## Ye Banks and Braes



Peter Dyson 2017

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Ye banks and braes o' bonnie Doon, How ye can bloom so fresh and fair: How can ye chant, ye little birds, And I sae weary fu' o' care!

Ye'll break my heart, ye warbling birds, That wantons thro' the flowering thorn; Ye mind me o' departed joys; Departed never to return.

Oft ha'e I rov'd by bonnie Doon' To see the rose and woodbine twine; And ilka bird sang o' its love, And fondly sae did I o' mine.

Wi' lightsome heart I pu'd a rose, Fu' sweet upon its thorny tree; But my false lover stole my rose, But ah! he left the thorn wi' me.

## 1791

Mr. James Miller, a clerk at the General Register House at Edinburgh, composed the tune "The Caledonian Hunt's Delight" by a mere random effort. Mr. Stephen Clarke directed him to touch only the black keys of the harpsichord, keep a constant rhythm, and he would infallibly produce a Scotch air. Clarke then suggested the tune to Burns who adjusted his words to fit the tune.

The "Bonnie Doon" is a river that flows from Loch Doon to the Firth of Clyde in Ayrshire, Scotland, past Burns' home town of Alloway.