

# Scottish Songs



a booklet in adobe pdf format published by

**Gerry Jones**  
LIVERPOOL MUSICIAN

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# Scottish Songs

## Introduction

Here are a selection of popular Scottish songs which have come my way. So if you are planning a Scottish party or singsong.... Help Yourself!

This page actually started in Haapsalu, Estonia, when MacLennan Scottish Group were guests of Lootos folk-group. We were fed by the dinner-ladies of the local school, most of whom were also in a local Ladies' Choir.

On our last evening meal with them, they sang some of their local songs, beautifully, but then it was clearly our turn to sing for them, and the problems arose...

MacLennans are superb Scottish dancers, but the same cannot be said about their singing. And who knows how to start the second verse of "Flower of Scotland" which we rarely sing outside pubs.

This led to us being better prepared on future occasions, with songsheets becoming neat little song-books, larger and fuller as the years went by. A number of non-Scottish songs also found their way in, but these have been left out for the purpose of this booklet.

## Scottish Songs

### Oh, Flower of Scotland

*Oh, Flower of Scotland*

[F]

*when will we see your like again?*

*That fought and died for your wee bit hill and glen,  
and stood against him, Proud Edward's army,  
and sent him homeward, tae think again.*

*The hills are bare now, and autumn leaves lie thick and still,  
O'er land that is lost now, which those so dearly held,  
that stood against him, Proud Edward's army,  
and sent him homeward, tae think again.*

*Those days are passed now, and in the past they must remain  
But we can still rise now, and be the nation again  
that stood against him, Proud Edward's army,  
and sent him homeward, tae think again.*

## Scottish Songs

### Mingulay Boat Song

*Hil-ya Ho, boys, let her go, boys,  
Turn her head round and haul together,  
Hil-ya Ho , boys, let her go, boys,  
Sailing homeward to Mingulay.*

[F]

*What care we though for the Minches?  
what care we though for wind and weather?  
Turn her head round, and we'll anchor,  
safely home there in Mingulay.*

*Wives are waiting by the harbour,  
bairns are laughing from hills of heather  
Turn her head round, and we'll anchor,  
safely home there in Mingulay.*

## Scottish Songs

### Will Ye Go Lassie, Go?

*Chorus:*

*Will ye go, lassie, go?  
and we'll all go together,  
to pull wild mountain thyme,  
all around the blooming heather,  
will ye go lassie go?*

[D]

*Oh, the summer time is coming,  
And the trees are sweetly blooming,  
And the wild mountain thyme  
blows around the blooming heather,  
Chorus:*

*I will build my love a bower,  
by yon pure crystal fountain,  
and to it I will bring all the  
flowers of the mountain.*

*Chorus:*

*If my true love she won't come,  
I will surely find another,  
to pull wild mountain thyme,  
all around the blooming heather,  
Chorus:*

## Scottish Songs

### Eriskay Love Lilt

*Chorus:*

*Bheir me oh, horo van oh.*

*Bheir me oh, horo van ee*

*Bheir me oh, oh. ho-ro!*

*Sad am I, without thee.*

[D]

*Thou'rt the music of my heart,*

*Harp of joy, oh, cruit mo chruidh,*

*Moon of guidance by night,*

*Strength and light thou'rt to me.*

*Chorus:*

*In the morning when I go,*

*To the white and shining sea,*

*In the calling of seals,*

*Thy soft calling to me.*

*Chorus:*

*When I'm lonely, dear white heart,*

*Black the night & wild the sea,*

*By love's light, my foot finds*

*The old pathway to thee.*

*Chorus:*

## Scottish Songs

### Westering Home

*Chorus:*

*Westering Home and a song in the air,  
Light in the eye, and it's good-bye to care.  
Laughter o' love and a welcoming there.  
Isle of my heart, my own one.*

[F]

