

Chorus

C G
Fai lele 'so r oo
Am F C
Fai leele 'so r oo
Am G C
Fai lele 'so ra-ar oo
Am G F
Hogi osna ho ree

C G
Gettes maaath a be shouw
Am F C
Solca hai i gam chordu
Am G C
Smorgum badair oom bostee
Am G F
Cur'n eorna san raon

Chorus

C G
Lachay gree ga tromosna
Am F C
Sa doamor onach rockme
Am G C
Misha do a day gyon loch loo
Am G F
Say guar com may ool

Chorus

C G
falaree lasheen aye nahee
Am F C
widee fooshtoo ded eye coov
lay
Am G C
Ay moov air shoo na voo
Am G F
She jareh se laee

Chorus

C G
Oh na wear nee lan ordoo
Am F C
An traevla fay horoo
Am G C
Saldas troo les meen trornay
Am G F
ana home lochree

Chorus

Oh God, my sigh is heavy/And I far from my love
tonight, /I to the north of Norway/And she at Loch an
Fhir Maoil [Bald Man's Lake]

Although it's good to be sailing/ It's not to my liking,/
Much better to be in Bosta/ Planting barley in the field.

She [the boat] sailed homewards with us/ Went around
Orkney/New masts and white sails,/ The tide in our
favour.

When she [the sweetheart] reached the hilltop/ She
threw down the milking pail and fetter/And said
"Happy am I today/ He is here, the one I love."

This song is from the Isle of Lewis. The words were composed mid-1800s by a fisherman, Malcolm MacAulay, ('Calum Sgair' - Malcolm, son of Zachariah). He was in love with a girl whose parents wanted her to marry the merchant, an older, wealthier man. The young couple planned to elope the night before her arranged wedding but a mist came down and they didn't meet. Next day, distraught, she married the merchant and Calum sailed for Quebec. He never returned to Lewis, and tragically his sweetheart died of a broken heart within a year. The song doesn't really tell this story which I heard in Quebec from a distant relative of the girl's. Kitty MacLeod, the legendary Gaelic singer from Lewis, composed the tune in the 1930s.