

Mist-covered mountains

(Chì mi na mòrbheanna)

based on the original Gaelic song by John Cameron

tune traditional arr. Sheena Phillips
SATB, soprano recorder, optional piano

English lyrics by Sheena Phillips

A new choral arrangement of the gorgeous 19th century Gaelic song of homesickness and homecoming *Chì mi na mòrbheanna* (I see the big mountains), made famous by The Rankin Family and others. Well within the capacity of a community choir.

The chorus is sung in Gaelic throughout. The tune passes among different voice parts, accompanied in various ways, and sometimes sung in unison. The piano (if used) gives solidity and depth – like the mountains themselves.

If performing the song a cappella, start at bar 7, end at bar 86, and leave out the third beat of bars 38, 54, 70 and 78.

duration c. 4:30

perusal score
not for rehearsal or performance

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Mist-covered Mountains

(Chì mi na mòrbheanna)

Refrain

O, chì, chì mi na mòrbheanna;
O, chì, chì mi na còrrbheanna;
O, chì, chì mi na coireachan,
Chì mi na sgoran fo cheò.

Pronunciation

o, xi, xi mi na mrvɛnna (x ~ like 'ch' in Bach)
o, xi, xi mi na kɔrvɛnna
o, xi, xi mi na kɔrɛxən
xi mi na sgarən fo xiau (like 'miaow')

Verses

Here is the beautiful land I was born in,
The land and the language I love and was raised in,
The place where I'm sure of some warmth and a welcome
More precious than mountains of gold.

There is the woodland and there are the hedges,
And there are the fields and the flowering meadows,
And there are the deer on the slopes of the corries,
Half hidden in mantles of mist.

So hail to the hills of greeny blue grasses,
And hail to the heights of the hummocky mountains,
And hail to the forests and all that's around them,
I'd stay here forever with joy.

English lyrics (verses) by Sheena Phillips
Gaelic lyrics (refrain) by John Cameron, 1856

Based on the translation at

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ch%C3%AC_mi_na_m%C3%B2rbheanna

Listen on youtube for the pronunciation of the first chorus:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9wH-NIKJTg>

Translation of the chorus (from wikipedia):

O, I see, I see the big mountains;
O, I see, I see the big mountains;
O, I see, I do see the corries,
I see the mist-covered peaks.

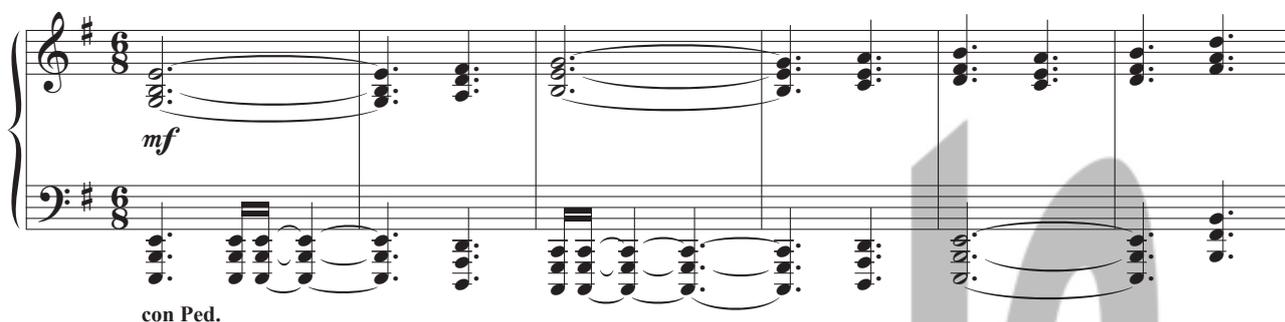
Mist-covered mountains

John Cameron (1853 - 1931)

