Irish Tradicional Sonz Circle & Workshop

Raing Camp 2021

host: heather L. preston

Maid on the Shore (Stan Rogers vers. of a 19th C. forebitter/ orig. Irish; close to ITMA's Fran(cis) McPhail sung version. Irish version **emphasizes** the magical singing of the maid.)

There is a young maiden, she lives all They replaced her away in his cabin alone. below, She lives all alone on the shore O; Let the wind blow high, blow low O; There is nothing she can find to comfort She's so pretty and neat, she's so sweet her mind. and complete, She sung captain and sailors to sleep, But to roam all alone on the shore, shore, shore. sleep, sleep, She sung captain and sailors to sleep. But to roam all alone on the shore. 'Twas of the young captain who sailed Then she robbed him of silver, she the salt sea, robbed him of gold, That the winds blow high, blow low O; She robbed him of costly ware O; Then took his broad sword instead of an I will die, I will die, the young captain did cry, oar. If I don't have that maid on the shore, And paddled away to the shore, shore, shore, shore, shore. If I don't have that maid on the shore. And paddled away to the shore. Well, I have much of silver, I have much Well, me men must be crazy, me men of gold, must be mad. I have much of costly ware O; Me men must be deep in despair O; I'll divide, I'll divide with my jolly For to let you away from my cabin so ship's crew, gay, If they row me that maid on the shore, And to paddle your way to the shore, shore, shore, shore, shore, And to paddle your way to the shore. If they row me that maid on the shore. After much persuasion, they got her Well, your men were not crazy, your men aboard, were not mad, Let the wind blow high, blow low O; Your men were not deep in despair O; They replaced her away in his cabin I deluded your sailors as well as yourself, I'm a maiden again on the shore, shore, below. Here's adieu to all sorrow and care, care, shore. I'm a maiden again on the shore. care. Here's adjeu to all sorrow and care. -- first verse again --

Month of January (most pop. In Ireland but sung throughout the Br. Isles) (Lyrics: Frankie Armstrong ver. w/ a Sarah Makem corr.)

It was in the month of January, the hills all clad in snow, When over hills and valleys my true love he did go. It was there I met a pretty fair maid, a salt tear in her eye, She had a baby in her arms and bitter she did cry.

"Oh, cruel was my father that barred the door on me, And cruel was my mother, that dreadful sight to see. And cruel was my own true love to change his mind for gold, And cruel was that winter's night that pierced my heart with cold."

For the taller that the palm tree grows, the sweeter is the bark, And the fairer that a young man speaks, oh, the falser is his heart. He will woo you and embrace you till he thinks he has you won; Then he'll go away and leave you all for some other one.

So come all you pretty fair young maids, a warning take by me, And do not try to build your nest at the top of a high tree, For the leaves they all will wither and the branches will decay And the beauty of a fine young man will all soon fade away.

[Roud 175 ; Laws P20 ; G/D 6:1176 ; Ballad Index LP20 ; trad.]

Paddie Bell sang It Was in the Month of January in 1965 on her LP **Paddie—Herself**. Paddy Tunney sang The Month of January on his 1966 Topic album recorded by Bill Leader, **The Irish Edge**. This track was also included in 1998 on the Topic anthology **Tonight I'll Make You My Bride** (The Voice of the People Series Volume 6).

Sarah Makem sang It Was in the Month of January at home in Keady, Co. Armagh, in 1967 in a recording made by Bill Leader. This recording was published a year later on her Topic LP **Ulster Ballad Singer**. Another 1967 recording, made by Peter Kennedy and Sean Boyle was included in 2012 on Sarah Makem's Topic anthology **The Heart Is True** (The Voice of the People Series Volume 24).

Frankie Armstrong sang The Month of January on her 1976 Topic LP **Songs and Ballads**. Tom Lenihan sang this song as A Wintry Evening on his 1978 Topic album of songs traditional in West Clare, Paddy's Panacea. Sara Grey and Ellie Ellis sang this song as Wintry Winds on their 1982 Fellside album of songs and tunes from North America, **A Breath of Fresh** Air.

