

### **DIGHTY TIMES - A COMMUNITY SONG WRITING PROJECT**

ALL SONGS AVAILABLE TO LISTEN TO ONLINE AT: DIGHTYSONGS.BANDCAMP.COM

DIGHTYCONNECT GATHERED TOGETHER KEEN CONTEMPORARY SONG WRITERS TO COMPOSE NEW MUSIC AND WORDS HERALDING THE PRESENCE OF THE BURN IN PEOPLE'S LIVES. THIS PROJECT IDEA WAS INSPIRED BY THE UNCOVERING OF SEVERAL TRADITIONAL FOLK SONGS THAT HAD A DIGHTY CONNECTION. SO, LOCAL PEOPLE'S SONGS ONCE AGAIN FLOW FROM THE DIGHTY WATER, WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THEM AS MUCH AS WE ENIOYED COMPOSING THEM.

Mp3's, C.D's, Vinyl, Radio, Phones, Spotify etc etc etc all allow us to listen to music during our every waking minute if we want to. The world is full of music but for most of us it is a passive pursuit. We consume it rather than make it. Even when we play music ourselves, for the most part, we are trying to reproduce what already exists. Music however, is the most fundamental social glue that there is, probably pre-dating even language itself. It is an expression of culture, counter culture, identity and personal emotion.

For these reasons it is a fantastic context in which adults can discover new ways of learning which have a deeper meaning for them than any they may have previously experienced. It is also for these reasons that Discover Learning was very happy to facilitate this project in partnership with Dighty Connect. Everyone taking part either wrote at least one song of their own or collaborated with others to produce one. Some people wrote several songs. Selected songs were then recorded, some being performed by the writers and some by other members of the group.

This was a great project and most of the participants still meet on Wednesday afternoons at Finmill to develop their song writing skills. Anyone wishing to take part should contact Alan Fraser on O1382 438641 or alan.fraser@dundeecity.gov.uk Discover Learning is the Adult Learning Section of Neighbourhood Services Dept. of Dundee City Council. The Adult Learning Section works with adults of all ages. We aim to improve the Life Chances of People Living in local communities through learning and personal development.

THE 'DIGHTY TIMES' SONG BOOK HAS BEEN A VERY EXCITING PROJECT TO BE INVOLVED WITH. OVER IT'S DURATION MYSELF AND MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY HAVE WORKED TO CREATE A COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL SONGS BASED ON PERSONAL MEMORIES REFLECTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF GROWING UP AND LIVING IN THIS PARTICULAR PART OF THE WORLD.

In my own work as an artist I have explored how a deep sense of place informs the nature and character of the creativity that springs from the local environs and this project is a perfect example, expressing as it does that unique Dundonian sensibility that makes the city so special. Dundee has a rich heritage of folk music, poetry and literature and has been the source of many world class artists in all of these fields. I like to think that the 'Dighty Times' song book is a celebration and perpetuation of a tradition that Dundee should be very proud of, creating new works of art, music and poetry that recognize, value and celebrate the city's unique wellspring of creativity.

EMIL THOMPSON - LEAD SONGWRITER (INNERESTING.BLOGSPOT.CO.UK)

#### LISTEN TO AUDIO RECORDINGS OF THE SONGS ONLINE AT: DIGHTYSONGS.BANDCAMP.COM



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US; EMAIL: ENOUIRY@DIGHTYCONNECT.ORG

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web: www.dightyconnect.org Facebook: search dightyconnect.











# WALK THE DIGHTY BURN

By Karen Ogilvie











Walk the Dighty burn, where wind and whisper whistle Rain Gently drum, silent mind surrender.

Pulse divine delights, delights the Dighty burn Breath of life is breathing, each and every turn.

#### (CHORUS)

Alive is nature's skillful strum All of living is as one God's great gift of beauty True tranquility adorns.

PACED AND PEACEFUL IS THE FORAGING THE LOVE FOR LIFE DOTH DWELL FLY HIGH, ABOVE THE FRAGRANCE SEEDS DANCED FLOWERS FELL.

