**An t-Eilean Dorcha - The dark island = Benbecula**

*The well-known tune The Dark Island was written by accordianist Iain MacLachlan from Benbecula. Words by David Silver*

1. Away to the westward, I'm longing to be

Where the beauties of heaven’ unfold by the sea

Where the sweet purple heather’ blooms fragrant and free

On a hill-top, high above the Dark Island

*Oh Isle of my childhood I'm dreaming of thee*

*As the steamer leaves Oban, and passes Tiree*

*Soon I'll capture the magic, that lingers for me*

*When I'm back, once more upon, the Dark Island.*

1. So gentle the sea breeze’ that ripples the bay

Where the stream joins the ocean, and young children play

On a strand of pure silver, I'll welcome each day

And I'll roam forever more, the Dark Island

3. True gem of the Hebrides, bathed in the light

Like a midsummer dawning, that follows the night

How I long for the cry, of the seagulls in flight

As they circle high above the Dark Island

**An t-eilean dorcha - The dark island = Benbecula**

*Tune by accordianist Iain MacLachlan from Benbecula. Words by David Silver.*

Air mo thùrus do'n iar 's ann bu mhiannach a bhi

Far bheil àilleachd nan Néimh dol fo sgéith 'sa chuan sios

Fraoch dearg 's e fo bhlàth fàile cùbhraidh cho saor

Air a' bheinn ud is àird 'san Eilean Dorcha

*(Alternative 1st verse)*

*An mo thùras don iar 's leam bu mhiannach a bhi*

*Far bheil àilleachd nan eathar dol fo sgéith sa chuan sios,*

*Creag Dhearg 's e fo bhlàth faileadh cùbhraidh cho saor*

*Air a' bheinn ud as àird 'san Eilean Dorcha.*

*Séist*

Eilean òige mo ghràidh 's tu tha tàladh mo chridh'

Is mi seòladh bhon Obain 's a dol seachad Tiridh,

Bi mi glacadh a dh'aithghearr gach mais *[a]* tha 'gam dhith

'S bi mi fhìn air ais a-rithist 'san Eilean Dorcha.

2 Gaoth na mara cho séimh séideach reidh staigh don bhaigh

Far bheil sruth dol don chuan clann suaimhneach le'n gàir',

Air an traigh gheal mar airgead bi mi falbh oirr' gach là

'S bi mi fhìn air ais a-rithist 'san Eilean Dorcha.

3 Fior àil-leagan e measg gach cearn 'san taobh siar

Anns a mhoch mhaduinn thràth 's e ri dearrsadh 'sa ghrian:

Eòin na mara ri seinn 'sa toirt sòlas dom' chridh'

'S iad ag itealachd gu h-àrd 'san Eilean Dorcha.

Music: <http://martindardis.com/dark_island_chords_lyrics_and_music.html> plays song.

**Phonetics**

1 Air moe hu-rus don ear sown (“cow”) boo vee-u-nihck u vee

Far veil aal-yok nun e-herr dol foe sgey su koo-an shee-uss

Fr öhck dje-ruk shay foe vlaa faal-yu kooree hoe serr

Air u vain ut ass ard sun Au-lun Dor-u-hcku.

Au-lun oy-ku moe griy stoo haa taa-lug moe kree

Iss mee shoe(“hoe”)-lug von Ob-iyny su dol shek-ud Chi-ree

Bee mee gla0kug u yiy-yur gahck mash haa gam yee

Bee mee heen air ash u ree-ishtch sun Au-lun Dor-u-hcku.

2. Gö nu mara hoe shev shay-djohck ray stiy don viy

Far veil sroo dol don hoo-an clown soo-iyv-nohck len gaar

Air un triy yal marr err-u-gedj bee mee fuluv or gahck laa

Sbee mee heen air ash u ree-ishtch sun Au-lun Dor-u-hcku.

3. Fear aal-yok-un ay mesg gahck kyarn sun töv sheer

Owns (“cow”) u vohck vat-ayn hraa sheh ree jar-sug su greeun

Yawn nu maaru ree shayn su tort soe(”foe”)-luss dom kree

See-ud u geetch-ak goo hard sun Au-lun Dor-u-hcku.