

## **Bithbhuan (Rolling Home)**

*(Mac Dhonnagáin)*

Chomh buan le duilliúr an tsamhraidh  
Chomh buan le cúr na trá  
Chomh buan le filíocht na hóige  
A chaoineann bás an dilliúir is an ghrá

*As everlasting as the leaves of summer  
Or the foam of the beach  
As everlasting as the poetry of youth  
That laments the passing of leaves and of love*

Chomh buan le scamail agus spéartha  
Chomh buan le hoíche agus lá  
Chomh buan le deamhain agus déithe  
Chomh buan le cloigeann agus cnámh

*As everlasting as clouds and skies  
Or night and day  
As everlasting as demons and gods  
Or skull and bone*

Bithbhuan, bithbuan  
Bithbhuan d'éadan  
D'éadan, do láimh im' láimh.

*Eternal, eternal  
Eternal your face,  
Your hand in mine.*

Like sunlight spreading across the cornfield  
Like laughter spreading across your face  
Like drumbeats rolling across the distance  
Across the bounds of languages and race

Across the hungry desert now I'm rolling home  
Across the hungry sea  
With the simple faith of the swallow flying  
Across the world to the gable of his memory

I'm rolling home now  
I'm rolling rolling rolling rolling home  
To dance again with the dancer in your eyes

Across the world the wind is whispering  
The stormy seas are bellowing your name  
Ar an muir mhór seo, gan fuacht gan faitíos  
Tugaimis ár n-aghaidh ar an imigéin, ar an imigéin, ar an imigéin.

*On this wide ocean without fear or foreboding,  
We'll sail away.*

Bithbuan  
I'm rolling home now  
Bithbuan  
I'm rolling home  
Bithbuan d'éadan  
D'éadan, do láimh im' láimh  
The dancer, the dancer in your eyes.

**Guth, Giotáir/Vocal, Guitars:** Tadhg  
**Guth/Vocal:** Eleanor McEvoy  
**Pianó, Méarchlár/Piano, Keyboard:** Pat Crowley  
**Sacsafón/Sax:** Keith Donald  
**Dord/Bass:** Garvan Gallagher

There is a strong tradition of macaronic or bilingual songwriting in the Gaelic tradition, where the song skips from one language to another from verse to verse or line to line. This song is a contemporary take on that macaronic style. I had been listening to the French Canadian songwriter and producer Daniel Lanois around this time. His first album, *Acadie*, included a number of macaronic songs, in Canadian French and English.

Bhí aithne curtha agam ar Eleanor McEvoy sular bhain sí cáil amach leis an amhrán dá cuid a bhí ina hit mhór mhillteach in Éirinn i dtús na nóchaidí “A Woman’s Heart”. Bhí sí ag casadh leis an gceolfhoireann siansach ag an am, ach ag díriú ar a cuid ceoil féin a chur chun cinn.