

AMHRÁIN
EALAÍNE | IRISH
GHAELGE | ART
2019 | SONG

Tionscadal na nAmhrán Ealaíne Gaeilge 2019 / Irish Language Art Song Project 2019

Coimisiúnaithe le maoiniú ón gComhairle Ealaíon / Commissioned with funds from the Arts Council

SÓLÁS / SOLACE

TRÍ AMHRÁN / THREE SONGS

I. marginalia (foraois gan fhaobhar) / marginalia (impossible forest)

II. Sólás / Solace

III. Faoi Shamhain / In November

MEÁNSOPRÁN & PIANÓ / MEZZO-SOPRANO & PIANO

CEOL / MUSIC: LINDA BUCKLEY

TÉACS / TEXT: DOIREANN NÍ GHRÍOFA

Sólás / Solace | Linda Buckley
meánsoprán & pianó / mezzo-soprano & piano

Nóta ón gCumadóir

Bhuaileas le Doireann Ní Ghríofa don gcéad uair nuair a bhíos im chónaí i Nua Eabhrac ar scoláireacht Fulbright – bhí síse ag léamh ag an Irish Arts Centre i lár Manhattan. Bhí dáimh eadrainn ar an bpointe ag an leibhéal pearsanta agus ealaíne. Trí sheans a bhuaileamar le chéile, ach d’fhás caidreamh eadrainn a bhí inspioráideach agus luachmhar, ag comhoibriú ar go leor tionscnaimh. Chuaigh na dánta seo go mór i bhfeidhm orm, toisc an nasc iontu leis na céadfaithe, leis an nádúr, le caillteanas croíbhriste agus, ar deireadh, le dóchas. Tá ceolmhaireacht ina cuid saothar: na trí dhán seo nasctha ag rud éigin cloiste – rud osnádúrtha lasmuigh dár dtuiscint.

Composer's Note

I first encountered Doireann Ní Ghríofa while living in New York on a Fulbright scholarship – she was reading at the Irish Arts Centre in the heart of Manhattan. We connected immediately on a personal and artistic level, and this chance meeting has led to a deeply inspiring and enriching collaborative relationship, working on many projects together. These poems in particular resonated strongly with me, for their connection to the sensual, to nature, to heartbreaking loss and ultimately hope. There is also a musicality in her work, with these three poems linked together by the hearing of something otherly, beyond ourselves.

Sólás / Solace | Linda Buckley
meánsoprán & pianó / mezzo-soprano & piano

I. marginalia (foraois gan fhaobhar) / marginalia (impossible forest)

marginalia (foraois gan fhaobhar)	marginalia (impossible forest)
ní fheiceann tusa anseo	you may see nothing here
ach seomra folamh,	only an empty
ach in adhmaid	room, but in these timber
an chláir sciorta, feicimse foraois	baseboards, I see a forest
gan fhaobhar, foraois nach féidir	bewitched, an impossible
dul tríthi, agus ar ghéag	forest that cannot exist,
inti, tá ulchabhán	so we could never sit up late plotting
aonair faoi cheilt,	our crossing through it –
a ghob cuartha	and yet, on a branch
ciúnaithe, faoi gheasa,	within, an owl is peering up, his
na súile bioracha	curved beak hushed, cursed,
duaithnithe – dhá shnaidhm	his shrill eyes disguised now
dhonna sa chláir,	by twin brown knots in the wood,
sa choill sin, a deir,	in the woods, and that gaze of his,
ina amharc uasal orm,	it is gallant, cool. It's true: listen! Do!
<i>Feicimse – a bhfuil fút, fút</i>	How he seems to say <i>I see through you,</i>
<i>fút, fút. Feicimse a bhfuil fút.</i>	<i>I do, I see through you, through you.</i>

Le / By: Doireann Ní Ghríofa
Aistriúchán Béarla / English translation: Doireann Ní Ghríofa

Atáirgthe le caoinchead ó Dhoireann Ní Ghríofa /
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As / From: *Lies*, Dedalus Press 2018

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Score Note

In the following score there are three lines of text under the vocal staff. The top line is the song's text – the poetry. The middle line contains an IPA transcription as a guide for those singers unfamiliar with the Irish language. The bottom line is a word-for-word translation (in italics) of the poetry. This gives a hint to singers about the meaning and emphasis of the text.

