



B

E

U

L

# **b e u l**

n./biaL/gaelic

- 1. mouth**
- 2. beginning**
- 3. opening**

**beul nan gàidheal**

**beul na draoidheachd**

**beul nan òrain, beul nan naidheachd**

**beul èibhinn, beul an ruitheim**

**beul na mara, beul a' chridhe**

**sin an seòrsa 'àrd-togalach' againn**

**the mouth of a gael**

**the mouth of magic**

**the mouth of wisdom**

**the mouth of songs, the mouth of stories**

**the mouth of humour, the mouth of rhythm**

**the mouth of the sea, the mouth of the heart**

**that's our version of 'skyscrapers'**

**b r a d l e y   m u r p h y**





# **beul**

**air fàillirinn iù**

**carson a mhol thu móirthir mhosach?**

**mo nighean donn as bòidhche**

**cuir a-nall**

**fair a la la o ro hu**

**hù o ro hù o**

**leis a' mhaighdinn**

**dh'éirich mi moch madainn cheòthar**

**mo nigh'n donn ho gu**

**ailein duinn o hi**

**niel gow's lament for the death of his second wife**

## **ceud mìle failte | a hundred thousand welcomes**

the songs i am sharing are close to my heart. some have been learned by tradition bearers in my community, and in song sharing circles both in unama'ki, cape breton and in the western isles of scotland. some of the songs are learned from archival recordings of singers in my community, giving me new awareness of my heritage, where i come from, and why i wish to keep them alive. gaelic singers are not commonly on-stage starlets in the spotlight. it is quite common for farmers, butchers, bus-drivers and very un-assuming individuals to be song carriers as the songs hold the collective consciousness of a community, recounting histories and important stories and have a social function: to mourn, to heal, to celebrate, and to dance.

i first learned gàidhlig from my grandmother, clare gillis in east bay, unama'ki – cape breton. she taught me about my heritage, and about gardening, caring for trees and she always loved when i played music. when she passed away, i began to work harder at learning gàidhlig songs and reclaiming the language. indigenous to the highlands and islands of lands now known as scotland and ireland, gaels have existed for thousands of years. whole gàidhlig communities were force-immigrated to turtle island in the 1800's in the highland clearances and other colonizing attempts that also involved eradicating the gàidhlig language and cultural practices. today, many people have dedicated their lives and passions into cultural reclamation especially in unama'ki – cape breton island. gàidhlig lives in the music, stories, dances, language, and in the hearts of the people.

i live in mi'kma'ki: stolen, unceded, unsundered ancestral territory. i am inspired and have great respect for mi'kmaq and wolastoqiyik language, culture, and people and i am grateful to be able to practice elements of my culture where i live. gaels arrived on these shores in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century and our survival is due to the aid, friendship and generosity of the mi'kmaw who were already living here. some canadian gael settlers and their descendants became powerful public officials and were responsible for carrying out genocidal actions against indigenous communities, including the implementation of the residential school system. the complications and 'white-washing' that lead to collaborating with our colonizer are traumatic and deeply shameful and should not be overlooked. i cannot undo the actions of some of my ancestors, but it is my responsibility to learn, be aware and do better.

i find that there are many similarities shared by gàidhlig and indigenous language in mi'kma'ki. after all, they are both languages that reveal within them generations of living near water and with the land. for generations they have been in relationship with one another, especially through music. as i grow, i continue to learn more teachings through ceremony and valuable friendships. these relationships continue to bloom and add colour to my music, inspire passion for language reclamation, and shape my worldview.

**wela'lioq**

**woliwon**

**tapadh leibh**



# tapadh leibh |

to those who helped me create this album

## **geoff livingston | living~stone**

recording engineer + music production + creative input and collaboration + initial mixing

tracks: *carson a mhol thu móirthir mhosach/ mo nighean donn as bòidhche/ cuir a-nall/fàir a la la o ro hu a/ leis a' mhaighdinn/ dh'éirich mi moch madainn cheòthar/ mo nigh'n donn ho gu/ neil gow's lament for the death of his second wife*