tune traditional
arr. Sheena Phillips

Maestoso

Piano



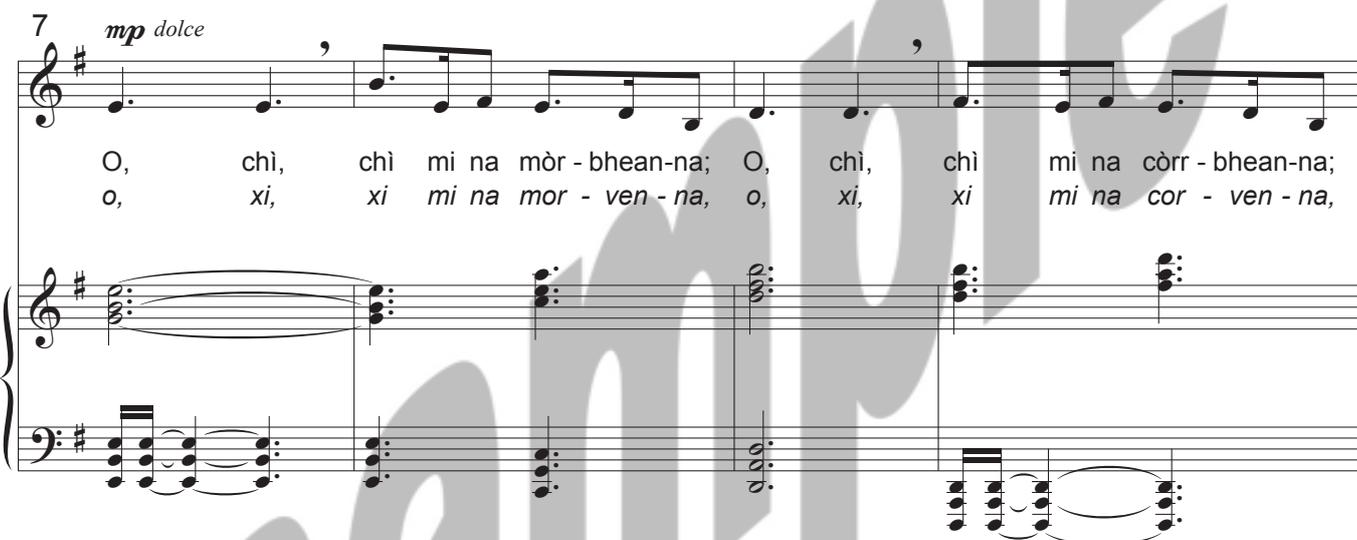
mf

con Ped.

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand features a series of chords, some with long notes, while the left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The tempo is marked 'Maestoso' and the dynamic is 'mf'. The instruction 'con Ped.' is placed below the first few measures.

7 *mp dolce*

SA



O, ch̀, ch̀ mi na mòr - bhean-na; O, ch̀, ch̀ mi na còrr - bhean-na;
o, xi, xi mi na mor - ven - na, o, xi, xi mi na cor - ven - na,

This section includes a vocal line for Soprano Alto (SA) and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins at measure 7 with the lyrics 'O, ch̀, ch̀ mi na mòr - bhean-na; O, ch̀, ch̀ mi na còrr - bhean-na; o, xi, xi mi na mor - ven - na, o, xi, xi mi na cor - ven - na,'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a rhythmic pattern. The dynamic is 'mp dolce'.

11 *div.*



O, ch̀, ch̀ mi na coir - ea-chan, ch̀ mi na sgò-ran fo cheò.
o, xi, xi mi na cor - ə - xən, xi mi na sga-rən fo xiau

This section includes a vocal line for Soprano Alto (SA) and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins at measure 11 with the lyrics 'O, ch̀, ch̀ mi na coir - ea-chan, ch̀ mi na sgò-ran fo cheò. o, xi, xi mi na cor - ə - xən, xi mi na sga-rən fo xiau'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a rhythmic pattern. The dynamic is 'div.'.

15

rec.

SA

mf

O, chì,

TB

unis. mf

O, chì, chì mi na mòr-bhean-na; O, chì, chì mi na còrr-bhean-na;
 o, xì, xì mi na mor-ven-na, o, xì, xì mi na cor-ven-na,

mf

19

rec.

O chì o chì o ho.

div.

