



# SKYE BOAT SONG

*Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender, was routed by the Duke of Cumberland on Culloden Moor in 1745. Aided by a Jacobite heroine, Flora MacDonald, Bonnie Prince Charlie escaped to the island of Skye in the inner Hebrides. He was finally taken by a French vessel to Morlaix on the coast of Bretagne. The first half of the tune is said to be an old sea shanty; the other half is traditionally attributed to Miss MacLeod.*

Words by Sir Harold Boulton, Bart., 1884

Music by Annie MacLeod

With a rocking motion

*mp* *G* *D* *G* *D<sup>7</sup>*

Cho. "Speed bon-nie boat, like a bird on the wing, On-ward, the sail - ors  
"Car - ry the lad — that's born to be king, O - ver the sea to

*mp*

*ted.* \*

G *Fine* *f* Emi. Ami. *mf* Emi. Ami.<sup>7</sup>

cry! — 1. Loud the winds howl, loud the waves roar, Thunder clouds rend the  
 Skye!" — 2. Though the waves leap, soft shall ye sleep, O - cean's a roy - al

*Fine*

air; — Baf - fled our foe's stand on the shore, Fol - low they will not dare. —  
 bed; — Rock'd in the deep, Flo - ra will keep watch by your wear-y head. —

Emi. Ami. *f* Emi. Ami. Emi. *dim.* Ami.<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> D.C.

*f* *mf* *dim.* *mp* D.C.

♯

3. Many's the lad fought on that day,  
 Well the claymore could wield,  
 When the night came, silently lay  
 Dead on Culloden's field.

*Chorus:*

4. Burn'd are our homes, exile and death.  
 Scatter the loyal men;  
 Yet, e'er the sword cool in the sheath,  
 Charlie will come again.

*Chorus:*

CHORUS

"Speed, bonnie boat, like a bird on the wing,  
 Onward!" the sailors cry.  
 "Carry the lad that's born to be king  
 Over the sea to Skye!"