## **snappy homefry | playhouse studio**

mixing + mastering

tracks: *carson a mhol thu móirthir mhosach/ mo nighean donn as bòidhche/ cuir a-nall/fàir a la la o ro hu a/ leis a' mhaighdinn/ dh'éirich mi moch madainn cheòthar/ mo nigh'n donn ho gu/ neil gow's lament for the death of his second wife*

## **jamie foulds | soundpark studios**

mixing + mastering

tracks: *1 air fàillirinn iù/6 òran na maighdinn mhara/10 ailein duinn o hi*

## **jason rudderham**

double bass on *ailein duinn o hi*

## **paul mcniell + jacques mindreau**

photography (cover+ album art)

photography (album art)

## **julia kater**

website + graphic design

## **tamara kater**

management + grant writing support

## **bradley murphy (me)**

recording/arranging/ vocals/ piano/ fiddle/ bodhran

tracks recorded by bradley: *air fàillirinn iù/òran na maighdinn mhara/ ailein duinn o hi/ hù o ro hù o*

all of the songs on this album are traditional gàidhlig, except 'neil gow's lament of the death of his second wife' written by nathaniel gow in 1805.

**mòran taing airson mo chuideachadh leis a' chànan agus a' cheòl** | thanks to you who have helped me with language, cultural and music learning

sionainn ni'n aonghais iain/ òmar bhochanan/ eamag dhòmhnallach/ carman nicartair/ bearnag chaimbeul/ màiri britton/ màiri bheathag/ brù-dhearg nic toiseach caragan/ annag krebs/ morgan toney/ oonig ward/ jeff ward/ màiri sìne niclaomuinn/ frangag niceachainn/ cairistiona primrose/ steiseag nicilleathain/ aonghas macleòid/ lodaidh séasonach-fionghuineach/ rose morrison/ peter leblanc/ nicole deveaux/ tara lewis/ lauchie gillis/ norma jean macphee/ florence sampson/ allie kehoe/ francie gillis/ gary and arlene vassallo/ clare gillis/ mary macdougall/ *and most of all my family: carol, tom, and tyler murphy*

**tapadh leat airson na buidhnean taic agad** | thanks to supportive organizations

cbmic, music nova scotia, factor, cbc radio, gaelic affairs



## creating the album and working with geoff livingston

this album would not have been possible without the creativity and dedication of geoff livingston who opened up his home and studio in east margaree to my aspirations of a creating full gaidhlig album. we worked slowly over two years (2021-2022) to strike the right sonic balance. the goal was to use traditional instruments sampled in innovative ways to underscore and elevate ancient gaidhlig song; only adding new elements when necessary. i brought the songs to the table, selected based on family and local connection, as well as songs i collected while overseas in scotland in 2019. we sampled layers of voice, drum, fiddle, beach sticks, shakers, and his dad's old guitar: a wealth of experimentation. geoff's experience as a dj and as a composer of electronic music was paramount to our final result and i am very grateful to have had the opportunity to collaborate with him and his friend music producer: snappy homefry - who mixed and mastered many of the tracks in his toronto studio.



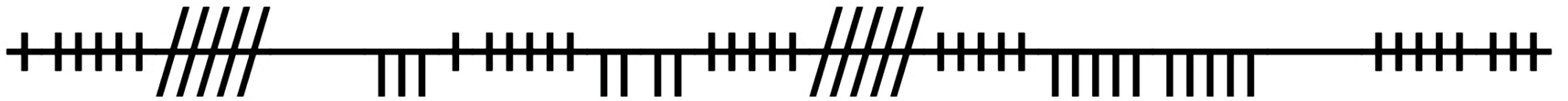


A person in a black swimsuit is floating underwater in clear green water. The person is positioned in the center-right of the frame, with their head near the surface and legs pointing downwards. The water is a vibrant green color, and there are some ripples and bubbles near the surface.

**bogadh**

| immersion (soak/to wet) also language immersion





# 1. air fàillirinn iù

trad.arr.bradley murphy | vocals/strings/piano: bradley murphy | recorded: bradley murphy | mixed and mastered: jamie foulds

a traditional milling song concerning loss of life by drowning. my grandmother, clare gillis was raised in a small gaelic community that took root along the sookakade (mira river) and the area is now called grand mira. her brothers were gaelic singers, lawrence and john a. gillis, and they often sang with another man in their community named lauchie gillis. lauchie was a prolific singer and succeeded at recording records and tapes of gaelic songs. when i started learning gaelic songs, i found his name kept coming up, too many times to be considered a coincidence. i learned of the family connection and began to listen in and learn from his recordings.

