

Song Book for Rainy Camp Jan 2021 - Linn Phipps

4 Puirt set for Rainy Camp Jan 2021 – participative learning workshop led by Linn

A bit about Puirt – or puirt-a-beul (mouth music, music from the mouth):

Puirt-a-beul is a genre of traditional songs and singing. (Port – a port, plural puirt). Used for dancing when no instruments were available. Usually with humorous themes, fast and fun! -and sometimes using vocables (sound-words with no meaning). Otherwise, words were often chosen particularly for their percussive sound and to generate a Scots snap (syncopation/ a bounce in the rhythm) in a strathspey. Puirt songs can be found on both sides of the Pond, and today especially in Nova Scotia.

For performance, typically a set of 4 strathspeys and reels is sung (occasionally, jigs), so I've created a set here with a theme – can you spot it? When performing puirt, you really have to know the songs so well that your brain goes into auto-pilot. But every song learnt has to start somewhere..! We will learn our song slowly!

A bit about our session:

This is a session particularly for unaccompanied singers. You can sing along (everyone is muted!) and have a go. We'll plan to go through the 4 songs quickly to get a feel for how a puirt set goes, and choose one of the four to work on particularly. I've attached audio files of me reading the words slowly (with gaps so you can practice), and singing the set a bit slower than would be usual, to help you pick up the four tunes and how the words fit the tune. I'll also explain how I've done the phonetics especially for sounds with no equivalent in English.

Instruments and musicians also very welcome.

Finally, this includes my favourite port: “Get the paws”. There's a story – can you spot “Get the paws”? Any questions please contact me on LLPhipps@aol.com or linnphipps@gmail.com or +44 7917 564440, or my music website www.linnphippsfolk.co.uk

1 A mhic Iain Bhain an òl thu ‘n càl? (Strathspey)

A mhic Iain Bhain an òl thu ‘n càl?

A mhic Iain Bhain an ith thu e?

A mhic Iain Bhain an òl thu ‘n càl?

Chan eil buntàta bruich ag-ainn.

X2

O son of fair Iain will you drink the cabbage (soup)

O son of fair Iain will you eat it?

O son of fair Iain will you drink the cabbage (soup)

We don't have any boiled potatoes.

Na cù ‘inn an càl a Mhic Iain Bhain

Na cù ‘inn an càl ach ith-ibh e

Na cù ‘inn an càl a Mhic Iain Bhain

Chan eil bun-tàt-a bruich ag-ainn.

X2

Don't keep the cabbage from us O son of fair Iain

Don't keep the cabbage from us but eat it

Don't keep the cabbage from us O son of fair Iain

We don't have any boiled potatoes..

A mhic Iain Bhain ... x2

Phonetics

U veehk Ee—iyn vany un owe-l oon caal
U veehk Ee—iyn vany un eech uu e
U veehk Ee—iyn vany un owe-l oon caal
Xan yale bun-taa-tu breeh aj-ayny

Nu coony un caal u v aX eehk Ee—iyn vany
Nu coony un caal aX eech-uv e
Nu coony un caal u v aX eehk Ee—iyn vany
Xan yale bun-taa-tu breeh aj-ayny

2 Cha teid Fionnlagh a dh'Eige (reel)

Seist:

Cha tèid Fionnlagh a dh'Eige
Ged nach pòs-adh e am feasda
Cha tèid Fionnlagh a dh'Eige
Dh'Eige cha tèid Fionnlagh
X2

Finlay will not go to Eigg (Isle of)
Even if he never gets married
Finlay will not go to Eigg
To Eigg Finlay won't go

1. Thoir a nall Ailean thugam
Ail-ean thugam, Ailean agam
Thoir a nall Ailean thugam
Sheteadh e 'n t-ùrlar
X2

Bring Alan over to me
Alan to me, Alan with me
Bring Alan over to me
He would set the (dance) floor

Seist

2. Dòmhnall àlainn a' tighinn,
Mac a' Bhàilidh à Uibh-ist,
Dòmhnall àlainn a' tighinn
Tighearna na luirgne.
X2

Lovely Donald (is) coming
The Bailiff's son from Uist
Lovely Donald coming
The lord of the shins (dancing).