(CHORUS)

# WHERE THE DIGHTY RUNS

Lyrics trad arr by Jim Duke Music by Jim Reid



Where the Dighty Runs, By the fairy dell Where the Rowan tree hangs above the well There are no cascades, falls or roaring weirs But there are beauty spots, where the Dighty Runs.

Where the Dighty runs by a hawthorn tree Where I first met the one who was dearest to me Every nook and cranny, we knew its ins and outs Lovingly we walked, where the Dighty runs.

Where the Dighty runs, near the old Mains Den Children freely play, all the games they know, When at night the moon looks down, Lovers fondly walk, where the Dighty runs.

Where the Dighty Runs, I know I would be There is no other river that is dearest to Me, When I am old and unsteady on My Feet, I will go home to die, where the Dighty Runs.

# **OUR OLD HOUSE**

By Charlie Jordan & Jill HinnrichS









Old sunny days no frost no rain now you can swim in the Drumgeith plain Breathe the air heed the warning, Dighty dies from global warming.

#### (CHORUS)

Take me dancing to the JM ballroom, take me dancing to the Miner's hall Kissed one partner, then kissed another, wish that I had kissed them all.

Does this house keep memories, any secrets left for me? Once when I was very young I wasn't friends with anyone.

#### (CHORUS)

Take me dancing to the JM ballroom, take me dancing to the Miner's hall Kissed one partner, then kissed another, wish that I had kissed them all.

Earth to Earth and fish swim free dust to dust is what I'll be Take my ashes, scatter them wide where twisting Dighty meets the tide.

Don't breathe the air don't heed no warning Dighty died From Global warming.



I have heard a rumour that I've been on your radar For a long long time But going on a trip in a relationship with you Has never crossed my mind.

And now I must be honest - I've only ever seen you as a friend I'm sorry if it hurts you but that is where my feelings for you have to end.

#### (CHORUS)

I LOVE YOU I DO AND I CARE ABOUT YOU AND I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU UNTIL THE END.
I LOVE YOU I DO CAN'T YOU SEE THAT IT'S TRUE?
YES I'LL WILL BE THERE FOR YOU UNTIL THE END.

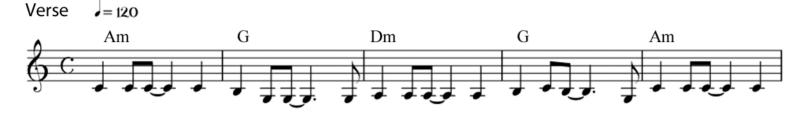
And now I understand why you wrote me All those poems with the kisses in.

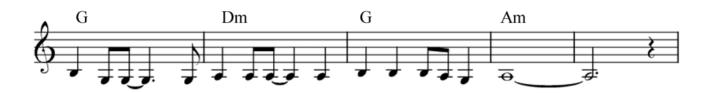
Don't think that I'm not grateful for all the Times you stood by me through thick and thin.

AND I REALLY WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BEING THERE BESIDE ME AS MY FRIEND AND YOU KNOW I'D NEVER HURT YOU BUT BEING WITH YOU ISN'T HOW THIS STORY ENDS.

### I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU AND ME

by Alan Fraser









I'll never forget you and me summer nineteen seventy three Plunkin' skail we were getting free following the line of the old Dighty.

Surfin' the weir the water was sour the sun shone down on the mystic hour Woodbine scent, king cup flower under the arches dodging a shower.

#### (CHORUS)

The birds sang sweet the trees grew tall We were runnin' wild we were havin' a ball.

We followed the line down to the sea we were gettin' wild, we were gettin' free I'll never forget you and me down by the mouth of the old Dighty.

Aaah, Aaah, Aaah

(CHORUS)

It couldn't last, it had to pass the burn runs on it's all too fast. I don't even know where you are now you came to me in a lonely hour.