**air fàillirinn iù  
horo iùilrinn o  
air fàillirinn iù**

**gur mise tha fo mhulad  
air uilinn nan stùc**

**'s mi coimhead caol muile  
's cha ghrunnaich mi null**

**far an d'fhàg mi mo mhàthair  
air a càradh 's an ùir**

**far an d'fhàg mi mo leannan  
caol mala 's rosg ciùin**

**mur an deachaidh mi mearachd  
bha mo leannan air stiùir**

**air bhàrr nan tonn glasa  
s' muir a' sgapadh a bùird**

**air bhàrr nan tonn uaine  
chaidh iad coltas mo rùn**

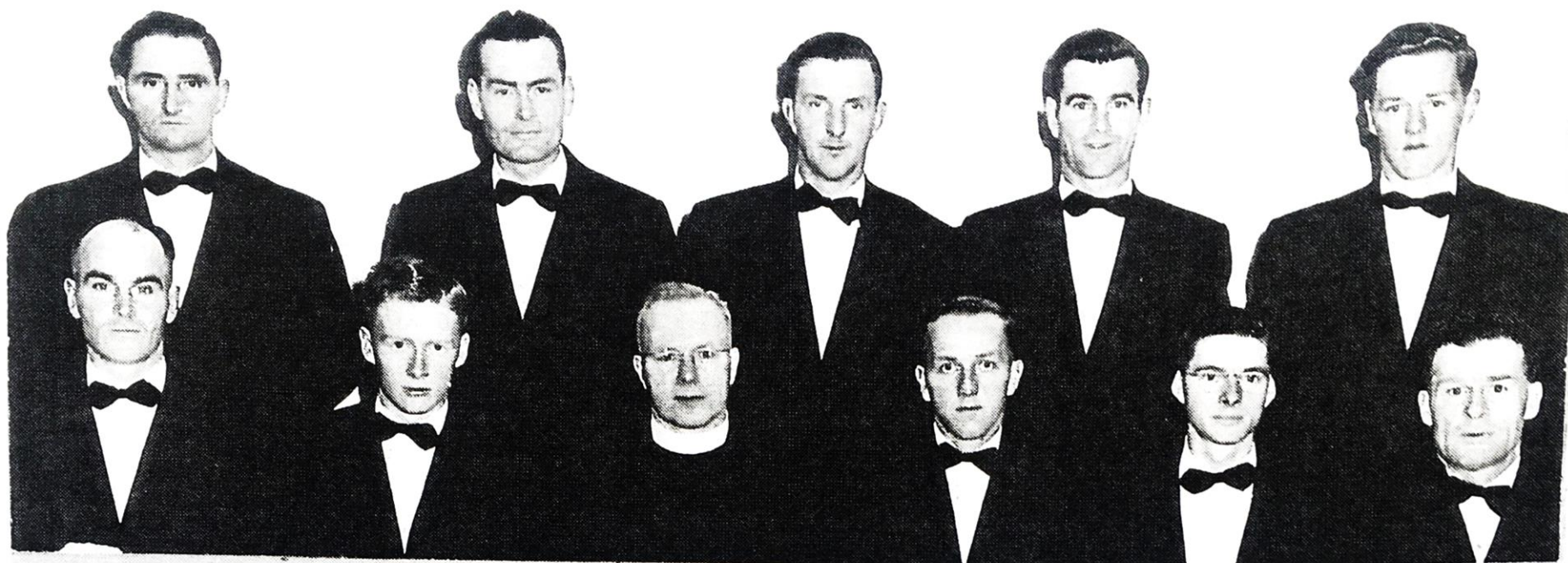
**chaidh m'eudail do `n fheamainn,  
's i dol thairis a null**

