



Skype Boat Song

was first published by Sir Harold Boulton and Anne Campbell McLeod in 1884. It is based on the melody of a Gaelic Scottish rowing song composed about c.1782 by William Ross entitled "Cuachag nan Craobh" which translates to "Cuckoo of the Tree". About 100 years later, Sir Harold Boulton, inspired by the melody of this song, wrote lyrics about Scotland's Bonnie Prince Charlie's escape by boat from the Isle of Benbecula to the Island of Skye after his Jacobite Army was finally defeated by the army of Britain's King George 11 at the 1746 Battle of Culloden. Flora McDonald, a Scottish lady, helped Prince Charles escape on the boat to Skye disguised as her Irish maid named Betty Bourke. "The Young Pretender" was never able to return to Scotland after this.

CHORUS:

[C] Speed bonnie [F] boat, like a [Dm] bird on the [G7] wing

[C] "Onward!" the [F] sailors [G7] cry

[C] Carry the [F] lad that's [Dm] born to be [G7] King

[C] Over the [F] sea to [C] Skye [G7]

[Am] Loud the winds howl [Dm] loud the waves roar

[Am] Thunderclaps [G] rend the [Am] air

[Am] Baffled our foes [Dm] stand by the shore

[Am] Follow they [G] will not [Am] dare [G7]

CHORUS:

[Am] Though the waves leap [Dm] soft shall ye sleep

[Am] Ocean's a [G] royal [Am] bed

[Am] Rocked in the deep [Dm] Flora will keep

[Am] Watch by your [G] weary [Am] head [G7]

CHORUS:

[Am] Many's the lad [Dm] fought on that day

[Am] Well the Clay-[G]-more could [Am] wield

[Am] When the night came [Dm] silently lay

[Am] Dead on [G] Culloden's [Am] field [G7]

CHORUS:

[Am] Burned are our homes [Dm] exile and death

[Am] Scatter the [G] loyal [Am] men

[Am] Yet e'er the sword [Dm] cool in the sheath

[Am] Charlie will [G] come [Am] again [G7]



