

The Great Silkie Of Sule Skerry

Scotland

earliest date: 1852 (Ballad Index)

adaptation, arrangement and typesetting by Klaus Stezenbach ©2006 www.kstez.de

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff is an instrumental introduction with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The second staff begins the vocal melody with the lyrics 'earth - ly nour - ris sits _____ and sings, and'. The third staff continues the melody with 'aye, she sings by li - ly wean.'. The fourth staff continues with '"Lit - tle ken I my bairn - y's fa - ther, far'. The fifth staff continues with 'less the land where he dwells'. The sixth staff concludes the piece with 'in.' and a double bar line. Chord symbols (G, F, Am, Em, C) are placed above the notes to indicate the harmonic accompaniment. The first ending is marked '1. An' and the second ending is marked '2. For'.

2. For he came one night to her bed feet,
and a grumbly guest, I'm sure, was he,
saying, "Here I am, thy bairny's father,
although I be not comely."
3. "I am a man upon the land,
and I'm a silkie on the sea,
and when I'm far and far frae land,
my home it is in Sule Skerrie."
4. "And it shall come to pass on a summer's day,
when the sun shines bright on every stane,
I'll come and fetch my little young son,
and teach him how to swim the faem."
5. "It was na weel", quoth the maiden fair,
"it was na weel, indeed", quoth she,
"that the great silkie from Sule Skerry
should hae come and brought a bairn to me."
6. And he has taken a purse of gold,
and he has put it unto her knee,
saying, "Gie to me my little young son,
and take thee up thy nurse's fee."
7. "And ye shall marry a gunner good,
and a right fine gunner I'm sure he'll be,
and the very first shot that e'er he shoots
will kill both my young son and me."