**'s daor a cheannaich mi a' bhrannaidh  
's beag a dh'òl mi dh'a shùgh**

**'s daor a cheannaich mi'n sgadan  
air a phacadh as ùr**

**'s daor a cheannaich mi 'm bàta  
o rinn am bàthadh 'n an triùir**

Grand Mira Male Choir



Grand Mira Male Choir

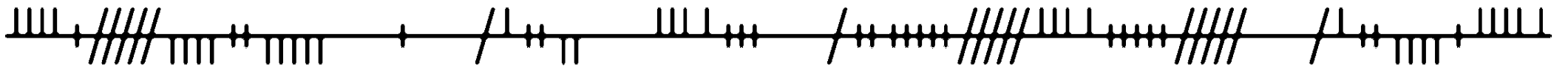
WINNERS AT HALIFAX MUSIC FESTIVAL ~ May 17/52

NATIONAL CHORAL FOLK SINGING CLASS

Front Row: John Alex (Martin D.) Gillis, Archie Thomas, Rev. Hugh A. Mac Donald, Martin Mac Lellan, Gussie Mac Intyre, & Harry Thomas.

Back Row: Lauchie (Archie) Gillis, Eddie Mac Dougall, Donald Mac Lellan, Lawrence (Martin D.) Gillis, & Johnny Mac Lellan.





## 2. carson a mhol thu móirthir mhosach?

trad.arr:bradley murphy | vocals/bodhran/violin:bradley murphy | recorded/produced/premixed: geoff livingston | mixed/mastered: snappy homefry

i altered the rhythm of this song slightly and it came about during the recording session with geoff when he presented a unique setting of the bodhran track i recorded. i loved it and went with it. this song is kind of punk anyway, it is considered an antipraise song. i learned it first from màiri sìne niclaomuinn (mary jane lammond) in south uist at ceolas in 2019. the song was presented as a recording of catherine patterson (catriona nighean ailein chaluim pìobaire) (1872-1964) of benacadie glen, cape breton: “càrson a mhol thu móirthir mhosach” in english: why would you praise the horrid mainland (the islands are much better). having grown up on an island myself, i cannot disagree. i promise to record the traditional version one day.

**heitirean à rinn ù rinn ó ro,  
heitirean à rinn, ó ró**

**c'arson a mhol thu móirthir mhosach  
airson stoban calltuinn?**

**móirthir mhosach, doirbh ri coiseachd,  
's iomadh sloc is allt innt'**

**cailin buidhe crathadh muidhe,  
's i'na suidh'air plangaid**

**fir'gan ruigheachd le cion bithidh,  
dh'idheadh cridhe a's t-samhradh**

**'s iomadh fear gun bhiadh gun aodach  
gach taobh do loch aoillte**

**tràth air ola 's tràth air snothach  
's tràth air cnothan calltuinn**

**thig a éirinn mac rìgh seumas  
le dhéideagan airgid**

**thig a barraidh fear chùil chlannaich  
blàthshuil mheallach bhòidheach**

**thig a uidhist fear caol buidhe  
's gum b'e struth a dh'èolas**



# 3.mo nighean donn as bòidhche

trad.arr.bradley murphy | vocals/guitar: bradley murphy | recorded/produced/premixed: geoff livingston | mixed/mastered: snappy homefry

this song was learned from a recording of malcolm angus macleod of, skir dhu, in the north shore, cape breton island. the original recording was in august 1976. the story of the song is a bachelor citing his finest attributes to impress his lover. in the end, he confesses that that he is a sailor, which unfortunately often means he is unavailable.

**hi ri ri, a ràill o  
ràill o, ràill o  
hi ri ri, a ràill o  
mo nighean donn as bòidhche**

**nigheanag air a bheil am falt  
ag éiridh anns an fhasan cheart  
's mi gu lùigeadh a dhol leat  
isteach dha'n eaglais leòdach**

**nigheanag air a bheil an gùn  
ag éiridh anns an fhasan ùr  
b'fheàrr leam fhìn na mìle crùn  
gu dùraigeadh tu pòg dhomh**

**bha mi 'nam ghobha mar cheàird  
bha mi 'nam shaor 'n dòigh neo dhà  
's iomadh sgrìob thug mi le sàbh  
ged tha mi an dràs' a' seòladh**







## 4.cuir a-nall

trad.arr. bradley murphy | vocals, fiddle: bradley murphy | recorded/produced/premixed: geoff livingston | mixed/mastered: snappy homefry

this is a song i learned from cairistiona primrose (christine primrose) on the isle of skye in scotland in 2019. a child's song about mòr, who was in the mill, in the dairy and with the shepherd.

