

Mckennitt Loreena

"The Old Ways"

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Music and Lyrics by Loreena McKennitt

The thundering waves are calling me home to you
The pounding sea is calling me home to you.

On a dark new year's night
On the west coast of Clare
I heard your voice singing
Your eyes danced the song
Your hands played the tune
T'was a vision before me.

We left the music behind and the dance carried on
As we stole away to the seashore
We smelt the brine, felt the wind in our hair
And with sadness you paused.

Suddenly I knew that you'd have to go
My work was not yours, your eyes told me so
Yet it was there I felt the crossroads of time
And I wondered why.

As we cast our gaze on the tumbling sea
A vision came o'er me
Of thundering hooves and beating wings
In clouds above.

As you turned to go I heard you call my name.
You were like a bird in a cage, spreading its
Wings to fly
'The old ways are lost' you sang as you flew
And I wondered why.

I spent a most haunting New Year's Eve in Doolin,
County Clare, Ireland some years ago, and was moved
by the antiquity of the some of the celebrations. Yet
I was met by deep reminders that they may be the
remnants of the old world meeting the "new". - L.M.

L.M.: Vocals, Harp, Whistle, Bodhran, Keyboards
AL CROSS: Drums

TOM HAZLETT: Bass
PATRICK HUTCHINSON: Uilleann Pipes
HUGH MARSH: Fiddle
BRIAN HUGHES: Guitar

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