

The boatie rows

Traditional

1. O, weel may the boatie row, And better may it speed, O,

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, with lyrics: "1. O, weel may the boatie row, And better may it speed, O,". The middle staff is a second vocal line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with a treble and bass clef, featuring a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the treble.

weel may the boat - ie row, That wins the bairns' bread.

The second system of the musical score continues the piece with three staves. The top staff has lyrics: "weel may the boat - ie row, That wins the bairns' bread." The middle staff is a second vocal line. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with a treble and bass clef, maintaining the same rhythmic and harmonic structure as the first system.

The boatie rows, the boatie rows, The boatie rows fu' weel, And

muckle luck attend the boat, The murlin and the creel.

2. When Jamie vowed he would be mine,
 And wan frae me my heart,
 O, muckle lighter grew my creel!
 He swore we'd never part.
 The boatie rows, the boatie rows,
 The boatie rows fu' weel;
 And muckle lighter is the load
 When love bears up the creel.

3. My kurtch I put upon my haed,
 And dress'd myself fu' braw;
 I trow my heart was douff an' wae
 When Jamie gaed awa'.
 But weel may the boatie row,
 And lucky be her part;
 And lightsome be the lassie's care
 That yields an honest heart.

4. When Sawny, Jock, and Janetie
 Are up, and gotten lear,
 They'll help to gar the boatie row,
 And lighten a' our care.
 The boatie rows, the boatie rows,
 The boatie rows fu' weel,
 And lightsome be the heart that bears
 The murlin and the creel!

5. And when wi' age we are worn doun,
 And hirpling round the door,
 They'll row to keep us hale and warm,
 As we did them before
 Then weel may the boatie row
 That wins the bairns' bread;
 And happy be the lot of a'
 That wish the boatie speed.