**Irish Folk Songs – Types of Songs**

**Love Songs – Geantraí**

They are very expressive and intense in nature. Often very sad. E.g. Róisín Dhubh, Úna Bhán

**Lullabies – Suantraí**

Every country has its own tradition of lullabies. These are used to rock a child to sleep and have a gentle steady beat. E.g. Seoithín seo, Deirín Dé

**Laments – Goltraí**

These are sad and slow songs, written for the dead or a song of regret at the loss of a loved one to emigration. E.g. Caoineadh Cill Cháis, An Mhaighdean Mhara

**Patriotic Songs – including Aislingí (Dream Songs)**

These are songs of hope and freedom. Most of these songs are in English and were written in honour or in lament of a rebel hero.

However there is another type of patriotic song: the Aisling. The story of every aisling is quite similar. The poet has a dream or vision of a beautiful woman, who becomes a symbol for Ireland. E.g. Róisín Dhubh,

**Humorous, Drinking or Work Songs**

These types of songs were generally to entertain people and make them laugh while socialising, celebrating or working. They have a fast and lively rhythm and often contain nonsensical words. E.g. An Poc ar Buile, Amhrán na Cuiginne & Uisce Beatha sa Chruiscín

**Religious Songs**

Usually very slow and not very common due to the penal laws that outlawed the practice of religion. E.g. Don oíche úd i mBeithil