

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

SÓLÁS

TRÍ AMHRÁN / THREE SONGS

I. marginalia (foraois gan fhaobhar) / marginalia (impossible forest)

II. Sólás / Solace

III. Faoi Shamhain / In November

MEÁNSOPRÁN & PIANÓ /
MEZZO-SOPRANO & PIANO

CEOL / MUSIC: LINDA BUCKLEY

TÉACS / TEXT: DOIREANN NÍ GHRÍOFA

I. marginalia (foraois gan fhaobhar) / marginalia (impossible forest)

Nóta Cláir / Programme Note

I first encountered Doireann Ní Ghríofa while living in New York on a Fulbright scholarship – she was reading at the Irish Arts Centre in the heart of Manhattan. We connected immediately on a personal and artistic level, and this chance meeting has led to a deeply inspiring and enriching collaborative relationship, working on many projects together. These poems in particular resonated strongly with me, for their connection to the sensual, to nature, to heartbreaking loss and ultimately hope. There is also a musicality in her work, with these three poems linked together by the hearing of something otherly, beyond ourselves.

Linda Buckley (2019)

I. marginalia (foraois gan fhaobhar)

ní fheiceann
tusa anseo

ach seomra
folamh,

ach
in adhmad

an chláir sciorta,
feicimse foraois

gan fhaobhar,
foraois nach féidir

dul tríthi,
agus ar ghéag

intí, tá
ulchabhán

aonair
faoi cheilt,

a ghob
cuartha

ciúnaithe,
faoi gheasa,

na súile
bioracha

duaithnithe –
dhá shnaidhm

dhonna
sa chlár,

sa choill
sin, a deir,

ina amharc
uasal orm,

*Feicimse –
a bhfuil fút, fút*

*fút, fút. Feicimse
a bhfuil fút.*

I. marginalia (impossible forest)

you may see
nothing here

only
an empty

room, but in
these timber

baseboards,
I see a forest

bewitched,
an impossible

forest that cannot
exist,

so we could never
sit up late plotting

our crossing
through it –

and yet, on
a branch

within, an owl
is peering up, his

curved beak
hushed, cursed,

his shrill eyes
disguised now

by twin brown
knots in the wood,

in the woods,
and that gaze of his,

it is gallant, cool.
It's true: listen! Do!

How he seems to say
I see through you,

*I do, I see through
you, through you.*

Le / by: Doireann Ní Ghríofa

Aistriúchán Béarla / English translation: Doireann Ní Ghríofa

Atáirgthe le caoinhead ó Dhoireann Ní Ghríofa / Reproduced by kind permission
of Doireann Ní Ghríofa. As / from: 'Lies', Dedalus Press 2018.

Sólás

I: marginalia (foraois gan fhaobhar) / marginalia (impossible forest)

Meánsoprán & Pianó / Mezzo-soprano & Piano

Doireann Ní Ghríofa (2018)

Linda Buckley (2019)

♩ = 90 Mysterious

Meánsoprán/
Mezzo-soprano

Pianó /
Piano

mp Soft and resonant. You may vary dynamics at your discretion naturally with the contour of the lines.
Dynamic level should be equal in both hands for close pattern intertwining.

Pedal to be held throughout each section until the mode changes, when it can be cleared for the new mode.

You may vary dynamics naturally according to the contours of the melodic lines and in response to piano, but never rising above *mf*.

5 *mp*

ní fhei-ceann tu - sa an - seo
ni é - kən tɹ. - sə ʌn. - ʃɹ
Not see - ing you here

10

ach seom - ra fo - lamh,
əx ʃr:om. - iə fɹ. - ləv
but (a) room emp - ty

14

ach in adh - mad
əx ɪn a:i - məd
but in (the) wood

18

an chláir scior - ta,
ʌn xlv:lɪ ʃki:lɪ - tə
of the skirting - board

21

fei-cim-se fo - - - raois
fɛ.-kɪm.-ʃə fʌ - - - ɹi:f
see I (a) forest

25

gan fhaobhar,
gen e:AI
without edge,

Musical score for measures 25-28. The vocal line (treble clef) begins with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, a half note F4, and a whole note E4. A slur covers the G4, F4, and E4 notes. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

29

gan fhaobhar,
gen e:AI
without edge,

Musical score for measures 29-32. The vocal line (treble clef) starts with a half note G4, a half note F4, and a whole note E4. A slur covers the G4, F4, and E4 notes. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with eighth-note patterns and includes some rests in the right hand.

