
O, 's tu 's gura tu th' air m' aire (with Music)

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O, 'S TU 'S GURA TU TH' AIR M' AIRE

MALCOLM MACFARLANE

AT last year's Mod, I was introduced to a gentleman, John Reilly by name, who was anxious to interest some Gaelic person in a tune which he had noted down in Eriskay, one of the islands of the Outer Hebrides, during a term which he had spent there as teacher. Mr. Reilly told me that he was much impressed by the melody when first he heard it, and was at pains to make the best record of it in his power, selecting from the variants of several singers what appeared to him to be the best rendering, and writing the music in the style in which it was sung by the old people. Having no Gaelic he was unable to give me the words. In the course of time, Father Allan MacDonald of Eriskay kindly sent on, at Mr. Reilly's request, the following stanzas. One of the verses does duty in the well-known popular song 'Faill ill ó agus hóro éile.' I have fitted the words to the notes according to what I conceive to be the proper way. But, never having heard the words sung, I cannot be positive as to its being the customary way.



GLEUS B \flat

| m₁s₁d : m₁s₁m | f₁m : r₁s₁d | s₁ : - | m₁d₁ : - | m₁s₁d : m₁s₁m | f₁m : r₁s₁m | d : - | - m₁s₁ : l₁ - s₁ |

O, 's tu 's gura tu th' air m' air - - e ; O, 's tu 's gura tu th' air m' air - - e ; 'S tu féin, a



| s : - m | f₁m : r₁s₁d | s₁ : - | m₁ : d₁ | m₁s₁d : m₁s₁m | f₁r : m₁d | l₁ : - | s₁ : - ||

rùin, tha tighinn dlùth fain-ear dhomh ; Gu'n d'fhalbh mo shùgradh o'n dh'fhàg thu'm bail - e.

Feasgar foghair air an achadh bhuana,
Saoil sibh féin nach mi fhéin bha truagh
dheth :

H-uile té 's a fear fhéin ri gualainn,
'S mo leannan falaich, gur fada bhuams' e.

Innsidh mis' mar tha gaol nan gillean :
Tha e tòiseachadh anns a' chridhe,
Cheart cho beag ris a ghràinnean chruith-
neachd,
'S e fàs cho mòr 's nach eil seòl air thil-
leadh.

Innsidh mise mar tha gaol nan gruagach :
Far an cuir iad an snaim, cha 'n fhuasgail ;
Bheir e 'n fheòil leis bhàrr nan gruaidhean
Mar shneachdadh bàn bhios air bhàrr nam
bruachan.

A phiuthar chridhe, nach cum thu chòir
rium ?
Na leig le griasaiche dubh nam bròg mi ;
No gu tàillear a dh' fhuaigneas clòimhn-
tean ;
Ach balach riomhach a dhìreas ròpa.