

# **deirdre's dance**

by **patrick dennis riley 2021**

the fender rhodes drifts a modal motif into the smokey dawn  
inviting an intricate lydian jazz sequence from the astute  
acoustic bass and vibes

***o deirdre beautiful baby  
deirdre are you only an irish myth  
da tragic legend  
a story told near the hearth on a soft day***

the gretsch set is negotiating suggestions of a tasteful 5 over 4  
suspended syncopation

probably college boys

***a celtic priest prophesied you would become the  
most beautiful woman but bring great sorrow to  
ireland***

the vocalist slithered toward the mic to sing her bluesy ballad  
her group now has sufficient rhythmic surface synergy plus  
the necessary background complexity to be quite interesting

***dear devoted deirdre***

***the reigning celtic king has ordered you to be his  
wife when you have become of age but you have met  
a young man whom you love***

the acoustic bass has presented a twelve-tone walking ostinato  
urging the e piano to develop various forms of quartal  
harmony allowing the vibes to improvise freely using original  
synthetic scale material

***beautiful deirdre  
stay with your lover by the tribal communal fire***

***dance away your troubling thoughts***

***fill your banshee soul with cold autumn air and wail  
mournfully***

***eat the human flesh of the sacrifice and watch the  
sky above stonehenge***

***look for the return of the builders***

***pray that the angry jealous king will not find you  
and kill your lover***

***flee across the freezing sea to the isolated wintry  
forest backlands***

atonality and serial techniques  
dissonance  
faster rhythms  
higher pitched sounds  
and increased volume are variables chosen by the band  
causing a heightened level of tension

***after many years of hiding you would like to go  
home but you have been deceived by the king's  
sleeve about returning safely to Ireland and the  
scheming king***

***dear unsuspecting Deirdre***

***your hazel eyes did not see the cunning deception  
coming***

***your innocence did not recognize the impending risk***

***you heard the wise words of friends but did not heed***

***you have a lonely stillness about you now***

***are you thinking of your blood sisters at Stonehenge  
and Drombeg where the liturgical dancing and  
cleansing sacrifices continue each month at full  
moon***

***the druid priest had prophesied the evil king would  
kill your lover and bury him in an open pit which***

***will distress you so much that you will suffer a  
broken heart and fall into the grave - dead***

the music has become chaotic and climactic with all musicians  
improvising wildly in a grand crescendo to a climax after  
which there is a reduction in volume and activity lessening the  
aural tension

***you now know the secrets of the sky warriors and  
wind riders***

***you have seen the battered vestiges of the builders  
arks returning to earth with essential biological  
reseedling dna and war data from your home star***

***o deirdre  
sorrowful deirdre  
your loved one speaks to you from some unknown  
dimension***

***his banter teases you  
come here to me cute hoor  
you will now be with your lover forever throughout  
eternity***

***in your dream you smile at him***

***your haunting shadow screams and dances across  
the moonlit bog at dawn***

*as around the tribal ceremonial fire your spectre  
deposits the offspring spawn*