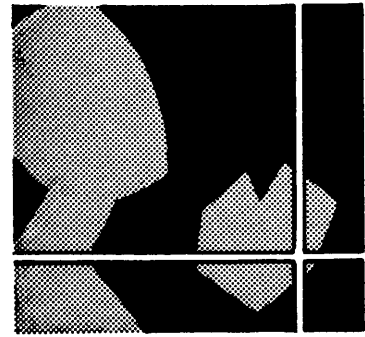


## BE THOU MY VISION

The moon is bright! The world is asleep!  
Imagine we are gazing into a pond in  
ancient Ireland!

The ancient Irish folk tale says that....if  
one looks very closely he may see a  
“vision” of the future!



The Irish poem, **Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of My Heart**, tells us to look within our hearts – instead of a pond – to see a “vision” of God by which we can know how to pattern our lives in His image. Look at the words to see what kind of thoughts we will have. What kind of wisdom? What kind of treasure? What is the “inheritance” for those who discover this “vision of God” within their hearts?

These “visions” of the way we **want to be** are important because the way we feel about God on the “inside” of ourselves is what shapes the way we act on the “outside.”

Listen to the **MELODY!** Folk tunes grow out of the rhythms that people of each country use while they work or play...rhythms that seem to express their thoughts and feelings...and the amazing thing is that just as each of us is different, so the folk tunes of each country are different. When our choir director played a Spanish record, a Norwegian dance, and Russian folk music, we could tell the difference right away!

Clap the 3/4 rhythm of this tune called “Slane:”



What kind of notes add the unexpected fun to the tune?

Be extra careful, in breaking music into measures to clap, that you put it back together again as long phrases. Sometimes phrases are shown by a long curved line, like this:



You can tell good hymns by the way the words and tunes **FIT** together...kind of like snug fitting gloves feel on your fingers on cold mornings! When learning to express feelings about God in hymn words, be sure to use **TUNES** that fit the words, instead of leaving important words “dangling” on notes that are too low or too quick moving to show the real feelings of the text.

The words of folk songs tell much about the history of the country. It could be fun in choir to try to think of American folk music that tells about the Indians, the English settlers, the pioneers, the railroads, the cow-boys, the southern plantation days, and the mountain folk. It will be discovered that America not only has her very own folk music..but she also enjoys folk customs from all the countries from which the settlers came. You may already know some of the customs of ancient Ireland..the tales of St. Patrick and of the shamrock and all..that might appear in that pond reflection in ancient Ireland. From now on, you’ll also know the beautiful Irish hymn: **BE THOU MY VISION** so that someday you and your church congregation can sing it together.