

Sons of Somerled



Steve McDonald

The Legacy...

*Behind the walls of
Thoughts there lies,
Something timeless
Something wise.
Within us all
The prize of our past
From father to son
From the first to the last*

*And so full circle
The image reappears
To this second son born
The hazy mist clears
An echo swamped in
Youthful rage
Revealed once more with
The coming of age.*

*So forget ye' not
The departed ones,
For the souls they live on
In the blood of the sons.*



I. INTRODUCTION

II. SONS OF SOMERLED

Through an age of fighting men
When sword was mightier than pen
There lived a clansman bold and true
The very one our name came through

Born of blood line dating from
The hundred battles warrior Conn
Gaelic viking in his veins
Testify his battle fame

For three hundred and fifty years
The western highlands lived in fear
Fighting to regain the Isles
Down to Islay and Argyle

From the Dalriadan line
Through the centuries there we find
A Scotsman born with Viking name
Born to rule through love and pain
Hail to ye sons of Somerled
Hail to ye sons of Somerled

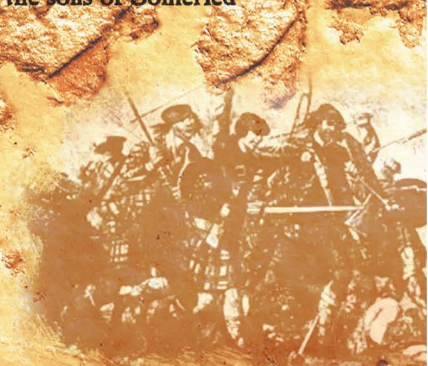
Ruling from the Isle of Man
Islay was the place they'd
...make their stand
After almost twenty years
He rid the Isles of Norsemen

...then and there

Hail to ye sons of Somerled
Hail to ye sons of Somerled

Through the timeless history,
Fighting for their destiny
Images fly through my head,
Images of Somerled... chorus

The warrior kings lived by the sword
From hill to loch and dark fjord
Battling 'til his life he shed
Leaving the throne
To the sons of Somerled



III. LIVE ON MY WARRIOR SON

For I'll never see you, again
And I'll never please you, again

Live on, live on
Live on beloved one
Live on my warrior son

Born of the Isles
Somered child
Fearless and brave
From birth to the grave

Clan Donald, Clan Donald

Live on beloved one
Live on my warrior son



IV. ALL YOU CAN KNOW

Will a man sell his soul
When a man wants to know
...Memories are forever
Will a man change his mind
Hoping to find
...Lost reality

All that you've been
And all you've become
Is all you can be
Under the sun

Can a man hope to last
Not knowing his past
If he chooses to stay
Will the world fade away

All that I know, is all that I know
And all that I know, is all I can show

And it hurts but it's true
When you pray to the blue
And so you reveal, that nothing is real
Nothing but you

I hear the past calling me
Calling forever we'll be... one family

ALL YOU CAN KNOW * CONTINUED...

Will a man lose his mind
Hoping to find
Will a man lose his way
Will he break down and pray

Look for the questions
and the reasons why
Look to the people look to the sky
Look to the books look for the names
Look for the pride
that flows in your veins
Look to the loved ones,
where have they gone
They live on in memory
they live on in song
Look with amazement
soon you will find
That the past is still real,
and it's all in your mind

V. LOCH LOMOND

By yon bonnie banks
And by yon bonnie braes
Where the sun shines bright
On Loch Lomond
Where me and my true love
Will ever want to gae
On the bonnie bonnie banks
Of Loch Lomond

Oh ye tak the high road
And I'll tak the low road
And I'll be in Scotland afore ye
For me and my true love
Will never meet again
On the bonnie bonnie banks
Of Loch Lomond

T'was there that we parted
In yon shady glen
On the steep steep side of ben lomond
For in that purple hue
The highland hills we view
And the moon come in view...
Over gloaming



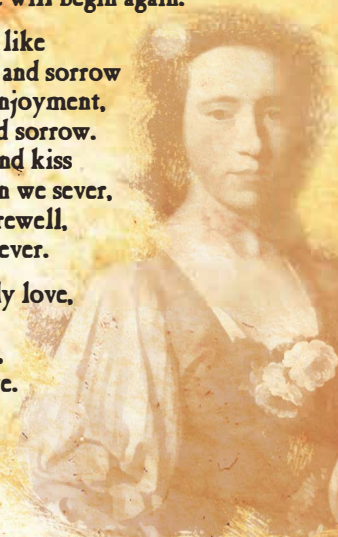
VI. SOLDIER'S LAMENT

Some are born through sorrow,
Some are born through pain,
Some are born
...through laughter and joy
We were born to live again,
And we will live again.

A lonely soul by the river
The Celtic moon his only friend,
The journey's end
...but not far away,
The journey begins again,
And we will begin again.

Life be like
the joy and sorrow
Peace enjoyment,
love and sorrow.
One fond kiss
and then we sever,
One farewell,
alas forever.