June Tabor sang The Month of January on her 1983 Topic LP **Abyssinians** and on her 1993 compilation **Anthology**. She cites Sarah Makem as her source. Bob Fox sang In the Month of January in 2000 on his CD **Dreams Never Leave You**. Tim Radford sang The Month of January on his 2005 CD **Home from Home**. Niamh Boadle sang The Month of January in 2010 on her CD **Wild Rose**. Jon Boden sang In the Month of January as the 10 January 2011 entry of his project **A Folk Song a Day**. Josienne Clarke sang The Month of January in 2012 on her and Ben Walker's CD **Fire and Fortune**. Siobhan Miller sang The Month of January on her 2017 album **Strata**.

*Dreólín is the Gaeilge word for wren. Barr na Sráide: BAHR nuh ShrEYE-thuh

Oh, the town, it climbs the mountains and looks upon the sea At sleeping time or waking time, it's there I'd like to be. To walk again those kindly streets, the place where life began, With the Boys of Barr na Sráide who hunted for the wren.

With cudgels stout they roamed about to hunt for the dreólín* We searched for birds in every furze from Litir to Dooneen. We danced for joy beneath the sky, life held no print nor plan When the Boys of Barr na Sráide went hunting for the wren.

And when the hills were bleedin' and the rifles were aflame To the rebel homes of Kerry the Saxon strangers came, But the men who dared the Auxies and fought the Black-and-Tan Were the Boys of Barr na Sráide who hunted for the wren.

But now they toil in foreign soil where they have made their way Deep in the heart of London or over on Broadway, And I am left to sing their deeds and praise them while I can Those Boys of Barr na Sráide who hunted for the wren.

And here's a health to them tonight wherever they may be. By the groves of Carham river or the slope of Bean 'a Tí John Daly and Batt Andy and the Sheehans, Con and Dan, And the Boys of Barr na Sráide who hunted for the wren.

When the wheel of life runs out and peace come over me Just take me back to that old town between the hills and sea. I'll take my rest in those green fields, the place where life began, With those Boys of Barr na Sráide who hunted for the wren.

From Christy Moore (whose 1977 recording of this song is pretty definitive): I was enthralled when I heard Michael Hipkiss sing this in The Skillet Pot, Birmingham in 1968. I was living on the road and betimes, when well nurtured with ale, I could engage in maudlin meanderings about the pain of exile. I subsequently recorded the song in 1977's Live in Dublin album (recorded with Donal Lunny, Jimmy Faulkner by Nicky Ryan). Barr na Sráide means "top of the street" in Gaeilge.

Colcannon (AKA The Little Skillet Pot)

(Traditional – as recorded by the Black Family in 1986)

Well did you ever have colcannon, made with lovely pickled cream With the greens & scallions mingled like a picture in a dream Did you ever make a hole on top to hold the meltin' flake Of the creamy flavored butter that our mothers used to make?

Chorus:

Oh you did, so you did, so did he and so did I And the more I think about it, sure the nearer I'm to cry Oh weren't them the happy days, when troubles we knew not And our mothers made colcannon in the little skillet pot?

Well, did you ever take potato cake and boxty to the school Tucked underneath your oxter* with your books, your slate and rule And when teacher wasn't lookin', sure a great big bite you'd take Of the creamy flavored soft and meltin' sweet potato cake

[Chorus]

Well did you ever go a-courtin' boys when the evenin' sun went down And the moon began a-peepin' from behind the Hill O' Down And you wandered down the boreen* where the clúrachán* was seen And you whispered lovin' praises to your own dear sweet cáilín

[Chorus x 2]

===== *WORDS:

Colcannon - (Cookery) a dish, originating in Ireland, of potatoes and cabbage or other greens boiled and mashed together [from Irish Gaelic cál ceannann, literally: white-headed cabbage]

Boxty is a potato cake or scone, made from mashed potato and flour and baked in an oven or on a griddle. Eaten hot, usually with lots of butter and salt. The original versions were very time-consuming to make and mostly are not pursued anymore. There's a beautiful description of boxty, its making, and its meaning in Henry Glassie's big book "Passing the Time in Ballymenone" – maybe the greatest book about Ireland.

