

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

SOP PRÉACHÁIN / A CROW'S WISP  
(Sleachta / Excerpts)

TRÍ AMHRÁN / THREE SONGS

I. An Chéad Phlaic / The First Mouthful

II. An Dara Plaic, Nó Ath-Quoof 1 /  
The Second Mouthful (Quoof: Slight Return 1)

III. An Tríú Plaic, Nó Ath-Quoof 2 /  
The Third Mouthful (Quoof: Slight Return 2)

SOPRÁN & PIANÓ / SOPRANO & PIANO

CEOL / MUSIC: AILÍS NÍ RÍAIN

TÉACS / TEXT: AIFRIC MAC AODHA

**Sop Préacháin / A Crow's Wisp (Sleachta / Excerpts) | Ailís Ní Ríain**  
**soprán & pianó / soprano & piano**

**I. An Chéad Phlaic / The First Mouthful**

An Chéad Phlaic

Ba gheall le moladh  
an dara priocadh –  
gur chaith tú uait  
gan cothrom fola

crúbáil na hoíche  
faoi sholas obann:  
tabhairt na doraidh  
go glé, dá dtabharfaí.

The First Mouthful

Praise be, you thought,  
when you gave up the ghost.  
But where's the glory  
with no blood lost?

The nails of the night  
beneath a bare bulb:  
your challenge spotlit.  
Now take it up.

Le / By: Aifric Mac Aodha  
Aistriúchán Béarla / English translation: David Wheatley

Atáirgthe le caoinhead ón údar, ón aistritheoir agus The Gallery Press,  
Loch Craobh, An Seanchaisleán, Contae na Mí, Éire, as *Foreign News* (2017).

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Score Note

In the following score there are three lines of text under the vocal stave. 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.

# Sop Préacháin / A Crow's Wisp

(Sleachta / Excerpts)

## I. An Chéad Phlaic / The First Mouthful

Soprán & Pianó / Soprano & Piano

Aifric Mac Aodha  
(foilsithe / published 2017)

Ailís Ní Riain (2019)

**♩ = 62**

Soprán / Soprano

Pianó / Piano

*mf*

*mf*

(gan an troitheán / no pedal)

Ba gheall  
bΛ ja:ul  
As like

4

le mo - ladh an da - ra prio -  
le ma. - lə Λn də. iə pi:Λ -  
a praise the sec - ond prick -

*mp*

7

- cadh - gur chaith tú ua - it  
- cə gΛi xə tu wet  
that threw you away

*mf*

*mf*

An Chéad Phlaic / The First Mouthful | Ailís Ní Riain

10 *mf*

gan co - throm fo - la  
gen kλ. - hɪAM fλ. - lə  
without equal in blood

*p*

13

crú-báil na hoí - che faoi sho-las  
kɪu. bɑ:ɪl na hi. - hə fʷi hλ.-ləs  
claw-ing of night under light

*mf*

16

o - bann: tabhairt na do - raidh  
λ. - bən tu:ɪt na dλ. - ri  
sud - den: giving the cha - llenge

*f*

19

*mf* *mp*

21

*mf* *f*

go glé, dá dtabhar - faí.  
 ga gle da du. - fwi  
 bright, if you'd give it.

*f*

23

*mf* *mf*

Ba gheall le mo - ladh an da - ra prio -  
 ba jaul le ma. - la an da. - ra pri. a. -  
 As like a praise the se - cond prick -

*mf*

An Chéad Phlaic / The First Mouthful | Ailís Ní Ríain

25

- cadh - gur chaith tú ua - it  
 - cə gAI xE tu wet  
 that threw you away

28

gan co - throm fo - la,  
 gen kA. - hIAM fA. - lə  
 without equal in blood,

31

gan co - throm fo - - - la  
 gen kA. - hIAM fA. - - - lə  
 without equal in blood

**Sop Préacháin / A Crow's Wisp (Sleachta / Excerpts) | Ailís Ní Ríain**  
**soprán & pianó / soprano & piano**

**II. An Dara Plaic, Nó Ath-Quoof 1 / The Second Mouthful (Quoof: Slight Return 1)**

An Dara Plaic, Nó Ath-Quoof 1

Aithníonn sé faoin am seo, an fear i do theannta,  
nach ligtear as do cheann iad,  
na cuimhní cinn a roinntear,  
go mbíodh colúir theachtaireachta aige féin is a athair  
is go ndéanaidís blaoscanna uibhe a théamh  
chun gob an éin a neartú.  
Thug is tugann leat,  
an taom a bhuail an buachaill,  
é ag fanacht in oirchill is na blaoscáin á róstadh,

gur fhág sé faoin teas rófhada iad,  
d'aon turas, a chroí ina bhéal aige,  
le teann spóirt, b'fhéidir, féachaint,  
dá ainneoin féin – mar a bheadh acu,  
dá bpléascfadh blaosc san oigheann air.

