

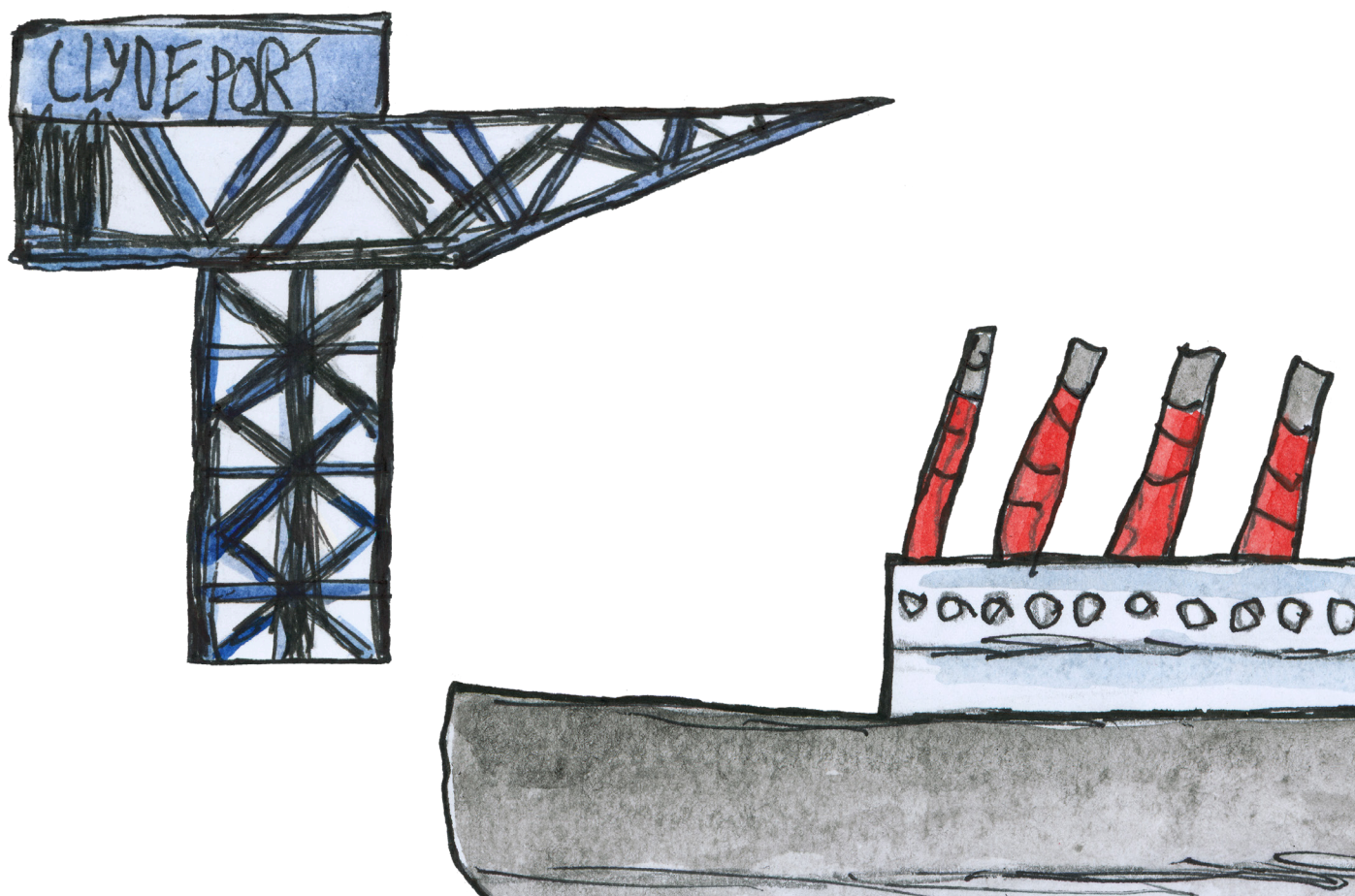


Scottish
Opera

Built on the Clyde

LYRICS

Lyrics by Allan Dunn



(Mother Glasgow Solo)

I am Mother Glasgow...

I'm voice of the people, the sound of the streets,

The talk and the traffic, the hush and heartbeats.

