

A little flock from Iceland

Peter Bird

I. Lón

very slow ($\text{♩} = 38$) slow ($\text{♩} = 43$)

Soprano
Ah. Ah. Ah. Ah.

Alto
mf
Ah. Ah. Ah. Ah.

Tenor
mf
Ah. Ah. Ah. Ah.

Bass
Ah. Ah. Ah. Ah.

Flute
mf

Violin

5 faster ($\text{♩} = 60$)

legato
Swans in Ice-land: white on black. West-ward come wend-ing, a-

Swans in Ice-land: white on black. West-ward come wend-ing, a-

legato
Swans in Ice-land: white on black. West-ward come wend-ing, a-

Swans in Ice-land: white on black. West-ward come wend-ing, a-

9

- ppear-ing in pairs; Strong wing beats thun - der in crys - tal-line

- ppear - ing in pairs; Strong wing beats thun - der in crys - tal - line

- ppear - ing in pairs; Strong wing beats thun - der in crys - tal - line

- ppear - ing in pairs; Strong wing beats thun - der in crys - tal - line

14

air; Will - full to breed on the bourn of des - pair.

air; Will - full to breed on the bourn of des - pair.

air; Will - full to breed on the bourn of des - pair.

air; Will - full to breed on the bourn of des - pair.

19 *slower* (♩=50)

Ice - land, Ire - land: out, and back.

Ice - land, Ire - land: out, and back.

Ice - land, Ire - land: out, and back. Men in long-ships, hel-mets bright,

Ice - land, Ire - land: out, and back. Men in long-ships, hel - mets bright,

23

faster (♩=60)

Red - haired and

Red-haired and

Brought with them doz-ens of Ire - land's daugh-ters.

Brought with them doz - ens of Ire - land's daugh-ters.

28

white - rob - ed, just as they caught her, One of them walks all a - lone

white - rob - ed, just as they caught her, One of them walks all a - lone

33

by the wa - ter, Chant - ing her heart - song to the night.

by the wa - ter, Chant - ing her heart - song to the night.

Chant - ing her heart - song to the night.

Chant - ing her heart - song to the night.

mp

mp

37

solo (freely, no vibrato)
slow (♩=45)

faster (♩=65)

E - a - la na - o - fa: Tro - mhad an - nall! Mine are the

sopranos & altos

40

peo - ple that o - pen the gran - a - ry, Hall - ow the

44

home-linn and safe-guard the ey - rie. Hear when I cry to you;

49

slower ($\text{♩} = 50$)

come to me swift - ly! An cuid - ich sibh mi do co-mhall?

53 (solo continues) faster (♩=60)

Seek a swan with-out a wife: Kel - wyn mac Boyn-ton, of

sopranos & altos

p Ah. Ah.

p Ah. Ah.

p Ah. Ah.

57

hus - bands the best. When he will once lay his head on my breast, It's

Ah.

Ah.

Ah.

slower (♩=50)

63

I will go swim with him, e - ven to death, Swan to be, be-

Ah. Ah. Ah.

Ah. Ah.

Ah. Ah.

68

sopranos

faster (♩=60)

- yond this life. *mf* Swans in Ice - land watch their star; Au - ger the

altos

Swans in Ice-land watch their star; Au - ger the

mf Swans in Ice-land watch their star; Au - ger the

Swans in Ice-land watch their star; Au - ger the

mf

72

sea-son by scent of the beach-wrack. When the wind's nor-ther-ly,

sea-son by scent of the beach-wrack. When the wind's nor-ther-ly,

sea-son by scent of the beach-wrack. When the wind's nor-ther-ly,

sea-son by scent of the beach-wrack. When the wind's nor-ther-ly,

77

ice in the grass cracks, Whee-ling they climb a-way, coast-ing the sea track.

ice in the grass cracks, Whee-ling they climb a-way, coast-ing the sea track.

ice in the grass cracks, Whee-ling they climb a-way, coast-ing the sea track.

ice in the grass cracks, Whee-ling they climb a-way, coast-ing the sea track.