The Second Mouthful (Quoof: Slight Return 1)

Pillow-talker, as you'd  
be the first to admit, a cat let out  
of the bag won't go back in.  
Now she's up to speed on how  
you and your dad used eggshells  
to harden the beaks  
of your pigeons, nodding  
off over them, billing and cooing,  
waiting for the shells to roast.

Once you left them under  
the heat on purpose,  
for devilment maybe—come on,  
come on—curious what might happen  
if left in too long.

Le / By: Aifric Mac Aodha  
Aistriúchán Béarla / English translation: David Wheatley

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Nóta Scóir

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# Sop Préacháin / A Crow's Wisp

(Sleachta / Excerpts)

## II. An Dara Plaic, Nó Ath-Quoof 1 / The Second Mouthful (Quoof: Slight Return 1)

Soprán & Pianó / Soprano & Piano

Aifric Mac Aodha  
(foilsithe / published 2017)

Ailis Ní Riain (2019)

♩ = 66

Soprán /  
Soprano

Pianó /  
Piano

4

7

10

*mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

Aith-níonn sé faoin am seo,  
æ.-hni:ən fe fwin a:um fʌ  
Recognises he by time this,

13

*mf*

an fear i do theann - ta, nach lig-tear as do  
 An fáil i dA ha:un. - tã nãx lig.-tãl es dA  
 the man with you, not let out of your

*mf* *mp*

16

cheann iad, na cuimh - ní cinn a roinn - tear,  
 xla:un iãd na kwi. - ni kin a ra:m. - tãl  
 head, them, the memories that are shared,

*mf*

19

*f* *gliss.*

*f*

21

*mf*

go mbí - odh co - lúir\_ theach - tair - each - ta\_ ai - ge  
 gλ mi. - əx κλ. - lu:ɪ\_ hax. - t̪ai. - əx. - t̪ə\_ ε. - gə  
 that had he pi - geons (of) messages he

*mp*

24

*f* *mf*

féin is a\_ a - thair\_ is\_ go ndéa - nai - dís  
 fɛn is a\_ a. - hɪ\_ is\_ gλ ne:ə. - ni. - dist  
 and his fa - ther and that they

*f*

27

— blaos - ca - nna ui - bhe a\_ théamh chun gob an éin a\_ near - tú.  
 — ble:AS. - κλ. - nə i. - və a\_ he.əv xλn gλb λn e:m a\_ næi. - tu  
 shells of eggs would heat to beak of bird strengthen.

*f*

30 *mp* *mf*

Thug is  
hag is  
Brought and

33

tu-gann leat, an taom a bhuail an bu - a - chaill,  
tʌ.-gən læt ən te:ʌm a vu:ɪl ən bu.-ə.-xɪl  
bring you (yet) the fit that hit the boy,

36 *mp*

é ag fa-nacht in oir - chill is na bla - os - cáin á rós - tadh,  
e eg fə. next in ɪ. - xɪl is na ble. - ʌs. - kɑ:m a ɪos. - tə  
he waiting in preparation and the shells roast - ing

39 *f* *gliss.* *mf* 3

gur fhág sé faoin teas  
 ɡʌɪ ɒɡ ʃe fʷɪn tæs  
 till left he under heat

42 *mp* 3 *mf*

ró - fha-da i - ad, d'aon tur-as, a chroí in - a bhéal ai - ge,  
 ɾo. - v. - də i. - əd de:ʌn tʌɪ. - əs a xɾi m. - ə ve:əl e. - ɡə  
 too long them on purpose his heart in mouth his,

45 3 *mp*

le teann spó - irt, b'fhéi - dir, féa - chaint, dá ai-nneoin féin -  
 le tʰa:un spɔ:ɪt be. - dɪ fe.ʌ. - xɪnt dʌ ə. - nʲo:ɪn fen  
 for some sport, may - be, to see, notwithstanding -

48

mar a bheadh a - cu, dá bpléasc - fadh blaosc  
 mɛɪ a vax a - kɫ dɔ ble:ask - həx ble:ask  
 how fare they would, if ex - plode shell

*mf*

3

51

san oigheann air.  
 san a:ɪn ɛɪ  
 in the o - ven on him.

