Mingulay Boat Song (Sounds like it’s in 12/8)

One of my favorite songs of all time. This is based off a live version on Youtube somewhere.

CAPO 4

CHORUS:

C/G

Ill ya ho, boys; let her go, boys;

G7 F

Bring her round, now all together.

C/G

Ill ya ho, boys; let her go boys,

G7 C/G

Sailing home, home to Mingulay.

C/G G7 C/G

What care we though white the Minch is?

G7 C/G G7

What care we for wind or weather?

C/G G7 C/G

Let her go boys! ev'ry inch is

G7 C/G

Wearing home, home to Mingulay.

CHORUS:

C/G

Ill ya ho, boys; let her go, boys;

G7 F

Bring her round, now all together.

C/G

Ill ya ho, boys; let her go boys,

G7 C/G

Sailing home, home to Mingulay.

C/G G7 C/G

Wives are waiting on the bank, or

G7 C/G G7

Looking seaward from the heather;

C/G G7 C/G

Pull her round boys! and we'll anchor.

G7 C/G

Ere the sun sets at Mingulay.

CHORUS:

C/G

Ill ya ho, boys; let her go, boys;

G7 F

Bring her round, now all together.

C/G

Ill ya ho, boys; let her go boys,

G7 C/G

Sailing home, home to Mingulay.

Repeat chorus ad infinitum

Mingulay is the second southernmost island in the Hebrides chain of the   
 Island chain west of Scotland This is a rowing shanty.

(This is the Chorus)  
  
 D      G           D         G                          D                 G               C        G   
 Il ya ho boys Let ‘er go boys bring her head ‘round in - to the weather  
   
D        G             D          G                      D                                G   
 Hil ya ho boys, Let her go boys sailing homeward to Mingu - lay   
 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
   
   
 D               G            D             G                            D         G           C     G   
 What care we how white the Minch is What care we for wind or weather  
   
D              G                      D        G                      D                            G   
 Bring her round boys for every inch is wearing homeward to Mingulay  
   
 **CHORUS**  
   
 D        G          D         G                         D               G         C    G  
 Far behind us hills of Quinlon, Soon before us the hills of heather  
   
D            G                       D          G                         D                          G   
 And you know boys the candles glow boys In the windows of Mingulay  
   
 **CHORUS**  
   
 D              G           D         G                       D            G            C     G   
 Wives are waiting on the bank or looking seaward from the heather  
   
D              G                        D              G                      D                          G   
 Bring her round boys and then we’ll anchor E’er the sun sets on Mingulay   
   
  **CHORUS**

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
Notes On Guitar Tabs:  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
All guitar tabs have been contributed by visitors to this site and represent their interpretation of the tune. We are unable to verify their accuracy.

Chord Shape: [G]= 3,2,0,0,3,3

*Intro:* [G]

*Chorus:*  
[G] Heel ya ho, boys, [D] let 'er [G] go, boys,  
Keep her [D] head 'round and [G] all to- [C] gether;  
Heel ya [G] ho, boys, [D] let her [G] go, boys,  
Sailing [D] homeward [G] to [C] Mingu- [G] lay.

[G] What care we how [D] white the [G] Minch is,  
What care [D] we boys for [G] snow and [C] weather?  
Bring her [G] 'round, boys, for [D] every [G] inch  
Is weaving [D] homeward [G] to [C] Mingu- [G] lay.

*Chorus:*  
[G] Heel ya ho, boys, [D] let 'er [G] go, boys,  
Keep her [D] head 'round and [G] all to- [C] gether;  
Heel ya [G] ho, boys, [D] let her [G] go, boys,  
Sailing [D] homeward [G] to [C] Mingu- [G] lay.

[G] Far behind us, [D] hills of [G] Quinlon,  
Soon be- [D] fore us, the [G] hills of [C] heather;  
And you [G] know, boys, the [D] candles [G] glow, boys,  
In the [D] windows [G] of [C] Mingu- [G] lay.

*Chorus:*  
[G] Heel ya ho, boys, [D] let 'er [G] go, boys,  
Keep her [D] head 'round and [G] all to- [C] gether;  
Heel ya [G] ho, boys, [D] let her [G] go, boys,  
Sailing [D] homeward [G] to [C] Mingu- [G] lay.

[G] Wives are waiting [D] on the [G] bank, or,  
Looking [D] seaward [G] from the [C] heather;  
Bring her [G] 'round, boys, and [D] then we'll [G] anchor,  
Ere the [D] sun sets [G] on [C] Mingu- [G] lay.

*Chorus:*  
[G] Heel ya ho, boys, [D] let 'er [G] go, boys,  
Keep her [D] head 'round and [G] all to- [C] gether;  
Heel ya [G] ho, boys, [D] let her [G] go, boys,  
Sailing [D] homeward [G] to [C] Mingu- [G] lay.

*Chorus:*  
[G] Heel ya ho, boys, [D] let 'er [G] go, boys,  
Keep her [D] head 'round and [G] all to- [C] gether;  
Heel ya [G] ho, boys, [D] let her [G] go, boys,  
Sailing [D] homeward [G] to [C] Mingu- [G] lay.

***~ Chords contributed by Bob Dumais ~***

THE MINGULAY BOAT SONG. with guitar chords

Lyrics: Sir Hugh S. Robertson 1930ʼs

The original tune was a pipe tune, "Creag Ghuanach"; from Lochaber.

C

Heel y'ho boys / let her go boys

G F

Bring ʻer head round / into the weather

C

Heel y'ho boys / let her go boys

G C

Sailing homeward / to Mingulay!

C

What care we boys / how white the Minch is

G F

What care we boys / of windy weather

C

When we know that / every inch is

G C

Sailing homeward / to Mingulay

Chorus

C

Wives are waiting / on the pier head,

G F

Gazing seaward / from the heather.

C

Pull her head 'round / and we'll anchor

G C

'Ere the sun sets / on Mingulay!

Chorus