83 *slower* (♩=50) *very slow* (♩=38)

Keen - ing voic - es trav - el far. *p* Ah. Ah. Ah. Ah.

dim. *p*

Keen - ing voic - es trav - el far. Ah. Ah. Ah.

Keen - ing voic - es trav - el far. Ah. Ah. Ah.

dim. *p* *p*

Keen - ing voic - es trav - el far. Ah. Ah. Ah. Ah.

dim. *p* *p*

88

Ah.

Ah.

Ah.

Ah.

p *p*

II. Grímsvötn

90

Andante (♩=92)

mp Moun - tain of ice, bea - con of white Stan - ding a - lone in the

Moun - tain of ice, bea - con of white Stan - ding a - lone in the

mp Moun - tain of ice, bea - con of white Stan - ding a - lone in the

Moun - tain of ice, bea - con of white Stan - ding a - lone in the

mp

95

Arc - tic dark - ness, Home to the swans fly - ing, hope to the sea - far - ing,
cresc.

Arc - tic dark - ness, Home to the swans fly - ing, hope to the sea - far - ing,

Arc - tic dark - ness, Home to the swans fly - ing, hope to the sea - far - ing,
cresc.

Arc - tic dark - ness, Home to the swans fly - ing, hope to the sea - far - ing,

cresc.

98

Ni-fl-heim gleams in the mor - ning light: Moun-tain of ice, bea-con of white.

f *decresc.* *mp*

Ni-fl-heim gleams in the mor - ning light: Moun-tain of ice, bea-con of white.

f *decresc.* *mp*

Ni-fl-heim gleams in the mor - ning light: Moun-tain of ice, bea-con of white.

f *decresc.* *mp*

102

Moderato (♩=120)

f

Krin - kl - ing cracks spring

f *mf*

Up on the gla - crier the ground is grum - bling; ground is grum - bling;

mf *tr*

105

o-pen quick - ly. *mf* Blocks of blue ice top - ple thick-ly. Ee. Ee.

Grin - ding shards from

mf Blocks of blue ice top - ple thick-ly, Grin - ding shards from

ground is grum-bling. Ee. Ee. Ground is grum - bling;

109

bit - ter heights. Ee. Ee. Ah. Ah. *mp*

bit - ter heights. *f* Up on the gla - cier the ground is grum - bling.

ground is grum - bling. Up on the gla - cier the ground is grum - bling.

112

Mur - ky reeks of steam are ris - ing.

Swar - thy mists in ev - ery cran - ney. Ee. Ee.

mp Ee. Ee.

Grum - bl - ing; grum - bl - ing; grum - bl - ing; grum - bl - ing.

mp

116

mf Ah. 'Round a seeth - ing tarn un - can - ny. Ah. *mp*

From a ga - ping hol - low wax - ing. Ah. Ah. Swar - thy mists in

From a ga - ping hol - low wax - ing. Ah. Ah. Swar - thy mists in

mf *mp*

Ah. 'Round a seeth - ing tarn un - can - ny. Ah.

mf *mp*

121

Ah. Now a groan - ing gey - ser o - pens; Red flame leaps to
 ev - ery cran - ney. Now a groan - ing gey - ser o - pens; Red flame leaps to
 ev - ery cran - ney. Now a groan - ing gey - ser o - pens; Red flame leaps to
 Ah. Now a groan - ing gey - ser o - pens; Red flame leaps to

f
cresc.
f

125

heat the ov - en; Lo - ki strains; a chain is bro - ken; Earth - es blood - rush
 heat the ov - en; Lo - ki strains; a chain is bro - ken; Earth - es blood - rush
 heat the ov - en; Lo - ki strains; a chain is bro - ken; Earth - es blood - rush
 heat the ov - en; Lo - ki strains; a chain is bro - ken; Earth - es blood - rush

mf
mf
mf

129

is a - wo - ken. Now a groan - ing gey - ser o - pens. Ah.

is a - wo - ken. Now a groan - ing gey - ser o - pens. Ash - es fly - ing;

is a - wo - ken. Now a groan - ing gey - ser o - pens. Ash - es fly - ing;

is a - wo - ken. Now a groan - ing gey - ser o - pens. Ah.

