

The Icelandic song

1 Heyr, himna smiður,
2 hvers skáldið biður,
3 komi mjúk til mín
4 miskunnin þín.
5 Því heit eg á þig
6 þú hefur skaptan mig,
7 ég er þrællinn þinn,
8 þú ert Drottinn minn.

9 Guð, heit eg á þig,
10 að græðir mig,
11 minnst, mildingur, mín,
12 mest þurfum þín.
13 Ryð þú, röðla gramur,
14 ríklyndur og framur,
15 hölds hverri sorg
16 úr hjartaborg.

17 Gæt, mildingur, mín,
18 mest þurfum þín
19 helzt hverja stund
20 á hölda grund.
21 Set, meyjar mögur,
22 máls efni fögur,
23 öll er hjálp af þér,
24 í hjarta mér.

Thoddn: The strange-looking “þ”

Pronounced like a very soft th as in Theodore. Most often at the beginning of a word, but in this song, a few times at the end.

Word list:

Line 4	þín	theen
Line 5	því	thvee
"	þig	thihch (like the 'shiny' e ending with -ich in German?)
Line 6	þú	thoo
Line 7	þrællinn	thretlin (not a strong “T”, more of a stop with the tongue behind the teeth)
	þinn	thin
Line 8	þú	thoo
Line 9	þig	thihch (like the 'shiny' e ending with -ich in German?)
Line 12	þurfum	thurvem (with a soft rolled r)
Line 23	þér	thear (as in ear or fear)
Etc.		

G/g Most often at the beginning of the word or followed by R, it will be hard.
Words with the soft G seem somewhat like the soft -ich ending in German (sort of like a cat hiss)

Words with hard G:	Words with hard G at end are pronounced almost like a K
Gud	Sorg
Grædir	Hjartaborg
Gramur	
Gæt	One word has a medium G-pronounced like the G in "linger"
Grund	Mildingur

Soft G words found in lines 5 and 6, and repeated later on:

þig	theeych (like the 'shiny' e, ending with -ich in German?)
Mig	meeych
Mögur, fögur	muhrguhr, fuhrguhr

Ég pronounced yegh. Soft g. should have an accent over the é. "ég á" is Pronounced "yegh ow"

R/r Always rolled, with the tongue behind the top teeth and air coming out both sides of the tongue. It's very soft.

Hvers pronounced Kvehrs or like the kv sound in keine qual=qvall

ð In Icelandic it's called Edth (approximate spelling)

Words with ð: pronounced extremely softly and you "spread it out"

Line 1	smiður	smithhh-urrr
Line 2	skáldið	skal-dithhh
"	biður	bithhh-urrr
Line 9	Guð	Goothhh
Line 10	að	ahthhh
"	græðir	gray-thhhirrr
Line 13	Ryð	Rrreethhh (wreath with a rolled R beginning and a soft ending)
"	röðla	rrruhrtrthhh-la

A very good site that explains how each letter is pronounced is here:
https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Icelandic/Alphabet_and_Pronunciation