

## A9

*A9, A9, driving down the A9*  
*A9, A9, driving down the A9*

Sixty seven, in a Ford Cortina  
Keep her straight on the centre line  
Just eighteen and the blood is wild  
Driving down the A9

*A9, A9, driving down the A9*  
*A9, A9, driving down the A9*

The night is free and my girl beside me  
Long dark hair, and she looks so fine  
Singing songs, the strings are humming  
Driving down the A9

*A9, A9, driving down the A9*  
*A9, A9, driving down the A9*

Head for home, the night is weary  
Heart is heavy, left her crying  
Push your chances every corner  
Driving home the A9

*A9, A9, driving down the A9*  
*A9, A9, driving down the A9*

Every bend don't know what's waiting  
Fear sends shivers down my spine  
I don't know it's hell or heaven  
Driving home the A9

*A9, A9, driving down the A9*  
*A9, A9, driving down the A9*

But then I took a road less travelled  
At the crossroads saw the sign  
Gave the wheel to a different driver  
Driving home the A9

*A9, A9, driving down the A9*  
*A9, A9, driving down the A9*

Now I drive across the country  
Different drum, and a new design  
Looking for lost sheep and shepherds  
Driving down the A9

*A9, A9, driving down the A9*  
*A9, A9, driving down the A9*

Many years now lie between us  
Many memories round us twine  
But I'm heading home forever  
Driving home the A9

*A9, A9, driving down the A9  
A9, A9, driving down the A9*

© Alex J MacDonald 2012

## **Angel of the North**

You were lonely from the time when first I saw your face  
You'd lost the one you loved, you were holding out for grace  
To protect you and defend you I'd have laid my body down  
If I could wield the sword, then you would wear the crown

*You're the angel of the North, you're the lily of the West  
I love the way your hair falls across your breast  
You're the angel of the North, you're the lily of the West  
To know you is to love you and loving you I'm blessed*

I was wandering the streets as I looked for someone lost  
When I saw you with your friends and I wished I could have crossed  
You were dressed up real fine for a party or a dance  
But my heart went out to you and I stood there in a trance

*You're the angel of the North, you're the lily of the West  
I love the way you talk and I love the way you're dressed  
You're the angel of the North, you're the lily of the West  
I want everyone to know you're the one I love the best*

You were lying very still and your face was deathly white  
You were in another place and my world was black as night  
When you opened up your eyes and you looked at me and smiled  
Could have thrown my arms around you and held you like a child

*You're the angel of the North, you're the lily of the West  
When you're standing near, I'm like a man possessed  
You're the angel of the North, you're the lily of the West  
But to think that I could love you, you never would have guessed*

© Alex J MacDonald 2012

## **Where are you tonight?**

O where are you tonight, my love, this dark and stormy night?  
O where are you tonight, my love, in the dark or in the light?

*O where are you tonight, my love? O where are you tonight?  
O where are you tonight, my love? O where are you tonight?*

O do you lie in fields of green, where the quiet waters flow?  
Or do you lie in a field of blood, where I can never go?

*O where are you tonight, my love? O where are you tonight?  
O where are you tonight, my love? O where are you tonight?*

And do you think of me at all and the stories that we read?  
O do you think of me at all and the things we left unsaid?

I pray that it's in peace tonight you lay your lovely head  
And nothing will disturb your dreams as you lie in your bed

*O where are you tonight, my love? O where are you tonight?  
O where are you tonight, my love? O where are you tonight?*

© Alex J MacDonald 2012

## **Love is**

Love is a young girl on the threshold of life  
Giving up her future when it hurts like a knife  
Turning from the prizes, the promises and the race  
Losing her mother and trying to take her place

Love is. Love is. Love is.

Love is a father who will not give up hope  
When his daughter disappears and his world goes up in smoke  
He climbs every mountain and crosses every river  
Halfway across the world 'cause he knows she'll be delivered

Love is. Love is. Love is.

Love is a mother when her car's engulfed in fire  
Her children in the back seat as the flames rise higher  
To pull them from that furnace her life is dearly sold  
And those hands that saved her babies now lie stiff and cold

Love is. Love is. Love is.

Love is the God who stands in our shoes  
Glory, peace and heaven he stands to lose  
Shame, wrath and hell is the price we should pay  
But he takes it all and he opens up the way

Love is. Love is. Love is. Love is. Love is.

