

Section: The Clancy Brothers

Context: In March 1956, Tommy Makem was unemployed. He had recently moved to Dover, New Hampshire, where many of his family members had emigrated to work in the local cotton mills. He had found a job there making printing presses but had an accident when a two-ton steel press that he was guiding with his hand broke from its chain. The falling press tore the tendons from the bone in three of the fingers of his left hand. His hand in a sling, and knowing the Clancy brothers in New York, he decided that he would like to make a record with them. He told this to Paddy Clancy, who with the sponsorship of Diane Hamilton and the assistance of his brother Liam founded a record company, Tradition Records, in 1956. Paddy agreed and together he, Tom, Liam, and Tommy Makem recorded an album of Irish rebel songs, *The Rising of the Moon*, one of the new label's first releases. Paddy's harmonica provided the only musical accompaniment for this debut album. Little thought was given to continuing as a singing group. They all were busy establishing theatrical careers for themselves, in addition to their work at Tradition Records. But the album was a local success and requests were often demanded for the brothers and Tommy Makem to sing some of their songs at parties and informal pub settings. Slowly, the singing gigs began to outweigh the acting gigs and by 1959, serious thought was given to a new album. Liam had developed some guitar skills, Tommy's hand had healed enough he was again able to play tin whistle and bagpipes, and the times spent singing together had improved their style. No longer were they the rough, mostly unaccompanied group of actors singing for an album to jumpstart a record label; they were becoming a professional singing group. The release of their second album, this one of Irish drinking songs called *Come Fill Your Glass with Us*, solidified their new careers as singers. The album was a success, and they made many appearances on the pub circuit in New York, Chicago, and Boston. It was at their first official gig after *Come Fill Your Glass With Us* that the group finally found a name for themselves. The nightclub owner asked for a name to put on the marquee, but they had not decided on one yet. Unable to agree on a name (which included suggestions like *The Beggermen*, *The Tinkers* and even *The Chieftains*) the owner decided for them, simply billing them as "The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem". The name stuck. They decided to try singing full-time for six months. If their singing was successful, they would continue with it; if not, then they would return to acting. The Clancy brothers and Tommy Makem proved successful as a singing group and in early 1961, they attracted the attention of scouts from *The Ed Sullivan Show*. CANNOTANSWER

STUDENT: **when did the group form?**

TEACHER: ⇐ in 1956. Paddy agreed and together he, Tom, Liam, and Tommy Makem recorded an album of Irish rebel songs,

TEACHERX: ⇐ His hand in a sling, and knowing the Clancy brothers in New York, he decided that he would like to make a record with them.

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STUDENT: **What were some of their songs?**

TEACHER: ↗ CANNOTANSWER

TEACHERX: ↗ CANNOTANSWER

TEACHERX: ↗ CANNOTANSWER

STUDENT: **Who were the original members ?**

TEACHER: ↗ together he, Tom, Liam, and Tommy Makem

TEACHERX: ↗ Paddy agreed and together he, Tom, Liam, and Tommy Makem

TEACHERX: ↗ Paddy agreed and together he, Tom, Liam, and Tommy Makem

TEACHERX: ↗ the brothers and Tommy Makem

TEACHERX: ↗ together he, Tom, Liam, and Tommy Makem

STUDENT: **What was some of their earlier songs?**

TEACHER: ↗ CANNOTANSWER

TEACHERX: ↗ CANNOTANSWER

TEACHERX: ↗ CANNOTANSWER