

## Dusty's

*for Mary & Heather*

A voice calling others into the ring  
not for a duel or competition – but  
kinship, camaraderie – exchange  
of common currency, the old tunes:

known rhythms of polkas, slides  
reels, jigs, hornpipes; occasional  
mazurka, barndance, strathspey,  
highland or slow air.

And while those in the room may be  
Chinese, French, Canadian, Spanish –  
the instruments played are whistles  
fiddles, concertinas, accordions, guitars

mandolins and flutes – just for tonight  
we are all Irish and honorary banjos.

**Pete Mullineaux, from his volume of poems, "Session", County Clare: Salmon Poetry, 2011, p46**