



The Benefits of Gaelic Songs

Feasgar math!

I hope your weekend has been a pleasant one. ☺

Traditional Gaelic songs can be valuable to us language learners. **What are some of the benefits, exactly?**

Here are 2 big benefits that I've experienced first hand:

1. They're an important part of Gaelic culture. If you go to a Gaelic gathering, there will often be singing. Having some songs (or at least a chorus or two) will allow you to take a more active part in Gaelic culture. Being able to take part in songs can help us non-Gaels feel less like outsiders too.
2. They can be fun and can keep our spirits up when things get rough. Learning Gaelic can be very challenging at times. When I was in my 2nd year of university, I considered quitting Gaelic and choosing a different language. The intense traditional grammar focus sucked the magic out of the language for me. Luckily, that phase passed (they always do). One thing that kept me going with Gaelic during that time was being part of a choir. I wasn't very skilled at singing but I did enjoy being part of the group. Hearing the stories behind the songs interested me too.

There are certainly other benefits and maybe you've experienced them yourself.

What impact will learning traditional songs have on our language skills? Here are 2 more from my experience:

- You might pick up some new words and phrases, some of which can be used as fun one-liners/ quotes when talking with folk who know the song you're referencing. ☺ An important thing to keep in mind, though, is that much of the language in traditional songs is old fashioned. Using it today would be like speaking your native language how it was 100 years ago - probably too different for modern conversation. Some words would still work; many would not. Please keep this in mind.
- Your ear might tune to smaller sounds of Gaelic. This happens naturally when we understand what we hear. Since many Gaelic songs are fast paced, this may be easier for advanced learners who are used to faster speech.

All in all, traditional songs are quite useful to us as learners. While some songs may not be training us for modern conversation, they are still an important part of Gaelic culture. As learners of the language, it's easy to feel like outsiders, especially if we don't have many connections to the Gaels. Taking part in the song tradition, even just a little bit, means we're part of living, authentic Gaelic culture. In my eyes, this is priceless for us learners.

So, what songs should we learn? If you're new to Gaelic songs (or looking for a new song), LearnGaelic.scot has a page where they teach some classic songs little-by-little to make them easier to learn. I recommend it! Here's the link: <https://learngaelic.scot/little...>

Give it a try - and don't worry too much about how your singing sounds! ☐

Want more learning tips? See all my past tips [here](#)



Le gach deagh dhùrachd (with every good wish),
Jason Bond Gaelic teacher

✉ bond.jasonmbond@gmail.com



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