

Dark Island

Part A

Am Em C G

D7 Am G C

Part B

G D7 G G

C G D7 Am

Em C G D7 G

1. In the years long ago when I first left my home
I was young and I wanted the whole world to roam;
But now I am older and wiser, you see,
For that lovely dark island is calling to me.

Chorus:

O, I've wandered away from the land of my birth,
And been roaming around to the ends of the earth,
Still my heart is at home in that land far away
That lovely dark island where memories stray.

2. One day I'll return to that far-distant shore,
And from that dear island I'll wander no more.
'Til the day that I die I will no longer roam
For that lovely dark island will be my last home.

Also known as "*An Oileán Dorcha*", "*The Dark Island Lament*", "*Dark Isle*" and "*Dr. McInnes's Farewell to South Uist*". This air was originally called "*Dr. Mackay's Farewell to Creagorry*" by its composer Iain McLachlan. When David Silver of Inverness was asked to write a song for a BBC Thriller called "*The Dark Island*", filmed in Benbecula (an island in the Outer Hebrides between North Uist and South Uist opposite Skye), he used McLachlan's air and set words to it, inspired by the island of Benbecula.

It has been recorded by many people and groups. I learned it from the recording by James Galway and The Chieftains.

I always play this as an instrumental and usually in a medley with "*Crossing to Ireland*" in the Celtic section or "*Logan Water*", in this section.