

AMHRÁIN  
EALAÍNE | IRISH  
GHAEILGE | 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

TRÍ AMHRÁN / THREE SONGS

1. Bóithre Bána / White Roads

*Téacs / Text: Eoghan Ó Tuairisc*

2. Filleadh ón Antartach / Return from Antarctica

*Téacs / Text: Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh*

3. An Muince Dreoilíní / A Necklace of Wrens

*Téacs / Text: Michael Hartnett*

BARATÓN & PIANÓ / BARITONE & PIANO

CEOL / MUSIC: JOHN KINSELLA

**Trí Amhrán / Three Songs | John Kinsella**  
**baratón & pianó / baritone & piano**

**Bóithre Bána / White Roads**

Bóithre Bána

Is fada uaim na bóithre,  
Na bóithre fada, bán faoin ngréin,  
Siar thar choim na má móire  
Go leisciúil leadránach ar strae.

In uaigneas caoin mo chuimhne  
Cloisim naosc go géar gearr garbh  
Amuigh i gciúnas na riasca  
Ag buaireamh bhrioglóidí na marbh.

Asal dubh go smaointeach  
Ag comhaireamh gach coiscéim dá shlí,  
Cailín ard le cosa ríona  
Ag tarraingt uisce i mbuicéidín.

Sráidbhaile ina chodladh  
An deatach ina línte réidh,  
Foscadh úr thar fráma dorais  
Is cumhracht dí i mbrothall lae.

Siar arís an bóthar,  
Ór á leá i mbarra géag,  
Meisce mhilis an tráthnóna  
Is an saol faoi dhraíocht ag dán an éin.

Uch, is fada uaim na bóithre,  
Na bóithre atá bán faoin ngréin,  
Is ó ghleo na cathrach móire  
Éalaíonn mo chuimhne leo ar strae.

White Roads

These are the roads I miss  
The long roads white in the sun  
Meandering as they please  
The middle of the great plain.

Forlorn, I gently call to mind  
Out of the marsh's quiet mood  
The snipe's voice sharp and wild  
Troubling the dreaming dead.

A black donkey thoughtfully tallies  
Every step his feet trail,  
A tall girl with a queen's swagger  
Draws water in a little pail.

A roadside village sleeps its thread  
Of steady smoke into the air,  
Doorways deep in welcome shade,  
Regaling draughts in the heat of the day.

Further still on roads like these  
Evening is sweetly long,  
Gold turns liquid in the trees,  
Life is snared in a bird's song.

Yes, I miss these paths and ways  
These roads whitening in the sun:  
It is down their miles my mind strays  
Far beyond the city's din.

Le / By: Eoghan Ó Tuairisc (as / from *Lux Aeterna*, 1964)

Atáirgthe le caoinchead ó Rita Kelly / Reproduced by kind permission of Rita Kelly

Aistriúchán Béarla / English translation: Conleth Ellis

Atáirgthe le caoinchead ó Christine Ellis / Reproduced by kind permission of Christine Ellis

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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.

# Bóithre Bána / White Roads

Baratón & Pianó / Baritone & Piano

Eoghan Ó Tuairisc  
(foilsithe / published 1964)

John Kinsella (2019)

**Moderato** (♩ = c.54)

Baratón /  
Baritone

**Moderato** (♩ = c.54)

Pianó /  
Piano

*mf*

2

*mf*

Is  
is  
Are

4

fa-da uaim na bóí - thre, Na bóí - thre fa - da, bán faoin ngréin,  
fə.-də wɛm na bo:ɪ. - hɪə na bo:ɪ. - hɪə fə. - də bán fʷin ŋɪɛn  
long from me the roads, The roads long, white under sun,

6

Siar thar choim na má mói-re Go leis-ciúil lead - rá - nach ar strae. In  
 fí:əi hæi χ<sup>w</sup>im na ma mu:ɪ.-ɪə gʌ lɛʃ.-kiul læd.-ɪa.- nəx ɛɪ stɪe m  
 West over (the) middle of the plain great Lazily, boringly, wandering. In

8

uaig neas caoin mo chuimh-ne Cloi-sim naosc go géar gearr garbh A -  
 u:ɪg.-nəs k<sup>w</sup>in ma χ<sup>w</sup>iv.-nə klɪ.-sɪm ni:əsk gʌ ge:əɪ gʌɪ gʌ.ɪəv a.-  
 loneliness sweet (of) my memory Hear I (a) snipe sharply, shortly, harshly Out -

*p* *cresc.* *f* *p*

10

muigh i gciú-nas na rias-ca Ag buai-reamh bhriong-lói-dí na marbh.  
 mwɪ ɪ g<sup>w</sup>u.-nəs nə ɪi:əs.-kə ɛg bu:ɪ.-ɪəv vɪŋ.-lo:ɪ.-di na mɛ.ɪəv  
 side in silence of the marsh Disturbing (the) dreams of the dead.