oxter - arm, armpit, from same OE root as axle. boreen is bóithrín - a rough lane, usually unpaved clúrachán (CLOR-A-CON) - one of the Little People – HLP

Two Sisters (Child 10, Roud 8)

There were two sisters side by side Sing I-dum, sing I-day There were two sisters side by side The boys are born for me There were two sisters side by side The eldest for young Johnny cried I'll be true unto my love if he'll be true to me \leftarrow [this line ends each verse]

Johnny bought the youngest a gay-gold ring

Sing I-dum, sing I-day [*repeat line 1*] The boys are born for me [*repeat line 1*] **He never bought the eldest a single thing**

Johnny bought the youngest a beaver hat

[*etc. as above*] **The eldest didn't think much of that**

As they were a-walking by the foamy brim [etc. as above] The eldest pushed the youngest in Sister, oh sister, give me thy hand [etc. as above] And you can have Johnny and all his land

Oh sister, I'll not give you my hand [etc. as above] And I'll have Johnny and all his land

So away she sank and away she swam [etc. as above] Until she came to the miller's dam

The miller, he took her gay-gold ring [etc. as above] And then he pushed her in again

The miller, he was hanged on the mountain head [etc. as above] The eldest sister was boiled-in lead

Oh, love is a fire that burns so bright Sing I-dum, sing I-day love is a fire that burns so bright The boys were born for me love is a fire that burns so bright **The shadows it casts can be dark as night** I'll be true unto my love if he'll be true to me!

[last verse added by HLP for the moral. Other versions of this song are far, far longer]

Siúil a Rún — Clannad version

I wish I was on yonder hill 'Tis there I'd sit and cry my fill And every tear would turn a mill Is go dté tú mo mhuirnín slán

Chorus

Siúil, siúil, siúil a rún Siúil go socair agus siúil go ciúin Siúil go doras agus éalaigh liom Is go dté tú mo mhúirnín slán

I'll sell my <u>rock</u>, I'll sell my <u>reel</u> I'll sell my only spinning wheel To buy my love a sword of steel Is go dté tú mo mhúirnín slán

I'll dye my petticoats, I'll dye them red And round the world I'll beg my bread Until my parents shall wish me dead Is go dté tú mo mhúirnín slán

I wish, I wish, I wish in vain I wish I had my heart again And vainly think I'd not complain Is go dté tú mo mhúirnín slán

But now my love has gone to France to try his fortune to advance If he e'er comes back 'tis but a chance Is go dté tú mo mhúirnín slán

Anglo phonetics

← [eehz go zhe tu mavoorneen sla-in]

[shool, shool, shool a ruin]
[shool go suckir ahgus shool go cuin]
[shool go doras ahgus elley lum]
[eehz go zhe tu mavoorneen sla-in]

Translation of the Irish chorus:

[HLP from various sources, because you should always know what your sung words mean!] Go, go, go my secret [love], Walk quietly and walk peacefully Walk to the door and flee with me! And may you go, my darling, safely.

Sweet Kingwilliamstown (Daniel Buckley – as sung by Nick Moloney)

My bonnie barque floats light and free Across the surging foam It bears me far from Innisfail To seek a foreign home A lonely exile driven far By misfortune's cruel frown From my own home and cherished friends In dear Kingwilliamstown

Whilst here upon the deck I stand And watch the surging foam Fresh thoughts arise within in my mind Of friends I'll ne'er see more Of moonlight deeds and happy hours While fast the tears roll down Still thinking of my friends so dear In sweet Kingwilliamstown

Shall I no more gaze on your shore Or roam your mountains high Or stray along Black Water's banks Where I roamed when just a boy Or watch the sun over Knocknaboul Light up the heather brown Before she flings her farewell gleams O'er sweet Kingwilliamstown

I know not yet but I fondly hope Where e'er my footsteps roam For cherished greatly in my mind Are thoughts of love and home Though fair is the land where I stand As night falls gently down May God be with you Motherland Farewell Kingwilliamstown

Daniel Buckley was a *Titanic* survivor who was reportedly the last American soldier to die on the last day of World War I. Kingwilliamstown in County Cork is now called Ballydesmond.

