

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

TRÍ AMHRÁN GHAELACHA / THREE IRISH SONGS

I. Rosc Aimheirgin / The Rhetoric of Amergin

*Téacs / Text: Aimheirgin Glúngheal*

II. Leá / Thaw

*Téacs / Text: Micheál Ó Cuaig*

III. Lon Doire an Chairn / Blackbird of Doire an Chairn

*Téacs / Text: Peadar Ó Doirín*

TEANÓR & PIANÓ / TENOR & PIANO

CEOL / MUSIC: OSCAR STRASNOY



**Trí Amhrán Ghaelacha / Three Irish Songs | Oscar Strasnoy**  
**teanór & pianó / tenor & piano**

**I. Rosc Aimheirgin / The Rhetoric Of Amergin**

Rosc Aimheirgin

Mé gaoth ar muir  
mé tonn díleann  
mé glór mara  
mé damh seacht mbeann  
mé seabhac den aill  
mé dealán gréine  
mé áilleacht fáis  
mé torc ar ghail  
mé bradán sa linn  
mé loch ar mhá

mé suí eagna  
mé ga faoi bhua ag slaí sa chath

mise a adhnas tinfeadh cinn

cé hé a mhíníós clochar sléibhe?  
cé hé a áirmhíós trátha éasca?  
cé dó is eol cá bhfuineann grian?

gair an draoi go gcanaidh briocht díbh

mise an draoi

mé gaoth ar muir.

The Rhetoric Of Amergin

I am the wind on the sea  
I am a wave of the flood  
I am the voice of the ocean  
I am the ox of the seven hills  
I am a hawk on the cliff  
I am a shaft of sunlight  
I am the beauty of growth  
I am a wild boar for valour  
I am a salmon in the pool  
I am a lake on the plain

I am the source of wisdom  
I am the victorious point of the spear in battle

It is me who awakens the inspiration of the head

Who will explain the stones of the mountain?  
Who will compute the times of the moon?  
Who knows where the sun goes down?

Call the druid so he will sing a magic spell for you

I am the druid

I am the wind on the sea.

Le / By: Aimheirgin Glúngheal\*

Leagan Nua-Ghaeilge le / Modern Irish version by Tomás Ó Floinn  
As / from: *Athdhánta*, Tomás Ó Floinn, Cló Morainn, 1969

Aistriúchán Béarla / English translation: Alan Titley

\* Pearsa mór le rá i miotaseolaíocht Chlanna Míle is ea Aimheirgin Glúngheal – mac le Míl é féin; file agus fáidh; an chéad duine dá shliocht a leag cos in Éirinn; agus an té a roghnaíodh chun plé leis an Tuatha Dé Danann.

\* Aimheirgin Glúngheal is a prominent figure from Milesian mythology – one of the sons of Míl, a seer-poet and the first of his kin to set foot in Ireland and negotiate with the Tuatha Dé Danann.

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Na *glissandi* i bpáirt an ghutha, cantar iad mar *glissando* mín micreatonach a mhaireann don tréimhse nótaílte.

Gach creimnóta, leath-thonn níos airde i gcónaí.

Sa chliath uachtarach i bpáirt an phianó, molann treo coise cóiréagrafaíocht láimhe; cos in airde = l.d., cos síos = l.c.

Score Notes

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All *glissandi* in the vocal part imply a smooth microtonal *glissando* across the notated duration.

All mordents always a semitone above.

In the upper staff of the piano part, stem direction indicates suggested choreography of hands: stem up = r.h., stem down = l.h.

# Trí Amhrán Ghaelacha / Three Irish Songs

## I. Rosc Aimheirgin / The Rhetoric Of Amergin

Teanór & Pianó / Tenor & Piano

Aimheirgin Glúngheal

Oscar Strasnoy (2019)

$\text{♩} = 80$

Teanór / Tenor

Pianó / Piano

*ppp* beagnach chomh hinchloiste le macalla an troitheáin buaine / almost as subtly audible as the resonance of the sustain pedal

brúigh go tostmhar / depress silently

*mp* cabhraigh leis an legato le roinnt den troitheán ar dheis / help the legato with some right pedal

Sost. Ped. go dtí an deireadh / Sost. Ped. 'til the end

*simile sempre*

6

12 *pp* *(poco)* *gliss.*

Mé gaoth ar muir  
me g<sup>w</sup>e εI m<sup>w</sup>II  
Me, wind on sea

*mf*

14 *sempre simile* *gliss.*

Mé me Me, tonn ta:un wave

15 *gliss.*

dí - leann  
'di - lòn  
of flood

16 *pp* *gliss.*

Mé me me, glór glo:í voice of

17

*gliss.*

ma - ra  
ma. - iə  
sea

Musical score for measure 17. The vocal line starts with a glissando on a whole note, followed by a half note and a quarter note. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand.

