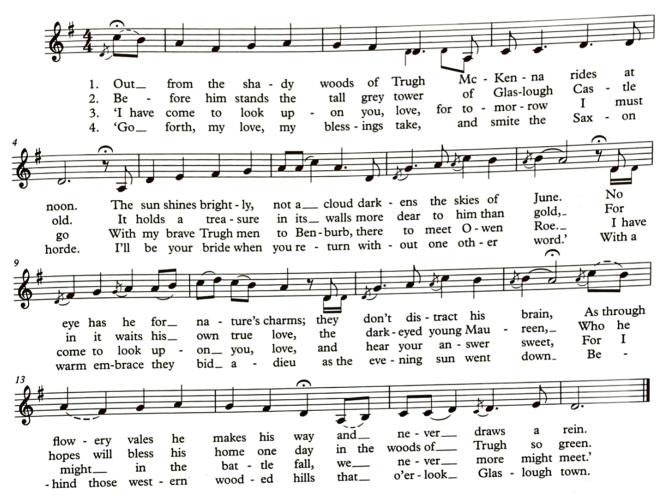
## The Woods of Trugh

Ireland



- 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.