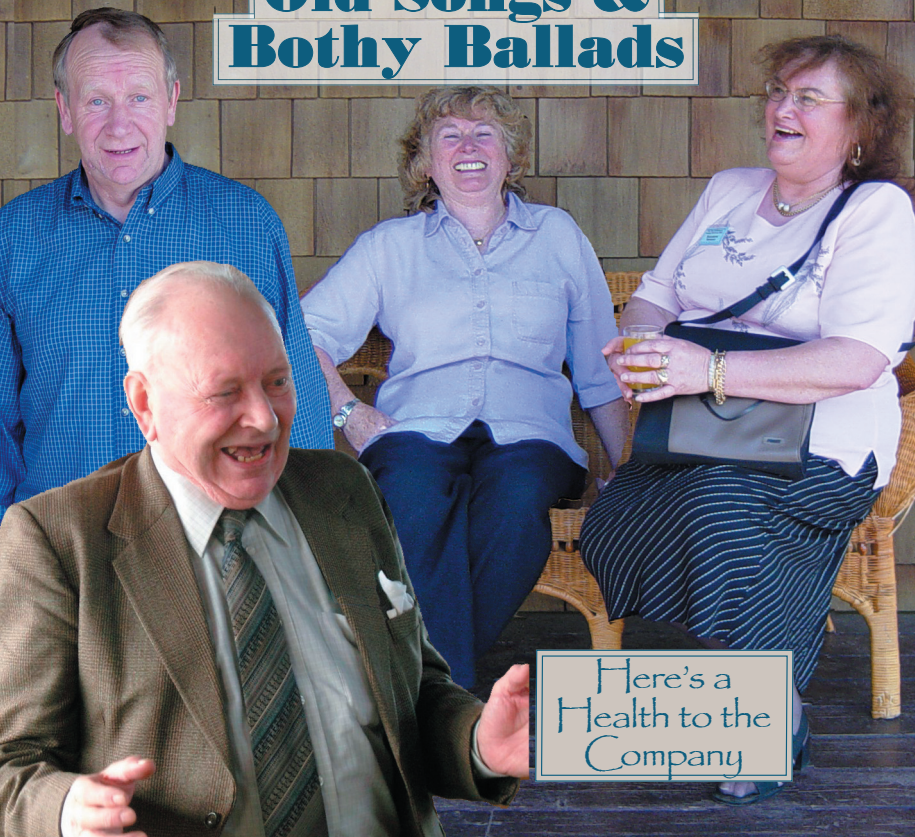


# Old Songs & Bothy Ballads



Here's a  
Health to the  
Company

Many of the finest traditional singers in the country gather in May each year for the Fife Traditional Singing Festival - a weekend of concerts and workshops held near Collesie in the rural heart the ancient kingdom of Fife.

Singers on this CD, recorded in May 2003 and 2004, come from diverse traditions: From north-east farming background are **Gordon Easton** from Aberdeenshire, **Jock Duncan** from Pitlochry, **Geordie Murison** from Stonehaven, **Jim Taylor** from Skene and local singer **Ron Bissett** from Falkland. The Irish tradition is represented by **Roisin White** from Armagh. From the rich Scottish traveller tradition are **Duncan Williamson** originally from Argyll, **Sheila Stewart** from Blairgowrie, **Stanley Robertson** from Aberdeen and **Elizabeth Stewart** from Mintlaw. **Norman Stewart** is a highlander now living in Northumberland, **Maggie Macrae** is from Ayrshire and **Arthur Watson** is from Aberdeen. **Tom McKean** is an American folklorist based in the Elphinstone Institute in Aberdeen.

1: BONNIE LASS O FYVIE • **Gordon Easton**

Oh there were a troop o' Irish dragoons  
And they were stationed in Fyvie O  
And the captain's faan in love wi an awfa bonnie lass,  
And her name is caad Pretty Peggy O

2: FOR GREENLAND WE ARE BOUND • **Jock Duncan**

Oh for Greenland we are bound,  
To leave oor homes behind,  
With timbers firm and hearts so warm,  
Oh we sail before the wind, the wind,  
We sail before the wind.