133

Thun - der; spears of light - ning cry - ing: Hell and Mus - pell

wind a - ris - ing. Ah. Hell and Mus - pell

Thun - der; spears of light - ning cry - ing. Ah.

Thun - der; spears of light - ning cry - ing. Ah.

137

are sur-pris-ing To the go - thi ski - ing near-er. Ash - es; light-ning spears.

are sur-pris-ing To the go - thi ski - ing near-er. Thun-der; light-ning spears.

Thun - der... *f*

"O-

142

Ash - es and light-ning.

Thun - der, wind, and light-ning. Thun - der,

"O - thinn! Wise and just All - fath - er: Bind the

- thinn! Wise and just All - fath - er: Bind the

147

Ash - es and light-ning. Ash - es
wind, and light-ning. Thun-der, wind,
wa - ters whirl - ing blind - ly; Tame the stream - ing

152

and light-ning. Oh. Oh. Oh. Oh. Oh.
and light-ning. Ee. Ee.
torr - ent! Kind - ly Spare your folk; you have no o - ther."

III. Vestur Grænland

159

4 beats (60=larghetto)

Musical score for measures 159-163. The score is in 12/8 time and D major. It features five staves: four for individual instruments (two treble clefs and two bass clefs) and one grand staff for piano accompaniment. The piano part includes dynamic markings *mp* and *mf*.

164

Musical score for measures 164-167. The score is in 12/8 time and D major. It features five staves: four for individual instruments (two treble clefs and two bass clefs) and one grand staff for piano accompaniment.

168

mf Leif Ei-riks-son of Vin-land now re - turns To

Leif Ei-riks-son of Vin-land now re - turns To

mp Leif Ei - riks-son of Vin-land now re -

f Ró - i - ði, bræ - ður. Ró - i - ði, bræ - ður.

(repeat)

171

Ei-riks-fjord in Vest - ur Græn - a-land With wealth of furs and tim-ber.

Ei-riks-fjord in Vest - ur Græn - a-land With wealth of furs and tim-ber.

- turns To Ei-riks-fjord in Vest - ur Græn - a-land. *mf* Sail-ors

Ró - i - ði, bræ-ður. Ró - i - ði, bræ - ður. Sail-ors

174

still 4 beats (60) *poco a poco diminuendo*

yearn to sleep be-side a fire u-pon the strand.

yearn to sleep be-side a fire u-pon the strand. In the stern He

mp (don't rush)

178

dim. To seek the floi where fa-ther's fires

watch-es fell and glac-ier run-ning past To seek the floi where fa-ther's fires

dim.

181

p The shore is still and
p They are a - lone. The shore is still and
 burn. They are a - lone. The shore is still and
 burn. They are a - lone. The shore is still and

185

moderato (♩=116)
 vast. *f* There's a rock.
 vast. There's a rock.
 faster
 vast. *f* There is a rock to lar - board. *mf* Fleet and
 vast. A rock. *f* Fleet and
 faster *f*

191

There is a rock to lar-board. Then takes the helm,
 He calls to tigh-ten sail a-against the mast.
 wa-ry... Tigh-ten sail.
 wa-ry, He calls to tigh-ten sail a-against the mast, Then takes the helm,

196

turns to the wind, to tar-ry.
 Why to the wind? Why to the wind?
 And still with vi-sion sharp he skries the
 turns to the wind, to tar-ry, And still with vi-sion sharp he skries the

202 *andante* (♩=90) *mf* *mp* *And*

slower A wreck-ed ship. *mp* *And*

There is a ship. *And*

sky: slower *mp* *And*

sky: There is a wreck-ed ship u-pon the sker-ry. *And*

slower

208 *cresc.*

all might see, as drif-ting draws them nigh, At least a do-zen men; one wo-man's form:

all might see, as drif-ting draws them nigh, At least a do-zen men; one wo-man's form:

all might see, as drif-ting draws them nigh, At least a do-zen men; one wo-man's form:

all might see, as drif-ting draws them nigh, At least a do-zen men; one wo-man's form:

cresc.

