

# The Rantin Dog the Daddie o't

Robert Burns

## About this Song:

This song was written by Robert Burns, and in his book the Scots Musical Museum, Burns explains that early in his life the song was sent 'to a young girl, a very particular acquaintance of mine, who was at that time under a cloud'. It is thought that this song was written for Elizabeth Paton who was a servant maid in his mother's house.

This song is from the point of view of a woman, who is having a baby and is asking rhetorical questions such as who will take the blame with her and who will give her a baby a surname.

There are two tunes for this song, a faster livelier one which we are doing as I feel it is more suitable for the context of the story, and another softer, gentler tune. The tune I have favoured is 'Whare'll Oor Guidman Lie?'.

## Language:

Aa	= All	Ma	= My
Caut	= Call It	Mair	= More
Cloots	= Clothes	Nae	= No
Craic	= Talk entertainingly	Ower	= Over
Creepie Chair	= Cutty stool, chair of repentance	Rantin	= Merry
Faut	= Fault	Tae	= To
Fidgin Fain	= Feel Beautiful	Tent	= Attend to
Gie	= Give	Wha	= Who
Groanin Maut	= Ale brewed to celebrate a birth	Whar	= Where

## Arrangement:

This song is in five parts, which for ease I have called **LOW**, **TUNE**, **HIGH**, **LOW FRILLY** and **HIGH FRILLY**.

For interest and build up in the arrangement, I usual repeat the song twice as it is fairly short and then stagger the introduction of the harmonies, as following:

Verse 1: **TUNE** only

Verse 2: **TUNE** only

Verse 3: **T** + **LOW**

Verse 4: **T** + **L** + **HIGH**

Verse 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> time): **T** + **L** + **H** + **LOW FRILLY**

Verse 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> time): **T** + **L** + **H** + **L F** + **HIGH FRILLY**.

Verse 3 (2<sup>nd</sup> time): **T** + **L** + **H** + **L F** + **H F**

Verse 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> time): **T** + **L** + **H** + **L F** + **H F**

Other techniques that make this song stand out a little is to do a rallentando on the last three words of the third line of verse 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> time) line "ower again". You can then speed up again to normal tempo on line four and finish sharply on the "o't".