© Alex J MacDonald 2012

## **Before we could say more**

When I got your letter I came right away  
'Cause I could never stand your pain  
As I drove down the valley through the setting sun  
Your eyes were begging me to come  
When I got to your village I met you on the street  
And we drove down the road to the sea  
We talked for hours as we walked on the sand  
And I thought that you could understand

*But our bodies came between us like so many times before  
And the darkness gathered round us before we could say more*

As we sat side by side in the warmth of your room  
Your laughter made me think again  
Of the pride that I had when I sang about our love  
And all our friends were there  
But I could not forget all the pain that we knew  
And the silence that drove us apart  
And I could not forget all the days I walked alone  
And all the nights you cried

*When our bodies came between us like so many times before  
And the darkness gathered round us before we could say more*

And we knew it was madness and we knew it wouldn't work  
But we pretended not to care  
And my heart filled with sadness and your eyes filled with tears  
As I walked from your door to the car  
And I could not forget that you were once mine  
As the road and the night slipped away  
And I could see your face through the pouring rain  
Begging me to stay

*But our bodies came between us like so many times before  
And the darkness gathered round us before we could say more*

© Alex J MacDonald 2012

## **Turn away from your memories**

I met her in the springtime in that old hotel hall  
She was laughing, eyes smiling, and so were we all  
It was the end of September till I saw her again  
And we kept time waiting as we walked on the hill

*Turn away from your memories  
Close your eyes and breathe deep  
Maybe daytime will come  
Before too long*

For three days joy lasted, then it faded away  
In its place there was sadness, loneliness and dismay  
Saw her house on the hillside as the ship sailed away  
And the wind was so cold on me that my eyes filled with tears

*Turn away from your memories  
Close your eyes and breathe deep  
Maybe daytime will come  
Before too long*

Could have gone back to take her, but the wind didn't blow  
Stood against the temptation, still I'd too far to go  
But the pain of restraining brought her back to my door  
And I could only turn away, couldn't say yes or no

*Turn away from your memories  
Close your eyes and breathe deep  
Maybe daytime will come  
Before too long*

It's a long lonely journey, but it's going too slow  
What's round the next corner, tomorrow I'll know  
And the old gas fire's burning and her heart's burning too  
Hopes too strong to die, yes and sorrows were still

*Turn away from your memories  
Close your eyes and breathe deep  
Maybe daytime will come  
Before too long*

© Donnie Smith

## **Changes**

I remember the first time I ever saw your face  
That night in October Sixty-nine  
I remember your shyness as you walked across the room  
Your smile made your eyes shine

And then you stood in white, made everything right  
Seems just a moment away  
But how the world has changed, it sometimes seems so strange  
But there's still one thing that I can say

*We've been through the changes down through the years  
We've been through the laughter and the pain  
But O, when you smile, you light up my world  
You light it up again and again*

You learned how to change the things you could change  
To accept the things you couldn't change

You asked for the wisdom to help you from on high  
To know what could change and couldn't change

I've been through the fire and I've been through the rain  
Through dark days I thought would never end  
But I wasn't overwhelmed and I wasn't burned out  
Because I've got a lover and a friend

*We've been through the changes down through the years  
We've been through the laughter and the pain  
But O, when you smile, you light up my world  
You light it up again and again*

I can't change the world for everyone there is  
But I'd like to change the world for you  
I can't please everybody all of the time  
But all I want to do is for you

Bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh  
The two will always be one  
To love and to cherish for better or for worse  
Until this old world has gone

*We've been through the changes down through the years  
We've been through the laughter and the pain  
But O, when you smile, you light up my world  
You light it up again and again*

© Alex J MacDonald 2012

## **Ring of the rainbow**

Following the sun on the wing of a storm  
Flying into darkness fragile in form  
They want to hurt me, they want to drag me down  
They'd like to see me fall they'd like to see me drown

*But I'm in the ring of the rainbow, the shadow of the cloud  
I'm in the ring of the rainbow, the shadow of the cloud*

Standing on the rocks where the ocean crashes down  
Rolling like thunder when the lightning flashes round  
They destroy my reputation, vilify my name  
They'd turn everyone against me, say that I'm to blame

*But I'm in the ring of the rainbow, the shadow of the cloud  
I'm in the ring of the rainbow, the shadow of the cloud*

At the end of the sea, islands standing clear  
The burning setting sun draws away my fear  
'Cause they're closing in around me, trying to hold me back  
They'd like to see me bend, they'd like to see me crack

*But I'm in the ring of the rainbow, the shadow of the cloud  
I'm in the ring of the rainbow, the shadow of the cloud*  
In a valley by the sea I saw the plague of death  
Swollen blinded eyes, choking every breath  
It came across the water, no island keeps it out  
Decay and desolation, bringing fear and doubt

*But I'm in the ring of the rainbow, the shadow of the cloud  
I'm in the ring of the rainbow, the shadow of the cloud*

© Alex J MacDonald 2012

## **Stand your ground**

When the night is long and the day is bleak  
And you just can't find the right words to speak  
When those you love are far away  
And the distance grows no matter what you say

O stand, stand your ground. O stand, stand your ground.

When your heart is broken and it hurts like hell  
And with every wound you retreat into your shell  
When your head is on fire and your heart is numb  
And your ears are burning and your mouth is dumb

O stand, stand your ground. O stand, stand your ground.

When you're under the cosh and you're under attack  
And your body's pierced by the devil's flak  
When you're hurt in the places where no one sees  
And you're down in the dust and on your knees

O stand, stand your ground. O stand, stand your ground.

