

Shaped by County Clare

I was raised near Clooneyogan, where the west wind meets the sea,
And the breakers roll in Lahinch, wild and proud and free.
Through Ennistymon's rushing falls, past Liscannor's quiet stone,
Every lane from Callura down to Moy I thought my own.

There were tunes in Doolin's doorways, there were nights in Spanish Point,
There were summers bright in Kilkee, with the salt air in the joint.
From Tullygarvan's winding roads to Ballyvaughan's soft bay air,
Oh the heart inside my chest was shaped by County Clare.

By the Cliffs of Moher standing guard, where the gulls wheel in the blue,
And the Burren Smokehouse glowing warm with stories old and true.
Through Miltown Malbay's summer streets, where the fiddles never tire,
Every step along those byways set my wandering heart on fire.

There were fairs in Lisdoonvarna, there were songs at every door,
And the ocean's roar in Lahinch was a tune I still adore.
Though my footsteps roam far from home, I feel the music there—
For the rhythm of my soul was born in the fields of County Clare.

The names are a bit haphazard but I just wanted to get them all in. I worked or played music in all those places in some capacity.

The backing Tune '*The Maid Behind the Bar*' was one of the first tunes I learned on the accordion.

Johnny and I played it regularly coupled with the 'Sally Gardens' at the Soiree's at Wheelan's house at Moy.

My mother Margaret Hogan was born and raised in Clooneyogan and my uncle Mikie lived there most of his life until I left home and he moved to our newer house, built by my father Terry who died when I was young, in Callura. My father had learned his trade as a stone mason in Australia. He built many houses in the area.

The Hogans' were a large family in Clooneyogan but they are all gone now. I spent a lot of time there and I did a lot of work with my uncle.

When I home for Australia, I left my uncle the farm and the stock in Callura for his use and to have a better life. When I returned everything, including his farm, was all gone.

I wrote a special song for my cousin James O'Connor in 'Shanbally'. James keeps me up to date with local events.

The song is called 'Shanbally'.