12

*mf*

14

*mf*

As - al dubh go smaoin-teach Ag  
 es. - əl dʌv gə sm<sup>w</sup>in. - tʃəx eg  
 Donk-ey black thought-fully

16

*f*

comhair - eamh gach cois - céim dá shlí, Cailín ard le co-sa ríó - na Ag  
 ko.i. - əv gəx kəf. - kem da hli kə.lin ard lə kə.-sə ri:ə. - nə eg  
 Counting each foot - step of its way Girl, tall with legs (of a) queen

18

*p*

tarraingt uisce i mbuic - éi - dín Sráid-bhai-le in - a chod-ladh  
 ta.ɲt ɪf.kə ɪ mʌk. - e. - dín sɪ.ə.ɪd. - vɛ.-ljə m. - ə χʌ. - lə  
 Drawing water in (a) little bucket. Village asleep

**poco rit. a tempo**

20

*cresc.*

**f**

An dea-tach in - a lín - te réidh, Fos-cadh úr thar frá - ma do-rais  
 An dæ.-təx m. - ə lín.-tʃə iə fʌs.-kə uɪ hæɪ frɑ.-mə dʌ.-ɪʃ  
 The smoke in lines smooth, Shel-ter fresh over frame (of) door

**poco rit. a tempo**

*cresc.*

**f**

22

**rall.**

Is cumh-racht dí i mbro-thall lae.  
 is ku.-ɹəxt di i mbrɔ.-həl le  
 And scent (of) drink in heat of day.

**rall.**

**mf**

24

**Lento**

**f**

Siar a - rís — an bó-thar, Ór á leá i mba-rra gé - ag  
 fɪ:əɪ a.-ɪʃ — An bo.-həɪ oɪ a lɪə i ma.-ɹə ɡe:-əɡ  
 West a-gain the road, Gold being melted in upper branches,

**Lento**

*cresc.*

**f**

26

*p*

Meis - ce mhi - lis,  
 mɛʃ. - kə vi. - lif  
 Drunken - ness sweet,

*cresc.*

28

*f*

meis - ce mhi - lis an tráth - nó - na      Is an saol faoi dhraíocht ag dán an éin. —  
 mɛʃ. - kə vi. - lif an trə. - no. - nə      is an si:əl fwi ɣi.əxt əg dán an en —  
 Drunken - ness sweet, (of) the af - ter - noon      And life under (a) spell by poem (of) the bird.

*dim.*

30

*p* Tempo I

Uch, is  
 AX IS  
 Alas, are

*p* *mf*

Tempo I



Bóithre Bána / White Roads | John Kinsella

32

*cresc.*

*f*

fa-da uaim na bóí - thre, Na bóí - thre a - tá bán faoin ngréin, Is ó  
 fɛ.-də wem na bo:ɪ. - hɪə na bo:ɪ. - hɪə a. - ta ban fʷin ŋɪɛn ɪs o  
 long from me the roads, The roads that are white under sun, And from

34

ghleo na cath - rach mói - re Éa - laíonn mo chuimh - ne leo ar strae.  
 jʲlʲo na kɛ. - hɪəx mu:ɪ. - ɹə e. - li:ʌn mʌ xʷɪv. - nə lo ɛɪ stɪe  
 sound (of) the ci - ty big Es - capes my mem - ory with them wandering.

36

*poco rit.*

*poco rit.*

**Trí Amhrán / Three Songs | John Kinsella**  
**baratón & pianó / baritone & piano**

**Filleadh ón Antartach / Return from Antarctica**

Filleadh ón Antartach

Return from Antarctica

Cloiseann sé fós é:  
díoscán an oighir,  
tormáil i bhfad uaidh,  
ciúnas an tsneachta.