33

Musical score for measures 33-36. The vocal line (treble clef) consists of whole rests. The piano accompaniment (grand staff) continues with eighth-note patterns in both hands.

37 *mf*

fo-raoisnach féi - dir dul tri-thi,
fΛ. - .iɹ̃ nɛx fe. - di. dΛl tri.-hi
(a)forest that cannot go through her;

41

a - gus ar ghéag in - ti,
a. - gəs εɹ̃ jɛ:əg in. - ti
and on (a) branch in her;

45

tá ul - cha-bhán ao - nair
tɔ Λl. - xΛ.-vɔn e:Λ. - niɹ̃
is (an) owl lone

49

faoi cheilt, a
fwi xelt_ a
hidden its

hold pedal down through rests clear pedal for new mode

54

ghob cuar - tha ciú - nai - the,
γab ku:əi. - hə kiu. - ni. - hə
beak curved silenced,

58

faoi ghea - sa,
fwi jæ. - sə
under (a) spell

62

na súi - le bio - ra - cha
na su:1. - lə b'ʌ. - ʌʌ. - xə
the eyes gimlet

66

70

mp

hold pedal down through rests

clear pedal for new mode

75 *mp*

duaith - ni - the - dhá shnaidhm
du.i. - ni. - hã γð hna:im_
obscured - two knots

79

hold pedal down through rests

83

dhon-na sa chlár, sa choill sin,
γλ. - nã sa xlvɪ sa xa:il fm
brown in the board in forest that,

clear pedal for new mode

87

a deir, i-na amh-arc ua - sal o - rm,
 a dɛɪ ɪ.-nə ɛ:u. - wək u:ə. - səl ʌ.-ɹəm
 says he, in his gaze noble on me,

91

hold pedal down through rests

96

p

Fei-cim - se - a bhfuil
 fɛ.-kim. - ʃə a wil
 "I see that which is

p

clear pedal for new mode

100

fút,
fut
about you,

Musical score for measures 100-103. The vocal line starts with a whole note *fút,* followed by a half note rest. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a simple harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

104

fút,
fut
you,

fút,
fut
you,

fút.
fut
you,

Musical score for measures 104-107. The vocal line features three phrases, each starting with a half note *fút,* followed by a quarter note rest. The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note melody and harmonic accompaniment.

108

rit.

Fei-cim-se a bhfuil fút.
fē.-kɪm.-ʃə a wɪl fut
I see that which is about you."

rit.

Musical score for measures 108-111. The vocal line begins with a half note *Fei-cim-se*, followed by a half note *a bhfuil fút.* The piano accompaniment features a more active eighth-note melody in the right hand. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Sólás

(Nóta:

*Den Bhéaloideas é go bhfillfeadh anam an
linbh mhairbh i riocht an cheolaire chibe is
go dtabharfadh a ceol faoiseamh croí don mháthair)*

Faoi cheo gealaí meán oíche,
de cheol cailte,
filleann sí ó chríocha ciana:
Aithním do bhall broinne,
a cheolaire chibe
agus is fada liom go bhfillfidh tú arís
chugam.

Le / by: Doireann Ní Ghríofa

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Solace

(Note:

*In Irish folklore, souls of dead infants were
believed to return as sedge-warblers to
comfort their mothers with song)*

Listen: in midnight
moon-mist, in snatches of lost music,
I've heard her return from the distance.
Little visitor, your birthmark looks so familiar.
Small warbler, listen, every night, I'll wait,
awake, facing north, until the last star-light fades.
Find me, child; I yearn for your return.