Sólás / Solace

I. marginalia (foraois gan fhaobhar) / marginalia (impossible forest)

Meánsoprán & Pianó / Mezzo-soprano & Piano

Doireann Ní Ghríofa
(foilsithe / published 2018)

Linda Buckley (2019)

♩ = 90 **Mistéireach / Mysterious**

Meánsoprán/
Mezzo-soprano

♩ = 90 **Mistéireach / Mysterious**

Bog agus athshondach. Athraigh na dinimicí go nádúrtha, más maith leat, ag cloí le cruth na línte. Bíodh an leibhéal dinimiciúil cothrom ag an dá lámh chun go gceanglófar patrúin go dlúth le chéile. / Soft and resonant. You may vary dynamics at your discretion naturally with the contour of the lines. Dynamic level should be equal in both hands for close pattern intertwining.

Pianó /
Piano

mp

Tá an troitheán le brú tríd síos gach mír go n-athraíonn an mód, nuair is féidir é a scaoileadh le haghaidh mód nua. / Pedal to be held throughout each section until the mode changes, when it can be cleared for the new mode.

*Is féidir na dinimicí a athrú go nádúrtha, ag cloí le cruth na línte séiseacha agus ag freagairt don pianó, ach gan dul níos airde ná **mf**. / You may vary dynamics naturally according to the contours of the melodic lines and in response to piano, but never rising above **mf**.*

5

mp

ní fhei-ceann tu - sa an - seo
ni é. - kən tɹ. - sə ʌn. - ʃɹ
Not see - ing you here

10

ach seom - ra fo - lamh,
əx ʃi:om. - ɹə fl. - ləv
but (a) room emp - ty

14

ach in adh - mad
əx m a.i. - məd
but in (the) wood

18

an chláir scior - ta,
ʌn xlv:lɪ ʃki:lɪ - tə
of the skirting - board

21

fei-cim-se fo - - - raois
fɛ.-kim.-ʃə fʌ. - - - ɹi:f
see I (a) forest

25

gan fhaobhar,
gen e:AI
without edge,

The musical score for measures 25-28 consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, and a half note E4, all under a slur. The next two measures contain whole rests. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment. The middle staff is in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both feature a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more melodic line in the left hand.

29

gan fhaobhar,
gen e:AI
without edge,

The musical score for measures 29-32 consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, and a half note G4, all under a slur. The next two measures contain whole rests. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment. The middle staff is in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both feature a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more melodic line in the left hand.

33

The musical score for measures 33-36 consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature, containing four whole rests. The middle and bottom staves are piano accompaniment. The middle staff is in bass clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both feature a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more melodic line in the left hand.

37 *mf*

fo-raoisnach féi - dir dul tri-thi,
 fΛ. - .iɹ nɛx fe. - di. dΛl tri.-hi
 (a)forest that cannot go through her;

41

a - gus ar ghéag in - ti,
 ɐ. - gəs εɹ jɛ:əg in. - ti
 and on (a) branch in her;

45

tá ul - cha-bhán ao - nair
 tɔ Λl. - xΛ. - vɔn e:Λ. - niɹ
 is (an) owl lone

49

faoi cheilt, **a**
fwi xelt_ *a*
hidden *its*

coinnigh an troitheán síos tríd na sosanna / hold pedal down through rests
 scaoil leis an troitheán le haghaidh mód nua / clear pedal for new mode