*Tell me o' lands of the Orient gay,  
Talk of the riches and joys of Cathay.  
Eh, but it's grand to be wakin' each day,  
To find yourself nearer to Islay.*

*Chorus:*

*Where are the folk like the folk o' the west?  
Canty and couthy and kindly, the best.  
There I would hie me and there I would rest  
At hame wi' my ain folk in Islay.*

*Chorus:*

## Scottish Songs

### The Northern Lights Of Old Aberdeen

*The Northern Lights of Old Aberdeen  
Mean home sweet home to me.  
The Northern Lights of Aberdeen  
Are where I long to be.  
I've been a wanderer all of my life  
And many's the sight I've seen.  
God speed the day when I'm on my way,  
To my home in Aberdeen.*

*When I was a lad, a bonny wee lad,  
My mother said to me,  
"Come, see the Northern Lights, my son,  
They're bright as they can be."  
She called them the heavenly dancers,  
Pretty dancers in the night.  
I'll never forget that wonderful sight.  
They made the heavens bright.*

## Scottish Songs

### The Skye Boat Song

*Chorus:*

*Speed, bonny boat, like a bird on the wing*

[F]

*“Onward!” the sailors cry.*

*Carry the lad that's born to be king,*

*Over the sea to Skye.*

*Loud the winds howl, load the waves roar,  
thunderclaps rend the air.*

*Baffled, our foes stand by the shore.*

*Follow they will not dare.*

*Chorus:*

*Though the waves leap, soft shall ye sleep;*

*Ocean's a royal bed.*

*Rocked in the deep, Flora will keep*

*Watch by your weary head.*

*Chorus:*

*Burned are our homes, exile and death*

*Scattered the loyal men.*

*Yet ere the sword cool in its sheath,*

*Charlie will come again.*

*Chorus:*

## Scottish Songs

### Mairi's Wedding

*Chorus:*

*Step we gaily, on we go,  
Heel for heel and toe for toe,  
Arm in arm and row on row,  
All for Mairi's wedding.*

[F]

*Over hillways up and down,  
Myrtle green and bracken brown,  
Past the shieling through the town,  
All for sake of Mairi.*

*Chorus:*

*Cheeks as bright as rowans are,  
Brighter far than any star.  
Fairest o' them all by far  
Is my darling Mairi.*

*Chorus:*

*“Plenty herring, plenty meal,  
Plenty peat to fill her creel,  
Many bonny bairns as weel”  
That's the toast for Mairi.*

*Chorus:*

## Scottish Songs

### Donald, Where's Yer Troosers?

*Chorus:*

*Let the wind blow high,  
Let the wind blow low,  
Down the street in my kilt I'll go.  
And all the lassies say, "Hello!  
Donald, Where's your troosers?"*

*I've just come down from the Isle of Skye,  
I'm not very tall and I'm awful shy.  
The lassies shout as I go by,  
"Donald, where's your troosers?"*

*Chorus:*

*A lassie took me to a ball  
And it was slippery in the hall.  
I was afraid that I would fall  
'Cause I didn't have on my troosers.*

*Chorus:*

*They'd like to wed me everyone.  
Let them catch me if they can.  
You canna put breeks on a highland man  
Who doesn't like wearing troosers.*

*Chorus:*

*To wear the kilt is my delight.  
It isn't wrong, I know it's right.  
Highlanders would get a fright  
If they saw me wearing troosers.*

*Chorus:*

## Scottish Songs

### Donald, Where's Yer Troosers? continued

*Well I caught a cold and me nose was raw  
I had no handkerchief at a'  
So I hiked up my kilt and I gave it a blaw,  
Now you canna do that with troosers.  
Chorus:*

*Now I went down to London Town  
And I had some fun in the Underground  
The ladies turned their heads around Saying,  
Donald, where are your trousers  
Chorus:*

*[I like to wear my kilt all day,  
xcept when a cold wind's blowing  
Ah dinna ken where its coming from  
but I ken fine where it's going]*

