



Roy's Wife

George Short
(1881-1962)

George Short (1881-1962) was born in Newington, Scotland. He taught music in Edinburgh and conducted the Edinburgh select choir. He served as organist at Bruntsfield Church for 60 years. After his death, the church merged with Barclay Viewforth Church where a section of stained glass in the church vestibule is dedicated in his memory

Roy's wife of Aldivalloch,
Roy's wife of Aldivalloch,
Wat ye how she cheated me,
As I cam' o'er the braes of Balloch?

She vow'd, she swore she wad be mine;
She said she lo'ed me best o' onie;
But ah! the fickle, faithless quean,
She's ta'en the carle, and left her Johnnie!

O, she was a cantie quean,
Weel could she dance the Highland walloch,
How happy I, had she been mine,
Or I been Roy of Aldivalloch.

Her hair sae fair, her een sae clear,
Her wee bit mou' sae sweet and bonnie;
To me she ever will be dear,
Though she's for ever left her Johnnie.

Elizabeth Grant of Carron (1745-1814), near Elchies, on the river Spey.
[Sometimes erroneously ascribed to Mrs. Grant of Laggan.]

In a letter dated 1793, Burns wrote that he had original words for Roy's Wife by "the lady who composed it."

The tune for *Roy's Wife* is *Ruffian's Rant*, traditional Scots melody. The air is attributed to Niel Gow, the famous Scottish piper and musician.

This Part song should be begun very softly; as if sung at a distance, followed by a gradual *crescendo* up to *forte*. Afterwards the marks of expression should be closely attended to. Towards end a gradual *diminuendo* should be observed, the last few bars being almost inaudible as if dying away in the distance.

Roy's Wife

George Short

With slow rhythmic swing

To be sung nasally to the syllables marked, in imitation of Bag-pipes.

Musical score for the first system of 'Roy's Wife'. It features four staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The Soprano, Alto, and Tenor parts consist of whole rests. The Bass part begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and plays a single note on the first staff. The lyrics 'nee' are written below the Bass staff.

Musical score for the second system of 'Roy's Wife'. It features four staves: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The Soprano and Alto parts consist of whole rests. The Tenor part begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and plays a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics 'nee neen - il - ee neen - il - ee neen - il - ee nee neen - il - ee neen - il - ee neen - il - ee' are written below the Tenor staff. The Tenor part ends with a *cresc.* marking. The Bass part begins with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and plays a single note on the first staff. The lyrics 'nee' are written below the Bass staff.



Roy's Wife

5

S
A
T
B

nee neen - il - ee neen - il - ee neen - il - ee neen - il - ee neen - il - ee nee

nee nee

S A & B Parts loud enough to suggest marching Rhythm

7

S
A
T
B

Roy's wife, Roy's wife, Roy's wife, Roy's wife,

Roy's wife, Roy's wife, Roy's wife, Roy's wife,

Roy's wife of Al - di - val - loch, Roy's wife of Al - di - val - loch,

Roy's wife, Roy's wife, Roy's wife, Roy's wife,

9

S
A
T
B

Wat ye how she cheat - ed me, *ff* I cam' ov - er *dim.*

Wat ye how she cheat - ed me, *ff* I cam' ov - er *dim.*

Wat ye how she cheat - ed me, *ff* As I cam' o'er the braes of Bal - loch? *dim.*

Wat ye how she cheat - ed me, *ff* I cam' ov - er *dim.*

Roy's Wife

11

S

A

T

B

S

A

T

B

She vow'd, she swore she wad be mine; She said she lo'ed me

She vow'd, she swore she wad be mine; She said she lo'ed me

She vow'd, she swore she wad be mine; She said she lo'ed me

She vow'd, she swore she wad be mine; She said she lo'ed me

18

Allargando

S

A

T

B

best o' o - nie; But ah! the fick - le,

best o' o - nie; But ah! the fick - le,

best o' o - nie; But ah! the fick - le,

best of o - nie; But ah! the fick - le,

Roy's Wife

20

S *ff* **Tempo 1** *p* **Lento**
faith - less quean, She's ta'en the carle, and left her John - nie!

A *ff* *p*
faith - less quean, She's ta'en the carle, and left her John - nie!

T *ff* *p*
faith - less quean, She's ta'en the carle, and left her John - nie!

B *ff* *p*
faith - less quean, Ah! She's ta'en the carle, and left her John - nie!

23

S

A

T *>*

B

27

S

A

T *p*
O, she was a can - tie quean, Weel could she dance the

B *p*
O, she was a can - tie quean, Weel could she dance the

Roy's Wife

30

S

A

T

B

High - land wal - loch, How hap - py I, had

High - land wal - loch, How hap - py I, had

rall.

rall.

32

S

A

T

B

she been mine, Or I been Roy of Al - di - val - loch.

she been mine, Al - di - val - loch.

a tempo

a tempo

f

Slower

S

A

T

B

Her hair sae fair, her een sae clear, Her wee bit mou' sae

Her hair sae fair, her een sae clear, Her wee bit mou' sae

ten.

p

ten.

p

Roy's Wife

38

S
sweet and bon - nie;

A
sweet and bon - nie; To me she ev - er will be dear, Tho'

T
To me she ev - er will be dear, Tho'

B

41

S

Lento

A
she's for ev - er left her John - nie.

T
she's for ev - er left her John - nie.

B

Tempo 1

43

S

A

T
mf

B
mf

Roy's Wife

47

S

A *p*

T *p*

B *p*

Roy's wife of Al - di - val - loch, Roy's wife of Al - di - val - loch,

49

S

A

T

B

Wat ye how she cheat - ed me, I cam' ov - er

Wat ye how she cheat - ed me, I cam' ov - er

Wat ye how she cheat - ed me, As I cam' o'er the braes of Bal - loch?

Wat ye how she cheat - ed me, I cam' ov - er

51

S

A *gradually softer to the end*

T

B

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

Roy's Wife

55

S
A
T
B

Strathearn
(1913)

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