O, chì, chì mi na coir-eachan, chì mi na sgò-ran fo cheò.
 o, xì, xì mi na cor-ə-xən, xì mi na sga-rən fo xiau

Verse 1

23 *mf unis.*

Here is the beau - ti - ful land I was born in, The land and the lan - guage I

mf

Here, o here,

mf

26

love and was raised in, The place where I'm sure of some

O

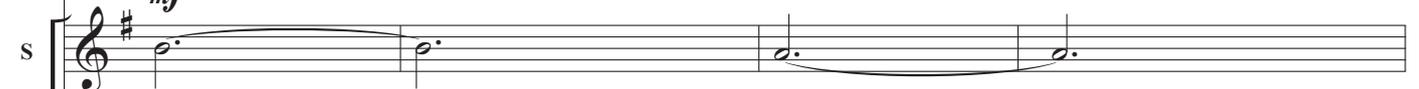
28 div.

warmth and a wel - come More pre - cious than mount - ains of gold.

ho, o chi o.

31 Refrain

rec. 

S *mf* 
O, ch̀i,

A *mf* 
O, ch̀i, ch̀i mi na mòr-bhean-na; O, ch̀i, ch̀i mi na còrr-bhean-na;
o, xi, xi mi na mor - ven - na, o, xi, xi mi na cor - ven - na,

TB *mf* 
O, ch̀i, (o)


f

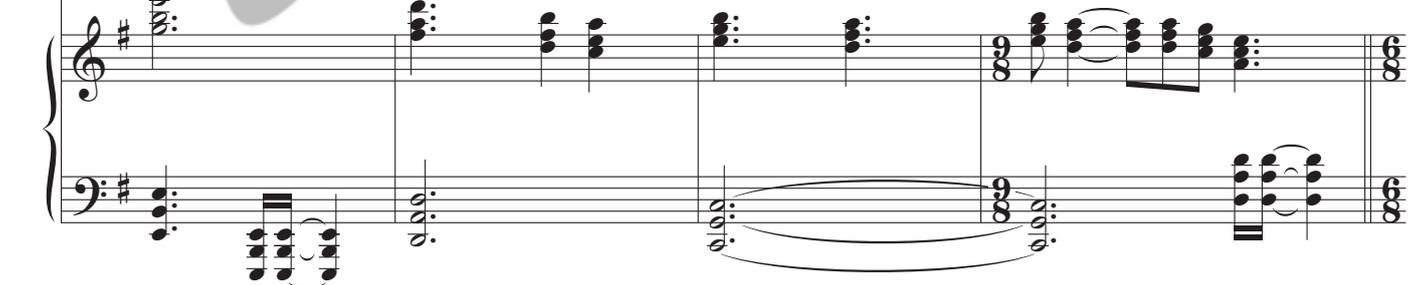
35

rec. 

S 
O ho ch̀i o ho.

A 
O, ch̀i, ch̀i mi na coir-ea-chan, ch̀i mi na sgò-ran fo cheò.
o, xi, xi mi na cor - e - xen, xi mi na sga-rèn fo xiau

TB 
ho ch̀i o ch̀i o ho.


f

39 Verse 2 *mf*

SA There, oh there,

TB *unis. mf*
There is the wood-land and there are the hed-ges, And there are the fields and the

dolce mf

42

SA chì o

TB flow - er - ing mead - ows, And there are the deer on the

44

SA ho, chì o hì.

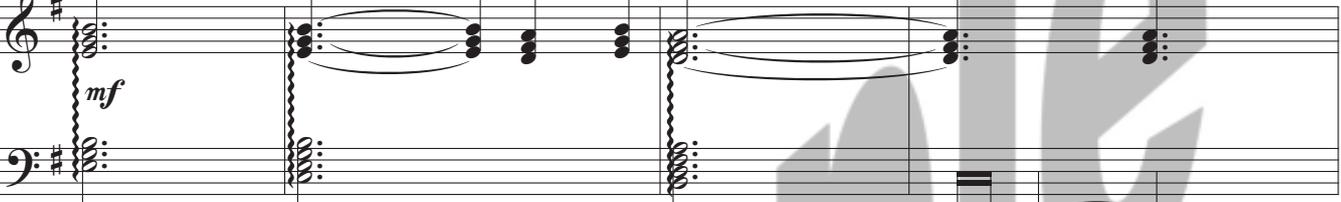
TB slopes of the cor-ries, Half hid-den in mant - les of mist.

47 Refrain

rec. 