When the water's rising and it chills your blood  
And you think you'll soon be drowned in the flood  
When you're lost in the dark like a little child  
And the clouds are torn and the night is wild

O stand, stand your ground. O stand, stand your ground.

When the voices whisper that you've reached the end  
And you can't tell the difference between enemy or friend  
When everything you try is bound to fail  
And into your coffin goes another nail

O stand, stand your ground. O stand, stand your ground.

When you feel that there's no one who wants to care  
And you begin to doubt if God himself is there

Remember the weapons he gave to you  
With a sword in your hand take a different view

And stand, stand your ground. O stand, stand your ground.

© *Alex J MacDonald* 2012

### **Restless men**

Soft green waves touched by the setting sun  
Turn the sea to blood and the world to darkness  
Restless water driven by the restless wind  
The men have gone across the restless water  
Restless men into the setting sun  
They left behind their aching memories  
They sailed away, sailed away, and have not yet returned

And often I looked as the waves unfolded  
Bursting white foam on the old brown stones  
And my heart is gone with the brown-skinned sailors  
To find a home beyond that far horizon  
They will sail forever on an endless ocean  
Looking for a country that has no shore  
They will never return to our tired green hillside  
Now the deer can run free, run free, and the grass grow long

But the rolling water brings its peace upon me  
The salt taste on my lips I will not soon forget  
I will go once more to look down on the water  
But the sharp grey hills will welcome me back  
The men have gone on the restless water  
Restless men into the setting sun  
They will never return to our tired green hillside  
Now the deer can run free, run free, and the grass grow long

© *Donnie Smith*

### **A Dream of Kintail**

I'm alone on the frozen prairie, I'm alone on the dazzling snow,  
Around the wide horizon where no others come or go,  
After a hard day's marching my weary steps I stay  
For I've tasted the joys of camping this night by Hudson Bay.

As I sit by the blazing log-fire watching the embers fade  
I see a map of Scotland 'mid the snow-lit hill and shade;  
I sing a song of Scotland alone in the fading light -  
A song of the dear old country, how it cheers my heart tonight!

I sing a song of Scotland as I lay me down to rest,  
And my yearning heart goes out o'er that wild ocean of the west,



To a land of heath-clad mountain - the land that gave me birth,  
And I think that with all her failings she's the fairest land on earth!

I dream a dream of Scotland, O could it last `til morn!  
I see the little sheiling by the burn where I was born,  
Where I wandered coming home at e'en to gather brambles wild,  
And I fancy in my vision that I'm once more a child.

Oh! listen to the music of the mountain and the crag,  
To the treble of the curlew and the deep bass of the stag,  
To the croaking of the raven and the moaning of the gale,  
And in fancy I am roaming on the mountains of Kintail!

I see the little schoolhouse in the clachan by the burn;  
I feel the touch of vanished hand that I can feel no more.  
Beneath the shade of Morvern hills I dream of songs I've sung,  
Of love songs sweet and tender when love and I were young!

I still dream on of Scotland and my own beloved Kintail,  
As I wander by the river, through the bealach and the hill;  
Ben Attow's highest summit where the eagles used to soar,  
And upwards still and higher as I did in days of yore.

Deeper still and deeper does my slumber o'er me steal  
'til I seem to be dissolvéd 'mid the raptures of my dream;  
Then all those misty visions fade wholly from my sight,  
And I heave a sigh for Scotland: "My native Land, goodnight!"

*Trad./Curliana Dingwall*

### **The Thin Red Line**

In Strathnaver by the river stands a lonely stone-built cairn  
In 1800 there they gathered, whisky taken, oaths fulfilled  
Loyal clansmen for the Countess, the Ninety-third Highlanders  
Left their crofts and all their dear ones, sailed for Ireland, and Africa

O the thin red line, O the thin red line, O the thin red line, O the thin red line

What sustained them through all their hardships was a thin red line of blood  
From the Book it flowed out strongly in their hearts and in their minds  
None excelled them in code of conduct, in sacrifice or bravery  
Songs of praise and deeds of love, education and charity

O the thin red line, O the thin red line, O the thin red line, O the thin red line

But in the year of 1814, they set sail for America  
At New Orleans faced blood and slaughter, stood unmoving like a wall  
But as they gave their lives for Empire, in Strathnaver their homes were burned  
Their dear ones driven from their crofts like cattle, oaths betrayed, the loyal spurned

O the thin red line, O the thin red line, O the thin red line, O the thin red line

At Balaklava, in the Crimea, facing odds of ten to one  
Against the charging Russian cavalry, they formed a line and stood their ground  
O the thin red streak and a line of steel. No retreat from here, you'll die where you stand  
Aye, if needs be, Sir Colin, we'll die where we stand. O the thin red streak and a line of steel

O the thin red line, O the thin red line, O the thin red line, O the thin red line

© *Alex J MacDonald* 2012