214

Nor - weg-ians all, if clo-thing does not lie. *f* *decresc.* *mf*

Nor - weg-ians all, if clo-thing does not lie.

Nor - weg-ians all, if clo-thing does not lie. *f* *decresc.* *mf* Up speaks Lei-fur, with a wel-come

Nor - weg-ians all, if clo-thing does not lie. Then up speaks Lei-fur, with a wel-come

220

warm:

warm: *Solo* *f* I guess ye'll deign to sail with us to-day! Drag up the wreck to

mf *cresc.* *f*

226

keep it from the storm. we'll build a - no-ther ship in some bay;

mf *cresc.*

232

We have the tim-ber and the ship-smith. But do not hold that ye should

f *mf*

238

mp

I find thee kin and kith, and here - with Be-speak my fa-ther's will,
 fly a-way; I find thee kin and kith, and here - with Be-speak my fa-ther's will,

242

4 beats (60=larghetto)

cresc. In-vi - ting thee, To dwell and win-ter in our Brat - ta - hlith, *mf* The *mp*

In-vi - ting thee, To dwell and win-ter in our Brat - ta - hlith, The

cresc. in-vi-ting thee *tutti* Dwell and win - ter in our Brat - ta-
mf in-vi-ting thee To dwell and win-ter in our Brat - ta - hlith, Brat - ta-

246

on - ly home - ly house be - yond the wes - tern sea.

on - ly home - ly house be - yond the wes - tern sea.

mf
- hlith, The on - ly home - ly house be - yond the wes - tern sea.

- hlith, The home - ly house be - yond the wes - tern sea.

IV. Drangey

251

Andante (♩=90)

Ac u - ton nu bid - dan Sanc - tus Mich - a - el ge -

f Phrygian *decresc.*

Ac u - ton nu bid - dan Sanc - tus Mich - a - el ge -

mp
(squeaky oarlock)

(sea gull)

255

Bish-op Guth - mun - der is row-ing, Mut-ter-ing banns to bind his tem - per:

f

Bish-op Guth - mun - der is row-ing, Mut-ter-ing banns to bind his tem - per:

mf *decresc.*

- orn-li-ce þæt he ure sau-la ge - læ - de on ge - fe - an, þær

- orn-li-ce þæt he ure sau-la ge - læ - de on ge - fe - an, þær

260

To feed the hun - gry he must har-vest Eggs and slipp - 'ry

To feed the hun - gry he must har-vest Eggs and slipp - 'ry

mp

hi - e mo - tan bliss - i - an a bu - ton en - de

hi - e mo - tan bliss - i - an a bu - ton en - de

264

sva - ri - fu - gi From the cliffs and heaths of Drang-ey.
 svar - ti - fu - gi From the cliffs and heaths of Drang-ey.
 on ec - ne - sse. Ac u - ton nu bid-dan
 on ec - ne - sse. Ac u - ton nu bid-dan

268

mf So. The men he sends to nest And har - ry,
 So. The men he sends to nest And har-ry,
 Sanc - tus Mich - a - el ge - orn-li - ce þæt he ure sau-la ge-
 Sanc - tus Mich - a - el ge - orn-li - ce þæt he ure sau-la ge-

p

272

tak-ing ropes and tim-ber, Fall and die. The toll is grow-ing.
 tak-ing ropes and tim-ber, Fall and die. The toll is grow - ing.
 - læ - de on ge - fe - an, þær hi - e mo - tan bliss-i - an a bu-ton
 - læ - de on ge - fe - an, þær hi - e mo - tan bliss-i - an a bu-ton

278

en-de on ec - ne - sse. This is - land is no
 en-de on ec - ne - sse.

Allegro moderato (♩=130)

284

seem - ly seat of elves, but moor of mó-rar, tang - i of trolls, and

290

gey - mir of the af-tur-gang-u - menn. By vald of Christ I'll rinse these ill, and

297

rall.

then We may have peace, and end these wraith-ly tolls, So god-ly

rall.

rall.

