



GRADH GEAL MO CHRIDH

1) ugh S. Roberton (1874–1952) Sir Hugh Stevenson Roberton (1874–1952) was born in Glasgow, Scotland, son of a Funeral Undertaker and Carriage Hirer, and served as an assistant in the family enterprise, eventually becoming manager. He first established his musical career as conductor of the Toynbee House Choir in Glasgow. He took leadership of the Toynbee Musical Association and transformed it, founding the Glasgow Orpheus Choir. He was director of the Orpheus choir for almost fifty years, leading it to national and international recognition. The Orpheus Choir had no equal in Britain and toured widely. He is recognized as one of the most significant British coral directors in history. He was also active as teacher, composer, adjudicator, critic, poet, playwright, essayist, and lecturer. He died at his home in Cathcart, Glasgow. His son was the Australian politician and diplomat Hugh Roberton. His compositions include a significant number of part-songs, especially settings of Scottish folk songs.

Eriskay is a small island of the Outer Hebrides, from the Old Norse for "Eric's Isle."

PROGRAM

It is the rime of the new moon, and the time, too, when love-thoughts are ripest, and the brown eyes of Morag are gazing seaward over the murmurous lapping waters.

Aye, and is it not true that at such a time strange beautiful sounds may be heard, and that whenever a voice is singing in one's heart, that voice one may hear borne magically on the bosom of the waters?

It is thus that Morag hears her lover's "Bheir mi ò."

And out of the fullness of her joy she answers with tender passion in the love-words he would speak to her on the quiet hillside. ("When I'm lonely," etc.)

And as her song dies on the night air, the faithful waves bring back the burden of it to her ears, till out of the passion of her soul she pours forth anew her rapture in his words—"Harp of joy, harp of my heart."

So singing, so hearkening, she stands. The new moon creeps behind a cloud. It is the black night. But the voice of her lover is in her ears, and in her heart is eternal dayspring.

H. S. R.

Bheir mi òro bhan o **
Bheir mi òro bhan i;
Bheir mi òru o ho
Sad am I, without thee.

When I'm lonely, dear white heart, Black the night or wild the sea, By love's light, my foot finds The old pathway to thee.

Thou'rt the music of my heart; Harp of joy, o *Cruitmochruidh*; °° Moon of guidance by night; Strength and light thou'rt to me.

In the morning, when I go
To the white and shining sea,
In the calling of the seals
Thy soft calling to me.

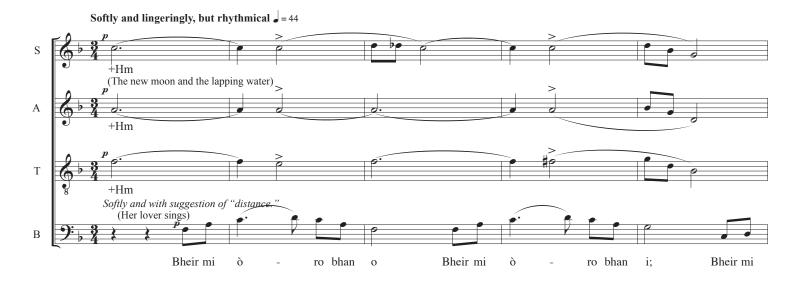
From *Songs of the Hebrides*Marjory Kennedy-Fraser (1857–1930)

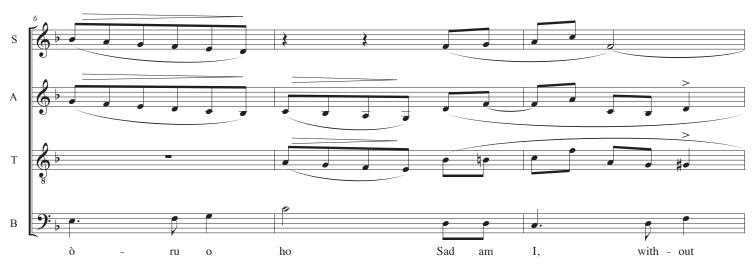
**Sources indicate these are "lilting" words—no particular meaning, just sounds. IPA approximation:

ver mi oro van o ver mi oro van i ver mi oru o ho

°°Often spelled elsewhere as three words or "cruidh mo cruit" = harp of my heart IPA approximation:
krut∫ mo kri

