

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)

Dúlamán

[du lə man]

Dúlamán na binne buí, dúlamán Gaelach,

[du lə man n̩ə bɪ n̩ə bwi du lə man geɪ ləx]

Seaweed of the yellow peaks, Gaelic seaweed

Dúlamán na farraige, dúlamán Gaelach.

[du lə ma na fæ rɪ gə du lə man geɪ ləx]

Seaweed of the ocean, Gaelic seaweed.

“A ‘nión mhín ó! Sin anall na fir shuirí”

[a ni n̩ vi no ʃɪn an əl na fɛr ho ri]

O gentle daughter, here come the wooing men.

“A mháthair mhín ó! Cuir na roithleán go dtí mé!”.

[a wa hæ vi no kwɪə na rə xu lan gə dʒi meɪ]

O gentle mother, put the wheels in motion for me!

Rachaidh me chun ‘lúir leis a’ dúlamán Gaelach

[rək: kɪg meɪ kʊ ʃur lɛʃ a du lə man geɪ ləx]

I would go to the tailor with the Gaelic seaweed.

“Ceannódh bróga daor’,” arsa’ dúlamán Gaelach.

[kæ a noɡ bro gə der ɛr sə du lə man geɪ ləx]

“I would buy expensive shoes,” said the Gaelic seaweed.

Bróga breátha dubha ar a’ dúlamán Gaelach.

[bro gə bræ ha du ə a ɛr a du lə man geɪ ləx]

Beautiful black shoes has the Gaelic seaweed.

‘Bairéad agus triús ar a’ dúlamán Gaelach

[bar eəd agəs trus ɛr a du lə man geɪ ləx]

A beret and trousers has the Gaelic Seaweed.

Tá ceann buí óir ar a’ dúlamán Gaelach.

[ta ki əʊn bwi ɔr ɛr a du lə man geɪ ləx]

There is a yellow gold head on the Gaelic seaweed.

Tá dhá chluais mhaol’ar a’ dúlamán Maorach.

[tak a klu ɪʃ weɪl ɛr a du lə man mweɪ əx]

There are two blunt ears on the stately seaweed.
