

O Danny Boy



To begin with, *Danny Boy* is one of over 100 songs composed to the same tune. The author was an English lawyer, Frederic Edward Weatherly (1848-1929), who was also a songwriter and radio entertainer. In 1910 he wrote the words and music for an unsuccessful song he called *Danny Boy*. In 1912 his sister-in-law in America sent him a tune called the *Londonderry Air*, which he had never heard before. He immediately noticed that the melody was perfectly fitted to his *Danny Boy* lyrics, and published a revised version of the song in 1913. As far as is known, Weatherly never set foot in Ireland.

—Michael Robinson, abbreviated