Ааан, Ааан, Ааан

(CHORUS)

"People have so many different experiences of the Dighty and I have enjoyed hearing all the songs, I will look at the burn a wee bit differently now and no doubt think about all those lovely songs created at the Finmill Centre."

"I've learned more about the burn and how others view it and it's been great to learn more about the history of the burn"

"I feel part of a worthwhile project and have learned more in the past few weeks than I have in 30 years experience of folk music."

"I have been inspired and encouraged by the whole group, I will continue to write songs, laugh and strum my guitar. Thanks everyone - most enjoyable!"

"A new step here, something I have not tried before"

"This song group is a great community, it makes ideas and playing a lot easier for me"

"I like my community and I feel more bonded to the present and the future."

"I have reflected on the changes over the years"

"Made me think about the impact of my footprint to a greater extent"







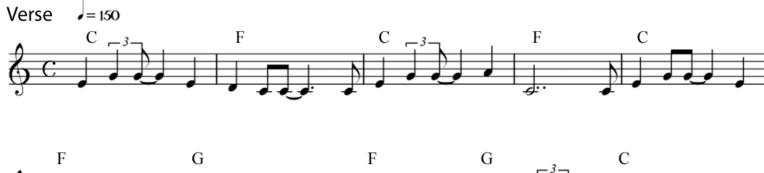
I never asked for fortune I never asked for fame
I just love the sound the water makes while murmuring your name
So let's look out the walking boots you can take me by the hand
And we'll go where the Dighty runs and take the path inland.

Towards the distant Lundie Crags where springs the bonnie burn Then down the leafy Mill o' Mains with all its twists and turns Baldovan to the Trottick ponds, Drumgeith, Balmossie bridge The towering seven arches and we're on the final stretch.

With the Babbling burn for company we'll stride towards the sea Where the Dighty ends its journey it begins for you and me Well I never asked for fortune and I never asked for fame I just love the sounds the water makes while murmuring your name.

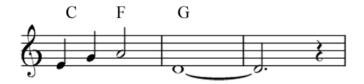
# SAILING ON THE DIGHTY

By Kenneth McGuigan









ABANDON SHIP CRIED THE CAPTAIN - DO YOUR BIT MEN SAVE THE WOMEN AND KIDS ME I'M GOING DOWN WITH THE SHIP, SOUND THE ALARM DANNY - AND DANNY DID.

THE SHIP ROLLED PORT THE SHIPPED ROLLED AFT THE SHIP NO DEEPER THAN A FAMILY BATH A SHED ROOF THEY HUCKLED FOR A LAUGH SO THEY MIGHT GO SAILING.

#### (CHORUS)

WE ARE THE LORDS OF THE NEW CREATION JUST WE THREE KIDS AND OUR IMAGINATIONS.

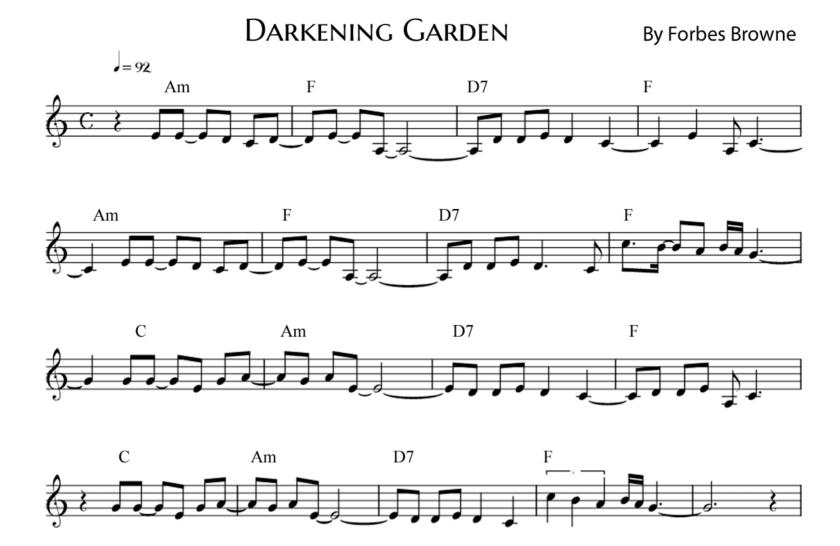
I see a monster over there cried a sailor pointing. They watched it as its mouth spewed fire and had the water boiling.

