

## An Alarc'h (The Swan)

Lyrics and Tune collected by Théodore Hersart de la Villemarqué from Mikel Floc'h; published in 1839 in the "Barzaz Breizh" and later editions. [https://fr.wikisource.org/wiki/Barzaz\\_Breiz/1846](https://fr.wikisource.org/wiki/Barzaz_Breiz/1846)

English translation is based on Joe Bethancourt (Joseph of Locksley), and Erich Schraer (Erich Hlodowechssun). Arrangement: Dorothea de Beckham (Dee Becker)

Breton (Brezhoneg)(Cornwall dialect)

English translation

Eunn alarc'h, eunn alarc'h tra mor  
Un alarc'h, un alarc'h tra mor  
War lein tour moal kastell Armor

A swan, a swan from across the sea  
A swan, a swan from across the sea  
Flies over ancient Castle Armor

**Dinn, dinn, dañ, d'an emgann, d'an emgann, o!**  
**Dinn, dinn, dañ, d'an emgann ez an**

**Dinn, dinn, dañ, I go to battle!**  
**Dinn, dinn, dañ, to battle go!**

Erru ul lestr e pleg ar mor  
Erru ul lestr e pleg ar mor  
E ouelioù gwenn gantañ digor

Come is a ship into the gulf  
Come is a ship into the gulf  
Its white sails unfurled

Degoue'et an Aotrou Yann en-dro  
Degoue'et an Aotrou Yann en-dro  
Digoue'et eo da ziwall e vro

Lord John, Lord John has returned  
Lord John, Lord John has returned  
To defend his own country

Neventi vad d'ar Vretoned  
Neventi vad d'ar Vretoned  
Ha mallozh ruz d'ar C'hallaoued

Glad tidings to the Bretons  
Glad tidings to the Bretons  
And a red curse damn the French

Enor, enor d'ar gwenn-ha-du !  
Enor, enor d'ar gwenn-ha-du !  
Ha d'an dreitourien mallozh ruz !

Honor, honor to the White and Black  
Honor, honor to the White and Black  
And a red curse damn the traitors

Eunn alarc'h, eunn alarc'h tra mor  
Un alarc'h, un alarc'h tra mor  
War lein tour moal kastell Armor

*Defend ourselves against the French,  
who are encroaching on the Bretons.*

**Dinn, dinn, dañ, d'an emgann, d'an emgann, o!**  
**Dinn, dinn, dañ, d'an emgann a eann**

*A cry of joy rises up,  
which makes the shore tremble;*

*The Laz mountains resonate;  
the white horse neighs, and leaps with glee.*

**Dinn, dinn, dañ, I go to battle!**  
**Dinn, dinn, dañ, to battle go! (x2)**

*This traditional song in Breton is about the War of the Breton Succession starting with the return of the Breton prince Jean de Montfort ("The Swan of Montfort") in 1341 from England, and the eventual defeat of the French army under Charles de Blois in 1379. Collected by Théodore Hersart de la Villemarqué from Mikel Floc'h in the Cornwall dialect of Breton; published in 1839 in the "Barzaz Breizh" a collection of popular Breton songs. The original tune from Brittany was later used for the Child ballad Twa Corbies by R.M. Blythman.*