Do You Love An Apple? (as sung by Janet Russell & Christine Kidd)

Do you love an apple, do you love a pear? Do you love a laddie with curly brown hair? Yes, I love him, can't deny him I will be with him wherever he goes

Before I got married I wore a black shawl Now that I'm married I wear bugger-all Still, I love him, can't deny him I will be with him wherever he goes

He works at the pier for nine bob a week Come Saturday night he comes rolling home drunk Still, I love him, can't deny him I will be with him wherever he goes

He stands at the corner, a fag in his mouth Hands in his pockets, he whistles me out Still, I love him, can't deny him I will be with him wherever he goes

Before I got married I'd sport and I'd play Now, the cradle it gets in me way Still, I love him, can't deny him I will be with him wherever he goes

Do you love an apple, do you love a pear? Do you love a laddie with curly brown hair? Yes, I love him, can't deny him I'll go with him wherever he goes

The Parting Glass

Oh of all the money that e'er I spent, I spent it in good company. And all the harm that e'er I've done alas it was to none but me. And all I've done for want of wit To memory now I can't recall. So fill to me the parting glass, Goodnight and joy be with you all,

Oh all the comrades that e'er I had Are sorry for my going away. And all the sweethearts that e'er I had Would wish me one more day to stay. But since it falls unto my lot That I should rise, and you should not. I'll gently rise, and I'll softly call Goodnight and joy be with you all. If I had money enough to spend, And leisure time to sit awhile. There is a fair lad in this town, That sorely has my heart beguiled. His rosy cheeks and manly lips, I own he has my heart in thrall. Then fill to me the parting glass, Good night and joy be with you all.

Verse 3, Men's version:

If I had money enough to spend, And leisure time to sit awhile. There is a fair maid in this town, That sorely has my heart beguiled. Her rosy cheeks and ruby lips, I own she has my heart in thrall. Then fill to me the parting glass, Good night and joy be with you all.

Health to the Company

Kind friends and companions, come join me in rhyme Come lift up your voices in chorus with mine Come lift up your voices, all grief to refrain For we may or might never all meet here again!

CH:

So here's a health to the company and one to my lass Let's drink and be merry all out of one glass Let's drink and be merry, all grief to refrain For we may or might never all meet here again

Here's a health to the wee lass that I love so well For style and for beauty there's none can excel There's a smile on her countenance as she sits on my knee There is no man in this wide world as happy as me

CH

Our ship lies at anchor, she is ready to dock I wish her safe landing without any shock And if ever we should meet again, by land or by sea I will always remember your kindness to me

CH

Alternative (earlier, more sensible?) last verse:

Oh, my ship lies in harbor, she's ready to sail, God grant her safe voyage without any gale; And if ever we should meet again, by land or by sea, I will always remember your kindness to me.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Recommended Repertoire in Traditional Singing in English

At the recent seminar on Traditional Singing and Amhránaíocht ar an Sean-Nós, participants were asked to compile lists of songs suitable for beginner, intermediate and advanced singers. They were also asked for their thoughts on what made these particular songs good beginner/improver songs. One of the first points to be made was that a beginner singer should not be considered in terms of age; people are drawn to the art form at various points in their lives and therefore, repertoire, and in particular the content of songs, may vary according to age and life experience.

However, there was a general consensus on traits that make songs more suitable for a beginner. In no particular order, these traits include:

- simple in structure, short lines, short verses and a small number of verses overall
- catchy: a lively tune, possibly with a chorus
- a simple story: a song of place, a local hero, a love song
- limited expression needed to convey story of song
- easy to break into steps to teach, repetition in the melody, repetition in phrases
- obvious long notes to allow for the introduction of ornamentation when appropriate
- easy phrases, limited breath control necessary and limited vocal range.

