

The Woods of Trugh

Ireland

1. Out from the sha - dy woods of Trugh Mc - Ken - na rides at
 2. Be - fore him stands the tall grey tower of Glas-lough Cas - tle
 3. 'I have come to look up - on you, love, for to - mor - row I must
 4. 'Go - forth, my love, my bless - ings take, and smite the Sax - on

4 noon. The sun shines bright - ly, not a cloud dark - ens the skies of June. No
 old. It holds a trea - sure in its walls more dear to him than gold. For
 go. With my brave Trugh men to Ben - burb, there to meet O - wen Roe. I have
 horde. I'll be your bride when you re - turn with - out one oth - er word.' With a

9 eye has he for na - ture's charms; they don't dis - tract his brain, As through
 in it waits his own true love, the dark - eyed young Mau - reen, Who he
 come to look up - on you, love, and hear your an - swer sweet, For I
 warm em - brace they bid a - dieu as the eve - ning sun went down. Be -

13 flow - ery vales he makes his way and ne - ver draws a rein.
 hopes will bless his home one day in the woods of Trugh so green.
 might in the bat - tle fall, we ne - ver more might meet.
 - hind those west - ern wood - ed hills that o'er - look Glas - lough town.

5. McKenna lightly mounts his steed at the twilight of the eve.
 It leads him over Dava Hills through Trugh's green shady leaves.
 Tonight he meets with his brave men on the dark hills of Tyrone
 And then the army of the North, likewise the fearless Owen.
6. Right well O'Neill was pleased to see those gallant mountaineers
 Who kept the Saxon wolves at bay 'round ancient Trugh for years.
 Full well they fought on Benburb's plain as the English flag went down.
 And few that night escaped them toward Carrickfergus town.
7. When Autumn's gold lay in the woods and the berries ripe and red,
 McKenna and his young bride to Glaslough church were led
 And never in her father's hall a fairer maid was seen
 Than McMahon's only daughter, the dark-eyed young Maureen.

The Anglo-Scots army facing Owen Roe O'Neill's gathered clans was catastrophically defeated at the Battle of Benburb in 1646. Some three thousand men were killed either in battle or during their flight to the sea. Trugh is in Co. Monaghan. This is best sung slowly and freely with careful articulation of the words and consideration for the drama of the text.