Sólás / Solace

Meánsoprán & Pianó / Mezzo-soprano & Piano

Doireann Ní Ghríofa (2018)

Linda Buckley (2019)

♩ = 40 Like a melancholic lullaby, with warmth
p

Meánsoprán /
Mezzo-soprano

Faí cheo gea - laí meán oí - che,
fwi x'io g'æ. - li m'ðn i. - hə
Under mist (of) moon (at) midnight

♩ = 40 Like a melancholic lullaby, with warmth
p soft, resonant

Pianó /
Piano

hold pedal down through rests

5

de cheol caill - te, de cheol caill - te,
de x'iol ka:il. - tə de x'iol ka:il. - tə
of music lost of music lost

10

fil-leann sí ó chrío-cha cia - na:
fi. - lən fī o x'ii:Λ. - xə ki:Λ. - nə
returns she from lands a - far

15

Ai - thnám do bhall broin - ne, a
 æ. - hnim dʌ va:ul bɪm. - ə a
 I recognise your birthmark oh

20

cheo - lai-re chí - be a - gus is fa -
 xʰo. - læ:ɪ.-ɪə xi. - bæ a. - gəs is fɛ. -
 sedge warbler and is long

25

da liom go bhfill - fidh tú a -
 də lɪ:əm gə vl. - hɪg tu a. -
 for me your return again,

29

rís, tú a - rís chugam.
 ɪf tu a. - ɪf xum
 again to me.

III. Faoi Shamhain,

Nuair atá gach uile ní
ag titim, ag teip,
an domhan ag tiontú
ina mhóta dorcha,
ag maothú faoi chosa,

cuimhnigh
go gcanfaidh
duilleog dheiridh
an chrainn
sa ghairdín
scol an loin
má chuireann tú
cluas le héisteacht ort.

Folaítear ceol
faoi sciatháin gheimhridh
áit nach bhfeicfí é.

Éist.

III. In November,

when everything
is falling, failing,
the whole world
dulled, turned
to black mulch
underfoot

remember
that the very last
leaf
up on the tree
will whistle
a tune
if you listen closely.

Secret melodies have been
concealed under winter wings,
in case of emergency.

Listen.

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Sólás

III: Faoi Shamhain / In November

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Doireann Ní Ghríofa (2018)

Linda Buckley (2019)

Meánsoprán / Mezzo-soprano

Pianó / Piano

mp Like an Indian raga, almost dreamy

mp dark and resonant

N. B. octave clef!

a lot of pedal sustain, but clear if texture becomes too dense

Faoi Shamh-ain,
fwi ha:u. - win
Of November

7

Nuair a - tá **gach ui - le ní**
nu:li a. - tɔ gax i. - lə ni
when is every single thing

13

ag ti - tim, ag teip, an
eg ti. - tim eg tep an
falling, failing the

Faoi Shamhain / In November | Linda Buckley

20

domh-an ag tion - tú i - na mhó - ta do - r - cha,
 da.u.-wən əg tʰan. - tu ɪ. - nə vɔ. - tə dʌ. - ɪʌ. - xə
 world is turning in a mulch dark

26

ag mao - thú faoi cho - sa,
 əg mʷe. - hu fʷi xʌ. - sə
 softening under foot,

32

cúimh-nigh go gcan
 kʷi. - nɪg gʌ gən. -
 remember (that) will

39

- faidh _____ duil - leog dheí - ridh _____ an chraimn
 - híg _____ dt. - lr:og jé. - .uig _____ an xinn_
sing (the) leaf last of the tree

45

sa ghair - dín scol an loin_
 sa yd:l. - din skal an lín_
in the garden call of the blackbird

52

má chui-reann tú cluas le héis - teacht ort.
 mɔ x:l. - jən tu klu:əs le he:ɪʃ. - tæxt lɪt
if put you (an) ear to lis - ten on you.

60 **With lightness and hope**

With lightness and hope

N. B.
octave
clef!

70

Fol - aí-tear ceol **faoi scia - tháin gheimh - ridh**
 fʌl. - i. - t̪əɪ c̪iɔl fʷi ʃkiːʌ. - h̪oːm ʝi. - ɹɪŋ
 Concealed (is) music under wings of winter

78

whispered

áit nach bhfeic - fi é. Éist.
 ɹːit n̪əx v̪eːk. - fi e eːʃt̪
 (a) place won't be seen it. Listen.