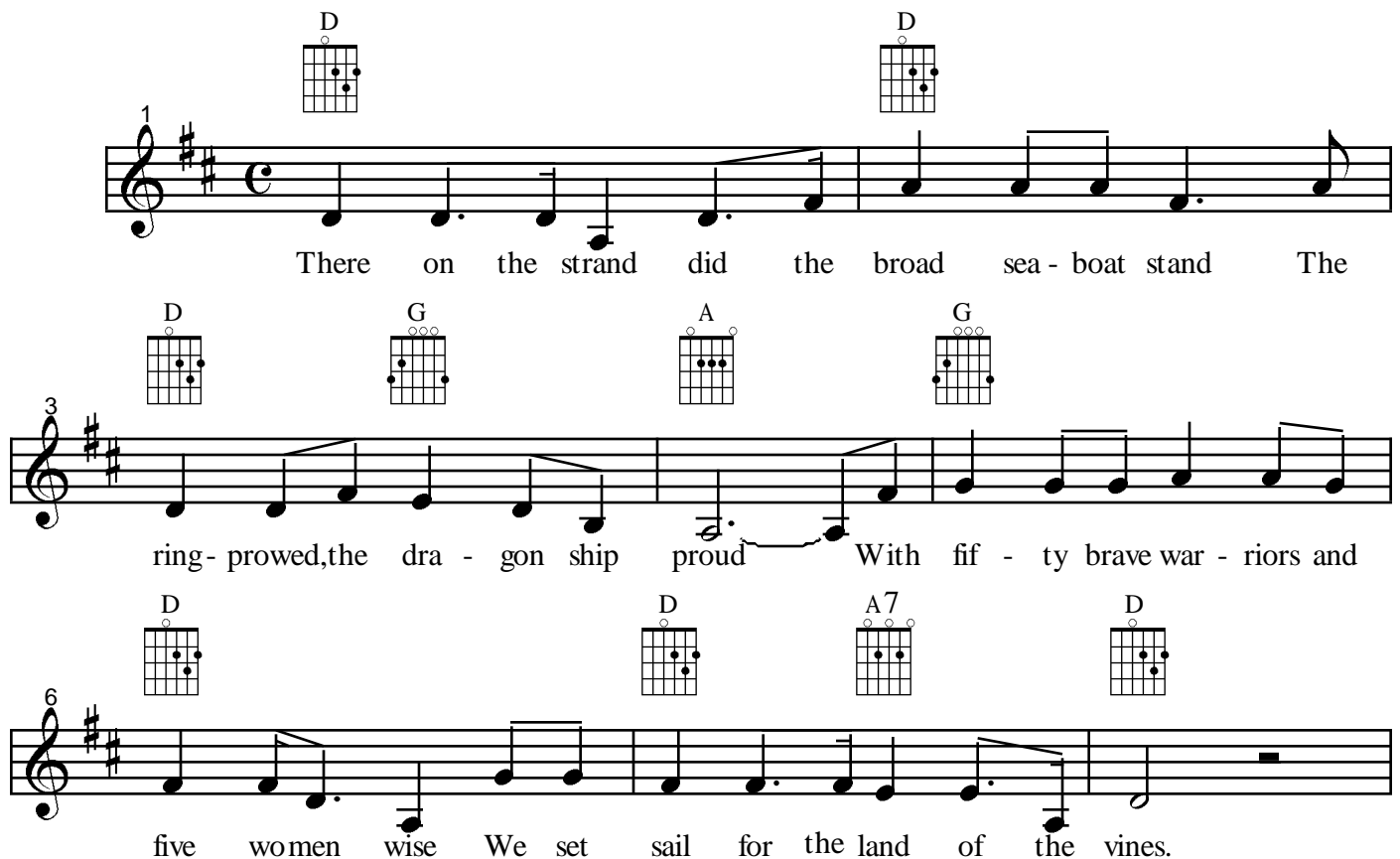


Vinland the Good

trad. tune and poem arr. Lynn Noël

Adapted from Erik's Saga and the Vinlanders' Saga, and from Gwyn Jones' "The Norse in North America." The tune is a Scandinavian walking tune learned at Folklore Village, Wisconsin, brought back from Sweden by friends of dance leader Greg Winz. This cante-fable and its mate, "Who Will Follow," frame my retelling of "Gudrid the Wanderer" created for the Seabourn Pride in 1991. Thus opens the story of the first Viking woman in the New World at L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland, circa the year 1000 A.D. What would the story sound like in her own words? The rhythm of this tune uses tenth-century Saxon imagery and meter as an English speaker's effort to capture the shape and taste of the sagas as they were spoken in Old Norse.



1

D

There on the strand did the broad sea-boat stand The

3

D G A G

ring-prowed, the dra-gon ship proud With fif-ty brave war-riors and

6

D D A7 D

five women wise We set sail for the land of the vines.

The sea-goer moved foamy-necked, floated forth
The woollen sail snapped in the spray
The world candle carried us into the west
O'er the whale-path we set forth that day.

For nine days and nine nights we never lost heart
for the fifth ship to follow were we
Where Erik the Red sent three of Erik's sons
And the storm-tossed sea warrior Bjami.

He told of a land where wheat and grapes grew
A land of flat stones, Hellu land
Then Markland of forest, and Vinland of vines
and the sand on the broad Wunderstrand.

Our sea-dragon surged o'er the strong struggling waves
When we came at last to Leif the Lucky's land
In his longhouses, turf-roofed, our troop found its rest
And rejoiced in our fair newfound land.