Seist x2.

Phonetics

Xaa tchaytch Feeon-lug u ye-ke
Ged nach poe-zug e um fess-da
Xaa tchaytch Feeon-lug u ye-ke
Ye-ke Xaa tchaytch Feeon-lug

1 Hoare u nowl Al-an hoo-kum
Al-an hoo-kum Al-an a-kum
Hoare u nowl Al-an hoo-kum
He-tug en toor-laar

2 Dorl aa-lany u tchee-in

*Mak u Vaa-lee a Oo-istch
Dorl aa-lany u tchee-in
Tchee-ar-nu na lur-k-nu*

3 Tha bainn' aig na caoraich uile wds

X2:

Tha bainn' aig na caoraich uile,	All the sheep have milk
Tha bainn' aig na caoraich uile,	All the sheep have milk
Tha bainn' aig na caoraich uile,	All the sheep have milk
'S galan aig a' chaor-a chruin.	And the sheep with the crooked horn has a gallon

x2:

Chaor-a chruin a bh' air a leacainn,	The crooked-horned sheep that was on the hillside
Cha do dh'fhuil-ing i riamh duin' fhai-cinn.	She didn't suffer anyone to see her
Chuireadh i le fead a sròine,	With a whistle of her nose, she'd put
Madadh ròmach air a dhruim.	A shaggy dog on its back

Tha bainn' .. x2.

Phonetics

*Haa bany ek nu cœu- rih oo-lu x3
Sga-lan ej u Xœu-ru Xroyn*

*Xœu-ru Xroyn u vair u lyu-cayny
Xaa doe goo-lin ee re-uv doon ye-keeney
Xu-rug ee lay fet u srow-nyu
Ma-dug roe-mag air u groo-im*

4 Bodachan a' ghàrraidh

Sèist (chorus)

Bodachan a' ghàrraidh	The wee old man of the garden
cho frioganta 's cho froganta,	so frisky and so frolicsome
Bodachan a' ghàrraidh	The wee old man of the garden
cho frioganta 's a bha e riamh.	as frisky as he ever was

1: Hò gu robh nighean aige,	Ho, he had a daughter
Hè gu robh dithis aige,	Hey, he had two
Hò gu robh nighean aige	Ho, he had a daughter
air an robh Catriona liath.	Who was called grey Catriona

2. Hò, gu robh banais aice.	Ho, she had a wedding
Hè, gu robh banais aice	Hey, she had a wedding
Ho gu robh banais aice.	Ho, she had a wedding
Siud a' bhanais air an robh 'm biadh	that was the wedding where there was the food

3: Bha buntàta mòr ann, There were big potatoes there
bioraichean is langaichean, Calves and ling (fish).
Bha buntàta mòr ann, there were big potatoes there
's a chearc bhreac a bh'air air a 'cliabh. and the speckled hen that was on the creel.

Phonetics

Bo-da-Xan u gaa-ree, hoe frikan-tu, hoe frokan-tu
Bo-da-Xan u gaa-ree, ss-hoe frikan-tu su baa e ree-uv

1 Hoe, goo roe nee-un e-ke, Hey goo roe djee-ish e-ke,
Hoe, goo roe nee-un e-ke, Air un roe cat-ree-un-a lee-u

2 Hoe, goo roe ba-nish e-ke, Hey goo roe ba-nish e-ke,
Hoe, goo roe ba-nish e-ke, Shoot u va-nish air un roe um bee-ug

3 Vaa bun-taa-tu more ow-n, bi-ri-kan is slang-i-kan
Vaa bun-taa-tu more ow-n, su kerk vrek u vair u clee-uv.