

TRANSCRIPTION

ScottishVoicesProj.0441

MARGARET BENNETT of Skye and Edinburgh sings a song in Scots Gaelic, “Sìne Bhàn,” accompanied by her son Martyn Bennett on Scottish small pipes. The song was composed by Donnchadh MacIain (1881-1947). The following text and translation, which is by Tom Thomson, is taken from the web at <https://lyricstranslate.com/en/s%C3%ACne-bh%C3%A0n-fair-sheena.html>. The Gaelic text as given here does not necessarily correspond to Bennett’s performance.

Sìne Bhàn

Blàth nan cailin, Sìne Bhàn
Reul nan nighean, dìleas òg,
Cuspair dìomhair i dom dhàn,
Gràdh mo chridh', an rìbhinn òg.
Àros sona bh' againn thall
Àirigh mhonaidh, innis bhò.
Sgaoil ar sonas uainn air ball
Mar roinneas gaoth nam fuar-bheann ceò.
Bruaillean cogaidh anns an tìr
Faic an long a' togail sheòl,
Cluinn an drumma 's fuaim na pìob
Faic na suinn a' dol air bòrd.
Blàth nan cailin, Sìne Bhàn
Reul nan nighean, dìleas òg,
Cuspair dìomhair i dom dhàn,
Gràdh mo chridh', an rìbhinn òg.
Ma tha e 'n dàn mi bhith slàn
Stadaidh ràn nan gunnan mòr
Am Baile Mhonaidh nì mi tàmh
Le Sìne Bhàn, mo rìbhinn òg.
Blàth nan cailin, Sìne Bhàn
Reul nan nighean, dìleas òg,
Cuspair dìomhair i dom dhàn,
do Sìne Bhàn, mo rìbhinn òg.

Fair Sheena

The flower of the girls, fair Sheena
the star of the lasses, young and loyal,
she is the sole subject for my song,
my heart's love, the young maid.
We had a happy house there,
a moorland pasture, grazing land for cattle,
our happiness was suddenly cast away from us
as wind will spread the mist of the mountains.
Turmoil of war in the land
see the ships setting sail,
hear the drum and the sound of the pipe
and see the heroes going on board
The flower of the girls, fair Sheena
the star of the lasses, young and loyal,
she is the sole subject for my song,
my heart's love, the young maid.
If it is fated that I shall survive
despite the roar of the big guns
I will rest in Baile Mhonaidh
with fair Sheena, my young maid.
The flower of the girls, fair Sheena
the star of the lasses, young and loyal,
she is the sole subject of my song
to fair Sheena, my young maid.