My only love,
Nay,
forever,
goodbye.



VII. COME TO THE ISLE OF SKYE

Here in the Isles
Rest for a while
Green rolling hills
Time doth stand still
Peace in the air
Flora is here
Until you roam
Make Skye your home.

The highlands, are my lands
The islands, the Skye lands
Come to the Isle of Skye
Come to the Isle of Skye
The seasons cry
Come to the Isle of Skye.

Wanted by name
Remembered by fame
The trust in our heart
Never will part.

Flora will make
Your identity safe
She stands by your side
Loyal with pride
Forever it's true
We'll nay forget you.

The price upon your head
No Highlander would accept

So come, come to the Isle of Skye,
The seasons cry... Come to the Isle of Skye.

VIII. SCOTLAND THE BRAVE

"The sleeping hills of the
misty highlands,
the wild winds of the
Purple Islands.
From the miracle of birth
to the honoured grave,
Scotland the home,
Scotland the brave."

IX. CELTIC SEGUE



X. THE CELTIC WARRIOR

There in a timeless land, a long time ago
A warrior stood with his sword held high,
To war he would go.
And the sons and the daughters praised him so
Much pride they did show.
And bid farewell to their soldier sons,
God speed ye home.

Over land, and over sea,
Over my head, over my destiny.

Sterling Bridge (1297)
Falkirk (1298)
Bannockburn (1314)
Hallidon Hill (1333)
Nevilles Cross (1346)
Homildon Hill (1402)
Ancrom Moor (1545)
Pinkie (1547)
Newburn (1640)
Kilsyth (1645)
Dunbar (1650)
Killiecrankie (1689)
Glencoe (1692)
Culloden (1746)

Over land, and over sea,
Over my head, over my destiny.

XI. I WILL RETURN

For I, will live in your life
And all your sorrow will be gone.
And I, will sing out my songs,
Will right my wrongs the best I can
And I will be free
Long before the silence fills the air.

For we have met in this life
To dance in the light, in the time we have.
And I, will call out your name
And through my pain
You will understand
The lovers' song, though love will on
Long, long after life is gone
So, just let me sing
So I may live again.

I will return, oh I will return
You can hear the echoes say,
From out of the night and into the light
I will return one day, one day.

And I will die in your arms
And all my sorrow, will be gone.
And all the things in my life,
I held so dear, must leave me now.
But I will live on
Long, after the silence,
Ends the song.

XII. WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Oh the summer time is comin'
And the trees are sweetly bloomin'
And the wild mountain thyme
Grows among the bloomin' heather
Will ye go lassie go,
And we'll all go together
To pluck wild mountain thyme,
All along the bloomin' heather
Will ye go lassie go.

I will build my love a bower
Near yon clear crystal fountain
And on it I will pile,
All the flowers of the mountain
Will ye go lassie go.

If my true love she should leave
I will surely find another,
Where the wild mountain thyme
Grows along the bloomin' heather
Will ye go lassie go.

*"Sweet highland flower
sweep o'er the hills
my love and I will go.
Sweet morning mist
like lovers kiss,
her fragrance lingers so.
In loving days we walk and play
and drink the lovers' wine
and pick for her my love of loves
the wild mountain thyme."*

XIII. PER MARE, PER TERRAS

Scotland, I can hear you calling
Homeland, in my soul you're calling
County Antrim to Islay
O'er the hills and far away,
Per mare, per terras are we.

From across the isles to Inverness
On Highland hills the sun she sets,
Per mare, per terras are we.

And I sing oh, Scotland calls,
Scotland calls.

Brothers from across the ocean
Yearning with deep emotion
From Mull of Kintyre
to the Isle of Skye
Cross my heart and hope to die,
Per mare per terras are we.

And I sing oh, Scotland calls,
Scotland calls.

And all the while
I think of thee
Over land and over sea
Per mare per terras are we
Per mare per terras are we.

*Of days winter and cold
I watch from sunbleached sands
And look beyond the sky's edge
toward this other land.
Pride flows hot in this eager blood
born unto this place.
But to the past I would follow
away from this time and space.
Thoughts create reflection of thistle
and tartan splendour.
Old worlds renewed
like the lovers' kiss,
I crave the sweet and tender.
One foot leading to the future,
the other in yesteryear.
Many generations
have left her shores,
yet still I must travel there.
And born far away I hear the call,
my feelings forever roam.
Two worlds two minds
I live them both,
this new land
and Scotland...
my homes...*

by Paul Watson

XIV. LORDSHIP OF THE ISLES

I woke up on a gaelic morn
The kindred soul within reborn
Voices call as the high wind blow
Softly speak within me so
Voices call within your mind
Voices call from back in time.

Misty hills on a highland shore
Holding mystery within their core
Of days gone when old men prayed
Where soldiers fought
...and children played.

