



# **O'Donnell Aboo!**

*Ó Domhnaill Abú*

Irish melody

**William Rhys-Herbert**  
**(1868-1921)**

“Abú” (To victory) was the Gaelic war cry which followed a commander’s name. Red Hugh O’Donnell ruled Tyrconnell in the late sixteenth century, first with the approval of the Crown authorities in Dublin and later in rebellion against them during Tyrone’s Rebellion. The war cry was to assemble the O’Donnell clan on the banks of the River Erne. O’Donnell hired the Irish and Scots mercenaries of Bonnaught and Gallowglass to guard the mountain passes. They join the other O’Donnell forces, who wait the arrival of Hugh O’Neill, Earl of Tyrone, and the Borderers who protect his lands.

Loudly the note of the trumpet is sounding;  
Proudly the war cries arise on the gale;  
Fleetly the steed by Lough Swilly is bounding,  
To join the thick squadrons on Saimear’s green vale.  
On, ev’ry mountaineer,  
Strangers to flight or fear,  
Rush to the standard of dauntless Red Hugh.  
Bonnaught and Gallowglass,  
Throng from each mountain pass.  
On for old Erin, “O’Donnell Aboo!”

Princely O’Neill to our aid is advancing  
With many a chieftain and warrior clan.  
A thousand proud steeds in his vanguard are prancing  
‘Neath the borderers brave from the Banks of the Bann:  
Many a heart shall quail  
Under its coat of mail;  
Deeply the merciless foeman shall rue.  
When on his ears shall ring,  
Borne on the breeze’s wing,  
Tir Chonail’s dread war-cry, “O’Donnell Aboo!”

Wildly o’er Desmond the war-wolf is howling;  
Fearless the eagle sweeps over the plain;  
The fox in the streets of the city is prowling--  
All who would scare them are banished or slain!  
Grasp ev’ry stalwart hand  
Hackbut and battle brand--  
Pay them all back the deep debt so long due;  
Norris and Clifford well  
Can of Tirconnell tell;  
Onward to glory--”O’Donnell aboo!”

Sacred the cause that Clan Connell’s defending--  
The altars we kneel at and homes of our sires;  
Ruthless the ruin the foe is extending--  
Midnight is red with the plunderer’s fires.  
On with O’Donnell then,  
Fight the old fight again,  
Sons of Tirconnell,  
All valiant and true:  
Make the false Saxon feel  
Erin’s avenging steel!  
Strike for your country! “O’Donnell Aboo!”

Michael Joseph McCann (1820/24-1883)

**William Rhys-Herbert** (1868–1921) was born in Ffwrnas, South Wales. As a youth, he showed much musical talent and, saving his money, he bought a harmonium. He became the first organist at Jerusalem Chapel and studied with T. J. Davies of Swansea. He graduated from the London College of Music and went to Canada where he studied at Trinity University, Toronto. He emigrated to the U.S. and was appointed organist at Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and then was organist and choir director at the Church of the Redeemer, Minneapolis. He directed the Elks Glee Club and was principal accompanist to the Apollo Club. He composed numerous operettas for school performance, cantatas, songs, and part-songs. He also wrote choral music and piano sheet music under the pseudonym “W. H. Rees.” He died in Chicago after a brief illness at age 53.

# O'Donnell Abou!

arr. W. Rhys-Herbert

Tempo di marcia

S  
A  
T  
B

Loud - ly the note of the trum - pet is sound - ing; Proud - ly the war cries a -

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a four-part vocal score. It features four staves labeled S (Soprano), A (Alto), T (Tenor), and B (Bass). Each staff begins with a treble clef (except for the Bass staff which has a bass clef) and a common time signature (C). The music is in a 2/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Loud - ly the note of the trum - pet is sound - ing; Proud - ly the war cries a -". The lyrics are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes. The Soprano and Alto parts have a fermata over the final note of the first phrase. The Tenor and Bass parts do not. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

S  
A  
T  
B

rise on the gale; Fleet - ly the steed by Lough Swil - ly is bound - ing, To

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the four-part vocal score. It features four staves labeled S (Soprano), A (Alto), T (Tenor), and B (Bass). Each staff begins with a treble clef (except for the Bass staff which has a bass clef) and a common time signature (C). The music is in a 2/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "rise on the gale; Fleet - ly the steed by Lough Swil - ly is bound - ing, To". The lyrics are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes. The Soprano and Alto parts have a fermata over the final note of the first phrase. The Tenor and Bass parts do not. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. A measure rest is present at the beginning of each staff in this system.