Hugh S. Roberton

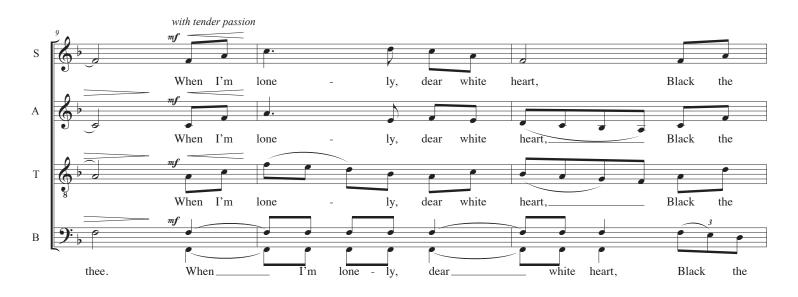


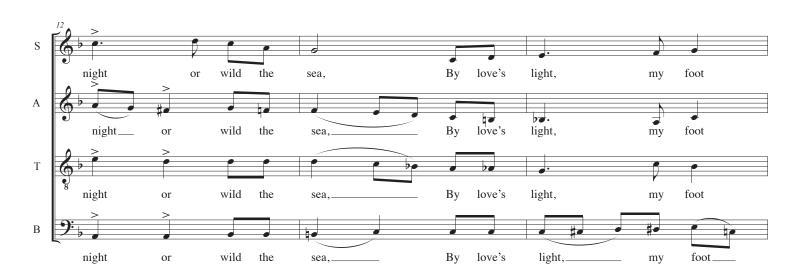


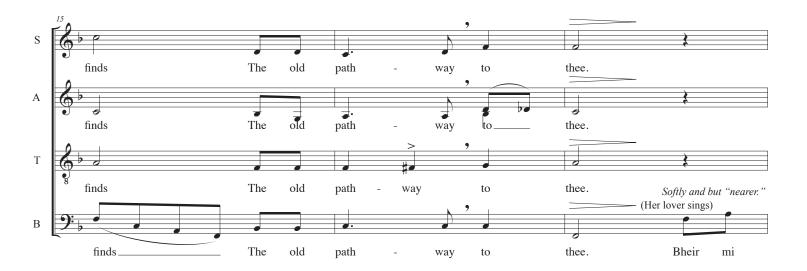
+Hum softly with open lips.

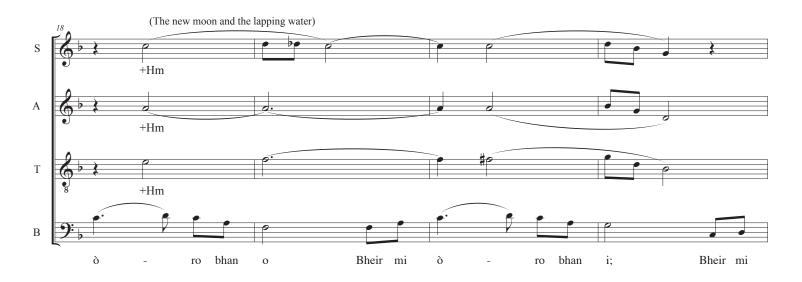


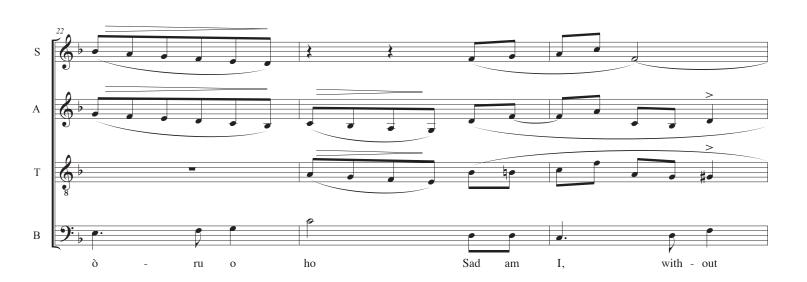
Edition and "engraving" © 2022 SHORCHORTM. May be freely distributed, duplicated, performed and recorded under the TERMS OF USE described elsewhere in this publication. This edition is not a source for a secondary edition.