Over the ages and over the sea
Back to a time in reality
History and music and poetry
Survive this timeless society
So I cry out to this land
Of ancient smiles
To the hearts and minds
The songs and rhymes
And all that made
The Lordship of the Isles.

So the feeling within me rise
From the humble start to the last demise
Children of Conn ye past remains
Within your hearts and within your veins.

XV. JOURNEY OF THE WARRIOR SOUL

"Many's the men who've battled foe
many the number slain,
many the lads have fallen though
Scotland shall rise again."



THE HIGHLAND SOLDIER...

...fought many a battle within the British
Isles and throughout Europe...often
fighting for fortune as well as honour.

There are many stories about the
Scottish soldier dating back nearly two
thousand years: from the feared king
"Conn of the Hundred Battles" and the
"Dalriadic" kings of the Fourth to the
Eighth Centuries, right through to
"Bonnie" Prince Charlie (and the
Jacobites) in the Eighteenth Century.

Warriors immortalized in history such as
Macbeth, Robert the Bruce and Rob Roy
MacGregor immediately spring to mind;
yet, the list of great Highlanders and
their adventures are endless.

Although the clans often fought among
themselves, Scotland was continually
fighting off invaders: The Vikings, the
Romans, and of course, the English.

The Scots' fight for freedom has been
long and arduous to say the least, and
although subdued in 1746 at the battle of
Culloden, Scotland has remained its
own nation.

Even today there are those in
Highland places who still raise their
glasses as they have for centuries
and proudly toast,

**"SCOTLAND
SHALL RISE
AGAIN"**

*This album is dedicated to:
Edward Arthur McDonald
1924—1989 and all those
who descended from the great
highland clans of Scotland.*



ENHANCED CD

This CD includes a "virtual booklet." This process called enhanced CD allows us to include a multimedia presentation that can be played on any MAC or Windows based PC.

Because the enhanced CD format was still in the very early stages of development when this program was written in 1995, in

VERY rare instances

there may be problems with software and compatibility issues. Etherean does not guarantee the application will work. However, we do guarantee you will have trouble-free performance playing this in your regular music CD player.

Please be sure you read the "Read Me" file on the disk for installation help with Quicktime™ and the actual "virtual booklet" called "SomerVB"

This and other video footage of Steve are also available at www.etherean.com



ARTIST NOTE

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Derek Archer (The Pirate),
Rob McDonald Parker.

and to:

Jos Smith, for she is my loving partner and friend; my dear mother; and to my Father, alas, with us no longer but sees and hears from another place, brave and loving friend, forever in our hearts... we shall meet again!

SONS OF SOMERLED

Steve McDonald

All instruments by:
Steve McDonald

Background vocals:
Wendy McMillan, Kiersten Williams
Nicole Leonard, Steve McDonald

Produced, Engineered and Mixed by:
Steve McDonald

Recorded at Spinfield Studios, Auckland, New Zealand
Mastered at Mandril Studios, Auckland, New Zealand
additional digital editing, sequencing and mixing:
Dik Darnell at FanFare Studios, Golden, CO
Digital mastering by: Brian Gardner
at Bernie Grundman Studios, Los Angeles, CA
Executive producer: Dik Darnell

Graphic, digital & multimedia design: Chad Darnell
2008 redesign: Dorie Cofer
Archive materials appear courtesy:
Clan Donald Center - Isle of Skye, Scotland



All songs written by:
Steve McDonald

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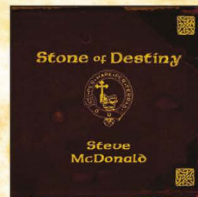
Wild Mountain Thyme, Scotland the Brave, Loch Lomond

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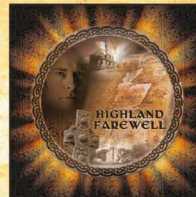
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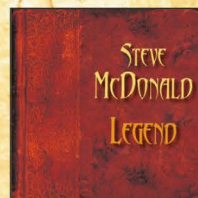
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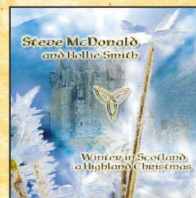
Stone of Destiny
AQ 12102



Highland Farewell
AQ 12099



Legend
AQ 12101



Winter In Scotland:
A Highland Christmas
AQ 12100

- I. Introduction (2:34)
- II. Sons of Somerled (3:47)
- III. Live On My Warrior Son (3:52)
- IV. All You Can Know (5:17)
- V. Loch Lomond (4:53)
- VI. Soldier's Lament (5:45)
- VII. Come to the Isle of Skye (6:15)
- VIII. Scotland The Brave (5:20)
- IX. Celtic Segue (1:42)
- X. Celtic Warrior (4:56)
- XI. I Will Return (6:06)
- XII. Wild Mountain Thyme (4:56)
- XIII. Per Mare, Per Terras (3:45)
- XIV. Lordship of the Isles (4:35)
- XV. Journey of the Warrior Soul (4:49)