## Scottish Songs

### I Belong To Glasgow

*I belong To Glasgow,  
Dear old Glasgow town.  
There's something the matter with Glasgow,  
For it's going round and round.  
I'm only a common old working chap,  
As anyone here will see,  
But when I've had a couple of drinks on a Saturday,  
Glasgow belongs to me.*

## Scottish Songs

### Just A Wee Deoch & Doris

*Just a wee Deoch & Doris,  
Just a wee drap, that's a'  
Just a wee Deoch & Doris,  
Afore we gang awa'  
There's a wee wifie waiting,  
In a wee butt and ben,  
but if you can say, "It's a braw bricht,  
Moonlicht nicht",  
Then ye're a'richt, ye ken.*

## Scottish Songs

### A Scottish Soldier

Chorus:

*But these green hills are not Highland hills,  
Nor the island hills, they're not my land's hills!  
And fair as these green foreign hills may be,  
They are not the hills of home.*

[C]

*There was a soldier, A Scottish Soldier,  
Who wandered far away and soldiered far away.  
There was none bolder, with a good broad shoulder,  
He fought in many a fray, and fought and won!*  
Chorus:

*He'd seen the glory and told the story  
Of battles glorious, and deeds victorious,  
But now he's sighing, his heart is crying  
To leave these green hills of Tyrol.*  
Chorus:

## Scottish Songs

### I Love a Lassie

*I Love a Lassie, a bonnie, bonnie Lassie,  
She's as pure as the lily in the dell,  
She's as sweet as the heather,  
The bonnie purple heather,  
Mary, my Scots bluebell.*

[C]

## Scottish Songs

### Loch Lomond

*Chorus:*

*Oh you tak' the high road, and I'll tak' the low road*

[F]

*An' I'll be in Scotland afore ye,*

*But me and my true love will never meet again*

*On the bonnie, bonnie banks o' Loch Lomond.*

*By yon bonnie banks and by yon bonnie braes*

*Where the sun shines bright on Loch Lomond*

*Where me and my true love were ever wont tae gae*

*On the bonnie, bonnie banks o' Loch Lomond*

*Chorus:*

*'Twas there that we parted in yon shady glen.*

*On the steep, steep side of Ben Lomond,*

*Where in purple hue, the hielan' hills we view,*

*An' the moon comin' out in the gloaming.*

*Chorus:*

## Scottish Songs

### Campbeltown Loch

Chorus:

*Campbeltown Loch, I wish you were whisky,  
Campbeltown Loch, och-aye!  
Campbeltown Loch, I wish you were whisky,  
I would drink you dry.*

[C]

*Now Campbeltown Loch is a beautiful place,  
But the price of the whisky is grim.  
How nice it would be if the whisky was free,  
And the Loch was filled up to the brim.*

Chorus:

*I'd buy a yacht with the money I've got,  
And I'd anchor it out in the bay.  
If I wanted a sip I'd go in for a dip  
I'd be swimmin' by night and by day.*

Chorus:

*But what's this I see, ochone for me,  
It's a vision to make your blood freeze.  
It's the police afloat in a dirty big boat  
And they're shouting: "Time, gentlemen, please!"*

Chorus:

## Scottish Songs

### The Porridge Song (Weaving Lilt)

*Brochan lom, tana lom, brochan lom na sùghain*  
*Brochan lom, tana lom, brochan lom na sùghain*  
*Brochan lom, tana lom, brochan lom na sùghain*  
*Brochan lom 's e tana lom 's e brochan lom na sùghain*

[F]

*Brochan tana, brochan tana, brochan lom na sùghain*  
*Brochan tana, brochan tana, brochan lom na sùghain*  
*Brochan tana, brochan tana, brochan lom na sùghain*  
*Brochan lom 's e tana lom 's e brochan lom na sùghain*

