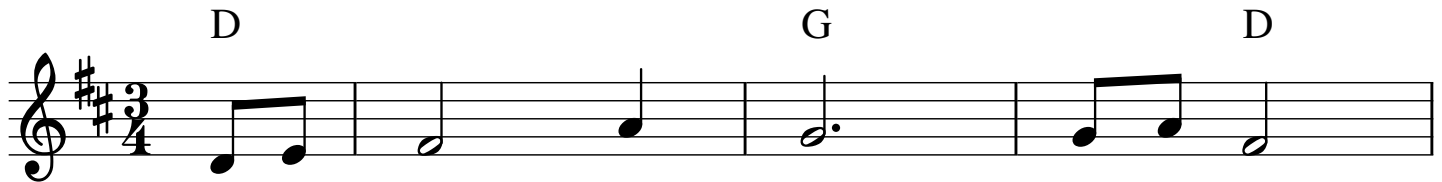


Eislinn's War

Morgana bro Morganwg, OL, OP

Lady Melanie de la Tour



Now tell a tale From long,
As Queen she was lithe, sweet
So Ca - lon - tir swore to
They fought for/a queen stro - ng
For true - Chival - ry they fought



long a - go. A tale that all
and brave. And to her full
her side. The Arm - y swept -
and brave. But not from all
that day. One glor - ious hour



pe - ople-should know. When Ca - lon's Fyrd
hon - or - all gave. For en - em - y
like a great tide. The foe from-field
foes could they save. And win - ter soon
in the light. Re - mem - ber Fair -

G D A D

Did vow and swear To fight for Queen
 she had the best. Great - er by far
 and vic - to - ry - did bring. With her name
 did bli - ght the Rose. But bright her me -
 Eis - linn the brave. And ro - ses lay

A D G

Eis - linn the Fair. So Ca - lon - tir take to
 than East, Mid or West.
 the raf - ters did ring.
 mo - ry still glows.
 up - on her grave.

D D G

the field. Pick up your spear, your sword and

A D G 27 D

shield. The High road of Chi-val ry tests. Re-mem -

D A 36

ber-al - ways to fight for the best.

Documentation for Ballad of *Eislinn's War*

Laurel/Apprentice Challenge for Chieftains, February 24, 2017

Lyrics: Morgana Bro Morganwg, OL, OP
Music: Lady Melanie de la Tour

Topic/Inspiration:

In AS 22, Queen Eislinn II reigned as 35th queen of the Middle Kingdom. It was well-known that this would be her last reign, as her cancer was terminal, but she determined to attend Pennsic one final time¹.

According to Jenna of Southwind, when it came time for Calontir to declare a side for Pennsic, Charles Steward O'Connor declared, "Let us take the high road of Chivalry. Let us fight for Eislinn." Old wounds between the two kingdoms were forgotten, and all of the Falcon Army wore her favors².

Eulogy/Praise-Poem

Praise-poetry was written in England in the 10th century in Old Norse, and was adapted to Anglo-Saxon in four praise poems in the 10th century Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. The last of the four was "The Death of Edgar" in 975³, demonstrating that praise of the noble fallen was always part of the Anglo-Saxon and Norse tradition.

The Middle English lyric tradition emerged in the 13th century, and was written for both secular and sacred purposes. Interestingly enough, many of authors of the new vernacular verse were women and express emotions of love and devotion⁴.

Ballad Style:

According to the Oxford Companion to Music:

By the 14th century it referred to a strophic solo song with a narrative text. Ballads are ubiquitous in Europe, particularly in the British Isles, Denmark, Spain, and east European countries⁵.

Ballads typically have four-line stanzas⁶, followed by a repeating "burden" or refrain⁷

Instrumentation:

Even earliest extant English ballad, preserved in a 13th century manuscript, comes with musical performance glosses⁸. One 13th century penitential complained of "entertainers who have musical instruments to delight men...who sing the deeds of princes and the lives of saints"⁹. Ballads were clearly the popular music of their day, performed by minstrels who accompanied themselves on instruments.

¹ "Eislinn the Patient," from MiddleWiki. Retrieved from: http://middlewiki.midrealm.org/index.php/Eislinn_the_Patient.

² Jenna of Southwind, "Queen Eislinn's Pennsic," *Bird of Prey*, Vol. 9, 2003. Retrieved from: <https://calontirbirdofprey.wordpress.com/2015/01/21/queen-eislinns-pennsic/>.

³ Matthew Townend "Pre-Cnut Praise-Poetry in Viking Age England," *The Review of English Studies*, New Series, Vol. 51, No. 203 (Aug., 2000), pp. 349-50.

⁴ John C. Hirsh, *Medieval Lyric: Middle English Lyrics, Ballads, and Carols*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2005, pp. 3-7.

⁵ Peter Wilton, "Ballad." *The Oxford Companion to Music*. Ed. Alison Latham. *Oxford Music Online*. Oxford University Press. Retrieved from: <http://www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/opr/t114/e550/>.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Hirsh, p. 9.

⁸ John C. Hirsh, "The Earliest Known English Ballad: A New Reading of 'Judas,'" *Modern Language Review*, Vol. 103(4), p. 932.

⁹ John Stevens, *Words and Music in the Middle Ages: Song, Narrative, Dance and Drama, 1050-1350*, Cambridge Studies in Music, 1986, p. 235. Cited in Hirsh, "Earliest Known English Ballad," pp. 932-3.