## O'Donnell Aboo!

7

S join the thick squad - rons on Sai - mear's green vale. On, ev - 'ry moun - tain - eer,

A join the thick squad - rons on Sai - mear's green vale. On, ev - 'ry moun - tain - eer,

T join the thick squad - rons on Sai - mear's green vale. On, ev - 'ry moun - tain - eer,

B join the thick squad - rons on Sai - mear's green vale. On, ev - 'ry moun - tain - eer,

10

S Stran - gers to flight or fear, Rush to the stan - dard of daunt - less Red Hugh.

A Stran - gers to flight or fear, Rush to the stan - dard of daunt - less Red Hugh.

T Stran - gers to flight or fear, Rush to the stan - dard of daunt - less Red Hugh.

B Stran - gers to flight or fear, Rush to the stan - dard of daunt - less Red Hugh.

13

S Bon - naught and Gal - low - glass, Throng from each moun - tain pass.

A Bon - naught and Gal - low - glass, Throng from each moun - tain pass.

T Bon - naught and Gal - low - glass, Throng from each moun - tain pass.

B Bon - naught and Gal - low - glass, Throng from each moun - tain pass.

# O'Donnell Aboo!

15

S On for old E - rin, "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

A On for old E - rin, "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

T On for old E - rin, "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

B On for old E - rin, "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

17

S Prince - ly O'-Neill to our aid is a-dvanc - ing With man - y a chief - tain and

A Prince - ly O'-Neill to our aid is a-dvanc - ing With man - y a chief - tain and

T Prince - ly O'-Neill to our aid is a-dvanc - ing With man - y a chief - tain and

B Prince - ly O'-Neill to our aid is a-dvanc - ing With man - y a chief - tain and

20

S war - rior\_\_\_ clan. A thou - sand proud steeds in his van - guard are pranc - ing\_\_\_

A war - rior\_\_\_ clan. A thou - sand proud steeds in his van - guard are pranc - ing\_\_\_

T war - rior clan. A thou - sand proud steeds in his van - guard are pranc - ing

B war - rior\_\_\_ clan. A thou - sand proud steeds in his van - guard are pranc - ing

## O'Donnell Aboo!

23

S 'Neath the bor - d'ers brave — from the Banks of the Bann: Man - y a heart shall quail

A 'Neath the bor - d'ers brave from the Banks of the Bann: Man - y a heart shall quail

T 'Neath the bor - d'ers brave from the Banks of the Bann: Man - y a heart shall quail

B 'Neath the bor - d'ers brave from the Banks of the Bann: Man - y a heart shall quail

26

S Un - der its coat of mail; Deep - ly the merc - i - less foe - man shall rue.

A Un - der its coat of mail; Deep - ly the merc - i - less foe - man shall rue.

T Un - der its coat of mail; Deep - ly the merc - i - less foe - man shall rue.

B Un - der its coat of mail; Deep - ly the merc - i - less foe - man shall rue.

29

S When on his ears shall ring, Borne on the breeze - 's wing, Tír

A When on his ears shall ring, Borne on the breeze - 's wing, Tír

T When on his ears shall ring, Borne on the breeze - 's wing, Tír

B When on his ears shall ring, Borne on the breeze - 's wing, Tír

# O'Donnell Aboo!

31

S Cho - naill's dread war - cry, "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

A Cho - naill's dread war - cry, "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

T Cho - naill's dread war - cry, "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

B Cho - naill's dread war - cry, "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

33

S Wild - ly o'er Des - mond the war - wolf is howl - ing; — Fear - less the ea - gle sweeps

A Wild - ly o'er Des - mond the war - wolf is howl - ing; — Fear - less the ea - gle sweeps