*Thugaibh aran dha na gillean leis a' bhrochan sùghain*  
*Thugaibh aran dha na gillean leis a' bhrochan sùghain*  
*Thugaibh aran dha na gillean leis a' bhrochan sùghain*  
*Brochan lom 's e tana lom 's e brochan lom na sùghain*

*Brochan tana, tana, tana, brochan lom na sùghain*  
*Brochan tana, tana, tana, brochan lom na sùghain*  
*Brochan tana, tana, tana, brochan lom na sùghain*  
*Brochan tana, tana, tana, brochan lom na sùghain*

## Scottish Songs

### Oh, ye canny shove yer granny aff a bus!

*Oh, ye canny shove yer Granny aff a bus,  
Oh, ye canny shove yer Granny aff a bus,  
'Cause she's yer Mammy's Mammy  
Oh, ye canny shove yer Granny aff a bus.*

[F]

*Ye can shove yer ither Granny aff a bus,  
Ye can shove yer ither Granny aff a bus,  
She's just yer Faither's Mammy  
But ye canny shove yer Granny aff a bus*

*Ye can shove yer Uncle Wullie aff a bus,  
Ye can shove yer Uncle Wullie aff a bus,  
Uncle Wullie's like yer Faither a harum-scarum blether  
But ye canny shove yer Granny aff a bus.*

*Ye can shove yer Auntie Maggie aff a bus,  
Ye can shove yer Auntie Maggie aff a bus,  
Auntie Meg's yer Faither's sister She's naethin' but a twister  
But ye canny shove yer Granny aff a bus!*

## Scottish Songs

### Scots Wha Hae

*Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled,  
Scots wham Bruce has often led,  
Welcome to your gorie bed,  
Or to Victory*

[F]

*Now's the day and now's the hour,  
See the front o' battle lour,  
See approach proud Edward's power,  
Chains and slaverie.*

*Wha will be a traitor knave,?  
Wha can fill a coward's grave,?  
Wha sae base as be a slave?  
Let him turn and flee!*

*Wha, for Scotland's King and Law,  
Freedom's sword will strongly draw,  
Freeman stand or Freeman fall?  
Let him on wi' me!*

## Scottish Songs

### Ho-Ro My Nut-Brown Maiden

*Chorus:*

*Ho-ro my nut-brown maiden,  
Ho-ree my nut-brown maiden,  
Ho-ro, ro-o, maiden,  
For she's the maid for me.*

[F]

*Her eyes so brightly beaming,  
Her look so frank and free,  
In waking and in dreaming  
Is ever more with me.*

*Chorus:*

*O Mary, mild-eyed Mary.  
By land or on the sea.  
Hough time and tide may vary,  
My heart beats true to thee.*

*Chorus:*

*With thy fair face before me,  
How sweetly flew the hour,  
When all thy beauty o'er me  
Came streaming in its pow'r.*

*Chorus:*

*A face with kindness glowing  
The face that hides no guile,  
The light grace of thy going,  
The witchcraft of thy smile!*

*Chorus:*

## Scottish Songs

### Ho-Ro My Nut-Brown Maiden continued

*And when with blossoms laden,  
Bright summer comes again,  
I'll fetch my nut-brown maiden,  
Down from the bonny glen.  
Chorus:*

## Scottish Songs

### Highland Cathedral

*There is a land far from this distant shore  
Where heather grows and Highland eagles soar  
There is a land that will live ever more  
Deep in my heart, my Bonnie Scotland*

*Though I serve so far away  
I still see your streams, cities and dreams  
I can't wait until the day  
When I'll come home once more*

*So Lord keep me from the harm of war  
Through all the dangers and the battles roar  
Keep me safe until I'm home once more  
Home to my own in Bonnie Scotland*

## Scottish Songs

### These Are My Mountains

*Chorus:*

*For these are my mountains, and this is my glen.  
The braes of my childhood, will know me again.  
No land's ever claimed me, though far I did roam,  
For these are my mountains, and I'm going home.*

