

Foreword By Lt.Col D.J.S.Murray

The bagpipe is not peculiar to the Highlands of Scotland, although it is there that the instrument and its music have reached their most highly developed forms. However the highland bagpipe is unique, in that it possesses two forms of music that cannot be satisfactorily reproduced on any other instrument. Both are intricate, and technically difficult. The first is the Great Music, or Ceol Mor, the classical music of the highland bagpipe; the second is an extension of the Small Music, or Ceol Beag, originally intended to accompany folk dances or to divert and entertain an audience. Here the basic musical concept has been enhanced and embellished to the extent that its original purpose has become secondary to the performance of the music itself. This music may be termed the light classical music of the highland bagpipe. This is the music cal form with which we are concerned in this production and it is of this musical form that Alasdair Gillies is acknowledged as the pre-eminent performer playing today.

The tunes chosen by Alasdair have stood the twin tests of time and exposure. They date from the heyday of the composition of music for the competition platform. That is from the late 19th to the latter decades of the 20th centuries, a period of about one hundred years. All have earned a place in the hearts and memories of pipers the world over, and they can be heard on the competition platform and in recital from Western United States to Eastern Europe. The names of the composers read like a roll of honour, from the great march composer John MacColl at the end of the 19th century, through Peter MacLeod senior, to that master of composition, the talented and much loved Donald MacLeod, who died in 1982, greatly regretted and much missed. But the music has been Alasdair's guide in his selection, and not the fame of the composer. Who today knows that Donald Galbraith from Islay composed Captain Campbell of Drumavoisk: that Pipe Major William Robb of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is credited with The 91st at Modder River: or that Piper James Gillan of the Cameron Highlanders wrote The Balkan Hills? Gillan reminds us that the pipes were played there long before Bosnia became a household name. Tunes which Alasdair has made his own include Donald MacMillan's John MacDonald's Welcome to South Uist, The Piper's Bonnet and Donald MacLeod's Cockerel in the Creel, with which last he has sealed his performances before enthralled audiences at the Former Winners event at the Northern Meeting competitions at Inverness. And Alasdair remembers his own regiment, the Queen's Own Highlanders, the finest piping regiment in the British Army, with the old Seaforth Highlanders tune Cabar Feidh.

But although this is quality piping, it is not enough merely to sit back and let the music drift over one. There is much solid instruction here too. Alasdair has the gift of subtly bringing out the phrases, the tunes within tunes as the late great Robert Reid used to say. All lovers of the highland bagpipe will find much to hold them spellbound is this splendid production.

DJSM

Foreword to "MSR Vol 1....As Played By Alasdair Gillies"

When I started teaching summer schools and workshops here in the United States, I found out very quickly that people here are very particular about the written score. The slightest change of a gracenote or a dot for a cut would be questioned. I also quickly found out, that I do not play exactly as the book all the time.

I started by amending the copies from the book, to edit the tune as I actually played it. This not being the neatest way to do it, I decided to go one step further and re-write the tunes completely. This has taken a considerable amount of time, but now my library of tunes on Piobmaster is quite healthy. People would often ask when all this would be made available to the piping community.

I thought that by offering software combined with audio files of me playing the music, this might be of help to pipers who don't have a regular teacher like I had.

I do not claim the settings in any way. The composers have all been given their credit where known. I merely offer the tunes the way I play them today. I hope up and coming pipers can gain the wee touches of expression, the flow and control, that make a performance stick out.

I'd like to thank Ceolmor software for joining me in this venture. Also a big thank you, to Fritz Myers at Carnegie Mellon University, for recording the audio, Lt Col David Murray for his foreword and kind words and lastly all the composers, who have given me years of enjoyment playing their music.

Enjoy.

Alasdair Gillies

MARCH, STRATHSPEY & REEL, Vol One. As Played By Alasdair Gillies....