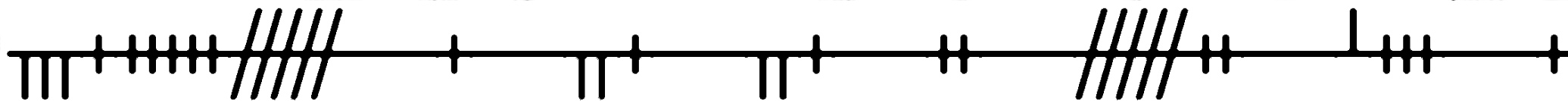
**cuir a-nall, cuir a-nall,  
cuir a-nall mòr a bhitheag  
cuira-nall, cuir a-nall  
aon nighean màiri**

**mòr-a-bhitheag a's a'mhuilinn  
mòr-a-bhitheag a's a'mhuilinn  
mòr-a-bhitheag a's a'mhuilinn  
tha i lurach, àlainn**

**mòr-a-bhitheag as a bhuaile  
mòr-a-bhitheag as a bhuaile  
mòr-a-bhitheag as a bhuaile  
gur luaineach a dh'fhàs i**

**mòr-a-bhitheag air a buaireadh  
mòr-a-bhitheag air a buaireadh  
mòr-a-bhitheag air a buaireadh  
aig buachaill an fhàsaich**





# 5.fair a la la o ro hu a

trad.arr. bradley murphy | vocals, beach stick: bradley murphy | recorded/produced/premixed: geoff livingston | mixed/mastered: snappy homefry

this milling song i first heard from sionainn ni'n aonghais iain (shannon macmullin) has been an important mentor to me over the years. a well-known singer called "montana dan" gave this song life in the 1970's and his spirit lives on every time we sing it. montana dan morrison belonged to rear little river, close by to skir dubh. his people came from harris. he was a renowned singer and member of the north shore gaelic singers

**fair a la la o ro hu a**

**hi ri hu a ro a hu a**

**fair a la la o ro hu a**

**tha m'inntinn trom, cha'n 'eil mi sunndach**

**chionn gu'n do chur mo leannan cul rium**

**trom a sac a tha mi giulain**

**cha tog fiodhull e no trombaid**

**no piob bheag, no feadan siubhlach**

**no piob mhor an torman dumhail**

**am bruadair cadal raoir a dhuisc mi**

**thu bhi 'nad laighe air mo chulthaobh**

**beag an ait' nach dheanainn rum dhut**

**eadar mi 's an balla culthaobh**

**eadar mod ha laimh na'm bu duth leat**

**cha'n 'eil mo leannan-sa 's an duthaich**

**'s ann a tha e an tir an t-siucar**

**an tir nan uinneanan 's nan ubhlan**







# 6.hù o ro hù o

trad.arr.bradley murphy | vocals/beats/ bradley murphy | recorded: bradley murphy | mixed/mastered: bradley murphy

i learned this song during the bunn is bàrr program in 2023. this program supports passing language skills to new generations and building bridges between cultures. my instructor was carmen macarthur near lake ainslie, and this is one of the songs we worked on. it is well known from the singing of the late margaret maclean (mairead bean ruairi iagain ruairi) of boisdale, cape breton county.

**hù o ro hù o  
o hì o hì ò  
hù o ro hù o**

**gura mise tha fo mhulad  
air an tullaich ud shuas**

**cha dìrich mi bruach  
cha siubhal mi buan**

**cha dean mi ceum còmhnard  
a' Dhòmhnach na Luain**

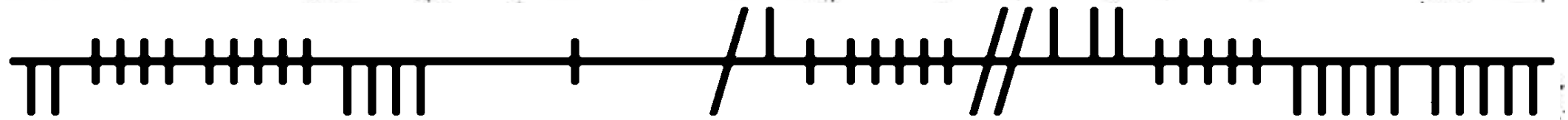
**'s tric mo shùil air a' rubha  
far a' bhruaich ud shuas**