SA *mf* 
O, chì,

TB *mf* 
O, chì, chì mi na mòr - bhean-na; O, chì, chì mi na còrr - bhean-na;
o, xì, xì mi na mor - ven - na, o, xì, xì mi na cor - ven - na,

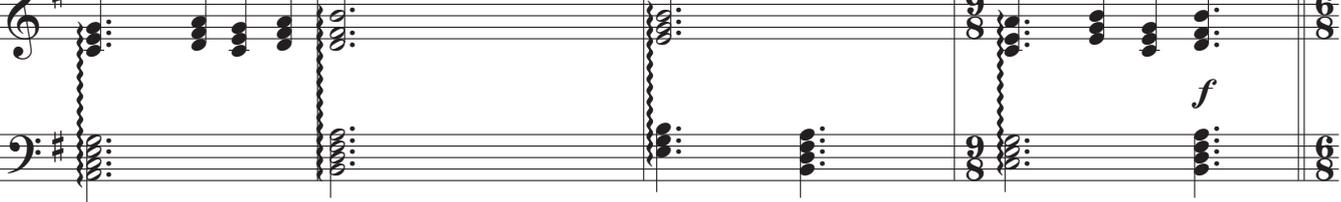


51

rec. 

unis. f 
O chì o chì o ho. So

div. 
O, chì, chì mi na coir - ea-chan, chì mi na sgò-ran fo cheò.
o, xì, xì mi na cor - ò - xən, xì mi na sga-rən fo xiau



Verse 3

55

hail to the hills of green-y bluegrass-es, And hail to the heights of the hum-mock-y moun-tains, And

f
Hail to the hills, And

59

hail to the for-ests and all that's a-round them, I'd stay here for-ev-er with joy. *div.*

hail to the for-ests all a-round, I'd stay here for-ev-er with joy.

63 Refrain

rec. *p*

S *p*
O, ch̀i,

A *p*
O, ch̀i, ch̀i mi na mòr-bhean-na; O, ch̀i, ch̀i mi na còrr-bhean-na;
o, xi, xi mi na mor-ven-na, o, xi, xi mi na cor-ven-na,

TB *p*
O, ch̀i, (o)

p

67

rec.

O ho ch̀i o ho.

O, ch̀i, ch̀i mi na coir-ea-chan, ch̀i mi na sgò-ran fo cheò.
o, xi, xi mi na cor-ə-xən, xi mi na sga-rən fo xiau

ho ch̀i o ch̀i o ho.

71

rec.

SA *f*
ho, o,

TB *unis. f*
O, ch̀, ch̀ mi na mòr-bheama; O, ch̀, ch̀ mi na còrr-bheama;
o, xi, xi mi na mor - ven-na, o, xi, xi mi na cor - ven-na,

75

rec.

o, ch̀ o ch̀ o ho.

O, ch̀, ch̀ mi na coir-ea-chan, ch̀ mi na sgò-ran fo cheò.
o, xi, xi mi na cor - e - xən, xi mi na sga-rən fo xiau

79 unis. *p*

Musical notation for the first vocal line (treble clef) of the first system.

O, chì, chì mi na mòr - bheama; O, chì, chì mi na còrr - bheama;
o, xì, xì mi na mor - ven-na, o, xì, xì mi na cor - ven-na,

Musical notation for the second vocal line (bass clef) of the first system.

O, chì, chì mi na mòr - bheama; O, chì, chì mi na còrr - bheama;
o, xì, xì mi na mor - ven-na, o, xì, xì mi na cor - ven-na,

Piano accompaniment for the first system, including treble and bass staves.

83

Musical notation for the first vocal line (treble clef) of the second system.

O, chì, chì mi na coir - eachan, chì mi na sgò-ran fo cheò.
o, xì, xì mi na cor - ò-xen, xì mi na sga-ràn fo xiau

Musical notation for the second vocal line (bass clef) of the second system.

O, chì, chì mi na coir - eachan, chì mi na sgò-ran fo cheò.
o, xì, xì mi na cor - ò-xen, xì mi na sga-ràn fo xiau

Piano accompaniment for the second system, including treble and bass staves.

87 from a distance

rec.

Musical notation for the first vocal line (treble clef) of the third system.

p
O, chì, chì...

Musical notation for the second vocal line (bass clef) of the third system.

O, chì...

Piano accompaniment for the third system, including treble and bass staves.