301

Andante (♩=100)

mf

folk can gain what's good to eat. *tutti* Ac u-ton nu bid-dan Sanc-tus Mich - a-

mf

Ac u-ton nu bid-dan Sanc-tus Mich - a-

mf

306

Now, Strung up-on a rope that's bless-ed, Guth - mun - der climbs

Now, Strung up-on a rope that's bless-ed, Guth - mun - der climbs

- el ge - orn - li - ce þæt he ure sau - la ge - læ - de on

- el ge - orn - li - ce þæt he ure sau - la ge - læ - de on

310

cliff and ae - rie, Sing - ing psalms and wa - ter cast - ing, Hall - ow - ing, for

cliff and ae - rie, Sing - ing psalms and wa - ter cast - ing, Hall - ow - ing, for

ge - fe - an, þær hi - e mo - tan bliss - i -

ge - fe - an, þær hi - e mo - tan bliss - i -

314

accel. *solo?*

all time last-ing. "Kri - a!" cry the terns; with fair-y Ar-rows bit - ing he is press-ed. Ah.

accel. *f*

all time last-ing. "Kri-a!" cry the terns; with fair-y Ar-rows bit - ing he is press-ed.

- an a bu-ton en - de on ec - ne - sse. *f*

- an a bu-ton en - de on ec - ne - sse.

accel. *f*

319

Moderato (♩=120) *mf*

Ah. Ah.

solo?

A mi - ckle hand is stretched to give a

solo?

A mi - ckle hand is stretched to snip,

solo?

A mi - ckle hand is stretched to snip,

324

Ah. Ah. Ah.

snip, to drop the priest confessing to his

to drop the priest to his doom.

to drop the priest to doom.

329

Ah. Ah. *rall.*

doom. Some wil-der-wight uncorks his store of words on height:

Some wil-der-wight uncorks his store of words:

Some wight un-corks his words:

mf *rall.*

335

Andante (♩=100)

Gven - dur, Gven-dur, stop your bless - ing! E-ven the e-vil need a place to

solo
mf

344

Guth - mun-der climbs down a - gain to shore. Oh.

Guth-mun - der climbs down a - gain to shore. Oh.

Here is some un-can-ny

live!

tutti
mp
p
mf
solo?
mp

352

Oh. Oh.

Oh. Oh.

Gret-tirs-son Or out-law with his house u-pon the isle. How can I cast the

mp Oh. Oh. Oh.

359

He sits him down a time a-lone. His hood it hides him like

He sits him down a time a-lone. His hood it hides him like

stone? I'll bide a - while. His hood it hides him like

...like

p *tutti*

366

Andante (♩=90)

a skin be - fore. Here at the world-es end, in this last
mp *cresc.*

a skin be - fore. Here at the world-es end, in this last

a skin be - fore. Here at the world-es end, in this last
mp *cresc.*

a skin be - fore. Here at the world-es end, in this last

mp *cresc.*

373

bay, We'll leave a lit - tle ha - ven on this rock For
mf

bay, We'll leave a lit - tle ha - ven on this rock For

bay, We'll leave a lit - tle ha - ven on this rock For
mf

bay, We'll leave a lit - tle ha - ven on this rock For
mf

377

those old souls who spurn e-ter-nal life,

those old souls who spurn e-ter-nal life (ex-cept as wor-thy names in sa-ga)

those old souls who spurn e-ter-nal life (ex-cept as wor-thy names in sa-ga)

those old souls who spurn e-ter-nal life (ex-cept as wor-thy names in sa-ga)

382

Un-til At-lan-tic bill-ows drown this dock And,

strife) Un-til At-lan-tic bill-ows drown this dock And,

strife) Un-til At-lan-tic bill-ows drown this dock And,

strife) Un-til At-lan-tic bill-ows drown this dock And,

386

very slow ($\text{♩} = 38$)

like the sea-birds, all are flown a - way. *mp* *p* Ah.

like the sea-birds, all are flown a - way. *decresc.* *mp* *p* Ah.

like the sea-birds, all are flown a - way. *decresc.* *mp* *p* Ah.

like the sea-birds, all are flown a - way. *decresc.* *mp* *p* Ah.

mf *decresc.* *mp* *p*

389

Ah. Ah. Ah.

