

There is a guide for Irish language pronunciation found in the *International Phonetic Association Handbook*¹ that describes, in detail, the consonant structures. What is found here is a slightly simplified version, intended for those with a moderate understanding of IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet), as specific for the compositions and arrangements of Michael McGlynn.

These IPA transcriptions have been derived from a series of conversations and choral workshops with Michael McGlynn. The author created the guides from a combination of audio recordings and transliteration guides, presented them to several ensembles, and asked McGlynn to make corrections during rehearsals. Irish is a difficult language for IPA and as such, these guides should be used in combination with audio recordings to refine inflection and syllabic stress.

The translations that are included have either been supplied by McGlynn or were obtained and approved by him from Celtic Lyrics Corner.²

Irish has no aspirated [d] or [t]. They are instead soft as might find in Spanish. In most cases when *ch* is present the actual sound is somewhat between the [k] or [h] and the [x]. There are several variations of pronunciation found in Ireland. Those given here are as the composer speaks, and more importantly, how he has set the text to be sung.

¹ Ailbhe Ní Chasaide, "Irish," in *Handbook of the International Phonetic Association* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), 111-116.

² <http://www.celticlyricscorner.net/> (Accessed 25 February 2010)

An Oíche

[ɔn i hæ]

An cuimhin leat an oíche úd a bhí tú ag an bhfuinneog,

[ɔn kwɪn læt ɔn i hæ ud a vi tu ɛg ɔn vwin jɔg]

Do you remember that night when you were at the window

Gan hata gan láimhne dod dhíon gan chasóg?

[gɔn ha tɔ gɔn lɔ iv nə dɔd ji m gɔn xə sɔg]

Without a hat or glove or overcoat on you?

Do shín mé mo lámh chughat 's do rug tú uirthi barróg,

[də hin mei mə lɔv xu əd sɔ rɛg tu ə hi bər əg]

I gave my hand to you and you clasped it to you.

Gan hata gan láimhne dod dhíon gan chasóg? Do labhair an fhuiseog.

[gɔn ha tɔ gɔn lɔ iv nə dɔd ji m gɔn xə sɔg dɔ laʊ ə ɔn iʃ əg]

Without a hat or glove or overcoat on you? And the skylark spoke.

A Chumainn mo chroí tar oíche ghar éigin.

[a xə mɪn mə kri tar i hæ gər e gɪn]

My love, come to me some night.

An cuimhin leat an oíche úd 'san oíche ag cur cuisne.

[ɔn kwɪn læt ɔn i hæ uð sən i hæ ɛg kə kwɪʃ nə]

Do you remember that night, and the night was so cold.
