Farewell to Tarwathie

Traditional Scottish Song

I learned this song from the singing of Judy Collins on her album, WHALES AND NIGHTENGALES. She sings backed by a chorus of whales. The town of Tarwathie was near Aberdeen, Scotland. The piece was written in the 1850s.

Arrangement for Dulcimers © Bonnie Carol 2003

Farewell to Tarwathie

And the land and the ocean are covered with snow.
Where the icebergs do float and the stormy winds blow
And the longer our absence, more loving we’ll feel.

The cold ice of Greenland my love will not chill
And likewise the dear lass wha’ fair won my heart.
Adieu to my comrades for a while we must part
Our ship is well-rigged and she’s ready to sail.

Oh the cold coast of Greenland is barren and bare.
No seed-time or harvest is ever known there.
The birds here sing sweetly on mountain and dale,
But there is na’ a birdie to sing to the whale.

There is no habitation for a man to live there
And the king of that country is the fierce Greenland bear.
And there’ll be no temptation to tarry long there
With our ship bumper full we will homeward repair.

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