



# KelticDead Music

## Stories, Tunes and Songs in the Traditions of our Celtic Dead

To the Four Ayrts to Guide Us, and  
For the Four Winds to Get Us There!

The mission of the **KelticDead Music** initiative is to find tunes and songs from around the world that have Celtic, Folk, World, Americana, and Seafaring origins, and arrange them into simple sheet music formats for folk musicians to use and share. In addition, the KDM initiative provides the in-depth stories with possible lyrics that follow the video-based, **KDM Broadside**s for a more complete music-education experience.



## KelticDead Music Broadside

*All the selections and sheet music content provided in the **KelticDead Music** initiative are from traditional, made-public, made-public with credits, or cited credits where applicable. This material content is the personal interpretations of the subject and provided by **Patrick O-Shaun Young, KelticDead Music**.*

# Mist on the Mountain

This tune is a Scots' lullaby. The Scots have an close connection with the highlands and with certain mountains in those parts. The Gaelic name of the song is "**Chi Mi Na Morbheanna**" which translates as "Oh, I see the great mountain." The secondary name of the song was buried within the Gaelic lyrics that described the mountain as having "a mist on the peaks" or "... "the mist on the Mountain."



Ben Lomond (Scots Gaelic: *Beinn Laomainn* meaning 'Beacon Mountain') towers over the eastern shore of Loch Lomond at 3,196 feet or 974 meters.

For those who have lived in mountain regions, this song evokes a feeling of enormous grandeur and pride as the melody is played. A single mountain, for example can tell a lot about how the days and weeks will evolve for those who live in its presence. For those who grow up with a mountain, the connection becomes part of one's life no matter how far one travels in the world.

## Mist on the Mountain

The song was written in 1856 by a Highlander, John Cameron, also known as Iain Camshron or Iain Óg Ruaidh, who was a native of Ballachulish. He worked in the slate quarries before moving to Glasgow where he was engaged as a ship's broker which was a major industry in Scotland in those days. As a musician, he became the Bard of the Glasgow Ossianic Society and also the Bard to Clan Cameron. Missing his home, he returned to carry on a merchant's business along with his elder brother. They cultivated a small croft at Taigh a' Phuirt, Glencoe, in his beloved Highlands.

Like many folk songs, while the lyrics were particular to a singer, the melody is often borrowed from other folk songs. The Mist on the Mountain used a melody from the traditional nursery rhyme, "**Oh, Dear! What can the Matter Be?**" or also known as "**Johnny's So long at the Fair**" which can be traced back as far as the 1770s.

This nursery rhyme was first published in the British Lyre, or Muses' Repository (1792), and then two years later in the "James Evan's Ladies Memorandum for 1794."



The largest mountain in the Canadian Rockies. Mount Robson stands at 12,972 feet (3,954 meters), and dominates many of the views in Banff National Park, shared by Alberta and British Columbia. British Columbia was often referred to in the past as "New Caledonia" or "New Scotland."

The singer is telling his children of the great mountain and about the land in which they lived. After praising the territories, the meadows, and their language and culture, he ends the song with "Content, I would live there forever."

## Mist Covered Mountains

Chi Mi Na Morbheanna

Arrangement by KelticDead Music

Traditional (Scots)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5khzhRq0Im4>

There are many versions for this tune and song, and I chose the arrangement to have a sense of grandeur in the sound of it. Earnie Taft starts the tune off with his fiddle, and I join in with my Kerry Mezzo C whistle. I follow it with my Irish-tuned, low-octave bouzouki, and then used my foot drum.

### KelticDead Music Initiative

is a private, on-line music-education initiative. All the music projects are recorded with live, acoustic instruments and performed in accordance with simplified sheet music arranged in eight bar formats (whenever possible) in accordance with the guidelines that are within the Celtic music traditions. For more music videos and stories visit ...

<https://www.KelticDeadMusic.org>

Also check out the “Story Broadside” page on the website where I post this and other free, PDF views of these music-education shorts. <https://kelticdeadmusic.org/story-broadside/>



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