He can still hear it:  
the glaciers rasping,  
their ratcheting in the distance,  
the snow-quiet.

Is cuimhin leis go fóill  
an t-aer úr a shlogadh,  
an dá scamhóg aige glanta,  
fuacht naofa ag beannú a chnis.

And still he remembers  
gulping unsullied freshness  
to clarify his lungs,  
the holy coldness blessing his skin.

Thug sé grá a chroí  
don ngoimh gheal,  
don díseart tostach  
don tírdhreach socair.

He gave his heart  
to that stinging brightness,  
that taciturn redoubt,  
that uncluttered country.

Ach b'éigean dó filleadh ar an taiseacht  
is ar an mbaile.  
Bhí air cúl a thabhairt  
don mbáine.

But no choice except a return  
to dampness and home.  
He had to turn  
his back on blankness.

Is iomaí oíche  
a iarrann a bhean air go caoin  
an chistin a fhágaint  
is dul léi a lúí.

On so many nights  
his wife asks him tentatively  
to abandon the kitchen  
and join her upstairs.

Is aoibhinn leis  
uaigneas an tsileáin ón sconna.  
Is ceol aige  
srannán an reoiteora:

He loves the irregular loneliness  
of each tap-drip  
and it's music to him,  
the refrigerator's drone:

nótaí doimhne  
á seimint go mall,  
gliúscáil ochlánach  
a labhrann le gach ball dá bheo.

*basso profundo*  
slow in the recital,  
grinding sighs that call out  
to his being's every element.

Le / By: Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh  
Aistriúchán Béarla / English translation: Billy Ramsell

Atáirgthe le caoinchead ón údar, ón aistritheoir agus The Gallery Press,  
Loch Craobh, An Seanchaisleán, Contae na Mí, Éire, as *The Coast Road* (2016)

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Loughcrew, Oldcastle, County Meath, Ireland, from *The Coast Road* (2016)

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**baratón & pianó / baritone & piano**

**Filleadh ón Antartach / Return from Antarctica**

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# Filleadh ón Antartach / Return from Antarctica

Baratón & Pianó / Baritone & Piano

Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh  
(foilsithe / published 2016)

John Kinsella (2019)

(♩ = 50)

Baratón /  
Baritone

Pianó /  
Piano

(♩ = 50)

*ff* *tr* *p* 3

3

*pp* 3 3 3 3

6

rit. . . . . A tempo

*p* *rit.* . . . . . *A tempo* 3 3 3 3

Filleadh ón Antartach / Return from Antarctica | John Kinsella

8

*p*

Clois-eann sé fós é,      clois-eann sé fós é: \_\_\_\_\_  
 klʌʃ. - ən fe fos e      klʌʃ. - ən fe fos e \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hears he still it,      Hears he still it:

10

*mp*

dí - os - cán an oigh -  
 di: - ʌs. kan ʌn a:i. -  
 creaking (of) the ice,

*mp*

11

- ir,  
 - ʌ

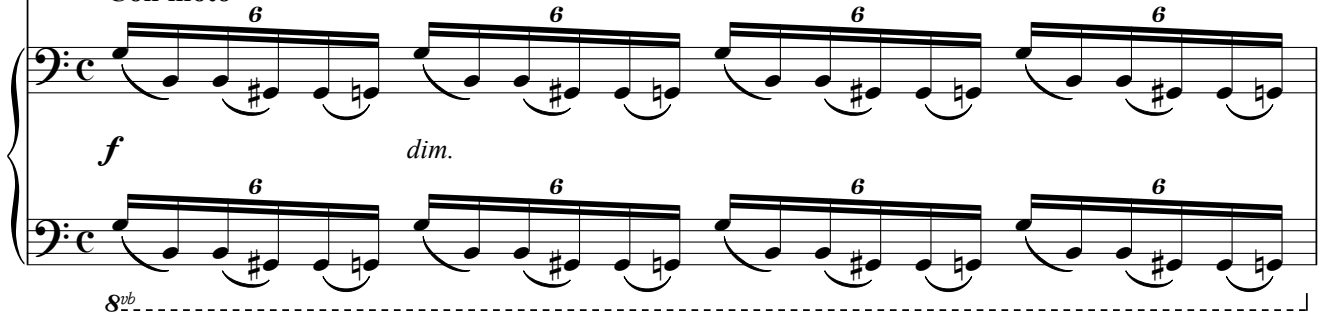
*mf* ————— *p* *cresc.*

**Con moto**

12 *f* 

tor - máil i bhfad u - aidh, tor - máil i bhfad u - aidh,  
 tAI. - ma:il I vəd u: - ɪg tAI. - ma:il I vəd u: - ɪg  
 rumb - ling far away from him, rumb - ling far away from him,

