

Echo of the Tongue of Bjarke

*Original Danish poem by N.F.S.Grundtvig, 1817 -
translated/shortened by Mogens Eliassen 2012*

*Original tune by Jørgen Malling 1867 -
arranged and developed by Mogens Eliassen 2012*

The original poem's text is marked with bold types.
Indentation indicates text that is to be sung simultaneously with the text above it

Click [here](#) for an on-line computerized performance of the music.

Piano Introduction

Bass: **Sun has risen,
Forest tree-tops
Gleam like Gimle's golden roof;**

Alto: **Roosters' crowing
Brings the tidings
Of a new devoted day.**

Both: **Wake up, wake up, Danish heroes!
Jump to action, belts all tightened!
Day and deed are giant rhymes!**

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Alto: **Hear, the lurs are
Loudly blaring**

To alert the dozing men!

Bass: **Beams are creaking,
Flames devouring**

Trees and grove around the den!

Both: **Wake up - not to merry chatting,**

Nor to wine at royal tables! -

Hildur's games are now at hand!

Hildur's games are now at hand!

Bass: **Bold and brave, with**

Both: **Sword and shield, all**

Men of honor fight for Rolf!

Alto: They fight for Rolf!

Bass: **Through the sound of
Weapons clashing,**

Alto: "The throne is yours, now -"

Bass: **Skjuld's triumphant song is heard.**

Alto: "- Hjartvar!"

Bass: **Hjartvar lit the forest blazes,**

Alto: "King Hjartvar!"

Both: **Smoke and traitors ev'rywhere now!**

Time will pass the legacy!

Bass: Time will pass the legacy!
Alto: Time will pass the legacy!
Bass: Time will pass the legacy.

Alto: **Rolf is blanching,**
Bass: **Bjarke sinking,**
Alto: **Hjalte swimming in his blood.**
Both: **Lejre's vaults are**
All in blazes,
Tumbling down at Hjartvar's feet!
Alto: **But his triumph should be short-lived,**
Both: **Long before the embers cold went,**
The last spark, Vigge, settled it!
Alto: "King Hjartvar..."
Both: The last spark, Vigge, settled it.
Alto: "Vigge..."

Both: **Sun is up now,**
Witnessed treacherous villainy.
Roosters' crowing
Brought the tidings
Of the new devoted day.
Wake up, all you righteous brave-hearts!
Be prepared for fraud and treason!
Dawn reveals the greed for gold!
Dawn reveals the greed for gold.

Bass: Dawn reveals the greed for gold!
Alto: Dawn reveals the greed for gold!

Notes:

Rolf is the Danish king Rolf Krake, ruling till 690.

Lejre (LIE-reh") was his residence on Zealand.

Gimle ("GUEM-leh") was the attractive dwelling of the slain heroes in Valhalla.

Lur ("LOOR" – as in "poor") is a primitive trombone-like ancient brass instrument, used by the Vikings as a signal horn in battle.

Hildur ("HEELD-oor") was a legendary beautiful woman who enticed her lover to fight her dad over her; both got killed, and when she with magic was able to resurrect not only her lover but accidentally also her dad, the two men continued to fight over her, and they still renew the fight every morning.

Skjuld ("SK-YOOL-D") was a half-sister of Rolf, married to his vassal Hjartvar, duke of Skåne; she enticed Hjartvar to usurp Rolf and was the mastermind behind the plan.

Hjartvar brought himself and Skjuld to a celebration at Rolf's place, along with a few companions, whereas Hjartvar's army came later, in the dark, and surrounded the dwelling where Rolf's men had a good time and drank lots of wine; at dawn, Hjartvar's men lit the forest and the dwelling, smoking Rolf's men out of their beds and slaughtered them all in an ambush, except Vigge, who was thought killed; Vigge jumped to the occasion when he got a chance to kill Hjartvar during his inspection of the battlefield. Vigge got immediately killed himself by Hjartvar's men, but he accomplished his mission.

Bjarke ("B-YAR-keh") was Rolf's herold/warrior.

Hjalte (H-YAL-teh") was Rolf's most famous warrior. His patrol discovered the treason and blared the lurs to warn Rolf, but too late; when he could return and enter the battle, he was outnumbered and defeated.