Track No. Tunes Mrs. John MacColl, The Clan MacColl, John MacDonald of Glencoe. 1. Maggie Cameron, Lady MacKenzie of Gareloch, Major Manson, Gena MacLeod. 2. Hugh Kennedy. M.A.B.sc., The Pipers Bonnet, John Morrison of Assynt House. 3. 4. Duncan MacColl, Catlodge, Kildonan. 5. Captain Campbell of Drumavoisk, Arniston Castle, Alick C. MacGregor. Donald MacLellan of Rothesay, Sandy MacPherson, Fiona MacLeod. 6. 7. Major Manson at Clachantrushal, The 91st at Modder River. 8. David Ross, Brigadier Cheape of Tiroran. Pipe Major Wm. MacLean, John MacFadyen of Melfort. 9. 10. Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque, Kirstie MacCallman's Favourite, John MacInnes. 11. Cabar Feidh, Cabar Feidh. 12. The Balkan Hills, Highland Harry, Alec MacDonald-Fort William. 13. Captain Colin Campbell, The Caledonian Canal, Duntroon, Colonel MacLeod... The Islay Ball, Inverary Castle, The Cockerel in the Creel, Broadford Bay. 14. 15. MacBeth's Strathspey, The Caledonian Society of London, Mrs. MacPherson of Inveran, John MacKechnie. 16. John MacDonald's Welcome to South Uist, The 74th's Welcome to Edinburgh, The Shepherd's Crook, Lady Louden, The Grey Bob, Dr. MacPhail's Reel.

Please Note: After clicking on a tune, a launch warning message will appear. Tick the "Do not show this message again", then click Open.

Mrs John MacColl



The Clan MacColl



John MacDonald of Glencoe



Maggie Cameron

As played by Alasdair Gillies



This tune has been deemed suitable for Grade 1 and "Open"

Strathspey

Lady MacKenzie of Gareloch



Major Manson



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

Gena MacLeod



Hugh Kennedy.M.A. B.Sc.



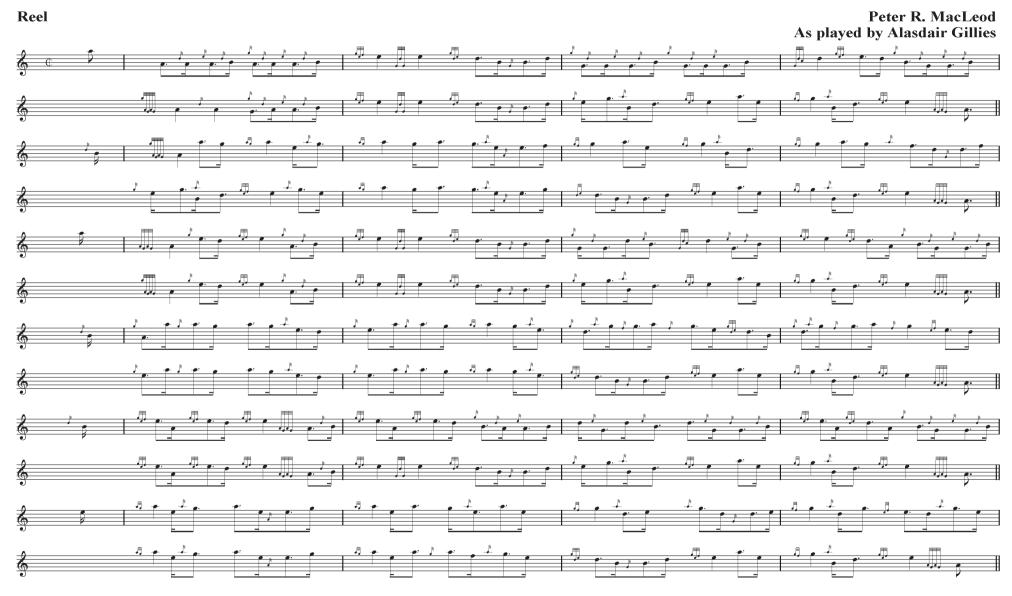
Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