Following on from the beginner songs, the intermediate songs should:

- have a stronger storyline, including historical/political references
- be longer in length overall, with longer lines and phrases throughout, necessitating an improvement in breath control from beginner level
- require greater vocal range
- have a more complicated verse structure, such as an A part and a B part
- contain limited repetition in melody/phrases
- require a deeper level of understanding and expression to convey the story to the listener.

The advanced songs are another step up from the intermediate lists as they require a more experienced understanding of all the techniques involved in the performance of a traditional song. The story once again is key and understanding of what is being sung. Phrasing should reflect the flow of the phrases, with breath control being used to great effectiveness. Variations in melody, phrasing and ornamentation should be used throughout, though sparingly, so as not to overpower the song itself. At this level, singers should be picking songs that suit their voice, their vocal range and their ability. This level of confidence and understanding of self comes with experience.

However, while all the technique and 'bells and whistles' are important, there is no doubt that what makes a good traditional singer is acquiring a traditional style of singing. This can only be developed by listening to singers singing in a traditional style. A discussion document compiled by Séamus Mac Mathúna and Coiste Ceoil CCÉ of the styles of singing in the English language, is available on request from Cultúrlann na hÉireann; eolas@comhaltas.ie. Exposure to different traditional styles will help develop a sense of the style that the singer is attracted to. This may be what the singer hears in their particular area/province, but for the Diaspora it is important to be exposed to the many different styles

from across Ireland, in order to figure out the style that they are drawn to, especially if they haven't access to a teacher or a chance to hear traditional singers from around their area. The initial development of a traditional style will take the form of copying what they are exposed to. With more experience, the singer will begin to develop and nurture their own style.

Note: The following lists of songs are suggestions only, and not definitive lists of Traditional songs.

Repertoire in Traditional Singing

BEGINNER REPERTOIRE FOR TRADITIONAL SINGERS

SLOW Hills of Tyrone Shores of Lough Bran Lough Sheelin Side Home I left Behind Erin Grá mo Chroí Rocks of Bawn The Mulcair River My Blue Eyed Mountain Queen Banks of the Lee Once I loved The Praties They Grow Small May Morning Dew Sweet Kingwilliamstown Carraig River The Hare The Dear Little Isle The Wild Rapparee Banna Strand The Boys of Barr na Sráide The Ballyboy Song Molly Bán A Stór mo Chroí **The Parting Glass** The Maid of Coolmore The Maid on the Shore The Quiet Land of Erin The Month of January Bunclody Dear Old Newport Town Eileen McMahon

The Banks of the Callan The Croppy Boy Brian Óg and Molly Bán The Green Fields Around Ferbane The Ballyboy Macra na Feirme Ball Rodge Deegan's Combine Machine **Barnagh Hill** The Banks of the Moy Down Erin's Lovely Lee Willie the Ploughboy Pádraig Óg mo Chroí My Old Home Far Away Keady Town

LIVELY

When I was Young Brian O'Lynn Siúl a Rún P stands for Paddy Rory Óg McRory Pat Came Over the Hill (The Whistling Thief) Thousands are Sailing to America The Jobber from Clare Do You Love an Apple? Health to the Company My Father's Cabin Small Old Maid in the Garret The Road to Claudy

The Sean Bhean Bhocht Four and Nine Shiny-O The Drunken Sailor Still I Love Him **The Two Sisters** The Maid of the Sweet Brown Knowe ABC song A Cobbler's Daughter **Blackbirds and Thrushes** Great Big Roaming Ass Patsy Fagan Going to Mass Last Sunday Wee Paddy Molloy Johnny Lovely Johnny Paddy and the Whale **Ballyconnell Fair** Colcannon The Song of the Cheese The Row in the Kitchen The Piper (Ms Gilhooley's Party) The Bodhrán Song Come with me Over the Mountain The Jug of Punch Blackwater Side Paddy O'Brien's Trip Fair of Cappamore The Magherafelt Fair Day