18

*gliss.*

Mé  
me  
me,  
damh  
dav  
ox of

Musical score for measure 18. The vocal line has a glissando on a whole note. The piano accompaniment features complex chords in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand.

19

*gliss.*

seacht  
saxt  
seven  
mbeann  
m'ia:un  
hills

Musical score for measure 19. The vocal line has a glissando on a whole note. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand.

20

**Mé**                    **seabh**                    **ac**  
 me                    saw.                    òk  
 me,                    hawk

*gliss.*

21

**den**                    **aill**  
 den                    a:il  
 of                    cliff

*tr.*

22

**Mé**                    **dea - lán**  
 me                    dia. - lón  
 me,                    spell of

*gliss.*



23

8 *gliss.*  
gréi - ne  
gre. - nə  
sun - shine

The musical score for measure 23 consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. It begins with a glissando over a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a quarter rest. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The right hand plays a series of chords: a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, a quarter rest, a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, a quarter rest, a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, a quarter rest, and a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5. The left hand plays a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, followed by a quarter rest.

24

8 Mé áill - - - - - eacht  
me v:l. - - - - - ðxt  
me, beau - - - - - ty

The musical score for measure 24 consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, and then a long glissando over a half note Bb4. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff. The right hand plays a series of chords: a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, a quarter rest, a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, a quarter rest, a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, a quarter rest, and a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5. The left hand plays a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, followed by a quarter rest.

25

8 tr.  
fáis  
fɔ:vʃ  
of growth

The musical score for measure 25 consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. It begins with a trill over a half note G4. The piano accompaniment is in grand staff. The right hand plays a series of chords: a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, a quarter rest, a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, a quarter rest, a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, a quarter rest, and a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5. The left hand plays a half note chord of G4-Bb4-D5, followed by a quarter rest.

26

Mé \_\_\_\_\_ **torc** \_\_\_\_\_ **ar** \_\_\_\_\_ **ghail** \_\_\_\_\_  
 me \_\_\_\_\_ **tæk** \_\_\_\_\_ **éi** \_\_\_\_\_ **ya:il** \_\_\_\_\_  
 me, \_\_\_\_\_ **boar** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ **valiant** \_\_\_\_\_

27

Mé \_\_\_\_\_ **bra - dán** \_\_\_\_\_ *gliss.* \_\_\_\_\_  
 me \_\_\_\_\_ **b.i.a. - døn** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
 me, \_\_\_\_\_ **sal - mon** \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

28

*gliss.* \_\_\_\_\_ **sa linn** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **sa lin** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ **in pool** \_\_\_\_\_

29

Mé loch ar mhá  
me lach EI VD  
me, lake on (a) plain

30

Mé suí  
me sa:i  
me, seat of

*gliss.*

31

eag - na Mé  
æg. - nə me  
wis - dom me,

*gliss.* *sempre simile* *gliss.*

32 *gliss.*

ga faoi bhu - a ag slaí sa  
 gə fʷi vu: - ə ɛg sli sa  
*point victorious of spear in*

33

chath mi - se a adh - nas tin - feadh cinn  
 xa 'mi. - ʃə a a:i. - nəs tɪn. - fə kin  
*battle I will ig - nite inspiration of mind*

34 *gliss.*

Cé hé a mhín - íos cloch - ar  
 ke he a vin. - i:əs klax. - əi  
*who he will ex - plain stones of*

35

*gliss.*

sléi - bhe? Cé hé a ái - r - mhíos  
 fle. - və ke he a 'p:l. - .lə. - 'vi:əs  
 moun - tain? who he will es - ti - mate

36

*gliss.*

trá - tha éas - ca? Cé dó is  
 trɔ. - hə e:əs. - kə ke do is  
 phases of moon? who has

*gliss.*

37

*gliss.*

eol cá bhfuin - eann gri - an?  
 ol kɔ vʷm. - ən gui: - ən  
 knowledge where sets the sun?