I'm the mist on the Molindinar, where our story began,

I'm the song of the saint, with whom it began.

I am the mast of the tall ship, the grass of the Green

I see what's ahead, and I know what has been.

I am Mother Glasgow, and these (indicating all the participants) are my weans...

Come my bonnie bairns

(she gathers them round. If possible the Glasgow coat of arms appears)

Oor founder, Saint Mungo, so the story goes...

Brought fire from the branch of a sacred oak

Was given a bell by the hand of the pope

Revived a dead robin, which stayed by his side

Retrieved a lost ring from a fish in the Clyde.

Song 1: **Our City**

(Mother Glasgow Solo)

Here's the bird that never flew
Here's the tree that never grew
Here's the bell that never rang
and the fish that never swam
and the fish that never swam

(All voices)

See our buildings walk our streets
Here, our past and future meet
Listen to our joyful noise
The sound of Glasgow's voice
The sound of Glasgow's voice

CHORUS

This is Our town, our City
In Glasgow, there's always a smile on your face
In our town, our city
Where everybody says
We're proud of our dear green place.
Here's the heart of Scotland's trade
Here, where mighty ships were made
Here the famous Glasgow streets
Where all the people meet
Where all the people meet
Ever changing, ever new
Glasgow always welcomes you
Hear the patter, feel the pride
Take a walk along the side
Of our famous river Clyde

CHORUS

This is Our town, our City
In Glasgow, there's always a smile on your face
In our town, our city
Where everybody says
We're proud of our dear green place.

And some people from Glasgow are famous wherever you go
So here are the names of Glaswegians you're sure to know

Alex Fergusson, Katherine Grainger, champions, the best!
Hannah Frank, John Byrne, artists, better than the rest!
Mary Barbour, Donald Dewar – Politics was their thing,
Simple Minds, Lulu, Midge Ure – We all love to hear them sing.

Rennie Mackintosh, no craftsman had more fame,
And Billy Connolly - the whole world knows his name!

CHORUS

This is Our town, our City
In Glasgow, there's always a smile on your face
In our town, our city
Where everybody says
We're proud, so proud of our dear green place.

Recit 2

(Mother Glasgow)

Ah, Glasgow and it's folk
Glaswegians!
But who are we Glaswegians?

The Scots were once an Irish tribe
Who pushed the early Picts aside
Then Vikings came with sword and song
And later, Normans came along

From North and south and east and west
From every land, this land was blessed.

Ordinary folk of every race
Ordinary people make this place.

Song 2: People Make Glasgow

CHORUS

(Mother Glasgow solo)

People make Glasgow the place it is today
From all around the globe many folk have come to stay
They made it their home, and they helped the city grow,
We know people make Glasgow.

(All)

From Norway came the Vikings, a fearsome race indeed
They pillage and they plunder and bash you on the heid
Next the folk of Normandy came over to our land
They drove us bonkers, using words we couldnae understand.

From Harris, Lewis, Isle of Skye, they journeyed from afar
They came to seek their fortunes with a lilting 'Slainte bha' (Slan-che-vah = Good health)
From Shetland to the Borders, the glens and the braes
Oor ain folk came to Glasgow, to work and to stay.

It's a rainbow city of fun
All creeds and colours become one.

CHORUS

When the tatties failed them, the Irish could not eat
They looked across the water and got upon their feet
From India and Pakistan, their journeys brought them here.
They love their former homes, now it's Glasgow they hold dear.

In times of war, refugees to Glasgow they came,
We called them "Refuweegees" and gave them a hame.
From Africa, Syria, Ukraine, Afghanistan
They brought their hopes and talents, and their new lives began.

CHORUS X 2

Recit 3

And so this town, built on a river
Became a glittering city - the jewel of the west.
Its little boats grew into mighty ships
The finest this world had seen.
And rivet by rivet, ship by ship
Our working folk, my weans - became
The best of the best
And they were built on the Clyde.

Song 3: **Built On The Clyde**

Its early morn', the first rays of light fall on the dock
The workers wake, and shake weary fists towards the clock
Jacket and cap keep the weather at bay
Punch in the card for another long day.
Pick up your gear, find the gaffer and then
Business begins at the yard again.

