

Mo Mháire

(Traidisiúnta, cóirithe Mac Dhonnagáin)

Ag feis nó dáil níl bean le fáil
Chomh sciamhach le mo Mháire
Tá aici cneas bog bán is deas
A chuirfeadh lil faoi náire.
Sa domhan seo níl aon chroí chomh díl
Nó cailín atá níos fíre
Measc óg nó sean sí plúr na mban
Is ise bród na tíre
Is ise bród na tíre

*At a fair or gathering there is no woman
As beautiful as my Máire,
She has soft white skin that would shame a lily.
In this world there is no heart as loyal
No girl more truthful.
Among old and young, she's the flower of womanhood,
The pride of the countryside.*

Tá gruaig mo stóir mar fháinní óir
Ag titim síos go talamh
Thar mhúineál bán is guailí lán
A cuma atá mar dhealbh
Gí glan soiléir gach réalta sa spéir
Tá súil mo ghrá níos glaine
Is binne glór mo chailín óig
Ná clárseach chiúin na cruinne
Ná clárseach chiúin na cruinne

*My love's hair is like golden rings,
Falling to the ground.
Over a white neck and firm shoulders
Like a sculpture.
Though bright and clear the stars of the sky,
My love's eyes are much clearer.
My love's voice is sweeter than the gentle harp music of the earth.*

Measc aos' óig i leathar bróige ar urlár cúirte nó párlúin
Níor sheas le taobh aon fhear riamh
Bean rince leath chomh hálainn
Má bhris sí croí aon ógánaigh
Gan bhréag, bhris sí na céadta
Is tá na mná ag fáil bháis gach lá
Le troim is neart a n-éada
Le troim is neart a n-éada.

*Amongst the young, in leather shoes on the dance floor
There never stood by any man a dancer half as beautiful.
If she' brokne the heart of one youth,
She's broken thousands
And every day women die
With the weight and strength of their jaelousy.*

Guth, Giotár/Voice, Guitar: Tadhg
Dordchlairnéid/Bass Clarinet: Keith Donald
Dord/Bass: Garvan Gallagher
Cnaguirlisí/Percussion: Lloyd Byrne

A love song from Oideas Gael country, Gleann Cholmcille in South West Donegal, it was written around the turn of the twentieth century by Pádraig Ó Beirn, wordsmith and postman. I first heard it as recorded by Clannad on their 1976 album Dúlámán. Their version is faster, played in 6/8 jig time.

Tá filíocht álainn san amhrán seo agus bainim an-phléisiúr as é a rá i gcónaí. Bhí ceol Chlannad ar cheann de na rudaí a spreag mé fhéin le spéis bhreise a chur sna hamhráin Ghaeilge agus sa teanga féin go deimhin, is mé i mo dhéagóir.