

Cairistìona Chaimbeul Christine Campbell

Strathspeidh

Sèist

Tha i tighinn air an rathad, Cairistìona Chaimbeul

She is coming along the road, Christine Campbell

Tha i tighinn air an rathad, Cairistìona Chaimbeul

She is coming along the road, Christine Campbell

Tha i tighinn air an rathad, Cairistìona Chaimbeul

She is coming along the road, Christine Campbell

Cairistìona Chiorstaidh Anna Cairistìona Chaimbeul

Christine Kirsty Ann Christine Campbell

Rann 1

Tha i bòidheach 's tha i laghach, Cairistìona Chaimbeul

She is pretty and she is nice, Christine Campbell

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Tha i bòidheach 's tha i laghach, Cairistìona Chaimbeul

She is pretty and she is nice, Christine Campbell

'S cuimir dìreach anns an ruidhl' i, 'S cinnteach anns an danns i.

Very exact in the reel is she, certain in the dance is she.

Rann 2

Pòsaidh mi thu air an t-Samhain, Cairistìona Chaimbeul,

I will marry you in November, Christine Campbell,

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Pòsaidh mi thu air an t-Samhain, Cairistìona Chaimbeul,

I will marry you in November, Christine Campbell,

'S ged a tha do chasan caola, 's e mo ghaol gun taing thu.

Although your legs are spindly, I love you despite that.

tighinn - coming; **air** - on; **rathad** - road;

bòidheach - pretty, beautiful; **laghach** - nice, tidy, kind; **cuimir** - proper, exact; **dìreach** - really, properly, very; **cinnteach** - certain;

Pòsaidh - marry; **Samhain** - November;

ged - although; **chasan** - legs; **caola** - thin, spindly; **ghaol** - love; **gun taing** - despite;

Older versions of this puirt-a-beul have upwards of thirty verses (see *The Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness* 1914 - 1919 Vol. 29 pp 103 - 106. "Fragments of Gaelic Song and Lilt" by Alexander MacDonald).

One style has alternative praise and ridicule of Cairistìona and this appears to be the case here. In Rann 1 she is pretty and nice and is a good dancer. In Rann 2 she has thin legs, not a suitable attribute for a highland wife who would be expected to carry peats and work in the fields. In spite of this disability the singer loves her anyway.