The Piper's Bonnet



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

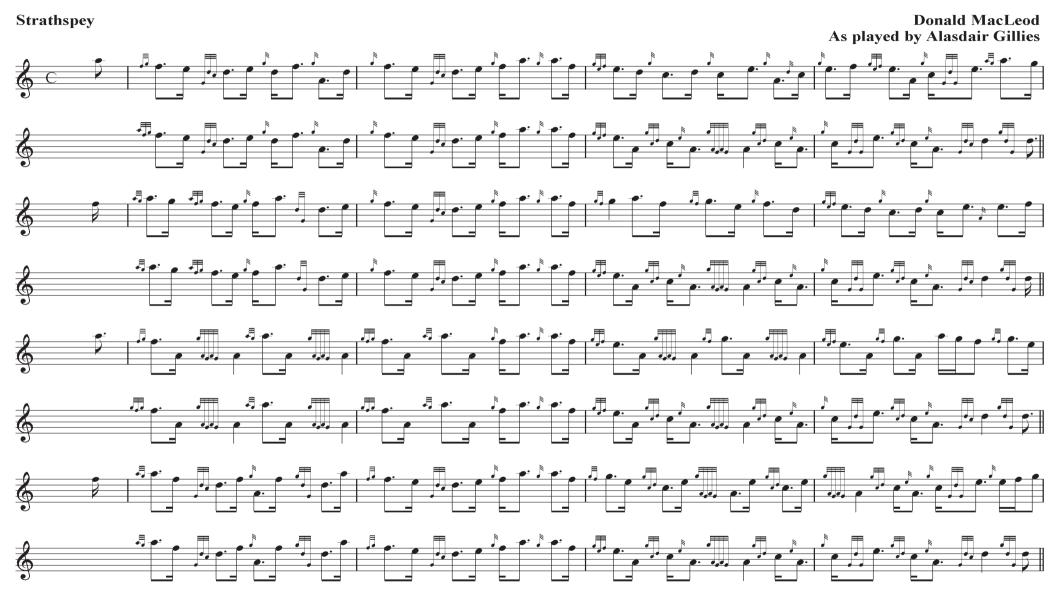
John Morrison of Assynt House



Duncan MacColl



Catlodge



This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and "Open"

Kildonan



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

Captain Campbell of Drum A Voisk



Arniston Castle



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

Alick C. MacGregor



written with riobh

Donald MacLellan of Rothesay



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

Sandy MacPherson



This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and "Open"

Fiona MacLeod



Major Manson at Clachantrushal



The 91st at Modder River



David Ross



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

Brigadier Cheape of Tiroran



Pipe Major Wm MacLean



John MacFadyen of Melfort



Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

Kirstie MacCallman's Favourite



John MacInnes



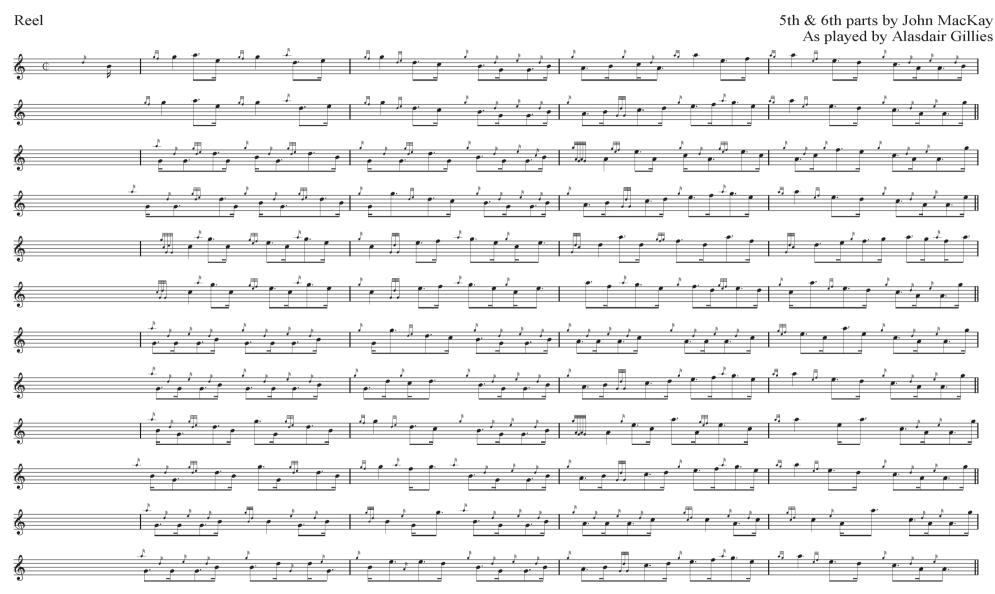
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and "Open"