Ah. Ah. Ah.

Ah. Ah. Ah.

Ah. Ah. Ah.

A little flock from Iceland

I. Lón

Swans in Iceland: white on black.
Westward come wending, appearing in pairs;
Strong wing beats thunder in crystalline air;
Willfull to breed on the bourn of despair.
Iceland, Ireland: out, and back.

Men in longships, helmets bright,
Brought with them dozens of Ireland's daughters.
Red-haired and white-robed, just as they caught her,
One of them walks all alone by the water,
Chanting her heart-song to the night.

“Eala naofa: Tromhad annall!
Mine are the people that open the granary,
Hallow the home-linn and safeguard the eyrie.
Hear when I cry to you; come to me swiftly!
An cuidich sibh mi do comhall?
“Seek a swan without a wife:
Kelwyn mac Boynton, of husbands the best.
When he will once lay his head on my breast,
It's I will go swim with him, even to death,
Swan to be, beyond this life.”

Swans in Iceland watch their star;
Auger the season by scent of the beach-wrack.
When the wind's northerly, ice in the grass cracks,
Wheeling they climb away, coasting the sea track.
Keening voices travel far.

Notes: Historical fiction. The wild swans that summer in Iceland migrate to the British Isles to pass each winter. Irish Celts believed that some swans were humans trapped by enchantment. Neolithic Britons may have believed that all swans had the souls of humans who had died recently. Here, an Irish slave woman in Iceland (~900 AD) appeals to the swans to find her dead husband. Her two lines in Gaelic are, “Holy swan: Come across!” and “Can you help me to fulfilment?”.

II. Grímsvötn

Mountain of ice, beacon of white
Standing alone in the Arctic darkness,
Home to the swans flying, hope to the seafaring,
Niflheim gleams in the morning light.

Up on the glacier the ground is grumbling;
Krinkling cracks spring open quickly.
Blocks of blue ice topple thickly,
Grinding shards from bitter heights.

Swarthy mists in every cranney;
Murky reeks of steam are rising
From a gaping hollow waxing
'Round a seething tarn uncanny.

Now a groaning geyser opens;
Red flame leaps to heat the oven;
Loki strains; a chain is broken;
Earth's blood-rush is awoken.

Ashes flying; wind arising;
Thunder; spears of lightning crying:
Hell and Muspell are surprising
To the gothi skiing nearer.

“Othinn! Wise and just Allfather:
Bind the waters whirling blindly;
Tame the streaming torrent! Kindly
Spare your folk; you have no other.”

Notes: Historical fiction. Grímnir (the masked one) is a kenning for Othinn, father of the Norse gods. Grímsvötn (Othinn's lakes, or torrents) is a place on the Vatnajökull icecap where volcanic eruptions break through from below, creating boiling lakes which often break out to flood the countryside. A gothi was an Icelandic official who combined the functions of regional representative and pagan priest. In the last line he alludes to the fact that worship of Othinn has been declining, first in favor of Thor, and more recently in favor of Jesus.

III. Vestur Grænland

Leif Eiriksson of Vinland now returns
To Eiriksfjord in Vestur Grænland
With wealth of furs and timber. In the stern
He watches fell and glacier running past
To seek the floi where father's fires burn.
They are alone. The shore is still and vast.
There is a rock to larboard. Fleet and wary,
He calls to tighten sail against the mast,
Then takes the helm, turns to the wind, to tarry,
And still with vision sharp he skries the sky:
There is a wrecked ship upon the skerry.
And all might see, as drifting draws them nigh,
At least a dozen men; one woman's form:
Norwegians all, if clothing does not lie.
Then up speaks Leifur, with a welcome warm:
"I guess ye'll deign to sail with us today!
Drag up the wreck to keep it from the storm.
We'll build another ship in some still bay;
We have the timber and the ship-smith.
But do not hold that ye should fly away;
I find thee kin and kith, and herewith
Bespeak my father's will, inviting thee
To dwell and winter in our Brattahlith,
The homely house beyond the western sea."

