

Two Emerald Cities

Two sisters twirl to a mandolin round
with golden daisies sewn into braids.
Bright eyes candescent in bonfire's glow
flickering brilliant as embers cascade.

Two sisters parted by five thousand miles
mountains bound Dublin, the seaside by Bray.
An Irish moon waxes o'er California
brought close together on St. Patrick's Day.

*Two emerald cities
share friendship's delight.
Two emerald cities
as fires ignite.*

Sisters will gather for céilí dances
hair set in curls, richly stitched dresses.
Their synchronized hornpipes, slip-jigs, and reels
perfectly practiced, always impressive.

Or up sharp at dawn to wait by the curb
for crisp-marching Gaels and floats row-on-row
Newborns in strollers, grandparents in pairs
children rejoicing with siblings in tow

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The sisters sprint with a treasure hunt map
searching for clues on the festival grounds.
Nearby are lovers embracing in twirls
as barkeeps form clovers in foamy rounds.

As daylight rests with evensong rising
sisters together, approaching midnight.
Then "Oh Danny Boy, the pipes are calling"
sung by the sparkle of firefly light.

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Celebrating the Sister Cities of Bray, IE and Dublin, CA, US
for the City of Dublin St. Patricks Day Celebration, 2024.

Poem by James Morehead (Poet Laureate, Dublin, California)
Set to music by Irish singer-songwriter Melanie O'Brien