

# **The Singing River**

**8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> of May - Birr Theatre**

**SONGS FOR THE ENSEMBLE  
(update 22.03.2025)**

## The Rising of the Moon

### 1. MEN+WOMEN:

And come tell me, Sean O'Farrell, tell me why you hurry so?'  
'Hush, a bhuachaill, hush and listen,' and his cheeks were all aglow.  
'I bear orders from the Captain, get you ready quick and soon,  
For the pikes must be together at the rising of the moon.'  
At the rising of the moon...

### 2. MEN ONLY:

And come tell me, Sean O'Farrell, where the gathering is to be?'  
'In the old spot by the river, right well known to you and me.  
One word more—for signal token—whistle up the marching tune,  
With your pike upon your shoulder, by the rising of the moon.'  
At the rising of the moon...

### 3. WOMEN ONLY:

Out from many a mudwall cabin eyes were watching through the night,  
Many a manly breast was throbbing for the blessed warning light,  
Murmurs passed along the valley like the banshee's lonely croon,  
And a thousand blades were flashing at the rising of the moon.  
At the rising of the moon...

### 4. MEN+WOMEN:

There beside the singing river that dark mass of men were seen,  
Far above the shining weapons hung their own immortal green.  
'Death to every foe and traitor! Forward! Strike the marching tune,  
And, hurrah, my boys, for freedom! 'tis the rising of the moon.'  
(+humming)

## **SOLDIERS OF '22**

### **1.**

We sing no song of the long ago  
Of the warriors staunch and bold  
Who bore their spears on the Irish hills  
In the golden days of old  
But I raise a rann for our own dear lads  
The loyal, brave and true!  
Who flung their lives in the bearna bhaoil  
The Soldiers of '22

### **2.**

When they heard the call of a cause laid low  
They sprang to their guns again  
And the pride of all was the first to fall  
The glory of our fighting men  
In the days to come, when the pipe and drum  
You follow it's ways they knew!  
When their praise you sing, let the echoes ring  
With the memory of Cathal Brugha

### **3.**

They were right, true, the best  
And they fought for fight  
And the rest for peace of god  
Lift up your hearts, Oh brave young men  
And march in the ways they trod  
And the cause still calls that called to them  
And the task will be only through!  
When freedom comes to the land that was loved  
By the Soldiers of '22

**BAD MOON RISING – Creedance Clearwater Revival (1969)**

**1.**

I see a bad moon a-rising  
I see trouble on the way  
I see earthquakes and lightning  
I see bad times today

**Ch.**

Don't go 'round tonight  
But it's bound to take your life  
There's a bad moon on the rise

**2.**

I hear hurricanes a-blowing  
I know the end is coming soon  
I fear the river's overflowing  
I hear the voice of rage and ruin

**Ch.**

Don't go 'round tonight  
But it's bound to take your life  
There's a bad moon on the rise

**(+ JIVE)**

## The rocky road to Dublin – Traditional

### 1. Men only

Well In the merry month of May from me home I started  
Left the girls of Tuam nearly broken hearted  
Saluted Father dear, kissed me darling mother  
Drank a pint of beer, me grief and tears to smother  
Then off to reap the corn, leave where I was born  
Cut a stout blackthorn to banish ghosts and goblins  
A brand new pair of brogues, rattlin' o'er the bogs  
Frightenin' all the dogs on the rocky road to Dublin  
One two three four five

**Everyone:** Hunt the Hare and turn her down the rocky road  
And all the way to Dublin, Whack fol lol le rah!

### 2.

(ALL VERSE 2 WILL BE PLAYED BY MUSICIANS AND NOT SANG BY THE ENSEMBLE)

**Everyone:** Hunt the Hare and turn her down the rocky road  
And all the way to Dublin, Whack fol lol le rah!

## **Born to Run - Bruce Springsteen · 1975**

### **1.**

In the day we sweat it out on the streets  
Of a runaway American dream  
At night we ride through the mansions of glory  
In suicide machines  
Sprung from cages on Highway 9  
Chrome wheeled, fuel injected, and steppin' out over the line  
Oh, baby this town rips the bones from your back  
It's a death trap, it's a suicide rap  
We gotta get out while we're young  
'Cause tramps like us, baby, we were born to run  
Yes, girl, we were

