

Tìr an Airm

Calum agus Ruaraidh Dòmhnallach

An tèid thu leam a' rìbhinn òg

Will you go with me, my young girl

Gu tìr mo gràidh sìtheal sona

To my beloved land, peaceful and happy

'S chì thu saighdearan a' ruith

And you will see soldiers running around

Am measg nan lusan brèagha 'sa mhonadh

Amongst the beautiful flowers of the moor

Ho ro horainn o

Fàilte gu tìr an Airm

Welcome to the land of the Army

Ho ro horainn o

A' coimhead a mach air maduinn chiùin

Looking out on a calm morning

Air ball mòr cruinn os cionn na beinne

On the big round ball above the mountain

'S ged is ciùin na tonnan gorm

Although the blue waves are calm

Tha ceòl ùr aig ceòl na mara.

There is a new music in the music of the sea

'S an tèid thu leam gu tìr mo ghràidh

And if you come to my beloved land

Seall na h-eòin dhorch dhona

See the dark evil birds

Treabadh speuran os ar cionn

Ploughing the skies above us

Dèanamh air Steòrnabhagh le cabhaig

Making for Stornoway at speed

Nis leugh d' eachdraidh fosgail sùil

Now read your history, open your eyes

Anns gach linn mu dhòigh an Airm

In every generation to the ways of the military

Stampadh air na croitean seagail

Stamping on the rye of the crofts

Is beathanan òg aig gillean Uidhist

And the young lives of the boys of Uist

Cha tèid mise chun an rìgh

I will not go to serve the king

Cha tèid mis' an còrr a shabaid

I will go no more to fight

O Lunnain mheallt a Bhreatuinn fholliel

O deceitful London, treacherous Britain

Cha seas mi ach son sìth nan eilean

I will stand only for peace in the islands

Tèid – go; **leam** – with me; **rìbhinn** – girl; **òg** – young; **tìr** – land; **gràidh** – love, affection; **sìtheal** – peaceful; **sona** – happy; **chì** will see; **saighdearan** – soldiers; **a' ruith** – running; **measg** – among; **lusan** – plants, weeds, wild flowers; **brèagha** – beautiful; **mhonadh** – moor;

Fàilte – welcome; **airm** – of the army.

A' coimhead – looking; **a mach** – out; **maduinn** – morning; **chiùin** – calm; **ball** – ball; **mòr** – big; **cruinn** – round; **os cionn** – above; **beinne** – mountain; **ged** – although; **ciùin** – calm; **tonnan** – waves; **gorm** – blue; **ceòl** – music; **ùr** – new; **mara** – sea;

Seall – behold, see, look; **eòin** – birds; **dhorch** – dark; **dhona** – bad, evil; **Treabadh** – ploughing; **speuran** – skies; **os ar cionn** – above us; **Dèanamh** – making; **Steòrnabhagh** – Stornoway; **cabhaig** – haste, hurry;

Nis – now; **leugh** – read; **eachdraidh** – history; **fosgail** – open; **sùil** – eye; **gach** – every; **linn** – age, time, generation; **mu** – about; **dhòigh** – ways; **Stampadh** – stamping; **croitean** – crofts; **seagail** – rye; **beathanan** – lives; **gillean** – boys; **Uidhist** – Uist;

Cha tèid – will not go; **mise** – me; **chun** – to; **rìgh** – king; **còrr** – more; **shabaid** – fight; **Lunnain** – London; **mheallt** – deceitful; **Bhreatuinn** – Britain; **fholliel** – fraudulent, treacherous; **seas** – stand, support; **son** – for; **sìth** – peace; **eilean** – islands.

This song was written for Runrig and was released in their 1981 album “Recovery”. It is a protest song about the use of the Uists for rocket testing and the building of a NATO airbase at Stornoway. The narrator notes that every generation has suffered in some way from the demands of the military and that he will no longer be a part of it.