

# The Rise and Fall o' Charlie

## THE STORY IN SONG

In 1745 21 year old Prince Charles Edward of the exiled Stuart royal family secretly sails to the North West of Scotland to raise an army and wrest the throne of Britain back to the Stuarts. Arriving with only a handful of followers this surprise appearance on a seemingly hopeless venture does not enthrall all the local chieftains. But the word soon spreads and a rallying call is made (SOUND THE PIBROCH). An army begins to take shape as a tide of enthusiasm sweeps much of the Highlands (COME BOAT ME O'ER) and there are many in the Gaeltacht who are charmed by his youth and charisma (ORAN DO PHRIUNNSA TEARLACH or SONG FOR PRINCE CHARLES). The army is welcomed in Perth and advances into the Lowlands. When the colourful entourage enters Edinburgh much of the capital is intrigued by the spectacle and the dashing Prince soon has many new admirers (CHARLIE HE'S MY DARLIN') especially when balls and parties are held in his honour (BONNY CHARLIE). But there are those who oppose his cause and can foresee that it is destined to fail (DEAR TIBBIE).

A Hanoverian force led by Sir John Cope is dispatched north to engage the rebel Jacobites but are surprised at Prestonpans and routed in 15 minutes (HEY JOHNNY COPE).

The jubilant army marches south to England where Charles expects many new adherents and promised French reinforcements. When these fail to materialise he becomes despondent (WHERE ARE MY FOLLOWERS?). His army suffers desertions and he falls out with his military advisors over strategy. When they reach Derby he is overruled by his council and the army turns back to regroup. In the long march north they are reluctantly received in Carlisle and Glasgow and though they successfully engage a Government army at Falkirk morale is falling. Finally amid rancour again with his generals Charles makes the catastrophic decision to meet General Cumberland's army in open country at Culloden and his exhausted army is crushed.

Charles and his remnants are now being hunted down and he takes first takes refuge nearby (NACH TRUAGH MO CHÀS or HARD IS MY FATE) before fleeing to the Islands where sympathisers hide him from the Government army (SKYE BOAT SONG). He is a fugitive for months and is touched by the fidelity of his Highland protectors and promises to return (MILE MARBHPHAISG AIR AN T-SAOGHAL or A 1000 CURSES ON THE WORLD). But this conflict has devastated the Highland clan system and divided Scotland (WHERE WILL WE TURN?/THE LOWLAND SOLDIER).

Charles seeks refuge in France but is shunted from country to country as he becomes shunned by the Houses of Europe. For the next 40 years he cuts an increasingly pathetic figure, deluded by dreams of returning, haunted by failure and retreating into alcohol induced stupors. Women leave him because of his abusive behaviour. One such, Clementina Walkinshaw, bears his child Charlotte (THE BOY IN THE MAN). Charles dies at the age of 67 in obscurity. With his death and the threat of Jacobitism extinguished there now begins the long process of romanticising his life and creating the myth of the tragic, beautiful young Prince adored by and adoring of the faithful Highlander (WILL YE NO COME BACK AGAIN?).

## NOTES ON THE SONGS

Most Jacobite songs were composed long after the rebellion but some of the music in this volume was written shortly after the events. ORAN DO PHRIUNNSA TEARLACH and MILE MARBHPHAISG AIR AN T-SAOGHAL are the compositions of celebrated 18th. century Gaelic poet Alasdair Mac Mhaighstir (Alasdair MacDonald). Robert Burns is responsible for these versions of CHARLIE HE'S MA DARLIN' and COME BOAT ME O'ER. Lothian farmer Adam Skirving wrote HEY, JOHNNY COPE in the late 1700s. BONNY CHARLIE is from the NIEL GOW COLLECTION of fiddle airs while NACH TRUAGH MO CHÀS is from the SIMON FRASER COLLECTION. The story goes that when the Prince was hiding in a house after Culloden he was startled by a noise in an adjoining room and thought he was about to be captured. Upon discovering that it was in fact two children whispering he is reputed to have declared 'Hard is my fate when the innocent prattle of children could annoy me so much'. Lady Nairne wrote many Jacobite songs of which WILL YE NO' COME BACK AGAIN? is perhaps the most famous while a Mrs. Norman MacLeod Snr. wrote SOUND THE PIBROCH in the 1860s. Another Macleod, Annie (Lady Wilson) based a Gaelic song (Cuachag Nan Craobh) for the melody of THE SKYE BOAT SONG, the lyrics of which were written by Sir Harold

Boulting, again in the late 19th. century. The remainder of the songs were written by Alan Reid in this the 21st. century.

### *MUSICIANS*

ALAN REID: vocals, keyboards, accordion, guitar, harmonica

ROB van SANTE: guitars, backing vocals, keyboards, mandolin, percussion.

MAEVE MacKINNON: vocals

WENDY WETHERBY: cello, vocals

ALASDAIR WHITE: fiddle, bouzouki

SUSAN MILLER: whistle, flute

MIKE KATZ: Highland pipes, small pipes, whistle

IAN FAIRBAIRN: fiddle (Charlie He's Ma Darlin')