

Folk Song: Loch Lomond

The folk song "Loch Lomond" is a traditional Scottish ballad that has been passed down through generations and has evolved over time. It is believed to have originated in the 18th century and is associated with the area around Loch Lomond, a large freshwater lake located in the Scottish Highlands.

The exact origins of the song are unknown, but it is thought to have emerged after an uprising among the Scottish Highlanders, who tried to restore the Stuart lineage to the throne. This attempt, known as the "Jacobite rising of 1745," or "The Forty-Five Rebellion," ultimately failed, and many soldiers who participated in the uprising were jailed or executed. The lyrics of this folk song depict the longing of a captured Jacobite rebel for his homeland and his love, who is waiting for him on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond. He is due to be executed and fears he will never see either again in life, but believes that after his death, he will "take the low road," and his spirit will find rest in his homeland.

As the song was passed down orally, different variations and interpretations emerged. In some versions, the rebel is joined by his comrades in arms, while others focus solely on his love. The melody also changed over time, with multiple arrangements and variations being recorded. Over the years, "Loch Lomond" became a popular folk song in Scotland and beyond, with many artists covering it in their own unique styles. It has been featured in movies and TV shows and has even been used as a rallying cry at sporting events.

Today, "Loch Lomond" remains an important part of Scottish culture, representing the resilience of the Scottish people and the longing many feel for their homeland. Its haunting melody and emotional lyrics continue to capture the hearts of listeners, making it a beloved folk song that will continue to be passed down for generations to come.

Loch Lomond Lyrics

By yon bonnie banks and by yon bonnie braes,
Where the sun shines bright on Loch Lomond,
Where me & my true love were ever wont to gae,
On the bonnie, bonnie banks o' Loch Lomond.

O ye'll tak' the high road an' I'll tak' the low,
And I'll be in Scotland a'fore ye,
But me and my true love will never meet again,
On the bonnie, bonnie banks o' Loch Lomond.

'Twas there that we parted, in yon shady glen,
On the steep, steep side o' Ben Lomond,
Wher'n soft purple hue, the highland hills we view,
And the moon coming out in the gloaming (dusk).

O ye'll tak' the high road, and I'll tak' the low road,
And I'll be in Scotland a'fore ye,
But me and my true love will never meet again,
On the bonnie, bonnie banks o' Loch Lomond.

The wee birdies sing and the wildflowers spring,
And in sunshine the waters are sleeping.
But the broken heart it kens nae second spring again,
Though the waeful may cease frae their grieving.


O ye'll tak' the high road, and I'll tak' the low road,
And I'll be in Scotland a'fore ye,
But me and my true love will never meet again,
On the bonnie, bonnie banks o' Loch Lomond.


Traditional Scottish


Loch Lomond


TTBB


Arranged by Daniel Froehling


Tenor  By___ yon bon - nie banks and by yon bon - nie braes, where the sun___ shines___ bright on Loch


Tenor  By___ yon bon - nie banks and by yon bon - nie braes, where the sun shines bright on Loch -


Baritone  By___ yon bon - nie banks and by yon bon - nie braes, where the sun shines bright on Loch

Bass  By___ yon bon - nie banks and by yon bon - nie braes, where the sun___ shines___ bright on Loch

T.  Lo - mond

T.  Lo - mond where me and my true love will ne - 'er meet a - gain on the bon-nie bon-nie banks o'er Loch

Bar.  Lo - mond where me and my true love will ne - 'er meet a - gain on the bon-nie bon-nie banks o'er Loch

B.  Lo - mond

T.  Oh ye'll take the high road, and I'll take the low road, and I'll be in Scot - land a -

T.  Lo - mond Oh ye'll take the high road, and I'll take the low road, and I'll be in Scot - land a -

Bar.  Lo - mond Oh ye'll take the high road, and I'll take the low road, and I'll be in Scot - land a -

B.  Oh ye'll take the high road, and I'll take the low road, and I'll be in Scot - land a -

Here are extra verses of the song.
 If you use the additional verses I'd advise shortening
 the last two measures to one measure with the
 end of the song being sung as written.

12
T. fore ye. But me and my true love will nev - er meet a - gain, on the

T. fore ye. But me and my true love will nev - er meet a - gain, on the

Bar. fore ye. But me and my true love will nev - er meet a - gain, on the

B. fore ye. But me and my true love will nev - er meet a - gain, on the

15
T. bon - nie bon - nie banks O' Loch Lo - mond

T. bon - nie bon - nie banks O' Loch Lo - mond

Bar. bon - nie bon - nie banks O' Loch Lo - mond

B. bon - nie bon - nie banks O' Loch Lo - mond

Here are extra verses of the song.
If you use the additional verses I'd advise shortening
the last two measures to one measure with the
end of the song being sung as written.

'Twas there that we perted in yon shady glen
On the steep, steep sides Oh Loch Lomond
Where in purple hue, the highland hills we view,
An' the moon comin' out in the gloamin'.
Chorus

The wee birdies sing an' the wild flouers spring
An' in sunshine the waters are sleeping
But the broken heart, it kens nae second spring again
Though the world knows not how we are grieving.
Chorus

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This song is free for you to use any way you want.
God Bless Music and The Scottish Highlands.