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THE LARK IN THE CLEAR AIR

Dear thoughts are in my mind, And my soul soars enchanted, As I hear the sweet lark sing in the clear air of the day. For a tender beaming smile, To my hope has been granted, And tomorrow she shall hear All my fond heart would say.

I shall tell her all my love,
All my soul's adoration,
And I think she will hear me,
And will not say me nay.
It is this that gives my soul
All its joyous elation.
As I hear the sweet lark sing
In the clear air of the day.

- Samuel Ferguson

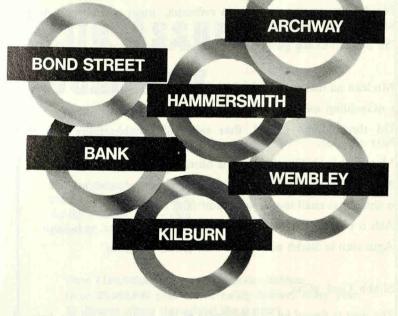
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SLIABH GEAL gCUA

'Sa Shliabh Gheal gCua na Feile, is fada uait i gcein me,
Am shui cois cuain im aonar go treith-lag faoi bhron,
An tuill e bhui ar thaobh diom 'dir me 'gus tir mo chleibhe,
'Sa Shliabh Gheal gCua na Feile, nach gear e mo sceol!

Da mbeinns'i measc mo ghaolta i sgeichin glas na seimh-fhear,
Nuair a scaipeann teas na grein'ann o speir ghil gan smal,
No da mbeinn-s'annsud faoi'n reilteann, nuair a thuiteann drucht
ar fear ann;

'Sa Shliabh Gheal gCua nar dheirc sin da mb'fheidir e fhail?

Mo lean na fuaireas togaint i leinn, na mor-chuid eolais, i nGaoluinn uasal cheolmhar ba sheolta mo bheal,
Do threabhfainn cuaird thar saile 'sdo thabharfainn bua thar chughat,
Mar, a Shliabh Gheal gCua, ba bhrea liom tu d'ardu i reim;
Mo ghra-sa thall na Deise 'dir banta, gleannta's sleibhte,
o shnamhas anall thar trean-mhuir taim traochta gan bhri;

Ach o b'ail le Dia me ghlaoch as, mo shlan-sa siar to h-Eirin

Agus slan le Sliabh na Feile le soar ghean om chroi.

Sliabh Geal gCua.

The poet is forced by circumstances to live overseas from his beloved birth-place, Mount Gua in Co. Waterford, but he pines for the pleasant company and surroundings of his youth. He bemoans his lack of education generally and his ignorance of the Irish language in particular. If those factors could be changed he would be back home bringing fame to Mount Gua. As things stand he must content himself with sending his love and best wishes to Ireland and his birth-place in the Decies.

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MAUREEN

O my love, she is soft as the down on the breast of the swan, And sweeter by far than the honey that comes from the bee, And happier too than the singing of birds in the dawn; My own one, my treasure, my little Maureen Machree.

She is bright as the stars that shine in the blue of the sky, And lovely and pure as the white of the feathery snow, And it's I would for ever be happy beside her to lie; And may God that's in heaven forgive me for loving her so.

— Hugh S. Robertson

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AN CLAR



AN CHEAD PHAIRT (Part I)

- 1. An Cor Stiurthoir: Sile Crowley, L.T.C.L.
 - (a) Mairseal Ui Neill O Gallchobhair do ghleas
 - (b) The Lark in the Clear Air arr. Rollinson
 - (c) Roisin Dubh O Gallchobhair do ghleas
- 2. TOMMY McCARTHY, Uilleann Pipes
 Traditional Airs
- 3. BOWLER SCHOOL OF DANCING
 The Gates of Drogheda
- 4. MARY and PAT PHILLIPS.
 Ballads
- TOMMY McGUIRE'S JUNIOR CEILI BAND Selection of Irish Airs
- 6. JOHN DELANEY. Tenor
 - (a) My Mary of the Curling Hair Charles Ball
 - (b) Little Bridget Flynn Percy French
 - (c) Believe me if all Those Endearing Young Charms

 Moore
 - (d) Molly Bawn Samuel Lover

Sos — 15 noimead ar a meid (Interval of 15 minutes only)

The words of the songs sung by the Choir will be found on pages 4, 6, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 of this Programme

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AN DARA PHAIRT (Part II)

