

Auld Lang Syne (Times Gone By)
Traditional

This valedictory song, now sung throughout the English-speaking world, is usually attributed to Robert Burns (1759-1796), but he wrote neither the melody nor the lyrics. He wrote to a friend that he heard an old man singing it in 1788, and he transcribed it. Neither the composer nor the lyricist is known. After more than 200 years, it is hard to identify Burns's exact original text. The version below was compiled from several sources.

Ted Wilks, 2006

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
For auld lang syne?

Chorus:

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne!

2. And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp!
And surely I'll be mine!
And we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

Chorus:

3. We twa hae run about the braes
And pou'd the gowans fine;
But we've wander'd mony a weary fit,
Sin' auld lang syne.

Chorus:

4. We twa hae paidl't in the burn,
Frae morning sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin' auld lang syne.

Chorus:

5. And here's a hand, my trusty fiere!

And gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak' a right guid-willie waught,
For auld lang syne!

Chorus:

Glossary:

be - pay for

braes - hills

braid - broad

burn - stream

dine - dinner time

fiere - friend

fit - foot

gowans - daisies

guid-willie waught - goodwill drink

monie - many

morning sun - noon

paidl't - paddled

pint-stowp - pint tankard

pou'd - pulled

twa - two