Note: A historical event from The Saga of the Greenlanders, which is also found in Eirik the Red's Saga. (However, I have expanded Leif's greeting.)

IV. Drangey

Bishop Guthmunder is rowing,
Muttering banns to bind his temper:
To feed the hungry he must harvest
Eggs and slippery svartifugi
From the cliffs and heaths of Drangey.
So. The men he sends to nest
And harry, taking ropes and timber,
Fall and die. The toll is growing.

He says: “This island is no seemly seat
of elves, but moor of mórar, tangi of trolls,
and geymir of the afturgangumenn.
By vald of Christ I’ll rinse these ills, and then
We may have peace, and end these wraithly tolls,
So godly folk can gain what’s good to eat.”

Strung upon a rope that’s blessed,
Guthmunder climbs cliff and aerie,
Singing psalms and water casting,
Hallowing, for all time lasting.
“Kria!” cry the terns; with fairy
Arrows biting he is pressed.

A mickle hand is stretched to give
A snip, to drop the priest confessing
To his doom. Some wilder-wight
Uncorks his store of words on height:
“Gvendur, Gvendur, stop your blessing!
Even the evil need a place to live!”

Guthmunder climbs down again to shore.
“Here is some uncanny Grettirsson
Or outlaw with his house upon the isle.
How can I cast the stone? I’ll bide awhile.”
He says, and sits him down a time alone.
His hood it hides him like a skin before.

“Here at the worldes end, in this last bay,
We’ll leave a little haven on this rock
For those old souls who spurn eternal life
(except as worthy names in saga strife)
Until Atlantic billows drown this dock
And, like the sea-birds, all are flown away.”

Notes: A historical event; the beloved Bishop Guðmunder Arason lived until 1273. (However, his speeches here are imagined.) Drangey was already famous as the last refuge of Grettir the Strong (ca. 1028~1031). A landscape-myth held that Drangey (Pillar-island) and its two basalt columns are the petrified remains of two trolls caught crossing the fjord with their cow at dawn. One of the pillars, undercut by waves, has since collapsed. Vocabulary: banns = prayers; svartifugi (svartfuglar) = puffins and guillemots; mórar = male ghosts; tangi = point of land; geymir = container or reservoir; afturgangumenn = the undead; vald = authority. The under-chant is in Old English, from [The Blickling Homilies](#) [971 AD], XVII, 108, where it follows the account of the vision of Saint Paul, of a wet icy hell in the north, where the unfortunate souls are suspended from cliffs:

Ac uton nu biddan Sanctus Michael geornlice
þæt he ure saula gelæde on gefean, þær hie
motan blissian a buton ende on ecnesse.

But let us now earnestly ask St. Michael that he
lead our souls into joy, where they may always
without end rejoice in eternity.

A little flock from Iceland: flute part

Peter Bird

I. Lón very slow ($\text{♩}=38$)
Flute *mf* Swans in Iceland...

7 faster ($\text{♩}=60$)

15 slower ($\text{♩}=50$) faster ($\text{♩}=60$)
Iceland, Ireland... Brought with the

24

32 *mp* slow ($\text{♩}=45$)
Chanting... (S solo)

39 faster ($\text{♩}=65$)

46 slower ($\text{♩}=50$)

53 Ah... faster ($\text{♩}=60$)

59 slower ($\text{♩}=50$)
Swan to be...

68 *mf* faster ($\text{♩}=60$)

75

83 *mf dim.* *p* very slow ($\text{♩}=38$)

II. Grímsvötn Andante ($\text{♩}=92$)
Mountain of ice *cresc.*

Moderato (♩=120)

97 *decrec.* *mp* *mf*
Up on the...

104
Blocks of blue...

111 *mp* *mf*
From a gaping...

117 *mp* *cresc.* *f*
Now a groaning...

