

# THE CUCKOO IN THE GROVE

(Cuachag nan Craobh)

Traditional



Miss Ann Campbell MacLeod (1855–1921) was on a trip to the Isle of Skye in 1879 and while being rowed over Loch Coruisk heard the rowers singing this song. (This version was published in *The St. Columba Collection of Gaelic Songs* edited by J. and R. Parlane of Paisley, ca. 1900.) Like many traditional songs, it has a modal character.

Miss MacLeod later set down what she remembered of the air, calling it *The Skye Boat Song*:



Sir Harold Boulton (1859–1935), an English businessman, met Miss MacLeod in 1884 and collaborated with her in publishing a collection of “folk” songs, including *The Skye Boat Song*. Boulton added sentimental lyrics about the escape of “bonnie” Prince Charles Stuart, who had led the Jacobite rebellion that ended disastrously at Culloden moor in 1746.

R.D. Tennent