38

**Gair an draoi go gcan - aidh briocht díbh**  
 gə:ɪ ʌn dɹi gʌ ga. - ni bɾiɔxt ðiv  
 call the druid so that sing he (a) spell for you

39

**Mi - se an draoi**  
 'mi. - sə ʌn dɹi  
 I am the druid

40

**Mé gaoth ar muir.**  
 me gʷe ɛɪ mʷɪ  
 me, wind on sea.

*gliss.*

42 *ppp*

Musical score for measures 42-45. The piece is in 8/8 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). A long slur covers the entire system. The right hand plays chords in the treble clef, and the left hand plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass clef.

46

Musical score for measures 46-49. The piece is in 8/8 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). A long slur covers the entire system. The right hand plays chords in the treble clef, and the left hand plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass clef.

50

Musical score for measures 50-52. The piece is in 8/8 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). A long slur covers the entire system. The right hand plays chords in the treble clef, and the left hand plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the bass clef. Measure 52 contains a fermata and the instruction "sos fada / long pause".

ardaigh Sost. Ped. /  
lift Sost. Pedal





**Trí Amhrán Ghaelacha / Three Irish Songs | Oscar Strasnoy**  
**teanór & pianó / tenor & piano**

**II. Leá / Thaw**

Leá (do Mheaigí)

Théaltaigh gaoth go drogallach ó dheas.  
Bhog sé amach. Chun ciúineadais...

Ag bailiú a nirt cinnte,  
Mar le linn na hoíche  
Rop aneas le díocas,  
Is le ársú maidne  
D'fhill gan a caille grian  
Ag tál a balsaim tríd an aer –

B'fhollas réim an tseaca ar lár.

Tháinig croí don tseanbhean  
Ag éirí amach di. Níos caidéisí  
Chleacht an t-éan arís a éiseallacht,  
A choimhthíos linn. An bhó gur chroch  
Amach fán sliabh mar chomóradh,  
Athscaoileadh spól an tsrutháin...

Is ba lena linn a ghéill an oighir  
A bhí ina leic fám' chroí is m'ionathar,  
Mar go raibh tú a chuid ag bisiú chugam  
Faoi dhearna an dianchúraim.

Thaw (for Meaigí)

The wind veered south reluctantly.  
The air settled. Calmed...

Just gathering strength,  
For, in the night,  
It blew hard from the south.  
As morning advanced  
The sun returned, unveiled,  
Spreading its sweetness.

Frost no longer ruled.

The old woman took heart,  
Stepping out. More curious now  
The bird became fussy again,  
More wary of us. The cow  
Headed to the hill in celebration,  
The stream unspooled once more...

That was when the ice  
Clamping my heart and entrails  
Cracked because you, my love,  
Were returning to me, recovering,  
Through safe hands, intensive care.

Le / By: Micheál Ó Cuaig (1985)

Aistriúchán Béarla / English translation: Biddy Jenkinson & Louis de Paor (2016)

*Leabhar na hAthghabhála / Poems of Repossession*, Eag. / Ed. Louis de Paor, Cló Iar-Chonnacht / Bloodaxe, 2016.  
*Clocha Reatha*, Cló Iar-Chonnacht / Bloodaxe, 1986

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Na *glissandi* i bpáirt an ghutha, cantar iad mar *glissando* mín micreatonach a mhaireann don tréimhse nótaílte.

Gach creimhnóta, leath-thonn níos airde i gcónaí.

Score Notes

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## II. Leá / Thaw

Teanór & Pianó / Tenor & Piano

Micheál Ó Cuaig (1985)

Oscar Strasnoy (2019)

### An-Socair / Very Calmly (♩ = 44)

*pp*

Teanór / Tenor

Théal-taigh gaoth\_ go dro-ga-llach ó dheas...  
 he:əl. - tɪg ɡ<sup>w</sup>e\_ ɡɑ dɪ. ɡə. ləx o jas\_\_\_\_  
 Crept the wind lazily south-wards.

### An-Socair / Very Calmly (♩ = 44)

*pp* *p* *ppp* *p*

Pianó / Piano

*go rialta / regularly*

4

Bhog sé a-mach. Chun ciúí-neá-dais...  
 vɔg se a. - məx xɫɲ kʲu. - na. - dʲf\_\_\_\_  
 Moved it out. To qui - et - ness...

