A Song for Ireland

Words & music: Phil & June Colclough

D A
Walking all the day
Em Bm G A D
Near tall towers where falcons build their nests
A
Silver-winged they fly
Em Bm G A D
They know the call of freedom in their breasts

G A
Saw Black Head against the sky
D Bm E A
Where twisted rocks they run down to the sea

G D
REFRAIN: Living on your western shore
Bm A
Saw summer sunsets, asked for more
G D A
I stood by your Atlantic sea
Em Bm G A D
And sang a song for Ire - land

D A
Talking all the day
Em Bm G A D
With true friends who try to make you stay
A
Telling jokes and news
Em Bm G A D
Singing songs to pass the night away

G A
Watched the Galway salmon run
D Bm E A
Like silver dancing darting in the sun **REFRAIN**

D A
Drinking all the day
Em Bm G A D
In old pubs where fiddlers love to play
D A
Someone touched the bow
Em Bm G A D
And played a reel that seemed so grand and gay

G A
Stood on Dingle beach and cast
D Bm E A
In wild foam we found Atlantic bass **REFRAIN**

D **A**
Dreaming in the night
Em **Bm** **G** **A** **D**
I saw a land where no man had to fight
D **A**
But waking in your dawn
Em **Bm** **G** **A** **D**
I saw you crying in the morning light

G **A**
Lying where the falcons fly
D **Bm** **E** **A**
They twist and turn all in your e'er blue sky

G **D**
REFRAIN: Living on your western shore
Bm **A**
Saw summer sunsets, asked for more
G **D** **A**
I stood by your Atlantic sea
Em **Bm** **G** **A** **D**
And sang a song for Ire - land

"A Song for Ireland" was written by husband and wife Phil and June Colclough after a visit to the Dingle Penninsula. The Colcloughs came from Staffordshire in England. In the mid-1960s they lived in London and were part of the Critics Group led by Ewan McColl and Peggy Seeger. The song was first recorded in 1977 and has been covered ever since by a multitude of artists, becoming an established part of the Irish folksong canon.

A Song for Ireland

Phil & June Colclough

arr. Peter McLaren

2. Talking all the day
With true friends who try to make you stay
Telling jokes and news
Singing songs to pass the night away

Watched the Galway salmon run
Like silver dancing darting in the sun REFRAIN

3. Drinking all the day
In old pubs where fiddlers love to play
Someone touched the bow
And played a reel that seemed so grand and gay

Stood on Dingle beach and cast
In wild foam we found Atlantic bass REFRAIN

4. Dreaming in the night
I saw a land where no man had to fight
But waking in your dawn
I saw you crying in the morning light

Lying where the falcons fly
They twist and turn all in your e'er blue sky REFRAIN