**cha n-eil bàt' a thig o 'n rubha  
nach dubhaich ri m'ghruaidh**

**na bàt' a thig o 'n rubha  
nach caochail mi snuadh**

**cha n-eil cùmha mo leannain  
a th'air m'aire an ceart uair**

**ach cùmha nam bràithrean  
cùl fàinneach nan dual**



## 7.leis a' mhaighdinn

trad.arr. bradley murphy | vocals/drum/fiddle: bradley murphy | recorded/produced/premixed: geoff livingston | mixed/mastered: snappy.homefry

this song i first heard sung by lili watson in at stòras a' bhaile in mineville nova scotia in 2020. it recounts a shipwreck that happened off the coast of cape george. it is a popular song originating in scotland.

**leis a' mhaighdinn, o hì,  
leis a' mhaighdinn, o hò,  
beul na h-oidhche, o hì,  
rinn sinn falbh le cuid seòl.**

**seo an geamhradh, o hì,  
chuir an call oirnn, o hò,  
soitheach frangach, o hì,  
chaidh air chall air ceap george.**

**'s ann di-luain, o hì,  
rinn sinn gluasad, o hò,  
chaidh ar fuadach, o hì,  
's am fear uasal air bòrd.**

**rinn i boillsgeadh, o hì,  
'm beul na h-oidhche, o hò,  
las sinn coinnlean, o hì,  
's chuir sinn combaist air dòigh.**

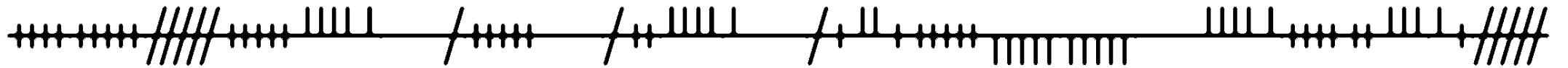
**thuirt mo mhàthair, o hì,  
's cianail tha mi, o hò,  
caoidh mo bhràithrean, o hì,  
's fear no dhà dhiubh air bòrd.**

**'s thuirt an sgiobair, o hì,  
ri chuid ghillean, o hò,  
"glacaibh misneach, o hì,  
's cuiribh "reef" 'n a cuid sheòl."**

**broidse daoimean, o hì,  
'm broilleach maighdeann, o hò,  
beul a' choibhneis, o hì,  
nach dean foill do neach tha beò.**







# 8.dh'éirich mi moch madainn cheòthar

trad.arr. bradley murphy | vocals/shaker: bradley murphy | recorded/produced/premixed: geoff livingston | mixed/mastered: snappy homefry

a popular milling song in cape breton. it's known as a sort of patchwork song made up of different songs stitched together. in essence, the song describes the secret meeting of a young couple and a very strange encounter. i also first heard this song from sionainn ni'n aonghais iain (shannon macmullin) in 2016.

**hì làil ó ho gù**

**hì ù ri bhó hì a hù**

**hì làil ó ho gù**

**dh'éirich mi moch madainn cheòthar**

**chuir mi stocainn orm `s brògan**

**ghabh mi mach aig cois a' lòinein**

**thàna' mo leannan `nam chòmhdhail**

**bha sgian bheag aige `na phòcaid**

**bha e muigh air m'uille dhòrnain**

**ghoid e dhiom na bh'air mo chòta**

**cha cheannich e aig a' stòr e**

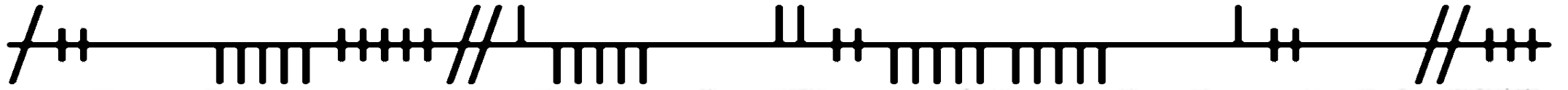
**`s maraich' e thàirneas ròpa**

**air long mhór nan crannan àrda**

**dheanadh càradh air na brògan**

**falt mo chinn `ga chur fo bhrògan**





# 9.mo nigh'n donn ho gu

trad.arr: bradley murphy, | vocals/bodhran: bradley murphy | recorded/produced/premixed: geoff livingston | mixed/mastered: snappy homefry

a milling song. the singer expresses their love for a brown-haired honey who's hand they hope to win. i learned this song from cairistiona primrose (christine primrose) on the isle of skye in scotland in 2019.