54

ghob cuar - tha **ciú - nai - the,**
ɣab ku:əi. - hə *kju. - ni. - hə*
beak curved *silenced,*

58

faoi ghea - sa,
fwi jæ. - sə
under (a) spell

62

na súi - le bio - ra - cha
na su:í. - lə b'la. - ɪa. - xə
the eyes gimlet

66

70

coinnigh an troitheán síos tríd na sosanna / hold pedal down through rests
scaoil leis an troitheán le haghaidh mód nua / clear pedal for new mode

75

mp

duaith - ni - the - dhá shnaidhm
du.i. - ni. - hã γð hna:im_
obscured - two knots

79

coinnigh an troitheán síos tríd na sosanna /
hold pedal down through rests

83

dhon-na sa chlár, sa choill sin,
γλ. - nã sa xlvɪ sa xa:il fm
brown in the board in forest that,

scaoil leis an troitheán le haghaidh mód nua /
clear pedal for new mode

87

a deir, _____ i-na amh-arc _____ ua - sal _____ o - rm, _____
 a dɛɪ _____ ɪ.-nə ɛ:u. - wək _____ u:ə. - səl _____ ʌ.-ɹəm _____
 says he, _____ in his gaze _____ noble _____ on me, _____

91

coinnigh an troitheán síos tríd na sosanna /
 hold pedal down through rests

96

p

Fei-cim - se - _____ a bhfuil _____
 fɛ.-kim. - ʃə _____ a wíl _____
 "I see _____ that which is _____

scaoil leis an troitheán le haghaidh mód nua /
 clear pedal for new mode

100

fút,
fut
about you,

Musical score for measures 100-103. The vocal line begins with a whole note *fút,* followed by a half note rest. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a simple harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

104

fút,
fut
you,

fút,
fut
you,

fút.
fut
you,

Musical score for measures 104-107. The vocal line features three phrases, each starting with a dotted quarter note *fút,* followed by an eighth note rest and a half note. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note melody and harmonic accompaniment.

108

rit.

Fei-cim-se a bhfuil fút.
fē.-kɪm.-ʃə a wɪl fut
I see that which is about you."

rit.

Musical score for measures 108-111. The vocal line begins with a half note *Fei-cim-se*, followed by a dotted half note *a bhfuil fút.* The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. The tempo marking *rit.* is placed above the vocal line and below the piano accompaniment.

Sólás / Solace | Linda Buckley
meánsoprán & pianó / mezzo-soprano & piano

II. Sólás / Solace

Sólás

(Nóta:

*Den Bhéaloides é go bhfillfeadh anam an
linbh mhairbh i riocht an cheolaire chibe is
go dtabharfadh a ceol faoiseamh croí don mháthair)*

Faoi cheo gealaí meán oíche,
de cheol cailte,
filleann sí ó chríocha ciana:
Aithním do bhall broinne,
a cheolaire chibe
agus is fada liom go bhfillfidh tú arís
chugam.

Solace

(Note:

*In Irish folklore, souls of dead infants were
believed to return as sedge-warblers to
comfort their mothers with song)*

Listen: in midnight
moon-mist, in snatches of lost music,
I've heard her return from the distance.
Little visitor, your birthmark looks so familiar.
Small warbler, listen, every night, I'll wait,
awake, facing north, until the last star-light fades.
Find me, child; I yearn for your return.

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Sólás / Solace

II. Sólás / Solace

Meánsoprán & Pianó / Mezzo-soprano & Piano

Doireann Ní Ghríofa
(foilsithe / published 2018)

Linda Buckley (2019)

Mar shuantraí duairce, le suáilceas /
Like a melancholic lullaby, with warmth

$\text{♩} = 40$

p

Meánsoprán /
Mezzo-soprano

Faí cheo gea - laí meán oí - che,
fwi x'io g'æ. - li m'ɔn i. - hə
Under mist (of) moon (at) midnight

