

# Ellan Vannin

Music by J Townsend,  
words by Eliza Craven Green

When the summer day is over and its  
busy cares have flown,  
I sit beneath the starlight with a  
weary heart, alone;  
Then rises like a vision  
sparkling bright in nature's glee,  
My own dear Ellan Vannin  
with its green hills by the sea.

Then I hear the wavelets murmur  
as they kiss the fairy shore,  
Then beneath the emerald waters  
sings the mermaid as of yore;  
And the fair isle shines in beauty  
as in youth it shone on me,  
My own dear Ellan Vannin  
with its green hills by the sea.

Then memories sweet and tender  
come like music's plaintive flow,  
Of the hearts in Ellan Vannin  
that loved me long ago;  
And I give with tears and blessings  
my fondest thoughts to thee –  
My own dear Ellan Vannin  
with its green hills by the sea.

Andantino

*p* When the sum - mer day is ov - er and its

bus - y cares have flown, I sit be - neath the star - light with a wear - y heart a -

lone; Then ris - es like a vis - ion spark - ling bright in nat - ure's

With music by J Townsend and words by Eliza Craven Green, 'Ellan Vannin' was composed during the nineteenth century, and quickly became one of the greatest favourites of all Manx tunes.

### Performance

Keep the tempo moving along so that the song does not become too sentimental. This has a feel of a slow waltz. The long phrases must be sung in one breath to preserve the beautiful shape of the melody.

D G C G D7 G  
 1 3  
*mp*  
 glee, My own dear El-lan Van-nin with its green hills by the sea.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff for the melody and a bass clef staff for the accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 7/8. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then an eighth note G4, an eighth note A4, and a quarter note B4. The bass line starts with a half note G2, followed by a quarter rest, then an eighth note G2, an eighth note A2, and a quarter note B2. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. Above the treble staff, the chords D, G, C, G, D7, and G are indicated. Above the first two notes of the melody, there are numbers 1 and 3, likely indicating fingerings. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed below the first note of the melody.

### Emigration

Through its history, there has been a steady stream of emigration from the Isle of Man. Sometimes people went willingly, excited with promise of wealth and fortune in countries like North America. Early emigrants left in the 1680s for the New World, many of them from families with sufficient capital to be able to live comfortably and profit from opportunities. Others were forced to leave because they were not able to make a living on small crofts, or because work was no longer available. The opening of the North American West proved attractive; today, many of their descendants live in California and the mid-West.

The closure of the Laxey mines meant unemployment for many. The miners left to look for work in South Africa, Australia and California, some staying on to settle, while others returned with money enough to improve family farms. Emigration was particularly strong in the nineteenth century, when the Island's economy was badly affected. More people left in the 1930s and again in the 1950s, when assisted-passages were offered to Australia and New Zealand.

The World Manx Association links societies from all over the world where Manx people and their descendants meet.

