

Gruagach òg an fhuilt bhàin

Young girl of the fair hair

Dòmhnall Ailean Domhnallach

Rann 1

Ghruagach òg an fhuilt bhàin èist ri bàrdachd mo bhilean,

Young girl of the fair hair, listen to the poetry from my lips,

Thoir dhomh gealladh thar chàich 's air do sgàth nì mi tilleadh;

Give me a promise over others and for your sake I will return.

Ged 's iomadh tè san robh m' ùidh anns gach dùthaich is cinneadh,

Although I have been fond of many women of every country and clan,

O nach aontaich thu leam, 's mi bhiodh sunndach gad shireadh.

O if you would consent to me, I would be happy seeking you.

Rann 2

Ged theireadh do chàirdean gur tràth thug mi 'n gealladh

Although your friends would say it is time I gave my promise

Do ghruagach òg an fhuilt bhàin a chaidh àrach am Barraigh,

To the girl of the fair hair who was brought up in Barra

'S iomadh fear anns gach àit' rinn a nàdar a mhealladh.

It is many a man in every place has been beguiled by her nature.

Cò bheir maorach à tràigh nuair tha 'n làn air tigh'nn thairish?

*Who will bring shellfish from the beach when the tide has come over?

Rann 3

'S truagh nach robh mi mar eun, ite sgiathan gun ghiorradh,

It is sad that I am not like a bird with wing feathers unclipped,

'S mi gu siùbhladh an iarmalt, 's mi nach iarradh gu tilleadh:

I would travel through the sky and not seek to return:

Bu mhòr m' aighear 's mo shunnd togail cùrs' thar gach linne,

Great would be my joy and happiness crossing each stretch of sea,

'S nuair a dhealaicheadh tu rium bhiodh mo shùilean a' sileadh.

And when you parted from me my eyes would be tearful.

Rann 4

Chaidh do chliù chur an dàn, 's tha do chànan aig filidh,

Your renown has been put in song, with words about you by a poet,

Chaidh a thogail is àrach ann an fàsaichean Uibhist:

Who was raised in the wilds of Uist:

'S e gaol carraig nan àl leanas nàdar an duine,

Love is the rock of ages that man's nature will follow,

'S tu mo reul fad gach là 's bidh mo gràdh far an suidh thu.

You are my star for each day and my love will be wherever you are.

Ghruagach – girl; **òg** – young; **fhuilt** – hair; **bhàin** – fair; **èist** – listen; **bàrdachd** – poetry; **bhilean** – lips; **Thoir** – give; **dhomh** – to me; **gealladh** – promise; **thar** – over; **chàich** – others; **air do sgàth** – for your sake; **tilleadh** – return; **Ged** – although; **iomadh** – many; **tè** – woman; **m' ùidh** – interest, fondness; **gach** – every; **dùthaich** – country; **cinneadh** – clan; **aontaich** – agree; **leam** – with me; **bhiodh** – would be; **sunndach** – happy; **gad shireadh** – seeking you; **theireadh** – would say; **chàirdean** – friends; **tràth** – time; **chaidh àrach** – was brought up; **iomadh** – many; **fear** – man; **àit'** – place; **rinn** – made; **nàdar** – nature; **mhealladh** – beguiled; **Cò** – who; **bheir** – bring; **maorach** – shellfish; **tràigh** – beach; **nuair** – when; **làn** – tide; **air tigh'nn** – has come; **thairish** – over; **truagh** – sad; **mar** – like; **eun** – bird; **ite** – feather; **sgiathan** – wing; **ghiorradh** – cut; **siùbhladh** – would travel; **iarmalt** – sky; **mhòr** – great; **aighear** – joy; **shunnd** – happiness; **togail** – taking; **linne** – firth, sea; **dhealaicheadh** – would be parted; **rium** – with me, from me; **shùilean** – eyes; **sileadh** – tearful; **Chaidh** – has been; **chliù** – renown; **chur** – put; **dàn** – poem, song; **chànan** – language, words; **filidh** – poet; **fàsaichean** – wilds; **gaol** – love; **carraig** – rock; **àl** – ages; **leanas** – will follow; **duine** – man; **reul** – star; **gràdh** – love; **suidh** – situated

*What are his chances when she is overwhelmed with other suitors

This song is about Morag MacAuley (Mòr Bhàn) of Barra (1911 – 1998) and was written by Donald Allan MacDonald (Dòmhnall Ailein Dhòmhnail na Baineich) of South Uist. It is a song of unrequited love – they never actually went out together. Donald Allan is said to have composed it when she failed to turn up at a dance in Kilphedar, South Uist where he had hoped to meet her.