The ship rolled port and the ship rolled aft
The sailors cheered and the sailors laughed thinking it fun to act really daft
Sailing for the day on the Dighty.

#### (CHORUS)

AND THE MONSTER FINALLY SPILLED THEM IN AND THE DREAMERS HIT THE WATER-O IT WASN'T WARM BUT REALLY COLD AND THEY MADE THE BANK LIKE TORPEDOES.

And the sailors hurried home for tea and mama made them pie and chips Then off to bed to fill their heads with dreams of sailors, sailors and ships.



Out in the garden she stands In autumn's dark reds and (soft) browns Cardigan limp in her hand It slips, unaware, to the ground.

Blue eyes are bloodshot and wild And her cheeks are streaked with dried tears But never a word is said She is gaunt with unspoken fears.

An ache of the head and heart Pulses with slow-passing hours With a loss the mind cannot grasp She drifts among fading flowers.

Dragging slow shoes through the grass Knotting and twisting long fingers A swishing of skirt marks her path As still in the gloaming she lingers.

Darkness comes in like the tide
And flowers shut down with the light
She cannot return to his side
And drifts like a wraith in the night.

# ON MY WAY TO THE SILVERY TAY

by Dawn Smith



(REFRAIN)

I've seen many things on my way to the silvery Tay Mains and Claypotts bring memories to the fore Of villages and towns, things I've seen before As I go on my way to the silvery Tay

Rope swing bridges and a million midges
People in ranks Cleaning up my banks
My tide is rising and it's not surprising - I've flooded the park

(REFRAIN)

I've seen Asda trolleys and broken brollies Poly bags and age old rags I hear sprinters thunder overhead While kids throw stones on my bed

(UNACCOMPANIED WITH HANDCLAPS - REPEAT TWICE)
OH OH OH I'M ON MY WAY
OH OH TO THE SILVERY TAY

(REFRAIN)

I'm gonna flow so fast on my way past I'll reach my destination without hesitation I'm on my way to McGonnigal's Tay I know I'm on my way - to the silvery Tay

# Dighty Dharma Song

By Niall McArthur Robertson









The evening returns to the morning The old man returns to the child The butterfly folds itself into the egg The city returns to the wild.

The diamond returns to the branch of the tree
The ocean returns to the rain
The snail crawls back into its spiral shell
The light comes to darkness again.

The streets all run back to the crossroads
The great sun rolls back on its course
All things return to their starting place
The Dighty returns to its source.



Now my body's old my hair is grey and I seem to lose a memory everyday. But I still remember all the fun we had playing at the Dighty burn when I was a lad.

(Refrain - Repeated Between Verses)
Oh those Dighty Days, how we laughed and played
Oh those Dighty days why did they have to end?

Indians and cowboys we'd never lose, playing football for Scotland without any shoes Playing on the riverbank with Billy Brown from the Early Morning 'till the sun went down.

The old rope swing that flew so high with shaking knees you had to hold on tight Eyes scrunched up as you touched the sky but you'd be first in line for another try.

Penny dainty sweets that stuck to your teeth summer warmed milk and a jelly piece Dens made of cardboard and grass and rocks but you wouldn't get in without the secret knocks.

No electric games when I was a lad but I know I had much more than that Friendship and laughter and sunny days but more than that we made such memories.

The Dighty's still there and it's water's still cold but it's banks are silent there's children no more

The games they play now are all onscreen but when they get old where's the memories?

Oh those Dighty days how we laughed and played I guess I really miss them
But I can still relive them
Oh those Dighty days.