**Con moto**

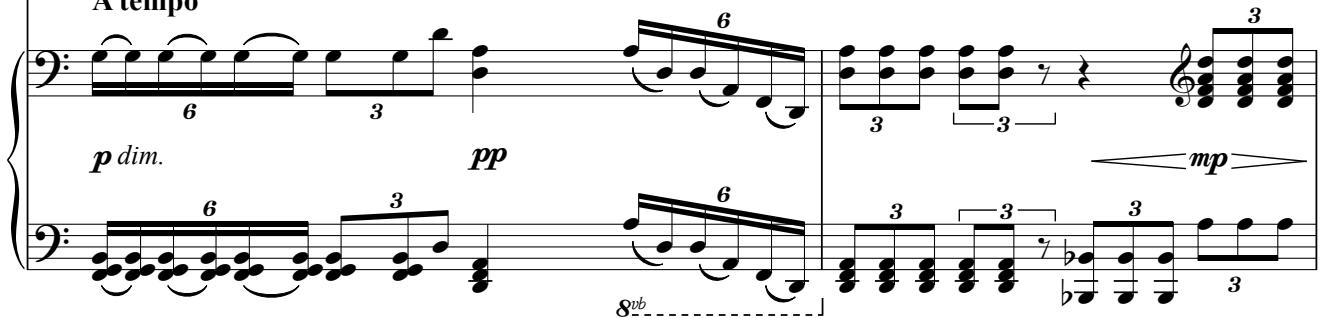


**A tempo**

13 *p* 

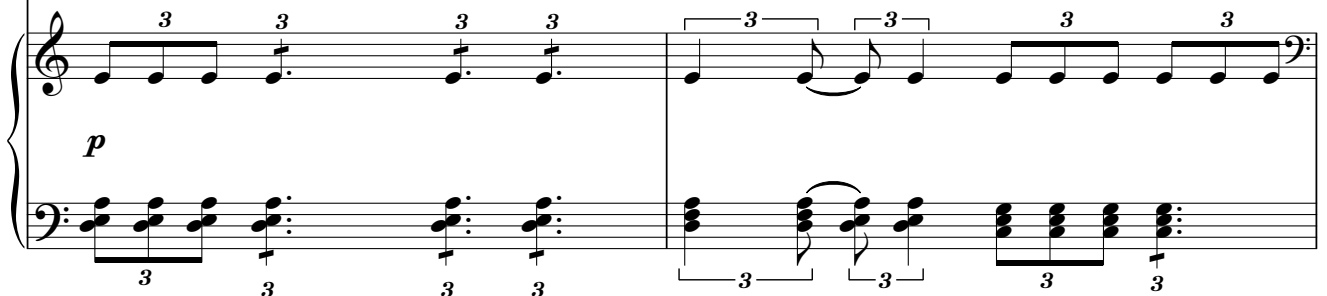
ciú - nas an tsneach - ta, ciú - nas an tsneach - ta.  
 kʲu. - nəs ən tnæx. - tə kʲu. nəs ən tnæx. - tə  
 si - lence (of) the snow, si - lence (of) the snow.

**A tempo**



15 

Is cuimhin leis go fóill an t-aer úr a shlo - gadh, an dá sca -  
 is kʷin lɛʃ gɫ fo:il ən tɛɾ uɪ a hɫ. - gə ən da ska. -  
 Remembers he still the air fresh swallowing, the two lungs



17

- mhóg ai - ge glan - ta, fuacht nao - fa ag bea - nnú a chnis.  
 - vog ε. - gə glen. - tə fu.əxt nə:ʌ. - fə εg bæ. - nu a xniʃ  
 of him cleaned, cold ho - ly blessing his skin.