**mo nigh'n donn ho gu  
hi ri ri hu lo  
mo nigh'n donn ho gu.**

**mo nigh'n donn a' chuil bhain  
'se do ghradh rinn mo leon**

**mo nigh'n donn a' chuil chais  
deud mar chailc 's gruaidh mar ros**

**mo nigh'n donn a' chuil reidh  
bha mi'n deidh air do thoir**

**mo nigh'n donn a choisinn geall  
far na champaich na seoid**

**'s bithidh mo lamh-sa 'nad laimh  
's neo-ar-thaing do n' tha beo**

**'s bithidh mo lamh mu d' chul ban  
ged a'ghearrt i mu'n dorn**

**'s bheirinn oidhch' air son oidhch'  
air son caoimhneas do bheoil**

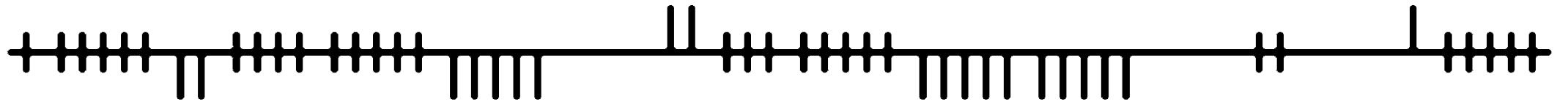
**'s theid mi null air a' bheinn  
far 'm beil loinn nan ban og**

**'s bithidh mi comhl' ri bean na bainns'  
's bithidh mi'n ceann a' bhuid mhoir**



Mrs. Martin D. (Catherine) Gillis - my Great grandmother (holding bobby presseau)





# 10. ailein duinn o hi

trad.arr.bradley murphy | vocals/violin: bradley murphy | double bass: jason rudderham | recorded: bradley murphy | mixed/mastered: jamie foulds

there are many versions of this song and many more verses. it is more popular in scotland. i learned this version from a recording by seonag niccainnich (joan mackenzie) from lewis. the lament was written by annag chaimbeul of scalpay for her fiancée ailein moireasdan. He was a sea captain on his way to be married to annag when a storm took the ship and his life. Annag was overtaken by grief, wrote this song, and shortly after lost her will to live. Because there was not enough soil on the barren island of scalpay, her father took her in her coffin by boat to a cemetery on the main island of harris. however, another storm caused the coffin to be blown off the boat and it washed up on the same island her fiancé's body had been found.

**ailein duinn a luaidh nan leannan  
chuala mi gun deach thu thairis**

**ailein duinn o hi shiubhlainn leat  
hi ri ri ri oh ho  
horan o oh hi oh  
ailein duinn o hi shiubhlainn leat**

**chuala mi gun deach thu thairis  
air a'bhàta chaol dhubh dharaich**

**air a'bhàta chaol dhubh dharaich  
's gun deach thu air tir am manainn**

**'s gun deach thu air tir am manainn  
cha be siod mo rogha caladh**

**chuala mi gun deach do bhathadh  
gura truagh nach mi bha'n laimh riut**





# 11.niel gow's lament for the death of his second wife

trad. niel gow (1727-1807) arr. bradley murphy | piano: bradley murphy | recorded/produced/premixed: geoff livingston | mixed/mastered by: snappy homefry

when i was very young, i was a piano student of flow sampson of big pond. she presented this piece to me and i immediately did not want to learn it. "i don't like gaelic music" i said. she convinced me to try it, saying: "one day you're going to go to the gaelic college, and a fiddler is going to ask you if you know this tune." well, she was right, that actually happened to me, and the rest is history. piano was my first instrument, the gateway into music. i still play this slow air, and i still love it. thank you to flow sampson for seeing what i couldn't see myself. this slow air is one of the most celebrated compositions of the famous scots fiddler and composer niel gow (1727 - 1807)



