Gaol Ise Gaol I
(My Love Is She)

traditional Hebridean waulking song
arr. Sheena Phillips
for women's chorus, soli, and folk harp or piano

This piece is based on a traditional Gaelic waulking song - a highly rhythmic song that accompanied the waulking (beating and finishing, or fulling) of woollen cloth, a task traditionally done by women. The performance should have a sturdy, rhythmic quality.

duration c. 3:00

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Gaol ise gaol i
Gaol ise gaol i
Gaol air Anna ni’n Nill
Mi torrach mi trom
Chan ann le balach mo throm
Leis an lasgaire dhonn
Mac fir Bhaile nan Long

Translation
Love she love her - “she is my love”
Love for Anna, daughter of Neill (or simply Anna McNeill)
Me pregnant, me heavy - “I am heavy with child”
Not by some lad is my pregnancy
(But) by the dark haired dandy
Son of the Laird (master) of ships

Pronunciation
heu ree ree o hoo o ro ho ee o hee o
‘heu’ ~ back form of French ‘peu’, and the ‘r’ is flipped at the roof of the mouth
IPA: huː řiː řiː huː řɔː řuː řiː hiː ř

guel ish-a geul ee
‘geul’ ~ “girl” without the ‘r’ sound, and ‘a’ is schwa
IPA: ʃuː řiː řiː řaun řiː řaum ř

gueil air owna neen neel
‘air’ rhymes with ‘fair’, ‘owna’ rhymes with ‘browner’ but with no r sound
IPA: ʃuː řaun řaun řiː řaum ř

mee torrokh mee trowm
‘kh’ ~ end of ‘loch; ‘ow’ as in ‘cow’; ‘t’ is dentalised (tongue touches front teeth)
IPA: miː tɔɾɾe řiː řaum ř

khannonn lay balokh maw rowm
‘own’ as in ‘brown’; ‘lay’ ~ French ‘les’; ‘aw’ ~ long vowel as in ‘more’
IPA: xanən le bæləx moː raum

lish a lass garra ghown
‘a’ ~ slightly nasalised schwa; ‘gh’ ~ voiced at back of the throat
IPA: ʃə řə ləs ɡarə ɣaun

machk eer valla neu long
IPA: maxk iː ř vallə nuː ɬəŋ
Gaol Ise Gaol I
(My Love Is She)

Moderato $\frac{\text{d}}{\text{e}} = 108$

solo

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hao ri ri o hu o ro ho i o hi o

echo

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hao ri ri o hu o ro ho i o hi o

harp

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hao ri ri o hu o ro ho i o hi o

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perusal score - not for rehearsal or performance
I am expecting 
e ho hu o hu o, hao ri-ri o hu o ro-ho i o hi o

Chan ann le ba-lach mo throm 
e ho hu o hu o, hao ri-ri o hu o ro-ho i o hi o

This baby's special 
e ho hu o hu o, hao ri-ri o hu o ro-ho i o hi o

perusal score - not for rehearsal or performance
Grand-son of a cap-tain e ho hu o hu o, hao ri-ri o hu o ro-ho i o hi o

perusal score - not for rehearsal or performance