Mar shuantraí duairce, le suáilceas /
Like a melancholic lullaby, with warmth

$\text{♩} = 40$

Pianó /
Piano

p Bog, athshondach /
soft, resonant

coinnigh an troitheán síos tríd na sosanna /
hold pedal down through rests

5

de cheol caill - te, de cheol caill - te,
de x'iol ka.il. - tə de x'iol ka.il. - tə
of music lost of music lost

10

fil-leann sí ó chrío-cha cia - na:
fi. - lən jī o x'i:ɫ. - xə ki:ɫ. - nə
returns she from lands a - far

15

Ai - thnám do bhall broin - ne, a
 æ. - hnim dΛ va:ul bɪm. - ə a
 I recognise your birthmark oh

20

cheo - lai-re chí - be a - gus is fa -
 x'ò. - læ:ɪ.ɪə xi. - bə e. - gəs is fe. -
 sedge warbler and is long

25

da liom go bhfill - fidh tú a -
 də lɪ:əm gə vl. - hɪg tu a. -
 for me your return again,

29

rís, tú a - rís chugam.
 ɹɪf tu a. - ɹɪf xum
 again to me.

Sólás / Solace | Linda Buckley
meánsoprán & pianó / mezzo-soprano & piano

III. Faoi Shamhain / In November

Faoi Shamhain	In November
Faoi Shamhain, nuair atá gach uile ní ag titim, ag teip, an domhan ag tiontú ina mhóta dorcha, ag maothú faoi chosa,	In November, when everything is falling, failing, the whole world dulled, turned to black mulch underfoot
cuimhnigh go gcanfaidh duilleog dheiridh an chrainn sa ghairdín scol an loin má chuireann tú cluas le héisteacht ort.	remember that the very last leaf up on the tree will whistle a tune if you listen closely.
Folaítear ceol faoi sciatháin gheimhridh áit nach bhfeicfí é.	Secret melodies have been concealed under winter wings, in case of emergency.
Éist.	Listen.

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Meánsoprán & Pianó / Mezzo-soprano & Piano

Linda Buckley (2019)

**Mar raga Indiach, aislingeach, nach mór /
Like an Indian raga, almost dreamy**

♩ = 80

mp

Meánsoprán /
Mezzo-soprano

**Mar raga Indiach, aislingeach, nach mór /
Like an Indian raga, almost dreamy**

♩ = 80

Faoi Shamh-ain,
fwi ha:u. - wim
Of November

Pianó /
Piano

mp dark and
resonant

N. B. go leor den troitheán buaine, ach glan má bhíonn an téagar ródhlúth /
eochair ochtai! / a lot of pedal sustain, but clear if texture becomes too dense
octave clef!

7

nuair a - tá gach ui - le ní
nu:ii a. - tó gex i. - lə ni
when is every single thing

13

ag ti - tim, ag teip, an
eg ti. - tim eg tep an
falling, failing the

39

- faidh _____ duil - leog dheí - ridh _____ an chraimn
 - híg _____ dt. - lr:og jé. - .uig _____ an xinn_
 sing (the) leaf last of the tree

45

sa ghair - dín scol an loin_
 sa yd:l. - din skal an lín_
 in the garden call of the blackbird

52

má chui-reann tú cluas le héis - teacht _____ ort.
 mɔ x:l. - .jən tu klu:əs le he:ɪʃ. - tæxt _____ ʌɪt
 if put you (an) ear to lis - ten on you.

60 **Le éadroime agus dóchas /**
With lightness and hope

N. B.
 eochair ochtaí! /
 octave clef!

70

Fol - aít-tear ceol faoi scia - tháin gheimh - ridh
 fʌl - i - tər eɪl fwi ski:ə - hɔ:m ji. - ɪŋ
 Concealed (is) music under wings of winter

78

de chogar /
whispered

áit nach bhfeic - fí é. Éist.
 a:it nəx vək. - fi e e:ɪst
 (a) place won't be seen it. Listen.