3: DOWN THE MOOR • **Roisin White**

One morn in May when fields were gay,  
Serene and pleasant was the weather,  
I spied a lass and a bonnie, bonnie lass,  
She was scoopin the dew frae among the heather,  
Down the moor.  
In among the heather, o'er the moor and through the heather,  
I spied a lass and a bonnie bonnie lass,  
She was scoopin the dew frae among the heather,  
Down the moor.

4: YE CANNA PIT IT ON TAE SANDY • **Ron Bissett**

Some folk think I'm a funny lookin chap,  
Some folk think I dinna care a rap,  
Some folk think they're awfa clever,  
But they're mair need o' their mither.

5: SIR PATRICK SPENS • **Duncan Williamson**

O the king sits in Dunfermline Toun,  
He's a-drinkin the blood red wine;  
He said, "Whaur shall I find a skeely skipper,  
To sail this fine ship o mine?"

6: AN OLD MAN COME COURTIN ME • **Sheila Stewart**

An old man come a-courtin me,  
Hi doo a darrity  
An old man come a-courtin me,  
Hi doo a day  
An old man come a-courtin me,  
Hi doo a darrity  
Maids when you're young,  
Never wed an auld man.

7: BONNIE HOOSE O AIRLIE • **Stanley Robertson**

It fell upon a day on a bonnie summer's day,  
When the clans were awa wi Chairlie;  
That there fell oot a great dispute,  
Between Argyle and Airlie.

8: THE LOVER'S GHOST • **Alison McMorland & Kirsty Potts**

Johnny he promised to marry me,  
But I fear he's with some fair one gone;  
There's something bewails him and I don't know what it is,  
And I'm weary from lying alone.

9: THE MUCKIN O GEORDIE'S BYRE • **Geordie Murison**

At the little craft upon the hill,  
Around the neuk fae Spottie's mill,  
Tryin aa his life the time tae kill  
Was Geordie MacIntyre.  
Noo he had a wife a sweir's himsel,  
A dother as black's auld Nick himsel,  
They had some fun, haud awa the smell,  
At the muckin o Geordie's byre.

10: PLOOMAN LADDIES • **Elizabeth Stewart**

Doon yonder den there's a plooman lad,  
And some summer day he'll be aa my ain;  
And sing laddie O and sing laddie aye,  
The plooman laddies are aa the go.

11: BONNIE BESSIE LOGAN • **Gordon Easton**

Noo bonnie Bessie Logan she's handsome young an fair,  
And the very wind that blaws, it lingers in her hair;  
She's aye sae fleet and bonnie as she steps ower the lea,  
But bonnie Bessie Logan she's ower young for me.

12: JOCK HAWK'S ADVENTURES • **Arthur Watson**

Ah tae Glesga toun I gaed ae nicht tae spend a penny fee,  
A bonnie wee lass she gied consent tae bear me company.  
Hooch on linkie doo, linkie doodle day,  
Hooch on linkie doodle too rye ae.

13: THE MOORLOUGH SHORE • **Roisin White**

You hills and dales and flowery vales that lie near the Moor-  
lough Shore,  
You winds that blow o'er Martin's Hill, will I e'er see you more;  
Where the primrose grows and the violets blow, the trout and  
the salmon play,  
With my line and hook, delight I took to spend my youthful day.

14: MUCKLE FRIDAY FAIR • **Jim Taylor**

There's joy aa roon the banks o Don  
And up the glens o Dee,  
Oor sax months wages nearly won,  
So the plooman they'll win free.  
The mairket morn is here again,  
As weel as mony mair,  
So we'll diddle awa wi the mornin train,  
Tae muckle Friday fair.

15: SAE WILL WE YET • **Jock Duncan**

Come cheer up ma cronies and gie us your crack,  
Let the wind take care of this life on it's back;  
Oor herts to despondency we never will submit,  
For we've aye been weel provided for and sae will we yet.  
Sae will we yet, oh sae will we yet,  
Ah, we've aye been weel provided for and sae will we yet.

