The Bressay Lullaby (from Shetland)
To be sung to soothe a child, a friend, a parent, or yourself

Traditional
Arrangement by Corrina Hewat  www.corrinahewat.com

Song Lyrics                                      Translation

Chorus                                           Soothing sounds
Baloo, balilli, baloo balilli
Baloo, balilli, balooli ba.

Verse 1                                           Go away, little fairies
Gae awa peerie fairies (x3)                       From our baby now.
Fae oor bairn noo.
Baloo, balilli, baloo balilli
Baloo, balilli, balooli ba.

Verse 2                                           Then come the beautiful angels
Dan come da bonnie angels (x3)                   To our little baby.
Ta wir peerie bairn.
Baloo, balilli, baloo balilli
Baloo, balilli, balooli ba.

Verse 3                                           They’ll shine over the cradle
Dey’ll sheen ower da cradle (x3)                 Of our little baby.
O wir peerie bairn.
Baloo, balilli, baloo balilli
Baloo, balilli, balooli ba.

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This appears in 101 Scottish Songs, subtitled “The Wee Red Book” - a collection of songs selected by Norman Buchan, printed in 1962. His source is quoted as The Shetland Folk Book, Vol.1. He adds that it was “Noted down by Mrs. E. J. Smith, Sandness, Shetland, from her mother’s singing.”
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