### **2.**

Will you let me in, I wanna be your friend  
I wanna guard your dreams and visions  
Just wrap your legs 'round these velvet rims  
And strap your hands 'cross my engines  
Together we could break this trap  
We'll run 'til we drop, baby, we'll never go back  
Oh, will you walk with me out on the wire?  
'Cause, baby, I'm just a scared and lonely rider  
But I gotta know how it feels  
I want to know if love is wild  
Babe, I want to know if love is real  
Oh, can you show me

## **You'll never be the sun – Dolores Keane (1993)**

*(Women singers only)*

### **1. Allie**

You'll never be the sun turning in the sky  
And you won't be the moon above us on the moonlit night  
And you won't be the stars in heaven although they burn so bright  
But even on the deepest ocean you will be the light

### **2. Allie + Mary**

You may not always shine as you go barefoot over stones  
You might be so long together or you might walk alone  
And you'll find that love comes easy  
Or that love is always right  
So even when the storm clouds gather you will be the light

#### **Women ensemble (until the end):**

And if you lose a parting side when love turns round on you  
Leaving the past behind is knowing you'll do like you always  
Holding you blind, keeping you true

### **3.**

You'll never be the sun turning in the sky  
and you won't be the moon above us on the moonlit night  
and you won't be the stars in heaven although they burn so bright  
but even on the deepest ocean you will be the light  
you will be the light  
you will be the light

## **God's gonna cut you down – Trad. / Johnny Cash (2016)**

### **1. You can run on for a long time**

Run on for a long time, Run on for a long time

Sooner or later God'll cut you down

Sooner or later God'll // cut you down

### **2. Go tell that long tongue liar, Go and tell that midnight rider**

Tell the rambler, the gambler, the... back biter

Tell 'em that God's gonna cut you down

Tell 'em that God's gonna // cut you down

### **3. Go tell that long tongue liar, Go and tell that midnight rider**

Tell the rambler, the gambler, the... back biter

Tell 'em that God's gonna cut you down

Tell 'em that God's gonna // cut you down

### **4. You can run on for a long time, Run on for a long time,**

Run on for a long time

Sooner or later God'll cut you down

Sooner or later God'll // cut you down

### **5. Well you may throw your rock and hide your hand**

Working in the dark against your fellow man

But as sure as God made black and white

What's down in the dark will be brought to the light

### **6. You can run on for a long time**

Run on for a long time, Run on for a long time

Sooner or later God'll cut you down

Sooner or later God'll // cut you down

### **7. Go tell that long tongue liar**

Go and tell that midnight rider

Tell the rambler, the gambler, the back biter

Tell 'em that God's gonna cut you down

Tell 'em that God's gonna cut you down

Tell 'em that God's gonna // cut you down

**WAY DOWN WE GO – KALEO (2016)**

Oh, Father tell me, do we get what we deserve?

Oh, we get what we deserve

And way down we go, go, go...

Way down we go, go, go...

Say way down we go, go...

Way down we go

Oh, you let your feet run wild

Time has come as we all, oh, go down

Yeah but for the fall, ooh, my

Do you dare to look him right in the eyes? Yeah

Oh, 'cause they will run you down, down 'til the dark, yes

And they will run you down, down 'til you fall

And they will run you down, down 'til you go

Yeah, so you can't crawl no more

And way down we go, go, go

Way down we go, go, go...

Say way down we go

Oh, 'cause they will run you down, down 'til you fall

Way down we go

Oh, Father tell me, do we get what we deserve?

Oh, we get what we deserve

## **Knockin' On Heaven's Door (1973)**

Written by: Bob Dylan

Ooh...

Mama, take this badge off of me  
I can't use it anymore  
It's gettin' dark, too dark for me to see  
I feel like I'm knockin' on heaven's door

Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door  
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door  
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door  
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door

Mama, put my guns in the ground  
I can't shoot them anymore  
That long black cloud is comin' down  
I feel like I'm knockin' on heaven's door

Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door  
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door  
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door  
Knock, knock, knockin' on heaven's door

## **Down to the river to pray – Traditional**

As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!

O **brothers** let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Come on brothers let's go down  
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!

O **sisters** let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Come on mothers let's go down  
Down in the river to pray

As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown  
Good Lord, show me the way!

O **brothers** let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
Come on fathers let's go down  
Down in the river to pray