*For fame and for fortune, I wandered the earth  
And now I've come back to this land of my birth  
I've brought back my treasures but only to find  
They're less than the pleasures I first left behind.*

*Chorus:*

*The burn by the road sings, at my going by  
The whaup o'er the head wings with welcoming cry.  
The loch where the scaup flies at last I can see,  
Its here where my heart lies It's here I'll be free.*

*Chorus:*

*Kind faces will greet me and welcome me in,  
And how they will greet me my ain kith and kin.  
This night round the ingle old songs will be sung  
At last I'll be hearing my ain mother tongue.*

*Chorus:*

whaup = curlew

scaup = a diving duck

## Scottish Songs

### Song Of The Clyde

*I sing of a river he song I'm happy beside  
The song that I sing is a song of the Clyde.  
Of all Scottish rivers it's dearest to me.  
It flows from Leadhills all the way to the sea.*

[F]

*It borders the orchards of Lanark so fair,  
Meanders through meadows wi sheep grazing there,  
But fra Glasgow to Greenock, in towns on each side,  
The hammers' ding-dong is the song of the Clyde*

*Oh the river Clyde, the wonderful Clyde  
The name of it thrills me and fills me with pride  
And I'm satisfied whate'er may betide  
The sweetest of songs is the song of the Clyde.*

## Scottish Songs

### Mull Of Kintyre

Chorus:

*Oh mist rolling in from the sea, my desire,  
Is always to be here Oh Mull of Kintyre.*

[G]

*Far have I travelled and much have I seen  
Dark distant mountains with valleys of green.  
Past painted deserts and sunsets on fire  
As they carry me home to the Mull of Kintyre.*

Chorus:

*Sweep through the heather like deer in the glen  
Carry me back to the days I knew then.  
Nights when we sang like a heavenly choir  
of the life and the times of the Mull Of Kintyre.*

Chorus:

*Smiles in the sunshine and tears in the rain  
Still take me back to where my memories remain  
Flickering embers growing higher and higher  
As they carry me back to the Mull of Kintyre*

Chorus:

## Scottish Songs

### The Road To The Isles

*Chorus:*

*Sure, by Tummel and Loch Rannoch  
And Lochaber I will go,  
By heather tracks wi' heaven in their wiles;  
If it's thinkin' in your inner heart braggart's in my step,  
You've never smelt the tangle o' the Isles.*

*A far croonin' is calling me away,  
As take I wi' my cromak to the road.  
The far Coolins are putting love on me,  
As step I wi' the sunlight for my load.  
Chorus:*

*It's by Sheil Water the track is to the west,  
By Aillort, and by Morar to the sea,  
The cool cresses I am thinking o' for pluck,  
And bracken for a wink on Mother's knee.  
Chorus:*

*It's the blue Islands are pullin' me away,  
Their laughter puts the leap upon the lame,  
The blue Islands from the Skerries to the Lews,  
Wi' heather honey taste upon each name.  
Chorus:*

## Scottish Songs

### Coulter's Candy

*Ally, bally, ally bally bee,  
Sittin' on yer mammy's knee  
Greetin' for a wee bawbee,  
Tae buy some Coulter's candy.*

[D]

*Ally. bally, ally, bally bee,  
when you grow up you'll go to sea,  
Makin' pennies for your daddy and me,  
Tae buy mair Coulter's Candy.*

*Mammy, gie me ma thrifty doon!  
Here's auld Coulter comin' roon,  
Wi' a basket on his croon,  
Selling Coulter's Candy.*

## Scottish Songs

### A Gordon For Me

Chorus:

*A Gordon for me, a Gordon for me,  
If ye're no a Gordon ye're nae use to me.  
The Black Watch are braw, the Seaforths and a'  
But the cocky wee Gordon's the pride o' them a'.*

[G]

