

Lamorna

Traditional Cornish, as sung by Oll An Gwella , Lowender Peran Celtic Festival , Nov 2017

Chorus

5 Twas down in Al-bert Square, I ne-ver shall for - get, Her
Plen Al-bert o an le,_____ An - kevi bydh ny wrav,_____ Dew -
eyes they shone like dia-monds and the eve-ning it was wet, wet, wet. Her
9 la - gas ow ter - len - tri ha'n gorthugher_____ glyb yn hav, hav, hav. Oll
hair hung down in curls, she was a charm - ing ro - ver, And we
krollys_____ o hy blew,_____ Ha hu - del hi ow kwan - dra,_____ Dres_____

13 Verse
rode all night in the pale moon-light a - way down to La - mor - na. And
17 oll an nos, Y hwren ni mos, A - lem - ma dhe La - mor - na. Ka -
now I'll sing to you a - bout a maid - en fair I met the oth - er
22 nav_____ lemmyn_____ dhygh_____ yn - kever mowes teg,_____ Yn Plen y fe - tis
eve-ning in the corn - er of the square. She had a dark and rov - ing eye, she
27 gen - si Pan en - vy_____ he ow gwreg, Dew_____ lagas_____ dhe dhi,_____ Ha
was a charm - ing rov - er, And we rode all night in the
30 Hu - del hi ow kwan - dra,_____ Dres_____ oll an Nos Y_____
pale moon-light a - way down to La - mor - na. Twas...
whren ni Mos A - lem - ma dhe La - mor - na. Plen...

2 Dervynn hy hanow hi,
 A wrug, pan eth y'n karr,
 Pa'n ros hi dhymmo vy,
 Ogh, dhe'm hanow 'th o an par!
 'Trehevis vy hy vayl,
 Hy thremynn kel re bia,
 Marth genev o, Ow gwreg yth o
 A worren dhe Lamorna !
Burdhen:

3. Yn-medh hi: "My a woer,
 Dha aswonn my a wrug,
 Y'n tew! my a'th aswonnis,
 Mes avel pratt my a'n gwrug,
 Rag henna ty a be,
 Rag doen dhe-ves dha Dhona:
 An gober pe, A wredh, re'm fay,
 Alemma dhe Lamorna."
Burdhen

2. As we got in the cab,
 I asked her for her name,
 when she gave it me,
 Well mine it was the same,
 So I lifted up her veil,
 For her face was covered over;
 To my surprise, It was my wife
 I'd rode down to Lamorna!
Chorus

3. She said, "I knowed 'ee well,
 I knowed 'ee all the while,
 I knowed 'ee in the dark ,
 And I did it for a lark (lark, lark).
 And for that lark you'll pay,
 For the taking of your Donna,
 You'll pay the fare, I do declare,
 Away down to Lamorna."
Chorus

Note

The lyrics to Lamorna started life as a Broadside called "Down to Pomona". Pomona was a nineteenth Century Zoological park in Manchester with a notoriously expensive admission fee intended to discourage working class people, thus the twist in the last verse. It is thought that it was provided with a tune and a Cornish twist in the early 1900s by Charles Lee a novelist specialising in stories about Cornwall. He stayed in small Cornish village communities for long periods when researching his books and was a recognised expert in Cornish dialect. Certainly it was a well established part of the Cornish singing repertoire by the 1960s and the popular Cornish singer, Brenda Wootton, introduced it to a wider audience when she included it on a number of her albums. A Cornish version, translated by Ken George, was included in the Hengan project in 1983. The version given here is that sung by "Oll An Gwella" at teh Lowender Peran Celtic festival, November 2017 and has been transcribed into the Standard Written Form of Cornish.

See

Merv Davey, *Hengan*, (Redruth, Dyllansow Truran, , 1983)

Kanow Tavern, Cornish Pub Songs, An Daras Folk Arts Project, 2007

Hilary Coleman & Sally Burley, Shout Kernow: Celebrating Cornwall's Pub Songs, (London, Francis Boutle, 2015)

Merv Davey November 2017