16: DAE YE MIND ON LANG LANG SYNE • **Maggie Macrae**

Dae ye mind on lang, lang syne when the summer days were  
fine,  
When the sun shone brighter far than it's ever done sin syne?  
Dae ye mind the Haa Brig Turn whaur we guddled in the burn,  
And were late for the schuil in the mornin?

17: THE BONNIE HIND • **Norman Stewart**

The may she comes, the may she goes,  
Down by the hollin tree,  
There she seen a brisk young squire,  
As fair, as fair was he.

18: TWA RECRUITING SERGEANTS • **Geordie Murison**

Twa recruiting sergeants cam frae the Black Watch  
At mairkets and fairs some recruits for tae catch.  
Aa that they gotten was forty and twa:  
Sae list ma bonnie laddie an come awa.

19: THE JOLLY BEGGAR • **ELIZABETH STEWART & TOM MCKEAN**

There was a jolly beggar and begging he was bound,  
And he's taen up his quarters in some other toun.  
And we'll gang nae mair a-roving sae late intae the night,  
And we'll gang nae mair a-roving let the meen shine e'er sae  
bright.

20: THE PARTING GLASS • **Sheila Stewart**

Oh kind friends and companions come join me in rhyme,  
And lift up your voices in chorus wi mine;  
Let's drink and be merry all grief to refrain,  
For we may or might never all meet here again.

**CREDITS:** Thanks to all the singers who have given free use of  
their recordings to the East of Scotland Traditional Song Group.  
*Recorded by* Tom Spiers. *Design & transcriptions by* Peter  
Shepherd. All songs traditional arranged by the singer  
except where noted. *Photographs by* Tom Spiers and Jim  
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Bothy Ballads** - and all can be found on the website: [www.springthyme.co.uk](http://www.springthyme.co.uk)

*Full song texts are at* [www.springthyme.co.uk/ah02](http://www.springthyme.co.uk/ah02)

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# Old Songs & Bothy Ballads



## Here's a Health to the Company

- 1: **The Bonnie Lass o Fyvie** GORDON EASTON 4:30
  - 2: **For Greenland We Are Bound** JOCK DUNCAN 3:17
  - 3: **Down the Moor** ROISIN WHITE 2:46
  - 4: **Ye Canna Pit It on tae Sandy** RON BISSETT 2:40
  - 5: **Sir Patrick Spens** DUNCAN WILLIAMSON 6:00
  - 6: **Maids When You're Young** SHEILA STEWART 3:07
  - 7: **The Bonnie Hoose o Airlie** STANLEY ROBERTSON 5:22
  - 8: **The Lover's Ghost** ALISON McMORLAND & KIRSTY POTTS 3:55
  - 9: **The Muckin o Geordie's Byre** GEORDIE MURISON 3:40
  - 10: **The Plooman Laddies** ELIZABETH STEWART & ALISON McMORLAND 3:26
  - 11: **Bonnie Bessie Logan** GORDON EASTON 2:16
  - 12: **Jock Hawk's Adventures** ARTHUR WATSON  
WITH PETE SHEPHEARD & TOM SPIERS 3:21
  - 13: **The Moorlough Shore** ROISIN WHITE 3:16
  - 14: **Muckle Friday Fair** JIM TAYLOR 3:20
  - 15: **Sae Will We Yet** JOCK DUNCAN 3:01
  - 16: **Dae Ye Mind on Lang Lang Syne** MAGGIE MACRAE 3:14
  - 17: **The Bonnie Hind** NORMAN STEWART 4:19
  - 18: **Twa Recruiting Sergeants** GEORDIE MURISON 3:28
  - 19: **The Jolly Beggar** ELIZABETH STEWART & TOM MCKEAN 3:27
  - 20: **The Parting Glass** SHEILA STEWART 3:24
- Total Time 72:25



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