

SHETLAN - is a popular poem written in Shetland dialect by J.Peterson. Romantic in its evocation of nature and the landscape of Shetland it describes the islands with a rich imagery of sea and the surrounding landscape all the while suggesting a melancholic longing for the islands as of one long separated from their native homeland.

UNST BOAT SONG - this song is perhaps the most well known song from the Shetland Islands (the most recent appearing on Bryn Terfel's latest album, *Sea Songs* in February 2024). The words are in old Norse, or Norn, the language common to Shetland prior to Scots linguistic primacy which began in the mid 16th century. Once again the song speaks to the ever present influence of the sea.

DA NARROWA WHEEL - is a spinning song. Alongside crofting and fishing, spinning and knitting was a common means of making a living in pre-oil discovery Shetland.

DA DAY DAWN - is a fiddle tune I learned as a child when I was living in Shetland. I have added choirs and accompanying accordion.

BALOO BALILLI - I vividly remember my mother singing this song. It originally comes from the island of Brassay and although a lullaby it incants that a baby will be protected from the fairies that were thought to steal babies away and pray to angels to guard over the infant's cradle.

BOANNIE TAMMIE SCOLLA - tells the story of young woman quizzing a young man about his life. When she discovers he is 'seeking a wife' we get the impression perhaps she wishes she was a contender.

DA SELKIE WIFE'S SANG - this song describes a seal-woman, or Selkie (mythical creatures who could shape-shift between seal and human forms) who finds herself drawn back to her 'kin', the seal folk. As a shape shifter she longs to return to her natural state as a seal in the sea.

DA FULL RIGGED SHIP - is one of the oldest traditional Shetland fiddle tunes. It is often paired with another song *Da New Rigged Ship*, so I incorporated that piece into King Orfeo on this album.

KING ORFEO - is thought to be the earliest rendition of the Orpheus and Eurydice story. Archie Fischer recorded a version of this song on his 1970s album *Orfeo*. The version I found most inspiring was by Kitty Anderson of Lerwick.

UNST BRIDAL MARCH - is an instrumental. Formerly a fiddle player would play this tune whilst leading the bridal party out of the church yard after a wedding.