

Ca' The Yowes Tae The Knowes

Robert Burns

Robert Burns based this song on a poem of the same name by Isabel Pagan, a poet from Ayrshire. Burns adapted Pagan's poem and localised it to Lincluden, Dumfries. 'Clouden's silent towers' refer to the ruined Lincluden Castle or Abbey which at one time was surrounded by woods and meadows. The river Cluden joins the River Nith near to Lincluden.

Musical notation for the song 'Ca' The Yowes Tae The Knowes'. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first line of music has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The notes are: C4, E4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Above the notes are the chords: Bm, A, A/C#, E. The lyrics are: Ca' the yowes tae the knowes, Ca' them where the hea - ther grows, Ca' them where the bur-nie rowes, My bon-nie dea - rie.

Lyrics

Chorus:

Ca' the yowes tae the knowes,
Ca' them where the heather grows,
Ca' them where the burnie rowes,
My bonnie dearie

Hark, the mavis evening sang,
Sounding Clouden's woods amang,
Then a faulding let us gang,
My bonnie dearie

We'll gae doon by Clouden side,
Through the hazels spreading wide,
O'er the waves that sweetly glide,
Tae the moon sae clearly

Chorus

Yonder Clouden's silent towers,
Where at moonshine's midnight
hours,
O'er the dewy bending flowers,
Fairies dance sae cheery

Ghost nor bogle shalt thou fear,
Thou'rt to love and heaven sae
dear,
Nocht of ill may come thee near,
My bonnie dearie

Chorus

The additional verses below have not been included on the recording:

Fair and lovely as thou art,
Thou hast stown my very heart,
I can die - but canna part,
My bonnie dearie

While waters wimple to the sea,
While day blinks in the lift sae hie,
Till clay-cauld death shall blin' my
e'e,
Ye shall be my dearie

Words

yowes - ewes/female sheep • knowes - hills • rowes - flows • mavis - song thrush • faulding - driving sheep into the fold • nocht - nothing • stown - stolen • canna - cannot • blin' - blind • e'e - eye

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