

The Drunken Piper

(a.k.a. "Far Am Bi Mi Fhin" or "Where I Will Be?")

Words & Music:
Traditional Scottish Gaelic

Natalie McMaster's version of this is a wonderful meshing of old & new. Correspondent Gordon was kind enough to point out that this song was in Scottish Gaelic and not Irish Gaelic (he also corrected the English translation of the title!). Also, there are only 57,000 Scottish Gaelic speakers left, so, if any of you folk singers want to get authentic, feel free to learn the language and add to the speaker base keeping the language alive!

CHORUS:

Am

Far am bi mi fhìn is ann a bhios mo dhòchas.

G

Far am bi mi fhìn is ann a bhios mo dhòchas.

Am

Far am bi mi fhìn is ann a bhios mo dhòchas.

Em

Am

Far am bi mi fhìn bigh mo dhochas ann.

VERSE 1:

Am

Siubhal air na cladaichean 's a'coiseachd air a'ghainmhich,

G

Siubhal air na cladaichean 's a'coiseachd air a'ghainmhich,

Am

Siubhal air na cladaichean 's a'coiseachd air a'ghainmhich,

Em

Am

Far am bi mi fhìn bidh mo dhòchas ann.

CHORUS:

VERSE 2:

Thèid mi fhìn is Sìne null gu taigh a'phìobair,

Thèid mi fhìn is Sìne null gu taigh a'phìobair,

Thèid mi fhìn is Sìne null gu taigh a'phìobair,

'S nì sinn brod an ruidhle leinn fhìn air an làr.

CHORUS:

VERSE 3:

Is mar d'thoir am pìobair puirt dhuinn airson ruidhle,
Is mar d'thoir am pìobair puirt dhuinn airson ruidhle,
Is mar d'thoir am pìobair puirt dhuinn airson ruidhle,
Tha fìdheal aig a' chiobair is pìob aig a' cheard.

CHORUS:

ALT. VERSE 3:

Fhuair mi fios bho Shìne gu robh tromb is cìr aic'
Fhuair mi fios bho Shìne gu robh tromb is cìr aic'
Fhuair mi fios bho Shìne gu robh tromb is cìr aic'
Ged a bhiodh gach pìobair is fìdhleir 'nan tàmh.

Translation notes by Philippa from Mudcat Café:

CHORUS: "Wherever I am, is where I want to be." {my interpretation.
"dochas" means "hope or expectation". Another possible translation:

"...is where my hopes lie"} My own thoughts are:

"Where I will be and there would be my hope."

"Where I will be is where my hope will be."

Verse 1: "Travelling the beaches & walking on the sand."

Verse 2: "Sine [Eng.=Jean] and I will go to the piper's house and
dance a reel on the floor."

Verse 3: "As the piper gives us a tune for the reel, the shepherd has
a fiddle & the craftsman has a pipe."

Alt. Verse 3: "I heard from Sine that she had a jaw's harp & a comb,
although every fiddler and piper would be there."