

Sailing to Tomorrow – first performed 2007

The action takes place aboard a ship bound for Australia in the year 1845 - The Highland Clearances

Scene 1 on deck:

Chorus Number "Sailing to Tomorrow" A few of the men are grumbling about not liking being on the ship. We meet Fergus (a youngish man), and Fiona and Catriona (young women). They speak about having left Scotland behind forever. Catriona speaks of the chief's son who used to tease her about being a fine lady and always pretended they were meeting for the first time but that there was something familiar: she loved him but will never see him again: *"Maybe I'll Remember."*

A frantic mother appears looking for her child - the child has fallen asleep behind a group of barrels. She tells of moving to work in the cotton mills, of the danger and the strangeness of living in a town. They go below.

A young sailor, Fraser, laments his choice to run away to sea, commenting on the slow progress due to lack of wind: *"Be Careful What You Wish"*.

A small group of men come back on deck, hating the confined quarters and inactivity: *"Let Me Work on the Hill"*. They are ordered below by another of the sailors, Tom.

Scene 2

The Highlanders gather to complain about the food. They are also unhappy about the fact that they don't yet know where the ship is sailing to.

Jack MacAndrew tells of how they were put off the land by their factor to make way for sheep. He tells of 'camping out' in the kirkyard at Glencalvie. Others share their stories (being put off the crofts to work at the kelp). All are unhappy about how they were treated: *"Just a Strip of Land"*.

One of the women has sorted out alternative cooking arrangements. The women go below to organise them, while the men set out to try to find out their destination.

Three young women remain looking at the sea. They speak of their dreams of love. Catriona sings of the man she has lost, while the others (Fiona and her younger sister, Jenny) sing of the ones they are yet to meet. *“I Can See Him Now.”*

The men return, having found out that they’re bound for Australia and rush off to tell the women.

Fraser and Tom bring in Andrew (the clan chief’s son). He has been disinherited by his father and fled to join Catriona: *“Half Alive.”* The pair are reunited: *“Maybe I’ll Remember” – reprise.*

Scene 3

Later in the day - a group of women are gathered round the brazier, cooking. They discuss Andrew’s arrival. Not all are welcoming, remembering the chief’s privileges paid for by the hard work of generations of clansmen turned out when they were not profitable enough. One old woman offers to do a ‘seeing’ for Fiona - to find her true love. *“Waiting.”* Fiona is teased by her sister.

Scene 4

Jack is spoiling for a fight. He wants to have it out with Andrew, holding him responsible for the misery of the whole clan. Andrew claims that he fought against his father’s plans: *“I Am Not My Father.”*

The fight is averted and all are ordered below: the captain wants to keep them off the deck except when strictly necessary.

Scene 5

Midnight

The old woman tells Fiona that her true love is on the ship.

Scene 6

The morning of the Sabbath.

A group gather on deck to have a brief service. *“Blessed Bridget Be With Us.”* The service is interrupted by one of the women with the news that an old woman died during the night and was put over the side. Chaos ensues. Eventually the situation is calmed when it is learned that ‘burial at sea’ is no less respectful of the dead than traditional burial: *“Another Morning”*. At the conclusion of the service, they are advised to go below as there is some rough weather coming. Fergus gives Fiona an apple. The old woman tells Fiona that Fergus is not the ‘one’. (She’s no surprised, because she’s knocked him back already)

Scene 7

Two of the older characters enter; a widow and widower. The woman suggests that they team up when they reach their destination, saying that they'll not have to be dependent on others if they work together to build a new life: "*Love Isn't Always*".

Scene 8

Catriona and Andrew are married. "*Paddlin in the Burn*". Fraser gives Fiona an apple, explaining the last was from him too. The scales fall from Fiona's eyes: "*If I Only Had Today*". On this positive note, looking out to a brighter future - the show ends with a final reprise of the opening number: "*Sailing to Tomorrow*".

Cast

Catriona MacAndrew -
Fergus MacDougall – son of a laird
Fiona MacDonald -
Jenny MacDonald – Fiona's younger sister
Robert Ross – a proud and devout man
Jean – An elderly woman
Tober MacLeod – full of self-importance
Mary MacLeod – his long-suffering sister
Jessie Brockie -
John Angus Brockie -
Colm Brockie - their young son
Fraser Fergusson - a young sailor
Tom - an experienced sailor
Nancy MacDougall -
Willum MacDougall -
Jack MacAndrew -
Mary MacAndrew -
Iain MacAndrew -
Andrew MacAndrew –

Former citizens of Scotland

Musical Numbers

1	Overture		
2	Sailing to Tomorrow	Company	
3	Maybe I'll Remember	Solo	Catriona
4	Be Careful What you Wish	Solo	Fraser
5	Let Me Work on the Hill	Male Company	
6	Just a Strip of Land	Company	
7	I Can See Him Now	Trio	Catriona, Jenny, Fiona Andrew (not on recording)
8	Half Alive	Solo	
9	Maybe I'll Remember (reprise)	Duet	Catriona, Andrew
10	Waiting for You	Solo	Fiona
11	I am Not My Father	Solo	Andrew
12	Blessed Bridget	Company	Led by Robert
13	Another Morning	Company	Led by Robert
14	Love Isn't Always	Duet	Robert, Mary
15	Paddlin in the Burn	Company	
16	If I Only Had Today	Duet	Fiona, Fraser featuring main principals
17	A New Tomorrow (finale)	Company	

Carpe Diem