



# The Wee Cooper o' Fife

Scottish Folk Song

Hugh S. Robertson  
(1874–1952)

**Sir Hugh Stevenson Robertson** (1874–1952) was born in Glasgow, Scotland, son of a Funeral Undertaker and Carriage Hirer, and served as an assistant in the family enterprise, eventually becoming manager. He first established his musical career as conductor of the Toynbee House Choir in Glasgow. He took leadership of the Toynbee Musical Association and transformed it, founding the Glasgow Orpheus Choir. He was director of the Orpheus choir for almost fifty years, leading it to national and international recognition. The Orpheus Choir had no equal in Britain and toured widely. He is recognized as one of the most significant British coral directors in history. He was also active as teacher, composer, adjudicator, critic, poet, playwright, essayist, and lecturer. He died at his home in Cathcart, Glasgow. His son was the Australian politician and diplomat Hugh Robertson. His compositions include a significant number of part-songs, especially settings of Scottish folk songs.

There was a wee cooper wha lived in Fife,  
Nickety, nackety, noo, noo, noo,  
And he had gotten a gentle wife,  
Hey willy wallachy, hoo John Dougal  
Alane quo rushety, roue, roue, roue.

She wadna bake , nor wad she brew,  
Nickety, nackety, noo, noo, noo,  
For spoilin' o' her comely hue,  
Hey willy wallachy, hoo John Dougal  
Alane quo rushety, roue, roue, roue.

She wadna caird, nor wad she spin,  
Nickety, nackety, noo, noo, noo,  
For shamin' o' her gentle kin,  
Hey willy wallachy, hoo John Dougal  
Alane quo rushety, roue, roue, roue.

The cooper's awa' to his woo' pack  
Nickety, nackety, noo, noo, noo,  
And he's laid a sheepskin on his wife's back  
Hey willy wallachy, hoo John Dougal  
Alane quo rushety, roue, roue, roue.

I'll no' be shamin' your gentle kin,  
Nickety, nackety, noo, noo, noo,  
But I will skelp my ain sheepskin,  
Hey willy wallachy, hoo John Dougal  
Alane quo rushety, roue, roue, roue.

'O I will bake and I will brew:  
Nickety, nackety, noo, noo, noo,  
And think nae mair o' my comely hue.'  
Hey willy wallachy, hoo John Dougal  
Alane quo rushety, roue, roue, roue.

'O I will wash and I will spin:  
Nickety, nackety, noo, noo, noo,  
And think nae mair o' my gentle kin.'  
Hey willy wallachy, hoo John Dougal  
Alane quo rushety, roue, roue, roue.

Noo ye wha ha'e gotten a gentle wife  
Nickety, nackety, noo, noo, noo,  
Just mind ye o' the wee cooper o' Fife.  
Hey willy wallachy, hoo John Dougal  
Alane quo rushety, roue, roue, roue.

traditional

# The Wee Cooper o' Fife

Hugh S. Robertson

Lilting, humorous ♩ = 88

S  
A  
T  
B

Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,  
Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,  
There was a wee coop - er wha lived in Fife,

S  
A  
T  
B

noo, noo, noo,  
nick - e - ty, noo,  
And he had got - ten a gen - tle wife,  
Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y,  
Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y,

## The Wee Cooper o' Fife

8

S hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue.

A hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue, roue.

T *f* hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue, roue.

B Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, noo, noo.

11

S Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

A *mf* Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

T

B *f* She wad - na bake, nor wad she brew,

15

S noo, noo, noo, Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y,

A nick - e - ty, noo, Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y,

T *mf* *sarcastically* For spoil - in' o' her come - ly hue,

B

# The Wee Cooper o' Fife

19

S hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue.

A hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue, roue.

T *f* hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue, roue.

B Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, noo, noo.

22

S Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, *mf*

A Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, *mf*

T

B *f* She wad - na caird, nor wad she spin,

26

S noo, noo, noo, Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y, *p*

A nick - e - ty, noo, Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y, *p*

T *mf* *sarcastically* For sham - in' o' her gen - tle kin,

B

## The Wee Cooper o' Fife

30

S hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue.

A hoo — John Dou - gal A - lane — quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue, roue.

T *f* hoo — John Dou - gal A - lane — quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue, roue.

B Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, noo, noo.

33

S *p a tempo pleadingly* Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

A *p a tempo* Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

T *mp stealthily* The coop - er's a - wa' to his woo' — pack *rall.*

B *mp* The coop - er's a - wa' to his woo' — pack *rall.*

37

S nick - e - ty, noo,

A noo, noo, noo,

T *f* And he's laid a sheep - skin on his — wife's back *> rall.*

B *f* And he's laid a sheep - skin on his — wife's back *> rall.*

# The Wee Cooper o' Fife

40 *terror-stricken*

S *f* Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y, hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue.

A *f* Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, hoo, noo.

T

B

S Hum (closed lips)

A Hum (closed lips)

T *mf* *with a sneer* I'll no' be sham - in' your gen - tle kin, Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

B *mf* I'll no' be sham - in' your gen - tle kin, Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

47

S

A

T *f* noo, noo, noo, But I will skelp my ain sheep - skin,

B *f* noo, noo, noo, But I will skelp my ain sheep - skin,

## The Wee Cooper o' Fife

50 *fff marc.*

S Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y, hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue.

A *fff marc.*  
Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, hoo, noo.

T *fff marc.*  
Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y, hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue.

B *fff marc.*  
Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, noo, noo.

*p meekly*

S 'O I will bake and I will brew:

A 'O I will bake and I will brew:

T *p quiet air of triumph*  
Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

B *p*  
Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

57 *p a tempo*

S And think nae mair o' my come - ly hue.'

A *p a tempo espress.*  
And think nae mair o' my come - ly hue.'

T *rall.*  
noo, noo, noo,

B *rall.*  
noo, noo, noo,



# The Wee Cooper o' Fife

60

S *p* roue, roue.

A *mf* A - lane quo rush - e - ty,

T *f* hoo John Dou - gal

B *ff* Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y,

S *p meekly* 'O I will wash and I will spin:

A *p* 'O I will wash and I will spin:

T *p quiet air of triumph* Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

B *p* Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

67

S *p a tempo* And think nae mair o' my gen - tle kin.'

A *p a tempo espress.* And think nae mair o' my gen - tle kin.'

T *rall.* noo, noo, noo,

B *rall.* noo, noo, noo,

## The Wee Cooper o' Fife

70

S *p* roue, roue.

A *mf* A - lane quo rush - e - ty,

T *f* hoo John Dou - gal

B *ff* Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y,

74

S Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

A Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty,

T *f* Noo ye wha ha'e got - ten a gen - tle wife Hum (closed lips)

B *f* Noo ye wha ha'e got - ten a gen - tle wife Hum (closed lips)

78

S noo, noo, noo,

A noo, noo, noo,

T Just mind ye o' the wee coop - er o' Fife.

B Just mind ye o' the wee coop - er o' Fife.

# The Wee Cooper o' Fife

*Presto*

*81* *ff*

S Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y, hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue.

A Hey wil - ly wal - lach - y, hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue, roue.

T *ff* hoo John Dou - gal A - lane quo rush - e - ty, roue, roue, roue.

B *ff* Nick - e - ty, nack - e - ty, noo, noo.

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(1917)

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