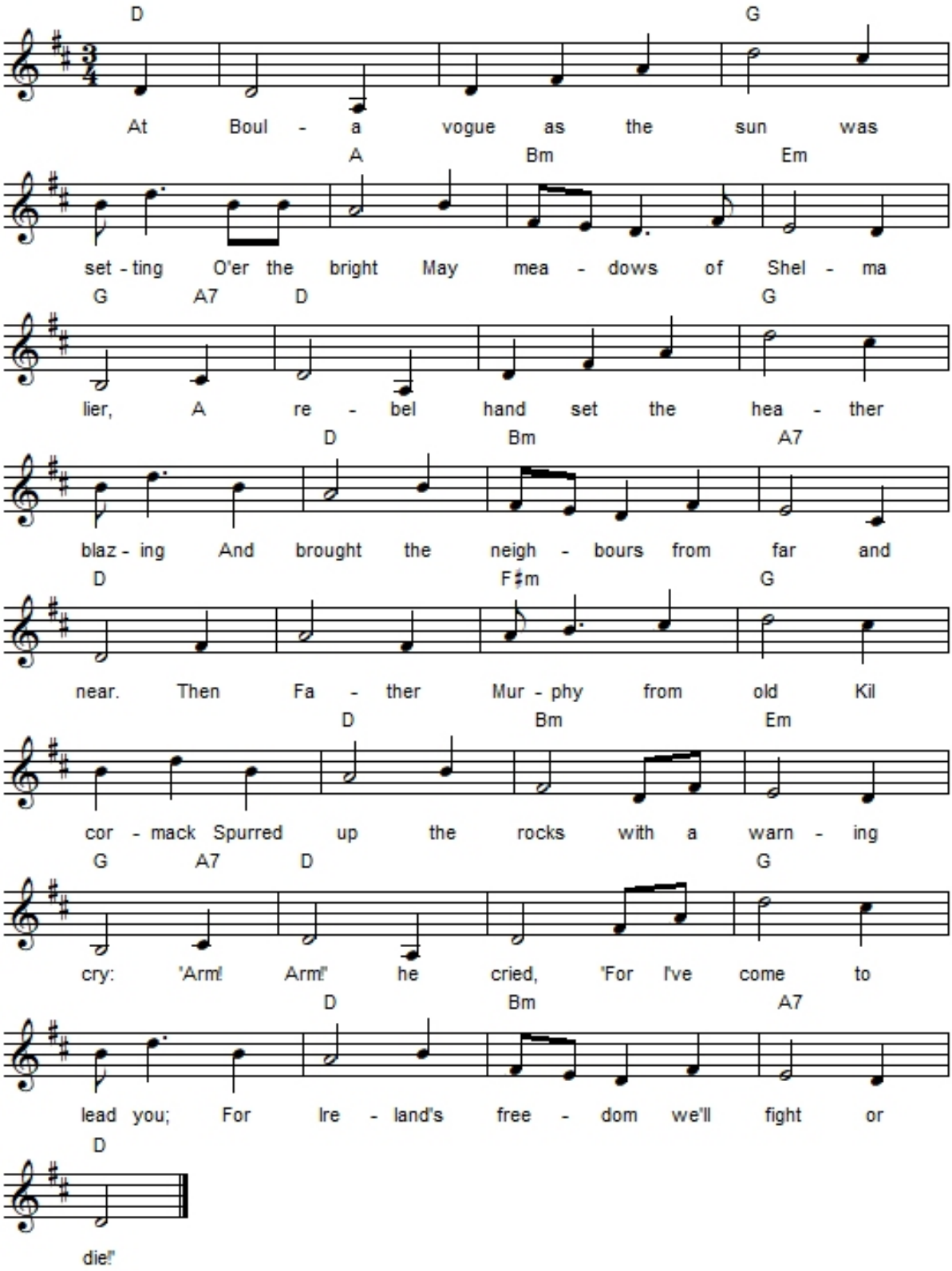
Boulavogue


D G
At Boul - a vogue as the sun was
A Bm Em
set - ting O'er the bright May mea - dows of Shel - ma
G A7 D G
lier, A re - bel hand set the hea - ther
D Bm A7
blaz - ing And brought the neigh - bours from far and
D F♯m G
near. Then Fa - ther Mur - phy from old Kil
D Bm Em
cor - mack Spurred up the rocks with a warn - ing
G A7 D G
cry: 'Arm! Arm!' he cried, 'For I've come to
D Bm A7
lead you; For Ire - land's free - dom we'll fight or
D
die!'

1. At Boulavogue as the sun was setting
   O'er the bright May meadows of Shelmalier,
   A rebel hand set the heather blazing
   And brought the neighbours from far and near.

2. Then Father Murphy from old Kilcormack
   Spurred up the rocks with a warning cry:
   'Arm! Arm!' he cried, 'For I've come to lead you;
   For Ireland's freedom we'll fight or die!'

3. He led us on against the coming soldiers,
   And the cowardly yeomen we put to flight:
   'Twas at the Harrow the boys of Wexford
   Showed Bookey's regiment how men could fight.

4. Look out for hirelings, King George of England;
   Search every kingdom where breathes a slave,
   For Father Murphy of County Wexford
   Sweeps o'er the land like a mighty wave.

5. We took Camolin and Enniscorthy
   And Wexford storming drove out our foes
   'Twas at Slieve Coilte our pikes were reeking
   With the crimson blood of the beaten Yeos.

6. At Tubberneering and Ballyellis
   Full many a Hessian lay in his gore,
   Ah! Father Murphy had aid come over
   The green flag floated from shore to shore!

7. At Vinegar Hill, o'er the pleasant Slaney
   Our heroes vainly stood back to back,
   and the Yeos at Tullow took Father Murphy
   and burned his body upon a rack.

8. God grant you glory, brave Father Murphy
   And open Heaven to all your men,
   The cause that called you may call tomorrow
   In another fight for the Green again.

"Boulavogue" is an Irish ballad about the victories of Father John Murphy, parish priest of the village of Boolavogue in County Wexford as he led his parishioners in routing the Camolin Cavalry on May 26 1798 at Oulart Hill, when a rebel gathering of between 4,000 and 5,000 massacred a detachment of 110 militia sent from Wexford town to stamp out the spreading rebellion in County Wexford. The Wexford insurgents were eventually defeated at the Battle of Vinegar Hill on June 21st.

For his participation in the uprising, Father Murphy was tortured, flogged, decapitated, burned, and ultimately, had his head put on a stake to warn his countrymen against further rebellion.

The song "Boulavogue" was written in his honor in 1898 by Patrick Joseph McCall, who set the lyrics to an ancient Irish air called "*Eochaill*". The melody is also used for the Australian song "Moreton Bay".

It was printed in Galvin's **Irish Songs of Resistance** (1962).

It was recorded by The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem on **Boulavogue** (1973).