CHORUS

Built on the Clyde
Nothing finer sailed with the tide
Every liner built on the Clyde
Has the heart of Glasgow inside
Driving her across the seas
And she'll sail with ease
Caring not for wind or for weather
For she's built on the Clyde

The green apprentice takes up the torch with nervous hands
The foreman sees himself in the boy and understands
Patiently teaching the skills of the trade
Rivet by rivet the vessel is made
Step after step as they follow their plan
Likewise the young boy becomes the man

CHORUS

Clyde-built, means something different, in 2025
Not rivets now, but digits make our city thrive.
We're leaders in technology, in science, films and space
And Glasgow hearts are beating for the entire human race,
For they're

Built on the Clyde
Men and Women working with pride
Every business built on the Clyde
Has the heart of Glasgow inside
Each tomorrow's a better day,
So we're on our way
And we know this city will flourish...
For it's built on the Clyde,
And we are built on the Clyde.

Recit 4

Mother Glasgow pulls on a wee 'Tour Guide' hat and sash, and a name badge that says, 'Mrs. G'.

All aboard
Please take your seats
We're just about
To hit the city streets.

You've met the folk
Now see the sites
For Glasgow is a city full
Of architectural delights

I'm Mrs G
Your tour guide
Tickets are free
Enjoy the ride

Right, here we go,
We're leaving noo
The things we'll see
Are guaranteed to
A-
Maze
You!

Song 4: **Get On The Bus**

CHORUS

Get on the bus
Get on the Glasgow bus
You can hear the patter, the chitter chatter
All around town
You can take in the view
Look at the buildings old and new
And the sun's always shining bright- aye right!
Just get on the bus!

First up, George Square
People and pigeons everywhere
Next stop, the Barras market,
Buy sports socks or a crazy carpet
On the right is Glasgow Green,
Prettiest park you've ever seen
There's our cathedral,
It's spires rising high
Reaching up into the Glasgow sky

CHORUS

Up next take a whirl
Round the collection at the Burrell
We'll see the Provand's Lordship
The Central mosque, where the people worship.
The Heilan'man's umbrella
Teuchters met in the rain together.
There's Finnieston crane now
As high as birds can fly
Reaching up into the Glasgow sky

CHORUS

Come on get aff
It's time to leave your seats
Get aff, come on
It's time to hit the streets
Come on get aff
Move yerselves right noo
Cause we've got another Glasgow tour to do

CHORUS

Get on the bus

Get on the Glasgow bus

Get on the bus

Get on the bus

Recit 5

(Mother Glasgow)

Come, ma weans – I've still things to say:

You're bairns for now, but no for too much longer.

Enjoy what you have, but look to the future, how you can make it better for everyone.

Some of you will one day be leaders, some builders, some teachers, some innovators.

Some of you will one day write stories, be doctors, be carers, designers, creators.

You will make mistakes along the way

We have always done so.

But learn from those mistakes,

and do things differently next time

And so my weans, dream grand dreams,

Hope high hopes.

And take our great Glasgow out into all the world!

Song 5: **That's What Glasgow Means To Me**

From tenement streets
To highways and the underground
Our city's heart beats
And folk of every kind are found

We plan and we play,
We build and buy, we come and go
We work night and day
And so we watch our Glasgow grow

Together we will be strong
For here is a city where we all belong

Joining this crowd
Standing so proud -
That's what Glasgow means to me.
That's what Glasgow means to me.

On pavement and green
In offices and factories
A future unseen
Will someday fill our memories.

There's hope in the air
And laughter in the words we say.
There's joy we can share:
Make every day a better day!

Together we will be strong
For here is a city where we all belong

Joining this crowd
Standing so proud,
That's what Glasgow means to me.
That's what Glasgow means to me
That's what Glasgow means to me

OUR CITY REPRISE

This is our town, our city
In Glasgow, there's always a smile on your face
In our town, our city
Where everybody says
We're proud, so proud of our dear green place.

BUILT ON THE CLYDE REPRISE

Built on the Clyde
Our city fills us with pride
And together, forward we stride
Marching onwards strong as the tide

Each tomorrow's a better day,
So we're on our way
And we know this city will flourish...
For it's built on the Clyde
And we are built on the Clyde.