

The following are four very popular Scottish songs. Two are based on poems by Robert Burns (1759-1796), the most important Scottish poet, celebrated every year by Scots all over the world.

Banks and Braes

Here is a song based on a poem by Robert Burns in one of his more soulful moods as he describes a love-lost girl as she wanders by the banks of the river Doon in Ayrshire.

I like to play it followed by The Skye Boat Song, they form a nice set.

The musical score is arranged for Viola (A) and Bass (B). It consists of two systems. The first system is for Viola (A) and Bass (B). The second system is for Viola (A1) and Bass (B1). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score includes a 'V' marking above the first measure of the Viola part in the first system. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with some grace notes and slurs.

Ye banks and braes o' bonnie Doon,
 How can ye bloom sae fresh and fair?
 How can ye chant, ye little birds,
 And I sae weary, fu' o' care!
 Thou'll break my heart, thou warbling bird,
 That wantons thro' the flowering thorn!
 Thou minds me o' departed joys,
 Departed, never to return.

Aft hae I rov'd by bonnie Doon
 To see the rose and woodbine twine;
 And ilka bird sang o' its luvie,
 And fondly sae did I o' mine;
 Wi' lightsome heart I pu'd a rose,
 Fu' sweet upon its thorny tree!
 And my fause luvier stole my rose -
 But, ah! he left the thorn wi' me.

Meaning of unusual words:
 braes=hillsides
 ilka=every