*I'm Geordie MacKay of the H. L. I.  
I'm fond of the lassies and a drappie forbye.  
One day when out walking I chanced to see,  
A bonnie wee lass wi' a glint in her ee'  
Says I to the lassie "Will you walk for a while?  
I'll buy you a bonnet and we'll do it in style.  
My kilt is Mackenzie o' the H. L. I."  
She look'd at me shyly and said wi' a sigh.  
Chorus:*

*I courted that girl on the banks of the Dee.  
I made up my mind she was fashioned for me.  
Soon I was a' thinking how nice it would be,  
If she would consent to get married to me.  
The day we were wed, the grass was so green.  
The sun was as bright as the light in her 'een.  
Now we've two bonnie lassies who sit on her knee,  
While she sings the song she once sang to me.  
Chorus:*

## Scottish Songs

### Bonnie Mary Of Argyll

*I have heard the mavis singing,  
His love song to the morn,  
I have seen the dew drop clinging,  
To the rose just newly born.*

*But a sweeter song has cheer'd me,  
At the ev'ning's gentle close  
And I've seen an eye still brighter  
Than the dew drop on the rose.*

*'Twas thy voice, my gentle Mary,  
And thine artless winning smile,  
That made this world an Eden,  
Bonnie Mary of Argyll.*

## Scottish Songs

### **Ae Fond Kiss**

*Ae fond kiss, and then we sever;  
Ae fareweel, alas, for ever!  
Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thee,  
Warring sighs and groans I'll wage thee.*

*Who shall say that Fortune grieves him,  
While the star of hope she leaves him?  
Me, nae cheerful twinkle lights me;  
Dark despair around benights me.*

*I'll ne'er blame my partial fancy,  
Naething could resist my Nancy:  
But to see her was to love her;  
Love but her, and love for ever.*

*Had we never lov'd sae kindly,  
Had we never lov'd sae blindly,  
Never met-or never parted,  
We had ne'er been broken-hearted.*

*Fare-thee-weel, thou first and fairest!  
Fare-thee-weel, thou best and dearest!  
Thine be ilka joy and treasure,  
Peace, Enjoyment, Love and Pleasure!*

*Ae fond kiss, and then we sever!  
Ae fareweeli alas, for ever!  
Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thee,  
Warring sighs and groans I'll wage thee*

## Scottish Songs

### Oh, cruel was the snow that sweeps Glencoe

*Oh, cruel was the snow that sweeps Glen Coe  
And covers the grave o' Donald  
Oh, cruel was the foe that raped Glen Coe  
And murdered the house of MacDonald.*

## Scottish Songs

### O, My Luve Is Like A Red, Red Rose

*O, my luve is like a red, red rose,  
That's newly sprung in June.  
O, my love is like a melodie,  
That's sweetly play'd in tune.*

*As fair art thou, my bonnie lass,  
So deep in luve am I,  
And I will luve thee still, my dear,  
Till a' the seas gang dry.*

*Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear,  
And the rocks melt wi' the sun!  
And I will luve thee still, my dear,  
While the sands of life shall run.*

*And fare the weel, my only luve!  
And fare the well awhile!  
And I will come again, my love.  
Tho it were ten thousand mile!*

## Scottish Songs

### Auld Lang Syne

*Chorus:*

*For auld lang syne, my jo, for auld lang syne, [F]  
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne.*

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne?*

*Chorus:*

*And here's a hand, my trusty fiere, and gie's a hand o' thine,  
We'll tak' a right guid-willie waught, for auld lang syne!*

*Chorus:*

NB; The word "sake" is found nowhere in this song

## Scottish Songs

### We're No Awa' Tae Bide Awa'

*We're no awa' tae bide awa',  
And we're no' awa tae leave ye,  
For we're no' awa' tae bide awa',  
We'll aye come back an' see ye.*

[C]

*We're not going away to stay far away,  
we're not just going to leave you;  
We're not going away to stay far away,  
We will always come back to see you.*