- 7. An Cor
 - (a) Down by the Sally Gardens arr. Vine
 - (b) Sliabh Geal gCua Mac An Bua do ghleas
 - (c) Maureen Hugh S. Roberton
- 8. TOMMY MAGUIRE'S JUNIOR CEILI BAND
- 9. TOMMY McCARTHY. Concertina
- 10. MARY and PAT PHILIPS
- 11. BOWLER SCHOOL OF DANCING St. Brigid's Cross
- 12. JOHN DELANEY
 - (a) The Green Bushes arr. P. J. Ryan
 - (b) 'Tis a Charming Girl (from "The Lily of Killarney")

 Julius Benedict
 - (c) I'm not myself at all Samuel Lover
 - (d) Love Thee Dearest Moore

Amhran na bhfiann

Bolscair - An tAthair Padraig O'Sioradain

Tionlacai — Evelyn Tait

The Conductor and Members of the Choir thank you for your support and hope you will enjoy the Concert

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ROISIN DUBH

A Roisin, na biodh bron ort 'sna cas anoir.

Ta na braithre teacht thar saile 'sar dhruim an mhuir,

Tiocfaidh do phardun on Roimh son bPapa 'gat,

'Sni sparalfar fion Spainneach ar mo Roisin Dubh.

O! Mharbh tu me a bhrideog 'snach fearrde dhuit,
'Sgo bhfuil m'anam 'stig i ngean ort 'sni inde nain ndiu,
O! d' fag tu lag an bhfann me i ngne 'si gcruth,
Na feall orm 'sme i ngean ort, a Roisin Dubh.

Beidh an Eirne 'na tuillte treana is reabfar cnuic, Beidh an fhairrge na tonnta dearga is doirtfear fuil, Beidh gach gleann sleibh ar fuid Eireann is moint' ar crioth, La eigin sul a n-eagfhaidh mo Roisin Dubh.

Roisin Dubh

Writing at a time when patriotic verse was deemed a crime by the occupying forces, this Irish poet disguises his hopes and love for Ireland by singing to her as his lady love his Dark Rosaleen. The "Pope's pardon" and "Spanish wine" in verse 1 are metaphorical language for the foreign aid speeding o'er the high seas. Verse 2 is given over completely to protestations of a man's ardent love in a real human situation but verse 3 reverts to metaphors expressing the bloodshed and national upheaval that will occur in defence of Ireland.



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DOWN BY THE SALLY GARDENS

Down by the sally gardens,
My love and I did meet;
She passed the sally gardens,
With little snow white feet.
She bid me take love easy.
As the leaves grow on the tree;
But I being young and foolish,
With her did not agree.

In a field by the river,
My love and I did stand;
And on my leaning shoulder,
She laid her snow-white hand.
She bid me take love easy,
As the grass grows on the weirs;
But I was young and foolish,
And now am full of tears.

- W. B. Yeats

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DAN DE

A Dhia beho! A Ri na slogh, tabhair cluas;
Beannuigh clanna Adhaimh.
Suidhigh sith:
Dibir fioch is fuath;
Lion gach croidhe le gradh.
A Dhia bheo, tabhair cluas.

A Dhia mhoir, A Ri na ngloir! tabhair cluas; Beannuigh Inis Fail! Isligh uaill's daoine truagha tog suas. Bainse leo le baidh, A Dhia mhoir, tabhair cluas.

Beannuigh sinn de ghnath,
Bi linn dluth i ngach cuis is uair;
Riaruigh orainn do ghras.
Beannuigh sinn de ghnath.
A Dhia naoimh, tabhair cluas.
Amen.

- Lachlann Mac Beathain

SONG OF GOD

As the title implies, this is a prayer in which Almighty God is asked to bless the whole human race, to dispel all hatred and bitterness; to lower the proud and uplift those in misery and to support us steadfastly with His grace in all crises.

THE WEST'S AWAKE

When all beside a vigil keep,
The West's asleep, the West's asleep—
Alas! and well may Erin weep,
When Connacht lies in slumber deep.
There lake and plain smile fair and free,
'Mid rocks their guardian chivalry.
Sing, Oh! let man learn liberty,
From crashing wind and lashing sea.

That chainless wave and lovely land, Freedom and Nationhood demand: Be sure, the great God never planned, For slumb'ring slaves a home so grand. And long, a brave and haughty race Honoured and sentinelled the place. Sing, oh! e'en their sons' disgrace Can quite destroy their glory's trace.