*pp* *p* *pp* *p*

7

Ag bai-liú a nirt cinn-te, Mar le linn na hoí-che  
 ɛg bɛi. - lu a nɪt kɪn. - tə mɑɪ le lɪn na hi. - hə  
 Gathering strength certainly, For during the night

*ppp* *p* *ppp*

10

8

Rop a - neas le dío - cas, Is le  
 ɹap a - 'næs le 'di:ə - kəs is le  
 (a) Thrust from the south keen - ly, And with

*p* *pp* *p*

13

8

ár - sú mai - d - ne D'fhill gan a caill - e gri - an  
 ɹi - su ma:ɹ - di - nə díl gan a kə:ɹl - ə gɹi: - ən  
 com - ing (of) morn - ing Returned without its veil the sun

*pp*

16

8

Ag tál a bal - saim tríd an aer - B'fhol - las  
 eg tɔl a bal - saim tiíd an eɹ bɹ - ləs  
 Yield - ing its bal - sam through the air - Evident (that the)

*pp* *pp* *ppp*

18

réim an tsea - ca ar lár. \_\_\_\_\_  
 .eim an tʰe. - kə e.ɪ lɔ.ɪ \_\_\_\_\_  
 reign of frost is gone.

*mp* *ppp* *ppp* *p*

Ped. *pp*

21

Tháí - nig croí don tsean-bhean Ag éi - rí a-mach di. Níos cai - déi-sí \_\_\_\_\_  
 hɔ.ɪ. - nɪɡ kɪ dɔn tʰan. - van əɡ a.i. - ri a.-mɔx di ni:əs 'kɛ:ɪ.-de. ʃi \_\_\_\_\_  
 Came heart to the old woman Going out her. More inquisitive

*ppp* *p*

24

\_\_\_\_\_ Chleacht an t-éan a - rís a éi-seal-lacht, A choimh-thíos linn. An \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ xliɔxt an te:ən a. - riʃ a e. - ʃə. - læxt a xʷiv. - hi:əs lɪn an \_\_\_\_\_  
 Practised the bird a - gain its fu - ssi - ness, Its strange - ness with us. The \_\_\_\_\_

*ppp* *pp*

26

8

**bhó gur chroch A - mach fán sliabh mar cho - mó - radh,**  
 vo ɡAI xIAx a - max fɒn ʃli:əv maɪ xA. - 'mɔ. - ɪə  
 cow (that) had hung Out under the mountain as celebration,

*mf* *sfz*

28

8

**Ath - scaoi - leadh spól an tsru - tháin...**  
 a - skʷi. - lu spol an tɪA. - hɔ:ɪn  
 Released again the spool of the stream...

*pp*

30

8

**Is ba le - na linn a ghéill an oigh - ir**  
 is bæ lɛ. - nə lɪn a ʝel an a:i. - ɪɪ  
 And it was then surrendered the ice

*mp* *pp*

32 *pp*

A bhí i - na leic fám' chroí is m'ion - a - thar,  
 a vi i. - nà lek fóm xii is man. - a. - hii  
 That was a slab under my heart and my bowels

*mp*

33 *pp*

Mar go raibh tú a chuid ag bi - siú chu - gam  
 maɪ ga iɛv tu a xʷɪd eg bi. - fu χλ. - gəm  
 Because were you, my dear, recovering, returning to me

*mf*

Ped. \* Sost. Ped. →

36

Faoi dhear - na an dian - chú - raim.  
 fʷi jaɪ. - nə an di:ən. - xu. - ɪm  
 Under hands of intensive care.

sos fada / long pause

Ped. *pppp*

ardaigh Sost. Ped. / lift Sost. Pedal





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**teanór & pianó / tenor & piano**

**III. Lon Doire an Chairn / Blackbird of Doire an Chairn**

Lon Doire an Chairn  
(Excerpt)

Binn sin, a loin Doire an Chairn!  
Ní chuala mé in aird sa bhith  
Ceol ba bhinne ná do ghuth  
Is tú fá bhun do nid.

Aoincheol is binne fán mbith,  
Mairg nach éisteann leis go fóill,  
A mhic Calpruinn na gclóg mbinn,  
's go mbéarfá arís ar do nóin.

Agat, mar tá agam féin,  
Dá mbeadh deimhin scéil an eoin,  
Do dhéanfá déara go dian,  
's ní bheadh t'aire ar Dhia go fóill.

Blackbird of Doire an Chairn  
(Sliocht)

This is sweet, blackbird of Doire an Chairn  
I never heard anywhere in the world  
Music sweeter than your voice  
And you about your nest.

The most melodious music in the world,  
A pity you are not listening to it yet,  
Mac Alphruin of the melodious bells,  
And that you were taking again your nones.

If you had, as I myself have,  
The real story of the bird,  
You would make tears fiercely,  
And your attention would not be on God for a while.

