

The Castle Of Dromore

D A7 D Bm A7 Bm G

6 G D Em A7 Bm A7 G D

11 F#m Em D Chorus G A7 D Bm G A7

D

1. The October winds lament around the Castle of Dromore,
Yet peace is in its lofty halls, my loving treasure store.
Though autumn leaves may droop and die
A bud of spring are you.

Chorus:

Sing hush-a-bye loo, la loo, lo lan,
Sing hush-a-bye loo, la lo.

2. Bring no ill winds to hinder us, my helpless babe and me,
Dread spirit of Blackwater banks, clan Owen's wild banshee.
And Holy Mary pitying us
In heav'n for grace doth sue.

Chorus

3. Take time to thrive, my rose of hope, in the garden of Dromore.
Take heed, young eagle, till your wings are feathered fit to soar.
A little rest and then the world
Is full of work to do

Chorus

"Castle Of Dromore", in Gaelic: *Cáislean Droma Mhor*, also known as "October Winds" is an Irish song.

There are at least four castles named Dromore Castle in the counties of Down, Kerry, Limerick and Tyrone.

Dromore Castle, in County Tyrone is the most likely subject of the song. Clan Owen in the second verse refers to the descendants of Eoghan, anglicized to Owen. This clan once possessed the counties Tyrone, or *Tir Eoghan*, and Derry and parts of County Donegal. The words of the song were written by Sir Harold Boulton to a traditional Irish tune. The Irish Gaelic words are a translation into Irish of Boulton's lyric, made by Douglas Hyde. The Irish lyrics are from **Songs of the Four Nations**, edited by Harold Boulton (1892). Harold Boulton also wrote the lyrics of "The Skye Boat Song" and "All Through the Night" using the Welsh melody "*Ar Hyd Y Nos*".

The melody was printed in O'Neill's **Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies** (1903).

I learned this from the recordings of Gordon Bok, Ann Muir and Ed Trickett and the Clancy Brothers. I was never too interested in the words but the melody is beautiful.