



LET ERÍN REMEMBER
the days of old

AIR: THE RED FOX

michael wílliam Balfe
(1808-1870)

Michael William Balfe (1808-1870) was born in Dublin, Ireland, and studied music in Ireland and London. At age 16, he became violinist in the Drury Lane orchestra and was celebrated as a singer throughout the region. His patron, Count Mazzara, took him to Italy, where he studied composition in Rome and Milan. His first dramatic piece was produced in Milan in 1826. He sang at the Paris Italian Opera and in Italian theaters until 1835, also producing several Italian operas, and sang in New York City in 1834. He returned to England and was a successful composer of English operas, at times residing in Paris and Vienna. He retired in 1864 and died in Rowney Abbey, Hertfordshire. His compositions include a number of operas, cantatas, glees, and part-songs.

Let Erin remember the days of old,
Ere her faithless sons betray'd her;
When Malachi wore the collar of gold [1],
Which he won from her proud invader;
When her kings, with standard of green unfurl'd
Led the Red-Branch Knights to danger [2];
Ere the emerald gem of the western world
Was set in the crown of a stranger.

On Lough Neagh's bank as the fisherman strays [3],
When the clear, cold eve's declining,
He sees the round towers of other days,
In the wave beneath him shining!
Thus shall memory often, in dreams sublime,
Catch a glimpse of the days that are over;
Thus, sighing, look thro' the waves of time
For the long faded glories they cover!

Thomas Moore (1779–1852)

1. "This brought on an encounter between Malachi (the Monarch of Ireland in the tenth century) and the Danes, in which Malachi defeated two of their champions, whom he encountered successively hand to hand, taking a collar of gold from the neck of one, and carrying off the sword of the other, as trophies of his victory." Warner's History of Ireland, Vol. 1. Book 9.

2. "Military orders of knights were very early established in Ireland; long before the birth of Christ we find an hereditary order of Chivalry in Ulster, called *Curaidhe na Craoibhe ruadh*, or the knights of the Red Branch, from their chief seat in Emania, adjoining to the palace of the Ulster kings, called *Teagh na Craoibhe ruadh*, or the Academy of the Red Branch; and contiguous to which was a large hospital, founded for the sick knights and soldiers, called *Bron-bhearg*, or the house of the sorrowful soldier." O'Halloran's Introduction, &c. Part I. Chap. 5.

3. It was an old tradition, in the time of Giraldus, that Lough Neagh had been originally a fountain, by whose sudden over-flowing the country was inundated, and a whole region, like the Atlantis of Plato, overwhelmed. He says that the fishermen, in clear weather, used to point out to strangers the tall ecclesiastical towers under the water. *Piscatores aquae illius turres ecclesiasticas, quae more patricae arctae sunt et altae, necnon et rotunda, sub undis manifeste, sereno tempore conspiciunt et extraneis transeuntibus, reique causas admirantibus, frequenter ostendunt.*

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M. W. Balfe

Allegro moderato

Piano

The piano accompaniment for the first system is written in G major and 4/4 time. It begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with chords and single notes.

S
Let E - rin re-mem - ber the days of old, Ere her faith - lessons be -

A
Let E - rin re-mem - ber the days of old, Ere her faith - lessons be -

T
Let E - rin re-mem - ber the days of old, Ere her faith - lessons be -

B
Let E - rin re-mem - ber the days of old, Ere her faith - lessons be -

The vocal staves for Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B) are arranged vertically. Each staff begins with a forte (f) dynamic. The lyrics are: "Let E - rin re-mem - ber the days of old, Ere her faith - lessons be -". The vocal lines are written in G major and 4/4 time, with the Soprano and Alto parts having a melodic line and the Tenor and Bass parts having a more rhythmic line.

Pno.

The piano accompaniment for the second system continues the piece. It features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, both starting with a forte (f) dynamic. The music concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

Let Erin remember the days of old

8

S
tray'd her; When Mal - a - chi wore the col-lar of gold, Which he won from her proud in -

A
tray'd her; When Mal - a - chi wore the col-lar of gold, Which he won from her proud in -

T
tray'd her; When Mal - a - chi wore the col-lar of gold, Which he won from her proud in -

B
tray'd her; When Mal - a - chi wore the col-lar of gold, Which he won from her proud in -

Pno.

12

S
vad - er; When her kings, with stan - dard of green un - furl'd to

A
vad - er; Led the Red - BranchKnights to

T
vad - er; When her kings, with stan - dard of green un - furl'd to

B
vad - er; Led the Red - BranchKnights to

Pno.

Let Erin remember the days of old

16

S dan - ger; Ere the em - 'rald gem of the west - ern world Was set in theroon of a stran - ger.

A dan - ger; of the west - ern world Was set in theroon of a stran - ger.

T dan - ger; Ere the em - 'rald gem of the west - ern world Was set in theroon of a stran - ger.

B dan - ger; of the west - ern world Was set in theroon of a stran - ger.

Pno. *riten.*

21

S

A

T

B

Pno. *f*

LET ERIN REMEMBER THE DAYS OF OLD

S On Lough Neagh's bank as the fish - er - man strays, When the clear, cold eve's de - clin - ing, He

A On Lough Neagh's bank as the fish - er - man strays, When the clear, cold eve's de - clin - ing, He

T On Lough Neagh's bank as the fish - er - man strays, When the clear, cold eve's de - clin - ing, He—

B On Lough Neagh's bank as the fish - er - man strays, When the clear, cold eve's de - clin - ing, He—

Pno.

S sees the round tow'rs of oth - er days, In the wave be - neath him shin - ing! Thus shall

A sees the round tow'rs of oth - er days, In the wave be - neath him shin - ing!

T sees the round tow'rs of oth - er days, In the wave be - neath him shin - ing! Thus shall

B sees the round tow'rs of oth - er days, In the wave be - neath him shin - ing!

Pno.

LET ERIN REMEMBER THE DAYS OF OLD

33

S mem - 'ry of - ten, in dreams sub - lime, that are o - ver; Thus,

A *sf* Catch a glimpse of the days that are o - ver;

T mem - 'ry of - ten, in dreams sub - lime, that are o - ver; Thus,

B *sf* Catch a glimpse of the days that are o - ver;

Pno.

37

S sigh - ing, look thro' the waves of _ time For the long fad - ed glo - ries they cov - er!

A thro' the waves of _ time For the long fad - ed glo - ries they cov - er!

T sigh - ing, look thro' the waves of _ time For the long fad - ed glo - ries they cov - er!

B thro' the waves of _ time For the long fad - ed glo - ries they cov - er!

Pno. *riten.*

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