Skye Boat Song

DAD tuning

D  |  Bm  |  A  |  F#m  |  D  |  Bm  |  A

D  |  2-1-0-2-1-4  |  D  |  0-1-2-0-1-2  |  A  |  0-1-2-1-0-1

Bm  |  Em  |  Bm  |  G  |  Bm

D  |  2-1-0-2-1-4  |  D  |  0-1-2-1-2-3  |  A  |  2-2-2-2-2

Bm  |  Em  |  Bm  |  G  |  Bm  |  A

D  |  2-1-0-2-1-4  |  D  |  0-1-2-1-2-3  |  A  |  2-1-0-2-1

Lyrics Sir Harold Boulton
Music Collected from an air in the 1870’s by Ann Campbelle MacLeod

The air was an old Gaelic rowing song Cuachag nan Craobh (“The Cuckoo in the Grove”).
First published in 1884 in Songs of the North by Boulton and MacLeod
Skye Boat Song

D Bm A F#m D Bm A

Speed bon-nie boat like a bird on the wing. On-ward the sailors cry.

D Bm A F#m D Bm A

Car-ry the lad that's born to be king over the sea to Skye.

Bm Em Bm G Bm A

Loud the winds howl loud the waves roar thunder-claps rend the air.
Thru' the waves leap soft shall ye sleep ocean's a royal bed.
Man-y's the lad fought on that day well the clay-more could wield.

Bm Em Bm G Bm A

Baf-fled our foes stand by the shore follow they will not dare.
Rocked in the deep Flor-a will keep watch by your weary head.
When the night came silently lay dead on Cul-lo-den's field.

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