

Brochan Lom

Thin Porridge

light

Port à Beul (mouth music) strathspey

D D Em

4 Broch-an lom tana lom Broch an lom na sùgh - ain Broch-an lom tana lom
A D D

7 Broch-an lom na sùgh - ain Broch-an lom tana lom Broch-an lom na sùgh - ain
G F#m Em D A A D D

9 Broch - an lom 'se tana lom 'se broch - an lom na sùgh - ain
D D Em

12 Broch-an tana tana tana broch-an lom na sùgh-ain Broch-an tana tana tana
A D D

15 broch an lom na sùgh - ain Broch-an tana tana tana broch an lom na sùgh - ain
G F#m Em D A A D D

Broch - an lom 'se tana lom 'se broch - an lom na sùgh - ain

'Thin porridge, weak porridge, thin porridge of sowans'

(Sowans are a starchy gruel made from soaking and fermenting oat husks in water)

Phonetics -

Brochan laowm dtanna laowm, broch-an laowm na soo-en x 3

Brochan laowm say dtanna laowm shay broch-an maowm na soo-en.

Brochan dtanna dtanna dtanna, broch-an laowm na soo-ine x 3

Brochan laowm shay dtanna laowm shay broch-an laowm na soo-en.

Great Scots version -

Oh a doo fell aff, a doo fell aff, a doo fell aff a lum x 4

(pigeon fell off a chimney)

Oh a coo fell aff, a coo fell aff, a coo fell aff a dyke x 4

(cow fell off a wall)

A port a beul, literally 'a tune from the mouth' (puirt à beul: plural) is a dance melody sung to rhythmic words, usually by solo singers. The pulse and sound of the words are often more important than the sense and they may have evolved to help remember the tunes or for dancing to when no instruments were available. They are great fun and Brochan Lom is one of the best known, the tune also being 'Orange and Blue' and used in Highland Dancing. Try getting the children to step hop on the spot whilst singing (good aerobic activity!) and then progress to 'step together step hop' round the room.

Activity:

Working in pairs make up a 'clapping' dance and share it with the class.