

# The Green Linnet

The Song of Sorrow  
Ulachan dubh-O

1. D 2. D C G D

C G D C D G D C

D A7 D

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"The Green Linnet", also known as "The Song of Sorrow" (in Gaelic "*Ulachan dubh-O*") is an Irish air in 4/4 time and D Mixolydian.

Joyce (1909) writes: "Bonaparte, during his career, was a favourite in Ireland; and many peasant songs were composed about him ..."

Some versions of these songs were printed on broadsheets by Haly of Cork in the 1840's. Two verses were published by Mr. John Fitz-Gerald of Cork, in 'Account of the Old Street Ballads of Cork' (1892) in the **Journal of the Cork Archaeological Society**.

In this song 'Boney' is figuratively represented, after a common Irish fashion, as a Green Linnet. It is recorded in the logbook of the whaling ship **Cortes** in 1847 as having been sung aboard ship. It has been described as "another true lament for the loss of the great hope the Irish had in Napoleon".

It was printed in Joyce's **Old Irish Folk Music and Song** (1909).

It was recorded by The Chieftains on **Bonaparte's Retreat**.