19

*ff* Thug sé grá a chroí don ngoimh gheal,  
 hḁg se gia a x.ri dḁn ŋʷiv jæl  
 Gave he love (of) his heart to the sting bright,  
*dim.*

21

don dí - seart tos - tach don tír - dhreach so - cair.  
 dḁn di. - ʃəɪt tʌs. - təx dḁn ti. - ɣiæx sʌ. - kʌ:li  
 to the deserted place si - lent to the land - scape calm.

23 *p*

Ach b'úi-gean dó fill - eadh ar an tais - eacht is ar an  
 æx be. - gæn do fil. - æ εɪ ʌn tæf. - æxt ɪs εɪ ʌn  
 But had to he re - turn to the damp - ness and to the

25

mbai - le. Bhí air cúl a thabhairt don mbái - ne.  
 mæ. - lə vi εɪ kul a hu:ɪt dʌn mɑ:ɪ. - nə  
 home. Had to he back turn on white - ness.

28



30

Is <sup>3</sup>io - maí oí - - che  
 IS Λ - mA:i i. - - hæ  
 Is man - y nights

31

a ia - rrann a bhean air go caoin an  
 a i:ə - rən a væn εi gΛ kΛ:in Λn  
 that asks his wife of him mildly the

32

chis - tin a fhá-gaint is dul léi a luí.  
 xɪf. - tn a a. - gmt is dΛl le:i a lΛ:i  
 kit - chen to leave and go with her to lie.

34

Is aoi - bhinn leis uaig - neas an tsi - leáin ón sco - nna.  
 is i - vón lef u:ig - nəs an ti - lá:m on skΛ - nə  
*Adores he loneliness (of) the tri - ckle from (the) tap.*

35

Is ceol ai - ge srann - án an reoit - eo - ra:  
 is kíol é - gə s:an - an an ío:it - o - íə  
*Music to him snor - ing (of) the freezer:*

37

*pp* nó - táí doimh - ne á sei - mint go mall,  
 no - ti dá:i - nə a fé - mnt gΛ ma:ul  
*notes deep being played slowly*

40

*p*

gliús - cáil — och - lá - nach a labh-rann le gach ball — dá bheo.  
 glus. - ka:il — λχ. - la. - nœx a la:u. - iæn le gœx ba:ul — da vïo —  
 (a) grinding (that is) groaning that speaks to every bit of his being.

43

46

*rit.*

*dim.* *pp*

**Trí Amhrán / Three Songs | John Kinsella  
baratón & pianó / baritone & piano**

**An Muince Dreoilíní / A Necklace of Wrens**

An Muince Dreoilíní

I mo bhuachaill óg, fadó fadó,  
d'aimsíos nead.  
Bhí na gearraigh clúmthá, fásta,  
is iad ag scread.

D'éirigh siad – is thuirling  
arís ar m'ucht  
Ormsa bhí muince clúimh  
sa mhóinéar fliuch.

Níor dhuine mé ach géag crainn  
nó carn cloch  
ach bhí iontas crua nár bhraith siad  
ag bualadh faoi m'ucht.

B'in an lá ar thuirling ceird  
a éilíonn ómós:  
is d'fhág a n-ingne forba orm  
nár leigheasadh fós.

A Necklace of Wrens

When I was very young  
I found a nest.  
Its chirping young  
were fully fledged.

They rose and re-alighted  
around my neck,  
Made in the wet meadow  
a feather necklet.

To them I was not human  
but a stone or tree:  
I felt a sharp wonder  
they could not feel.

That was when the craft came  
which demands respect.  
Their talons left on me  
scars not healed yet.

Le / by: Michael Hartnett

Atáirgthe le caoinhead ó Eastát Michael Hartnett c/o The Gallery Press,  
Loch Craobh, An Seanchaisleán, Contae na Mí, Éire, as *A Necklace of Wrens* (1987)

Reproduced by kind permission of Estate of Michael Hartnett c/o The Gallery Press,  
Loughcrew, Oldcastle, County Meath, Ireland, from *A Necklace of Wrens* (1987)

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**An Muince Dreoilíní / A Necklace of Wrens**

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# An Muince Dreoilíní / A Necklace of Wrens

Baratón & Pianó / Baritone & Piano

Michael Hartnett  
(foilsithe / published 1987)

John Kinsella (2019)

(♩ = c.68)

Baratón /  
Baritone

Pianó /  
Piano

*mf*

*f*

3

*mf*

**I mo bhua - chaill**  
i ma vu. - xil  
As a boy

*p*

*mf*

6

óg \_\_\_\_\_ fa - dó fa - dó,  
og \_\_\_\_\_ fe. - do fe. - do  
young, \_\_\_\_\_ long ago,

An Muince Dreoilíní / A Necklace of Wrens | John Kinsella

9

d'aim - síos nead.  
 da:m. - fí.ÁS næd  
 found I (a) nest.