FOLLOW ON REPERTOIRE FOR TRADITIONAL SINGERS

SLOW Caoch O'Leary The Constant Farmer's Son Sweet Kingwilliamstown **Brocagh Brae** The Streams of Bunclody The Banks of the Moy The Flower of Magherally O The Lady of Loughrea Pádraig Óg mo Chroí The May Morning Dew Iniscarra Where is our James Connolly? The Blooming Maid of Sweet Killeigh The Maid of Ballygow The Boys of Barr na Sráide Craigie Hill **The Green Fields of France** The Factory Girl A Stór Mo Chroí Ye Lovers All The Groves of Kilteevan McCormack Brothers The Wounded Huzzar Kilnamartyra Exile Ar Éirinn Ní nEosfainn Cé hÍ Davbreak O'er Rathea Lonely Banna Strand Fare Thee Well Lovely Mary Farewell to Miltown Malbay Clare v Cork Munster Hurling Championship 1914 Boating on Lough Ree The Home I Left Behind Dónal Óg John Mitchell The Rocks of Bawn Misses Limerick, Kerry and Clare The Bonny Bunch of Roses O

The Night we Rode with Sarsfield The Rambling Boys of Pleasure Griffinstown Hill The Green Fields of America The Green Fields of Canada Ballyneety's Walls **Ballyseedy Cross** Moorlough Mary Easter Snow Old Ardboe Adieu to Lovely Garrison The Banks of the Nile The Lady of Loughrea The Flower of Gortade Lough Erne Shore The Banks of the Clyde The Boys of Mullaghbawn The Hills Above Drumquin Lovely Ann Buachailllín Donn **Ballyshannon Lane** St Helena's Shore **Four Green Fields** The Shady Woods of Truagh Shanagolden Land of the Gael Dear Old Newport Town The Kerry Hills Mac and Shanahan Erin's Green Shore Between the Mountains and the Sea Summer is Coming Bridget O'Malley The Mall of Lismore The Valley of Knockanure Gráinne Mhaol Dark Slender Boy Willie Rambler Once I Loved Matt Hyland

The Wee Croppy Tailor The Muttonburn Stream The Trees they be High The Banks of the Bann Dobbin's Flowery Vale My Bonny Blue Eyed Lassie Sweet Lurgy Streams The Rose of Ardee The Jolly Roving Tar Ballad of O'Carolan Country It's of my Rambles The Dear Little Isle Sweet Omagh Town The Verdant Braes of Screen The Maid of Culmore Sweet Portadown Alone at Twilight Meet me Tonight on the Shore The Lily of Meene The Banks of Sullane The Wild Raparee The Blackbird of Sweet Avondale Kerry Candlelight Cabin With The Roses Round the Door Hills of Coore The Banks of Blaine Slieve Gallion Braes The Mulcair River My Blue-Eyed Mountain Oueen The Leaving of Limerick The Evelyn Marie The Green Hills of Clare Sean Ó Duibhir a' Ghleanna The Cratloe Woods LIVELY The Making of the Cheese The Yorkshire Pigs The Bodhrán The Bold Tenant Farmer My Father's Cabin Small Tandragee

Come with me Over the Mountain The Irish Tinker Murphy's wife Is your Wife Gone Away? **Bellagh** Fair Pol and Nancy Hogan The Caherciveen Races The Binder Twine Song of the Dawn Mary Ann Ten Minutes Too Late Maid of the Sweet Brown Knowe The Bullock Fair Day Murphy's Running Dog Whiskey me Boys Going to Mass Last Sunday Nell Flaherty's Drake Hymn to St Finbarr Dick Mooney's Daughter, Battle on the Field The Hill of Campile The Rusty Mare Tom Dolan's Attempt to get Married Limerick Rake **Cloughamon Mill** Making Babies By Steam The Youth that Strayed from Miltown **Spancil Hill** The Kilmacthomas Girl Wearing of the Britches Pleasant and Delightful The High Walls of Derry Eileen O'Neill Pat Came Over the Hill Roger the Miller The Fleadh Down in Ennis Heather Down the Moor The Mice are at it Again Me Bit of a Stick The Inside Car Sean Bhean Bhocht The Yorkshire Pigs

Bunclody on Fair Day Seven Years Since I Ate an Egg The Creggan White Hare The Hare's Lament Thousands are Leaving for America **Horo Johnny** The Cocks are Crowing