

DREAMSONGS:

1. *Le Depart de l'Ame* – traditional Breton
2. *Amours, u Trop Tart me Sui Pris* – Blanche de Castille: 1188–1252
3. *Neda Grivne* – traditional Yugoslavian dance
4. *Kalevala* – traditional Finnish
5. *Cantiga de Santa Maria 268* –13thC Spanish
6. *The Magic Mist* – traditional Irish
7. *An Beinsin Luachra (The Little bench of Rushes)* – traditional Irish
8. *Magnus Hymn* – Anon, 12thC Norwegian
9. *Lullay, Lullay, Als I lay on Yoolis Night* – Anon 14thC English Carol
10. *Setjna* – traditional Yugoslavian dance
11. *Eleno Mome* – traditional Bulgarian dance
12. *Dronning Dagmars Død* – traditional Danish

Le Depart de l'Ame –(The Soul's Departure) traditional Breton song, performed here on fiddle and harp.

The soul whispers to the body whilst flying away, but reassures the body that they will be reunited again at the last Judgement.

Amours u Trop Tart me Sui Pris – by Blanche de Castille 1188-1252

Love, to which I have been drawn so late,
Has instructed me by its nobility,
Dear lady of paradise, To wish to sing a song to you:
For everlasting joy, it is you one should serve and love.

For there is no one who has erred
Towards your son, however greatly, in word or deed –
Provided he has turned to serving you –
Whom you would not reconcile with Him
For everlasting joy, it is you one should serve and love.

Virgin queen, lily flower,
The great delight one feels
When enflamed with love for you,
No one could recount
For everlasting joy, it is you one should serve and love.

Neda Grívne- a dance from Yugoslavia called a kolo, a simple ancient circle dance. The dance is performed in a circle, hands joined, moving at an ever increasing tempo.

Kalevala ~The Kalevala epic is a collection of ancient Finnish folk-tales. This is the introduction to the epic, and would have been performed by two singers holding hands. "Let us clasp hand in hand, fingers in fingers, so that we may sing fine things, give voice to the best things"

Cantiga de Santa María 268 "Gran confianca na Madre de Deus" from the eclectic court of King Alfonso the Wise in 13th Century Spain. As the manuscript contains many colourful pictures of the array of instruments used by the musicians in the court, we chose to play this cantiga on fiddle, saz and ?

The Magic Mist- a traditional Irish song which has many settings. We perform three instrumental versions of this beautiful tune.

An Beínsín Luachra - ("The Little Bench of Rushes") an instrumental version of this Irish song, which tells of a hunter who comes across a maiden, laden with rushes. He begs her to go with him into the greenwood bushes, where no-one but the birds will see.....

Magnus Hymn - (1280 Norway) Magnus was honoured as a saint in the Orkney Islands, at that time a Norwegian territory. This Hymn is the oldest example of polyphonic singing in the nordic countries. " Noble, humble, O martyred Magnus, steadfast, able, expedient, honoured companion and worthy mentor"

*O Magnus, noble and humble martyr,
Strong, brave and ready to help,
a venerable companion and a praiseworthy mentor;
protect those below you for the flesh is weak.*

*Well-favoured, heavenly, by the gift of the holy spirit
With the greatest effort you beware of living rashly
You endeavour deep within yourself to suppress the motions of the flesh
So that the spirit may reign in the prison of the flesh.*

*Hakon the turbulent, envious and cunning adversary
Desires to scatter what is yours, to crush and subject it to himself
And to destroy you by the barb of treachery
By the compact of treason joined, by the kiss of peace.*

Lullay Lullay, Als I lay on Yoolis Night – 14th Century English Carol. The song has 16 verses, so a shortened summary is preferable from the early English text, than a full translation into modern English:

The child (Christ) asks his mother to sing him a lullaby before putting him to bed, and that this should be a bed-time story about himself. She replies that she can only tell him the story of the Annunciation, and so she relates this and the circumstances of his birth.

Setnja - this is the Yugoslavian word for 'walk', and the dance is a graceful, lilted, walking dance. Again a circle dance, the left arm is behind the back, and the right is hooked through the left arm of the person in front.

Eleno Mome - a traditional tune from Bulgaria, translated as 'Elena, my Girl'. This is an energetic line dance, still performed in Bulgaria and also popular in Macedonia and Greece.

Dronning Dagmars Død - a Danish folk-song about Queen Dagmar, a 13th century Bohemian princess who married King Valdemar II in 1205. It tells the story of her death - in real life she died giving birth to her second child in 1212.

We perform extracted verses from the much longer song:

Queen Dagmar is lying ill in Ribe
While they are expecting her in Ringsted.
All the ladies who are in Denmark,
She summons them.
In Ringsted Queen Dagmar is laid to rest.

They led her out, they led her in,
The longer it lasted, the worse it became.
"Since it does not get better,
Send for my master"
In Ringsted.....

When the King left Skanderborg
A hundred squires followed him;
By the time he came to Grinsted bridge
The Lord was riding alone.
In Ringsted.....

There was great woe in the ladies' court,

There all the ladies were weeping,
Queen Dagmar had died in little Kirsten's arms,
Even as the King was galloping up the street.
In Ringsted.....

"I pray you, Ladies and courtly women,
All who are present here,
Pray a Christian prayer for me,
That I may speak with her."
In Ringsted.....

Queen Dagmar rises on her bier,
Her eyes were blood-red:
"Woe, oh woe, my noble Lord!
Why did you cause me that pain?"
In Ringsted.....

The Queen wiped her eyes,
Her cheeks paled so white:
"Now the bells in Heaven toll for me,
I am not to stay any longer."
In Ringsted.....