*f*

12

*mf*

Bhí na gearr - caigh clúmh - tha,  
 vi na g'æi. - kíg kluv. - hō  
 Were the chicks down - y,

*mf*

15

fás - - ta, is iad<sup>2</sup> ag scread  
 fas. - - tō is i:əd eg skíəd  
 fully grown, and they were screaming.

*f*

An Muince Dreoilíní / A Necklace of Wrens | John Kinsella

18 *mp*

D'úi - - - righ  
 da.i. - - - iig  
 A - - - - - rose

21

si - - - ad - is thuir - - - ling  
 sí: - - - ad is hu.i. - - - lín  
 they - and lan - - - ded

23

a - rís ar m'ucht,  
 a. - iif ÉI maXT  
 again on my chest,



An Muince Dreoilíní / A Necklace of Wrens | John Kinsella

25

*pp*

is *thuir* - - -  
 is *hu.* - - -  
 and *landed*

*dim.* *pp*

28

- ling a - ris ar m'ucht  
 - luj a. - iif' eI maxt  
 a - gain on my chest

*pp* *mf*

31

*p* *mf*

O - rm - sa, o - rm - sa,  
 Λ. - IAM. - sƏ Λ. - IAM. - sƏ  
 On me, on me,

*cresc.*

33

*ff*

O - rm - sa  
 Λ - IAM - sə  
 on me,

*ff*

36

— bhí mui - ce clúimh sa mhó - néar fliuch.  
 — vi m<sup>w</sup>ɪŋ. - kə klu:ɪv sa vo:ɪ. - neɪ flɪʌx  
 was a neck - lace (of) down in the meadow wet

39

*mf* *sub. p*

Níor dhu - ne mé, níor dhu - ne  
 ni:əɪ ɣ<sup>w</sup>ɪ. - nə me ni:əɪ ɣ<sup>w</sup>ɪ. - nə  
 Not (a) per - son was I, not (a) per - son

*mf* *sub. p*

43 *cresc.*

mé ach géag crainn nó carn cloch  
 me æx ge:æg k.rin nu kə.ɪən klax  
 was I but branch (of) tree or heap (of) stones

47 *Poco meno f*

*Poco meno*

ach bhí ion - tas cruá nár bhraith siad ag bua - ladh faoi m'ucht  
 æx vi un. - tæs kri.ə nɑɪ vɪə ʃi:əd æg bu:ə. - lə fwi mɑxt  
 but was (a) won - der hard not sensed they beating under my breast.

51 *Tempo I*

*Tempo I*

54

*ff*

B'in \_\_\_\_\_ an  
 binn \_\_\_\_\_ an  
 That \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ the

*ff*

57

lá \_\_\_\_\_ ar thuir - - ling\_ ceird a éi-líonn ó - mós \_\_\_\_\_  
 la \_\_\_\_\_ εΙ hui. - - liη\_ ke:ɪd a e.-li:an o. - mos \_\_\_\_\_  
 day \_\_\_\_\_ landed \_\_\_\_\_ (a) craft that demands re - spect \_\_\_\_\_

*ff*

61

\_\_\_\_\_ is d'fhág a ning - ne fo - r - ba o - - rm nár leighea - sadh  
 \_\_\_\_\_ is dag a niη. - nə fl. - ɪ.ɹ. - bæ ɹ. - - ɹəm nɑɪ la:ɪs. - həχ  
 and (which) left its nails cuts on me not healed

*f*

65

fós.  
fos  
yet.

68

dim. *p*

72

*p* **Poco rit.**

I mo bhu - a - chaill óg, ————— fa - dó fa - dó, ————— d'aim - síos nead.  
 I mΛ vu. - ə. - xil og ————— fə. - do fə. - do ————— da:im. ʃi.ΛS næd  
 As a boy young, long ago, found I (a) nest.

**Poco rit.**