And if, when all a vigil keep,
The West's asleep! the West's asleep!
Alas! and well may Erin weep
That Connacht lies in slumber deep.
But hark! a voice like thunder spake
"The West's awake! the West's awake!"
Sing, Oh! hurrah, let England quake,
We'll watch till death for Erin's sake!

- Thomas Davis

MAIRISEAL UI NEILL

Lamh dearg abu

Agus gluais de ceimibh prasa liom i mbearnain an bhaoil;
Feach an bladhm ar bharr na mbeann, loinnir pici 'gus lann
is ar mbraithre chugainn a tarraingt o na sleibhte aris.
Ceim ar aghaidh! Tog an liu an dearg lamh abu!

O, ta seolta na Spainneach leis an ngaoith ar an gcuan;
Emis mear! bimis trean! bimis broduil asainn fein;
ha ni fada no go bpleascaimid ar ghleannta na Mumhan.

Ta an Mhumha mheith ar lar fe Carew, fear an bhais le lasair gheal na gcoillte ta an oiche 'na la, thailte leathan Laois ta an barr a leagadh sios a loisc ag diormai dearga an oilc is an smail.

Ach, a Chlann-o mo chleibh ta 'n Spainneach le nar dtaobh ta buabhall Clainne Dhomhnaill romhainn go glorach a 'glaodh. Thar an sliabh! thar an mam! Thar an abhann is biodh si lan ls cloisfear piob an Ultaigh thios i lar Chineal Aodha.

— Tomas Toibin

MAIRSEAL UI NEILL

O'Neill's march (to the Battle of Kinsale, 1601). Triumph to the Red Hand of Ulster! Thus the clarion call goes out to the clansmen of Hugh O'Neill as he rallies his army for the long march over mountain and through valley. Just ahead of them the clarion call of the O'Donnell clan can be heard. Both clans are on their way (through a Munster province ravaged by Lord Carew) to join forces with the Spaniards who have landed at Kinsale.

LOOKING BACK

It hardly seems twelve months since we last entertained our patrons in this hall, but the London Gaelic League Choir has meanwhile fitted in its full yearly cycle of events.

The highlight of the past year was a new venture — our first visit to the Cork International Choral Festival where we gave a most satisfactory account of ourselves in the Premier Competition against professional choirs from Germany and Bulgaria. It proved a thoroughly exhilarating and enjoyable weekend amid very homely and hospitable circumstances. As well as being guests at a reception given by the Lord Mayor at the Cork City Hall, we were also given the privilege of singing at an open air Concert in Fitzgerald Park on the Sunday.

No sooner had we recovered from that trip than we busied ourselves with four new Irish songs in preparation for our annual October visit to the Dublin Oireachtas Competition. Before returning from Dublin on the Sunday night we staged a very successful Concert in Clondalkin before a very appreciative audience. This was a return visit by popular request following our first Concert at the same venue two years ago.

As is our custom, we have since kept ourselves busy with smaller-scale Concerts in various parts of London and at Herne Bay and Reading. One such Concert was to raise funds for the Beatification Cause of Padre Pio, and in similar vein, Concerts of Christmas Carols were staged at the Irish Club and at an Old Folk's Home.

Despite the heavy financial demands it will entail, the Choir is already in full preparation for the next International Festival in Cork on 3rd May. Sponsorship to however small a degree would be most welcome to enable us to get as many members as possible to travel and to sing in this competition with such world-wide appeal.

New members are needed and will be welcomed in all four sections of the choir. Rehearsals are held in the Irish Club, 82 Eaton Square, S.W.1., every Thursday evening between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. A previous knowledge of Gaelic is not essential for membership.

In conclusion, we thank you for supporting us tonight (and so often in the past) in our efforts to preserve the best of traditional Irish music, song and dance and we hope you will go home feeling you have participated in a very special and most enjoyable evening.

DONAL CROWLEY,
Press Officer,
London Gaelic League Choir



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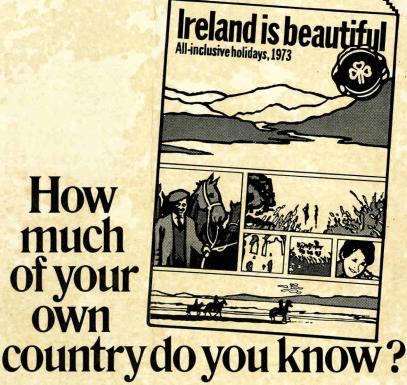
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