

# The Boatie Rows

Scottish Folk Song

Arranged by Mandy Miller

B O O S E Y & H A W K E S

CONCERT  
MUSIC

F O R

DEVELOPING  
CHOIR

BOOSEY & HAWKES

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## PROGRAM NOTES

This is a simple strophic, Scottish folk song arranged for young singers. The song is set in a stunningly beautiful, small village on the east coast of Scotland. Years ago, the fishermen would sail every day from the harbor in Lower Largo to secure a catch, thereby ensuring that they could support their families. The recurring rhythm at the start of bar 7 and bar 9 etc should be crushed down as you feel appropriate to reflect the “scotch snap” (acciaccatura) which is so common in Scottish music. Each piano interlude implies a well-known melody associated with sailing. The song should be sung simply with every effort made to allow the children to tell the story.

According to Robert Chambers in *Scottish Songs Prior To Burns* (1890): “This beautiful song of the domestic affections, which Burns thought nearly equal to “There’s Nae Luck About The House” was stated by him to have been the composition of ‘a Mr Ewen of Aberdeen’, and the statement has never been contradicted. The person referred to appears to have been Mr John Ewen, a dealer in hardware in Aberdeen, who died on the 21st of October 1821, at the age of eighty. He was a native of Montrose, and at his death he destined his entire fortune, of about £16,000, for the founding of a hospital for the nurture and education of poor children in that burgh. It will be learned with surprise, that in this destination he overlooked a daughter who had married, as he probably thought, imprudently – a strange comment of fact upon the sentiment so touchingly indicated in the song. The will, however, was set aside by a decision of the House of Lords.”

There are 7 verses shown in Johnson’s *Scots Musical Museum* Vol.5 (P.427), and in *Scottish Songs Prior To Burns* edited by Chambers, who says that ‘it was customary to give only the first, second and sixth verses.’

### TEXT

*O weel may the boatie row and better may she speed  
O weel may the boatie row that wins the bairnies’ breid*

*The boatie rows, the boatie rows, the boatie rows indeed  
And happy be the lot o’ a’ that wish the boatie speed.*

*I cast my lines in Largo Bay and fishes I caught nine  
There’s three t’ boil and three t’ fry and three t’ bait the line.*

*The boatie rows, the boatie rows, the boatie rows indeed  
And happy be the lot o’ a’ that wish the boatie speed.*

*And when wi’ age we are worn doon and hirplin’ at the door  
They’ll row t’ keep us hale and warm as we did them before*

*Then weel may the boatie row that wins the bairnies’ breid  
And happy be the lot o’ a’ that wish the boatie speed*

### PRONUNCIATION ASSISTANCE

Weel	as in <i>real</i>	Breid	as in <i>creed</i>	Wi’	as in <i>win</i>
Row	as in <i>‘take a bow’</i>	O’	as in <i>no</i>	Doon	as in <i>soon</i>
Bairnies	<i>bare -knees</i>	A’	<i>aw</i>	Hirplin	as in <i>sir</i> – and <i>plin</i> as in <i>sk-in</i>

### DURATION

Ca. 2 minutes

### ABOUT THE ARRANGER

**Mandy Miller** has been Head of Music in Lochgelly High School, Fife since 1987. She is Musical Director of Dunfermline Choral Union and Founder & Artistic Director of Dunfermline Junior Chorus. Mandy works enthusiastically and tirelessly at regional, national and international level to further the cause of music making. Mandy was awarded an Artist Teacher Diploma in 1997 and Master Teacher Certificate in 1999 from Dr Doreen Rao as part of The Choral Music Experience Institute. Mandy was awarded The Paul Harris Fellowship by The International Rotary Foundation for her outstanding contribution to music making within the community. Mandy is a much sought after workshop practitioner in Choral Music Education and is an experienced teacher of choral conducting in Britain, Canada and the USA.

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Commissioned in honor of the 40th Anniversary  
of The St. Louis Children's Choirs - Barbara Berner, Artistic Director.  
A gift by Bill and Jean Buchanan for the Music Makers - Belinda Burnworth, Director.

# THE BOATIE ROWS

Unison\* with Piano

Text attributed to  
John Ewen (19th Century)

Scottish Folk Song  
Arranged by Mandy Miller

Strong Feeling of 2 ♩ = ca. 82

Unison

Piano

Strong Feeling of 2 ♩ = ca. 82

5

*rit.* *mf a tempo*

O weel\_ may the boat - ie row\_ and\_

*rit.* *a tempo*

*mf*

9

bet - ter may she speed.\_ And weel\_ may the boat - ie row,\_ that\_

\* Vocal line without piano can be found on pages 7-8.

13

wins the bairn - ies' breid. The boat - ie rows, the\_\_ boat - ie rows, the\_\_

17

boat - ie rows in - deed. And hap-py be the lot o'\_\_ a'\_\_ that\_\_

21

wish the boat - ie speed.

25

I cast my lines in Lar - go Bay and

29

fish-es I caught nine. There's three t' boil and three t' fry and

33

three t' bait the line. The boat - ie rows, the boat - ie rows, the

38

boat - ie rows in - deed. And hap-py be the lot o' a' that

42

wish the boat - ie speed. *rit.*

47 **Slower***mp***Slower**

*mp*  
*p*

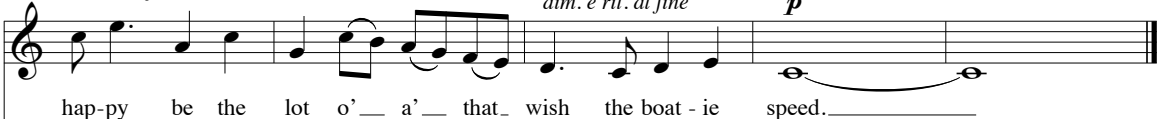
52



56

**Tempo I***accel.**mf**accel.***Tempo I**

*f*  
*f*

61 **Broadly***dim. e rit. al fine**p***Broadly***dim. e rit. al fine*

*p*  
*pp*

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# THE BOATIE ROWS

Unison Voices

Text attributed to  
John Ewen (19th Century)

Scottish Folk Song  
Arranged by Mandy Miller

Strong Feeling of 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  = ca. 82

5 *rit.* *mf a tempo*

O weel\_ may the boat - ie row\_ and\_

9

bet-ter may she speed.\_ And weel\_ may the boat - ie row,\_ that\_

13

wins the bairn - ies' breid. The boat - ie rows, the\_ boat - ie rows, the\_

17

boat - ie rows in - deed. And hap-py be the lot o'\_ a'\_ that\_

21

3

wish the boat - ie speed. I

27

cast my lines in Lar - go Bay and fish-es I caught nine.\_ There's

31

three t' boil and three t' fry\_ and\_ three t' bait the line.

