

## *Charlie, he's my darling*

Robert Burns, 1794

As with many traditional Scottish songs, there are several versions of the lyrics to *Charlie is my darling*. This version was written by Robert Burns and takes a more playful tone than others. The title character is Charles Edward Stuart, who held court at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for six weeks while leading the Jacobite Rising in 1745. Better known today as Bonnie Prince Charlie, his story has since been highly romanticized in the popular imagination. The lyrics make fun of the young ladies whose heads were said to have been turned by the sight of the prince in his Highland clothes – seduced into Jacobitism as a result of his charms. Perhaps the song raised blushes as well as mirth amongst Burns' audience, some of whom will have remembered the 'young Chevalier's' visit to the city.

'Twas on a Monday morning,  
Right early in the year,  
That Charlie came to our town,  
The young Chevalier.

[Chorus:]  
An' Charlie, he's my darling,  
My darling, my darling,  
Charlie, he's my darling,  
The young Chevalier.

As he was walking up the street,  
The city for to view,  
O there he spied a bonie lass  
The window looking through,  
[Chorus]

Sae light's he jumped up the stair,  
And tirl'd at the pin;  
And wha sae ready as hersel'  
To let the laddie in.  
[Chorus]

He set his Jenny on his knee,  
All in his Highland dress;  
For brawly weel he ken'd the way  
To please a bonie lass.  
[Chorus]

It's up yon heathery mountain,  
An' down yon scroggie glen,  
We daur na gang a milking,  
For Charlie and his men.



John Pettie (1834–93)

*Bonnie Prince Charlie Entering the Ballroom at Holyroodhouse*, RCIN 401247

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