It went through us like a shot and we all felt slack

So the beer he got out, no doubt, he could clout  
Macadoo he knocked him out, like an old football  
Oh he tattered all his clothes, broke his nose, I suppose  
He'd have killed him with the blows, just in no time at all

Them McGee began to howl, and growl upon my soul  
And he threw the empty bowl at the shop-keeper's head  
But he struck for Paddt Flynn, knocked the skin off his chin  
And the ructions did begin, and we all fought and bled

So the police did arrive, man alive, four or five  
And for us they made a dive, for to carry us away  
Oh we paid for all we ate.....Stood a trate (treat)  
And went home to ruminate , on the spree we had that day

This has all the hallmarks of an Irish or Irish-American music hall song, although I have yet to see a published version of the music for it. In the 1960s the Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem recorded a version they called "Johnny McEldoo".