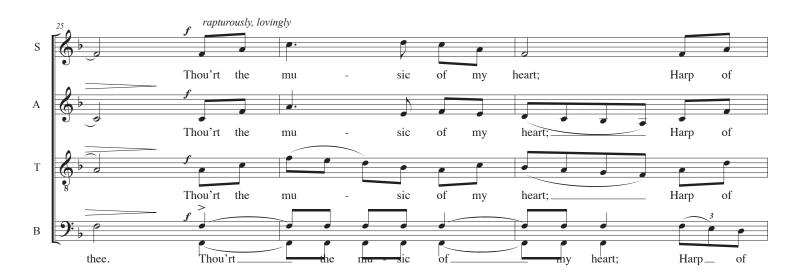


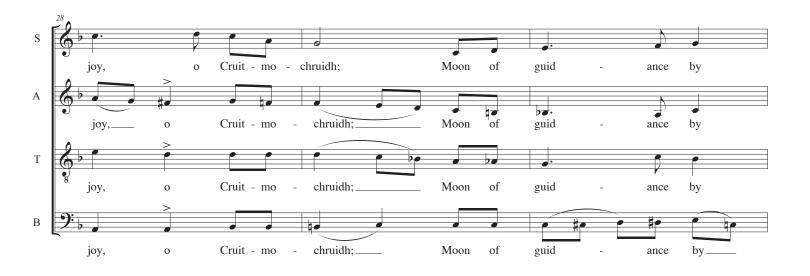


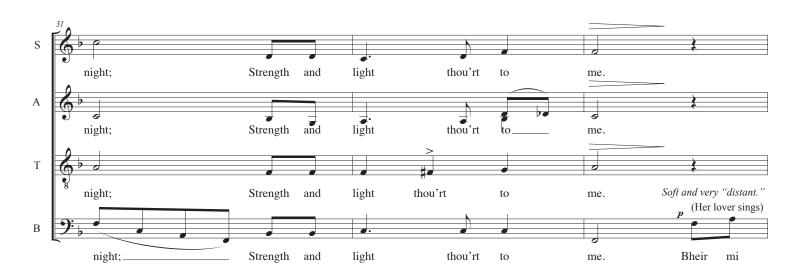


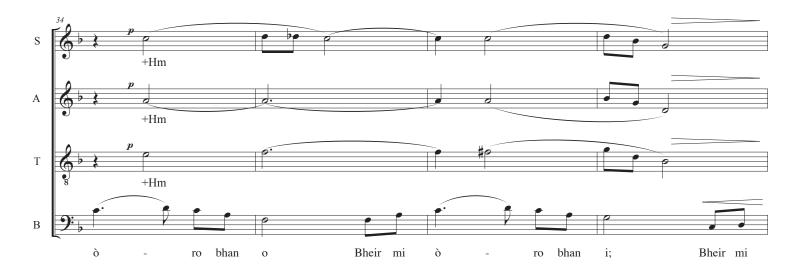


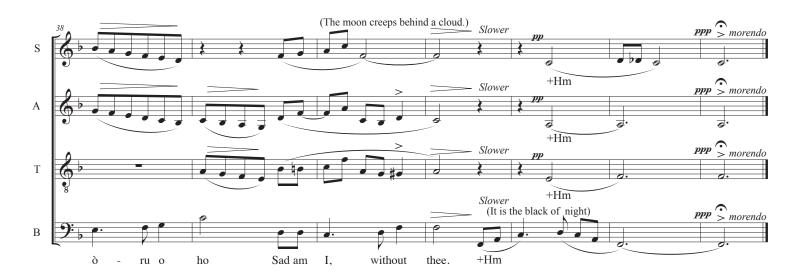












J. Curwen & Sons (1915)

TERMS OF USE

These editions are available as a service to the choral community, offering inexpensive access to public domain literature. Choir resources can purchase other literature still under copyright, especially to support those creating and publishing new compositions and arrangements. These editions have been created using public domain sources under U. S. copyright law. Out of respect to the research, time and effort invested:

please print and issue an edition in its entirety, retaining notices, attributions, and logos. please do not consider this edition a source for creating another edition.

If recorded, notification and attribution would be appropriate professional courtesies.

For a full description of these requests and more scores, visit: www.shorchor.net

