

A New Air For “My Dark Rosaleen”

Krunchie Killeen Releases A New Air For “My Dark Rosaleen” To Replace The Unsatisfactory Airs Of Count John McCormack and Tommy Makem

DUBLIN, IRELAND, May 28, 2020 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Krunchie Killeen has released, on Spotify and YouTube and the other streaming services, a new version of “My Dark Rosaleen” by James Clarence Mangan (1803 to 1849). He feels that the airs to which this song has previously been sung (for example by Count John McCormack and by Tommy Makem) are unsatisfactory, and gives it a more rousing air.

Krunchie’s version goes live on 29 May 2020.

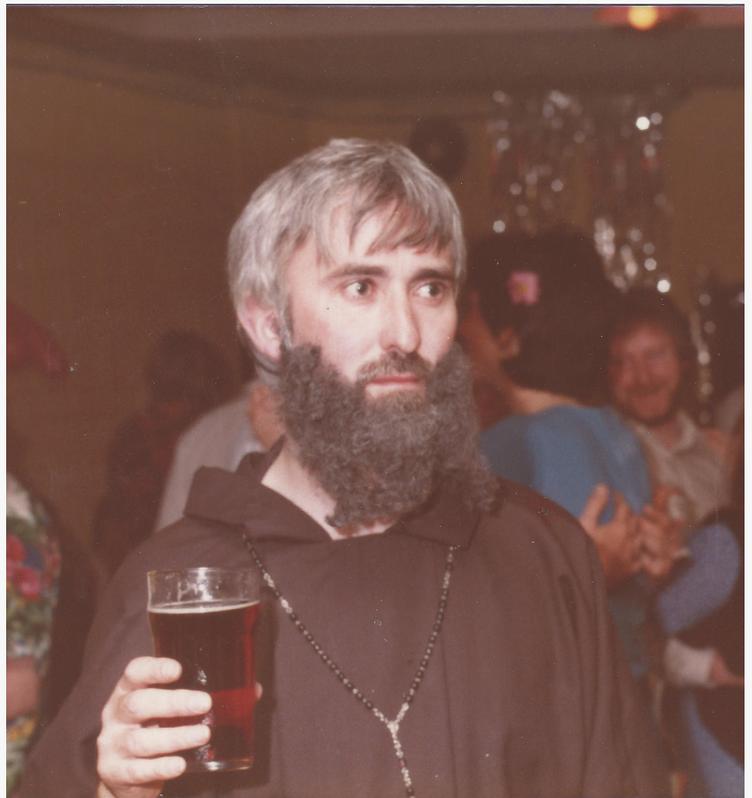
Count John McCormack’s version can be found on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/PrvCk4HROA4>

[Tommy Makem’s version](https://youtu.be/UFw62ups67A) is found on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/UFw62ups67A>

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Krunchie Killeen



Krunchie Killeen in fancy dress as a Friar

Krunchie Killeen’s superior air is presented on YouTube in two forms:

- Krunchie's sung version at https://youtu.be/ncRq_IR_E28
- Krunchie's instrumental version at <https://youtu.be/b5VPi3Kb9SE>

Krunchie Killeen is found on Spotify at:

<https://open.spotify.com/artist/4aa3QEjxzjMWnx8mZB1SF>
[v](#)

James Clarence Mangan claimed that this song was a translation of a patriotic ballad by a follower of rebel leader, Red Hugh O'Donnell (1572 – 1602); but it was no such thing.

Mangan's explanation (1845) reads: "This impassioned song, entitled, in the original, *Róisín Dubh*, or *The Black-Haired Little Rose*, was written in the reign of Elizabeth by one of the poets of the celebrated Tyrconnellian chieftain, Hugh the Red O'Donnell. It purports to be an allegorical address from Hugh to Ireland on the subject of his love and struggles for her, and his resolve to raise her again to the glorious position she held as a nation, before the irruption of the Saxon and Norman spoilers."

The Irish scholars had presented to Mangan, for versification, their translation of a seventeenth century love poem, "*Róisín Dubh*," with the conviction that the eulogised woman in the poem was an allegory for Ireland. Mangan had already provided two versions in verse. "*My Dark Rosaleen*," however, was Mangan's own free creation on this theme, departing significantly from the rhythm and mood of the original Irish poem to present a more rousing ballad.

Mangan often represented his original poems as "translations," because this allowed him to fabricate fascinating stories about its supposed authors, adding to the magic of the poem.

The first verse of the script presented by the scholars to Mangan was as follows:



Pensive Krunchie Killeen



White-bearded pensioner, Krunchie Killeen

"O rosebud, let there not be sorrow on account of what happened to you!
The friars are coming over the sea, and they are moving on the ocean;
Your pardon will come from the Pope and from Rome in the east.
And spare not the Spanish wine on my Róisín Dubh."

This version is erroneous in the words "The friars are coming over the sea." Twentieth century scholars affirm that the correct original version is "The friars are going over the sea," i.e., it refers to the friars (Franciscan priests) leaving rather than coming. "What happened to you," refers to Róisín being denounced by Franciscan preachers, (in the course of an annual "mission"), for sexual behaviour, and a more lenient attitude by the Spanish-trained regular clergy. Travel to towns along the west coast of Ireland was more often by boat than road in those days, so it was no great wonder that the Friars were leaving "over the sea."

While Mangan's poem has six verses, Krunchie presents three in his release, which are sufficient to express the theme forcefully without over-elaboration. The verses sung by Krunchie are:

O my dark Rosaleen
Do not sigh, do not weep.
The priests are on the ocean green;
They march along the deep.
There is wine from the royal Pope
Upon the ocean green,
And Spanish ale shall give you hope,
My Dark Rosaleen;

My Dark Rosaleen,
My own Rosaleen;
Shall glad your heart, shall give you hope;
Shall give you health, and help, and hope,
My Dark Rosaleen.

Over hills, and through dales,
Have I roamed for your sake;
All yesterday I sailed with sails
On river and on lake.
The Erne, at its highest flood,
I dashed across unseen,
For there was lightning in my blood,
My Dark Rosaleen;

My Dark Rosaleen,
My own Rosaleen.
O, there was lightning in my blood;

Red lightning lightened through my blood;
My Dark Rosaleen.

O, the Erne shall run red
With redundance of blood;
The earth shall rock beneath our tread
And flames wrap hill and wood;
And gun-peal and slogan-cry
Wake many a glen serene,
Ere you shall fade, ere you shall die,
My Dark Rosaleen;

My Dark Rosaleen,
My own Rosaleen.
The Judgement Hour must first be nigh,
Ere you can fade, ere you can die,
My Dark Rosaleen.

More elaboration of the theme of James Clarence Mangan:

<https://krunchiekilleen.blogspot.com/p/my-dark-rosaleen.html>

A selection of photos of Krunchie can be viewed and downloaded from:

<https://p-ocillin.tkhcloudstorage.com/item/c3e7ed8999a2452a8cce961491f421cf>

Krunchie uses "Glossneen" as his record label. The range of recordings so far issued under the "Glosneen" label can be found here: <https://Glossneen.blogspot.com/>

Krunchie Killeen is a retired Civil Servant who lives in Glasnevin, Dublin, Ireland. He has been playing and singing with the ephemeral Invincibles (of Dublin) for about 17 years and would now be performing a weekly lunch-hour concert in Clareville Day Centre, were it not for the Corona virus.

Krunchie's biography can be viewed on: <https://krunchiekilleen.blogspot.com/2020/02/krunchie-killeen.html>

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