

# Bards in the Bog

Chosen by Shetland Library staff and their Reader-in-Residence. Learn more at [www.shetland-library.gov.uk](http://www.shetland-library.gov.uk)

## PAGANINI'S FIDDLE IN A CROFTER'S BARN

Crofter, boat-builder and fiddle-maker,  
Tommy lifts his fiddle and sound falls  
from his bow, water lapping in freshwater lochs.  
He sways and its hull flames silver or dark.

Its back is figured maple, taking the strain,  
a softer spruce deck flexes with the swell,  
its C curves are stream-lined, ocean-going,  
the strings are halyards vibrating in the winds.

Heading down the voe and out to sea,  
the fiddle responds to the hand of a helmsman  
who understands local waters, skerries,  
rip-tides and deep-sea storms.

*Stephanie Green*

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