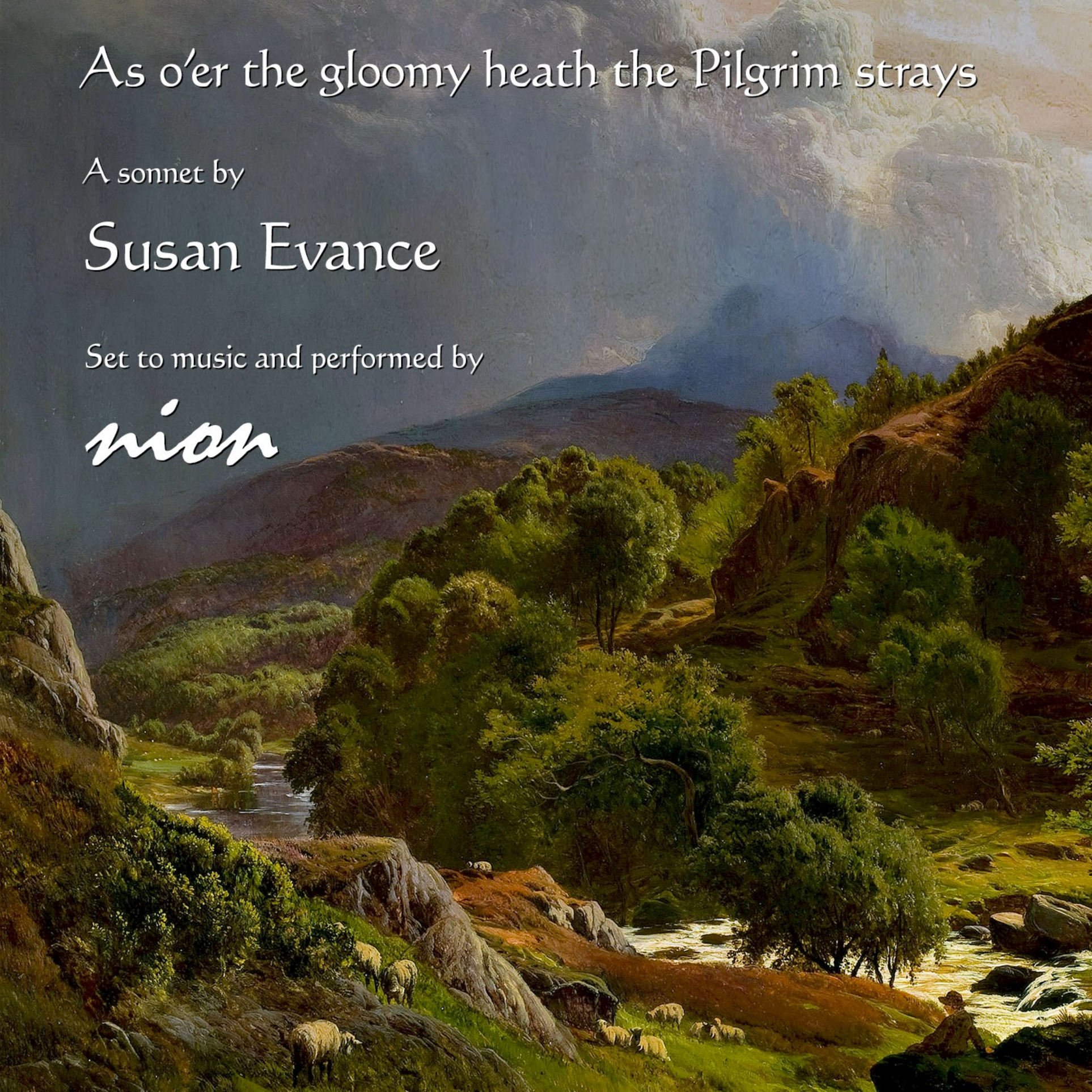
As o'er the gloomy heath the Pilgrim strays
A sonnet by
Susan Evance
Set to music and performed by
nion

As published in "POEMS, selected from her earliest productions, to those of the present year" (1808):

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AS o'er the gloomy heath the Pilgrim strays,
When night's dark shadows thicken all around,
While nought he hears, save the low moaning sound
Of sweeping winds--at length, far distant rays
Of light from some low cottage bless his gaze;
With joy he then pursues his lonely way,
No longer to despair and grief a prey,
But cheering hope once more his bosom sways.
Thus have I wander'd in Life's dreary scene,
Forlorn and hopeless--while Affliction's blast
My sky with threat'ning clouds has overcast;
But gentle Friendship's hallow'd lamp serene,
With guiding ray has bid my fears depart,
And spread its soothing influence through my heart.

- Edited version, 3.25 -

Cover artwork: The river Llugwy at Capel Curig (detail) - Sidney Richard Percy (1821-1886)

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