

Hè Mandu

Trad. adapted waulking song

Rhythmic

Hè Man-du *We like sing-ing* Hè Man du *We like song-s*

5
Hè Man-du *We like mus-ic* Hi ri o - ro *All day lo - ng*

9
Hè Man-du Hi ri o - ro Ho ro___ hù ò

Traditionally used for waulking (the process of fulling - shrinking, weatherproofing, fixing and cleansing) tweed cloth in the Gaelic speaking areas of Scotland, this song has many verses with short lines in between the vocables.

The rhythm can be kept by sitting down and slapping the palms of the hands on the knees forward and back, simulating the cloth being thumped on a table. Plenty of scope for 2 beat drumming rhythms also!

This adaption inserts English verses with suggested sung or shouted lines -

- *we like singing - we like songs - we like music - all day long* -

Many variations could be made up (in Scots too) on curriculum topics and it's also good with students saying their names (first, second or all!) in the gaps.

A very well known waulking song that can be adapted in innumerable ways using call and response ideas with two groups as suggested here. Traditionally the chorus of Hè Mandu is interspersed with story lines sung by a soloist building up into a long tale. For the classroom, going round a seated circle with everyone beating the rhythm and each child filling in their name, favourite food, animal (colour or 1,2,3,4 in Gaelic) etc works well. Children always like hearing the background story to the waulking process, especially when they find out that the cloth being worked on was soaked in urine!

Activity:

Watch a great version of the original song recorded in 1955 on the Isle of Lewis and heard on 'Music of the Western Isles' Greentrax CD9002 and then check out the Inverness Gaelic Choir video on their website for another example of waulking songs.