124 *mf*
Earthes blood...

129

134 *f* *mf*
Thunder...

143
Bind the waters...

152 *mp* **III. Vestur Grænland**
4 beats (60=larghetto)

161 *f*

170 *mp* *dim.*
still 4 beats (60)

179 *mp*
sleep beside a fire...
To seek the floi... still and vast...

185 *f*
moderato (♩=116)

193 *mf*
Then takes the helm...

202 *slower*
skerry. Norwegians all...

220 (B solo) *mf cresc. f*
storm.

235 *mf*
fly away...

241 *mf*
To dwell...

249

IV. Drangey
Andante (♩=90)
251 *mp*
(sea gull) Bishop...

262 *p*

272 *mp* *mp* So...
toll is growing... Allegro moderato (♩=130)

284

293 *rall.*
Christ...

303 Andante (♩=100) *mf*

313 *accel. f* Kria... Moderato (♩=120)

323 *mf*

332 Andante (♩=100) *mf* *rall.*
Gvendur...

347

Musical staff 347: Treble clef, key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a series of dotted rhythms followed by a melodic phrase starting with a dynamic marking of *p*.

How can I...

363

Musical staff 363: Treble clef, key signature of two flats, 4/4 time signature. The staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mp*, followed by a melodic line with a *cresc.* marking, and then a phrase with a *mf* marking. The staff concludes with a double bar line.

Here...

375

Musical staff 375: Treble clef, key signature of two flats, 4/4 time signature. The staff features a melodic line with a *mf* dynamic marking at the end.

Until...

383

Musical staff 383: Treble clef, key signature of two flats, 4/4 time signature. The staff starts with a *cresc.* marking, followed by a melodic line with a *f* dynamic marking, and then a phrase with a *mf* marking. The staff ends with a *decresc.* marking and a double bar line.

387

Musical staff 387: Treble clef, key signature of two flats, 4/4 time signature. The staff begins with a melodic line and a *mp* dynamic marking, followed by a phrase with a *f* dynamic marking, and then a phrase with a *mf* marking. The staff concludes with a double bar line.

A little flock from Iceland: violin part

I. Lón very slow ($\text{♩}=38$) *mf* Swans in Iceland... Peter Bird faster ($\text{♩}=60$)

8

16 slower ($\text{♩}=50$) Iceland, Ireland...

23 faster ($\text{♩}=60$) Brought with them...

31 *mp* slow ($\text{♩}=45$) Chanting... (S solo) faster ($\text{♩}=65$)

43 slower ($\text{♩}=50$) Ah...

54 faster ($\text{♩}=60$)

61 slower ($\text{♩}=50$) Swan to be...

68 *mf* faster ($\text{♩}=60$)

75 *mf dim.*

84 *p* very slow ($\text{♩}=38$) **II. Grímsvötn** Andante ($\text{♩}=92$) *mp* Mountain of ice.

93 *cresc.* *f* *decresc.* *mp*

101 *Moderato* (♩=120) *mf*

Up on the... Blocks of blue...

112 *mp* *mf* *mp*

From a gaping...

121 *cresc.* *f*

Now a groaning...

125 *mf*

Earthes blood...

132 *f* *mf*

Thunder...

141

Bind the waters...

150

160 *III. Vestur Grænland*
4 beats (60=larghetto) *mf*

165 (repeat)

169

173 *still 4 beats (60)* *dim.*

sleep beside a fire...

179 *mp* *moderato* (♩=116)
 To seek the floi... still and vast...

188 *mf* *slower*
 Then takes the helm...

206 skerry. Norwegians all... (B solo) *cresc.* *f*
mf

226 Storm. fly away... To dwell...

244 *mf*

249

251 **IV. Drangey**
Andante (♩=90) *mp*
 (squeaky oarlock) Bishop...

262 So...

274 toll is growing... *Allegro moderato* (♩=130) *mp*

287 Christ...

298 *rall.* *mf* *Andante* (♩=100)

310 Kria... *accel.* *Moderato* (♩=120) *f*

321

327

333

348

363

375

386