Cabar Feidh



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

Cabar Feidh



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

The Balkan Hills



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

This tune has been deemed suitable for Grade 3, 2, and 1

Highland Harry

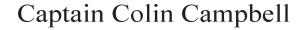


Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

This tune has been deemed suitable for Grade 3, 2, and 1

Alec MacDonald - Fort William







Caledonian Canal



Duntroon



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

This tune has been deemed suitable for Grade 3, 2, and 1

Colonel MacLeod



Reel

The Islay Ball



Inverary Castle



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

The Cockerel in the Creel



written with riobivia

Broadford Bay







This tune has been deemed suitable for the "Open" Grade

Strathspey

The Caledonian Society of London

Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

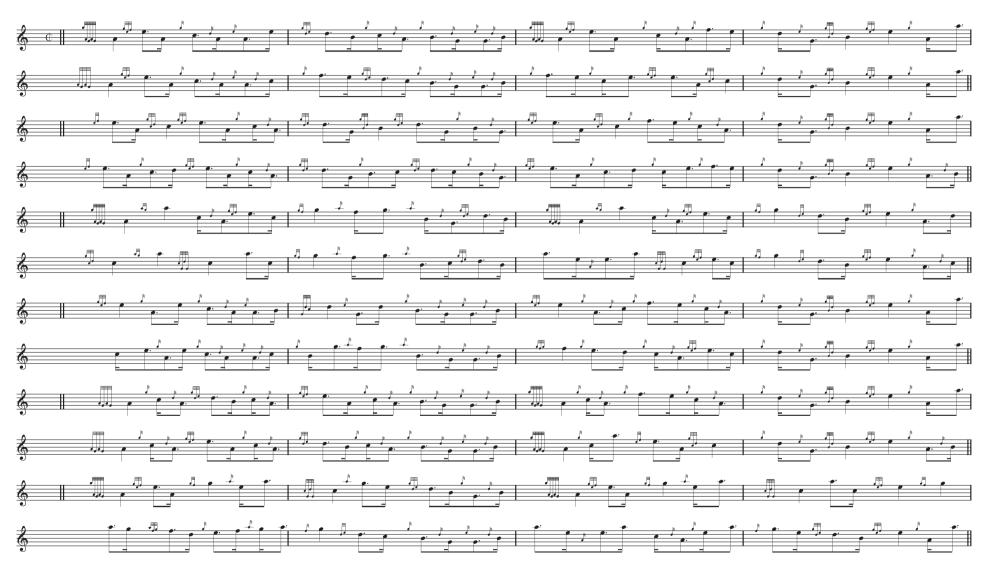
As played by Alasdair Gillies

This tune has been deemed suitable for the "Open" Grade

Strathspey

Mrs MacPherson of Inveran





Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

This tune has been deemed suitable for the "Open" Grade

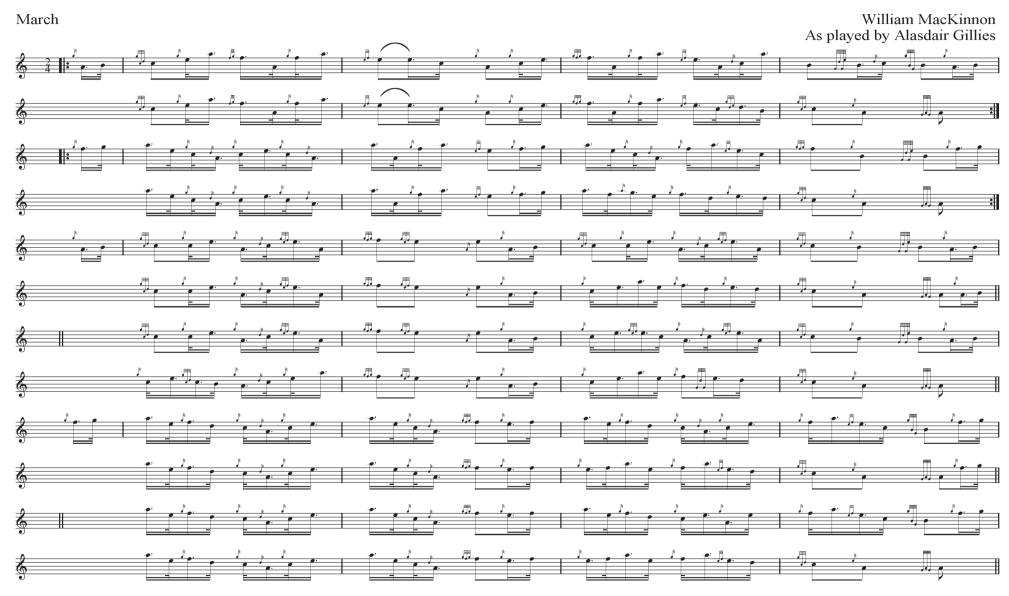
Reel

John MacKechnie

John MacDonald's Welcome to South Uist



The 74th Farewell to Edinburgh



The Shepherd's Crook



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

This tune has been deemed suitable for the "Open" Grade

Strathspey

Lady Louden



Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

The Grey Bob



Dr. MacPhail's Reel

