

Songs from the British Isles

Skye Boat Song



Skye Boat Song – Scottish Traditional



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

Loud the winds howl, loud the waves roar,
Thunder clouds rend the air;
Baffled our foe's stand on the shore
Follow they will not dare

Speed bonnie boat....

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

Speed bonnie boat....

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

Speed bonnie boat...

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

Speed bonnie boat...



Charles Edward Stuart, called The Young Pretender, The Young Chevalier, and Bonnie Prince Charlie (1720-88), claimant to the British throne who led the Scottish Highland army in the 1745 Rebellion.



The son of James Francis Edward Stuart and grandson of James II of England, Charles Edward was born December 31, 1720, in Rome. In 1744, after his father had obtained the support of the French government for a projected invasion of England. Charles Edward went to France to assume command of the French expeditionary forces. Bad weather and the setting up of a powerful British fleet to oppose the invasion led to cancellation of the plan by the French government. Charles Edward was determined to drive George II from the British throne, however, and in 1745 he arrived in Scotland, where a number of Highland clans came to his assistance. He took Edinburgh, defeated a British force at Prestonpans, and advanced as far south as Derby before being forced to retreat. In April 1746, however, his forces were badly beaten at Culloden Moor. After the battle of Culloden, Charles escaped by boat to the Isle of Skye. After, he was taken to Morlaix, in Brittany by a French vessel. He was hunted as a fugitive for more than five months, but the Highlanders never betrayed him, and he escaped to France in September 1746. Two years later he was expelled from that country in accordance with one of the provisions of the second Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748), which stipulated that all members of the house of Stuart were to be driven from France. For a number of years Charles Edward wandered about Europe. Secretly visiting London in 1750 and in 1754, he attempted without success on both occasions to win support for his cause. In 1766, on his father's death, Charles Edward returned to Italy, where he spent his last years. He died in Rome on January 31, 1788.



Skye Boat Song

Scottish traditional

Melody

D E D G G A B A D B A B E E D D

Harmony

B C B B C D C F# G G G C C B B

Bass

G G A D G C G G

Melody

B G B B A E A A G E G G G E E

Harmony

G G E G C C A C E C C E E G B

Bass

E E A A E A E E

Melody

D D E D G G A B A D B A B E E D

Harmony

D E F# B C B B C D C F# G G G C C B

Bass

D G G A D G C G

Melody

D D E D G G A B A D B A B E E G G

Harmony

B B C B B C D C F# G G G C C B B

Bass

G G G A D G C G G

Skye Boat Song

Guitar/Piano accomp

Scottish traditional

Melody

Bass

7

Melody

Bass

12

Melody

Bass

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

Loud the winds howl, loud the waves roar,
Thunder clouds rend the air;
Baffled our foe's stand on the shore
Follow they will not dare

Speed bonnie boat....

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

Speed bonnie boat....

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

Speed bonnie boat...

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

Speed bonnie boat...