Turlough O’Carolan (1670-1738) is considered to be the national composer of Ireland, having more than 220 original compositions to his name. His family moved to County Roscommon when he was young, and he was able to gain an education and take lessons on the harp, despite being blinded by smallpox. He then began traveling around Ireland composing and performing songs and tunes on the harp, many for friends or love interests, and often he wrote honorary pieces, called “planxties”, as a tribute to various hosts that would take him in during his journey. This tune has been ringing through the halls at CIM for the past several months, being played by many of our harp students and the Starling and Swallowtail Ensembles as well.

Planxty George Brabazon

Turlough O’Carolan

G G G/B Am Am D
G Em C C G G/D G
G D Em Am D D/F
G D Em C D G