*f*

5

3

*f*

5

54

57  $\text{♩} = 58$  *mp*

a chroí\_  
a xri\_  
his heart

$\text{♩} = 58$

*ff* *mp*

60

in - a bhéal ai - ge, le teann spóirt,  
in - ə ve:əl ε - gə le t̪a:un spo:ɪt  
in mouth his for some sport,

*mp* 5

63

b'fhéi - dir, féa - chaint, a chroí  
be - du fe.Λ - xint a xri  
may - be, to see, his heart

*p*



66

in - a bhéal ai - ge, in - a, in - a,  
 m. - ə ve:əl ε. - gə in mouth his

68

*p*

a chroí in - a, in - a,  
 a xri m. - ə m. - ə  
 his heart in in

*Ped.*

71

bhéal ai - ge, b'fhéi - dir, féa - chaint, a chroí  
 ve:əl ε. - gə be. - dū fe.Λ. - xint a xri  
 mouth his to see, his heart

74

$\text{♩} = 56$

*p*

in - a, i - - na  
 m. - ə in, in, - - nə

77

*pp*

in - a, i - - na  
 m. - ə in, in, - - nə

**Sop Préacháin / A Crow's Wisp (Sleachta / Excerpts) | Ailís Ní Riain  
soprán & pianó / soprano & piano**

**III. An Tríú Plaic, Nó Ath-Quoof 2 / The Third Mouthful (Quoof: Slight Return 2)**

An Tríú Plaic, Nó Ath-Quoof 2

Aithníodh sé thairis—  
leath-chéile na cuilte,  
nach slogadh gan chogaint í,  
an chuimhne cinn leath-oilte.

Súil siar is túisce  
a bhuaileann an spríoc:  
an buachaill nach gcodlaíodh  
nuair ba thrúig oilc an tost.

Níorbh fhéidir a shuaimhniú  
go gcloiseadh fead na traenach:  
má bhí tiománaí ina dhúiseacht,  
ní raibh sé ina aonar.

The Third Mouthful (Quoof: Slight Return 2)

Something else to chew on  
besides the tales he's spun:  
he should recognize, no  
matter where, his duvet-twin.

For the boy keeping watch  
when sleep would be nobler,  
the place to look  
may be over his shoulder.

Who can't rest until  
the train whistle blows:  
if the driver is out there  
he can't be alone.

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Soprán & Pianó / Soprano & Piano

Aifric Mac Aodha  
(foilsithe / published 2017)

Ailís Ní Ríain (2019)

$\text{♩} = 60$

Soprán /  
Soprano

Pianó /  
Piano

$\text{♩} = 60$

*p*

4

7

10

*mp*

Aith-ní - odh sé\_ thai - ris\_ leath-chéi-le\_  
æ. - hni.-əx fe\_ ha. - uʃ læ. - xe. - lə\_  
Re-cog-nise he certainly\_ partner (of)



22

*mp* 3

Sú-il siar is túi - sce  
 su. il fí:əi is tu:i. - jkə  
 Glance back is first

25

*mf*

a bhuaí - leann an sprioc:  
 a vu:i. - lən ən spɾiək  
 to hit the mark

*mp*

3

28

*mp* 3 *mf*

an bu - a-chail nach go - dl - aí - odh nuair ba thrú - ig oilc  
 ən bu: - ə. - xil nax gɾ. - dəl. - i. - əx nu:ɾi ba hru: - ig ilk  
 the boy that used not sleep when (the) cause - evil

*mf* *mp*

3

31

— an tost.  
— an tást  
was silence

*mf* *f*

*ped.* *ped.* *ped.*

35

*p* *mp*

39

*mp* *mf*

Níor - bh fhéi - dir a shuaimh-níú  
ní:əi. - əb e. - dɪ a hu:ɪ. - nu  
Could not he be comforted

42

*mp*

go gclois-eadh fead na traé-nach: má bhí  
gʌ glʌʃ. - həx fæd na tre:ə. - nəx mɔ vi  
till heard he whistle of (the) train: if was

45

*f*

*gliss.*

**3**

**3**

**f**

**(b)**

tio-mán-aí      in - a dhúis - eacht,  
 tɹ. - mɔn. - i      m. - ə ɣuɪʃ. - əxt  
 a driver      awake,

48

*mp*

**3**

**p**

**3**

ní raibh  
 nɪ ɹev  
 was not

51

*mp*

sé                      in - a                      ao - nar,  
 ʃe                      m. - ə                      e:ə. - nɔɪ  
 he                      alone,



54 *mp*

in - a                      ao - nar,  
m.-ə                      e:ə.-nəɪ  
alone,

*gliss.*

3

57

ní raibh sé                      in - a                      ao-nar,  
nɪ ɾɛv sɛ                      m.-ə                      e:ə.nəɪ  
was not he                      alone,

3

60 *p*

ao-nar.  
e:ə.-nəɪ  
alone.

3                      3

*p*

63

*pp*