Le / By: Peadar Ó Doirnín (18ú haois / 18th century)  
Cóirithe i leagan úr Nua-Ghaeilge / New adaptation in Modern Irish: Alan Titley

Aistriúchán Béarla / English translation: Gregory A. Schirmer  
*After the Irish: An Anthology of Poetic Translation*, Eag. / Ed. Gregory A. Schirmer, Cork University Press, 2009

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# Trí Amhrán Ghaelacha / Three Irish Songs

## III. Lon Doire an Chairn / Blackbird of Doire an Chairn

Teanór & Pianó / Tenor & Piano

Peadar Ó Doirín  
(18ú haois / 18th century)

Oscar Strasnoy (2019)

**Lento (ma non troppo!)**

Teanór / Tenor

Binn sin,  
bin sin  
Sweet that,

**Lento (ma non troppo!)**

Pianó / Piano

*pp* *pp*

*Ped.* \* *Ped.*

4

*gliss.*

a loin Doire an Chairn!  
a lɪn dɔːi. - lə ən xa. - ɪən  
o blackbird of De - rry of the Cairn!

*ppp* *ppp* *ppp* (b)

\* *Ped.* \* *Ped.* \* *con Ped.*

7

*gliss.*

Ní chua-la mé in aird sa bhith  
nɪ xuːə. - lə me ɪn ɔːɪd sə vi  
Not heard I in place any (anywhere)

9

Ceol ba bhin-ne ná do ghuth  
 k'ol ba vi.-nə nɔ dʌ ɣʌ  
 Music more sweet than your voice

*p* *ppp*

*pp* \*Ped. \*

13

16

Is tú fá bhun do nid. —  
 is tu fɔ vʌn dʌ nid —  
 And you (going) about your nest

*p* *ppp*

18 **Poco meno mosso**

**Poco meno mosso**

Aoin - cheol is bin - ne fán mbith,  
 ə:in. - x'ol is bi. - nə fən mɪ  
 Only music as sweet in eternity

20

**Poco meno mosso**

Ma-irg nach éi - steann  
 ma.-iɪg nax e. - stən  
 Pi - ty you not lis - ten

22

**Poco meno mosso**

leis go fóill, A mhic Cal - pruin na glog mbinn,  
 lɛʃ gʌ foil a vik kal. - pɪn nə glɔg min  
 (to) it yet, O son of Cal - pruin of the bells sweet,

una corda

24

's go mbéar - fá a-rís ar do nóin. — A - gat,  
 sgΛ me:əi. - fə a.-iɪʃ ɛɪ dΛ no:ɪn — a. - gət  
 and would take you a-gain your nones. You'd have,

26

mar tá a - - - - - gam féin, —  
 maɪ tə a. - - - - - gəm fen —  
 as I have myself,

28

Dá mbeadh deimhin — scéil an eoin, —  
 də mæʃ dɑ:ɪn — ʃke:ɪl ʌn o:ɪn —  
 If you had true story of the bird

*p*

*pp*

30

**Dodhéan - fá déar - a go dian, 's ní bheadh t'ai - re ar Dhi-a go fóill.**  
*dʌ jən. - fə de:ə. - ɹə gʌ di:ən sni vax tæ. - ɹə ɛɪ ji: - ə gʌ fo:il*  
*You would make tears fiercely and would not your attention be on God for a while.*

(♩. = ♩) **Poco meno mosso**

*pp cresc. poco a poco*

*f*

**accel. poco a poco**

*decresc.* **PPP** *cresc. poco a poco*

38

Musical score for measures 38-40. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and some sustained notes.

41

Musical score for measures 41-43. The right hand continues the melodic line. The left hand features a series of chords, with a *p* (piano) dynamic marking appearing in measure 43.

44

Musical score for measures 44-46. The right hand continues the melodic line. The left hand features a series of chords, with dynamic markings of *mp* (mezzo-piano) in measure 44, *mf* (mezzo-forte) in measure 45, and *f* (forte) in measure 46. The bass line in measure 46 consists of sustained notes.

47

Musical score for measures 47-49. The right hand continues the melodic line. The left hand features a series of chords, with a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic marking appearing in measure 48. The bass line in measures 48 and 49 consists of sustained notes.



Lon Doire an Chairn / Blackbird of Doire an Chairn | Oscar Strasnoy

50 *fff* **rall. molto fino al ...** *pp*

53 **Tempo I°** *ppp*

57 *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

61 *pp* *simile*