T Wild - ly o'er Des - mond the war - wolf is howl - ing; — Fear - less the ea - gle sweeps

B Wild - ly o'er Des - mond the war - wolf is howl - ing; — Fear - less the ea - gle sweeps

36

S o - ver the plain; The fox in the streets of the cit - y is prow - ing— All,

A o - ver the plain; The fox in the streets of the cit - y is prow - ing— All,

T o - ver the plain; The fox in the streets of the cit - y is prow - ing— All,

B o - ver the plain; The fox in the streets of the cit - y is prow - ing— All,

## O'Donnell Aboo!

39

S all who would scare— them are ban - ish'd or slain! Grasp ev - 'ry stal - wart hand

A all who would scare them are ban - ish'd or slain! Grasp ev - 'ry stal - wart hand

T all who would scare them are ban - ish'd or slain! Grasp ev - 'ry stal - wart hand

B all who would scare them are ban - ish'd or slain! Grasp ev - 'ry stal - wart hand

42

S Hack - but and bat - tle brand— Pay them all back the deep debt so long due;

A Hack - but and bat - tle brand— Pay them all back the deep debt so long due;

T Hack - but and bat - tle brand— Pay them all back the deep debt so long due;

B Hack - but and bat - tle brand— Pay them all back the deep debt so long due;\_\_\_\_\_

45

S Nor - ris and Clif - ford well Can of Tir - con - nell tell;

A Nor - ris and Clif - ford well Can of Tir - con - nell tell;

T Nor - ris and Clif - ford well Can of Tir - con - nell tell;

B Nor - ris and Clif - ford well Can of Tir - con - nell tell;



# O'Donnell Aboo!

47

S On - ward to glo - ry— "O' - Don - nell a - boo!"

A On - ward to glo - ry— "O' - Don - nell a - boo!"

T On - ward to glo - ry— "O' - Don - nell a - boo!"

B On - ward to glo - ry— "O' - Don - nell a - boo!"

49

S Sa - cred the cause that Clan Con - nell's de-fend - ing— The al - tars we kneel at and

A Sa - cred the cause that Clan Con - nell's de-fend - ing— The al - tars we kneel at and

T Sa - cred the cause that Clan Con - nell's de-fend - ing— The al - tars we kneel at and

B Sa - cred the cause that Clan Con - nell's de-fend - ing— The al - tars we kneel at and

52

S homes of our sires; Ruth - less the ru - in the foe is ex - tend - ing—

A homes of our sires; Ruth - less the ru - in the foe is ex - tend - ing—

T homes of our sires; Ruth - less the ru - in the foe is ex - tend - ing—

B homes of our sires; Ruth - less the ru - in the foe is ex - tend - ing—

## O'Donnell Aboo!

55

S  
Mid - night is red with the plund - er - er's fires. On with O' - Don - nell then,

A  
Mid - night is red with the plund - er - er's fires. On with O' - Don - nell then,

T  
Mid - night is red with the plund - er - er's fires. On with O' - Don - nell then,

B  
Mid - night is red with the plund - er - er's fires. On with O' - Don - nell then,

58

S  
Fight the old fight a - gain, Sons of Tir-con - nell, All val - iant and true:

A  
Fight the old fight a - gain, Sons of Tir-con - nell, All val - iant and true:

T  
Fight the old fight a - gain, Sons of Tir-con - nell, All val - iant and true:

B  
Fight the old fight a - gain, Sons of Tir-con - nell, All val - iant and true: \_\_\_\_\_

61

S  
Make the false Sax - on feel E - rin's a - veng - ing steel!

A  
Make the false Sax - on feel E - rin's a - veng - ing steel!

T  
Make the false Sax - on feel E - rin's a - veng - ing steel!

B  
Make the false Sax - on feel E - rin's a - veng - ing steel!

# O'Donnell Aboo!

63

S  
Strike for your coun - try! "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

A  
Strike for your coun - try! "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

T  
Strike for your coun - try! "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

B  
Strike for your coun - try! "O' - Don - nell A - boo!"

J. Fischer & Bro.  
(1909)

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