This combined audio and software CD-ROM contains many MSR's that I have had the pleasure of learning and playing over the years. Listen to my playing and interpretation of the music - then load, play and learn the corresponding tunes with the included PiobMaster Player software.
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 musical 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
### Track No. Tunes

2. Maggie Cameron, Lady MacKenzie of Gareloch, Major Manson, Gena MacLeod.
5. Captain Campbell of Drumavoisk, Arniston Castle, Alick C. MacGregor.
6. Donald MacLellan of Rothesay, Sandy MacPherson, Fiona MacLeod.
7. Major Manson at Clachantrushal, The 91st at Modder River.
8. David Ross, Brigadier Cheape of Tiroran.
10. Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque, Kirstie MacCallman’s Favourite, John MacInnes.
12. The Balkan Hills, Highland Harry, Alec MacDonald-Fort William.
14. The Islay Ball, Inverary Castle, The Cockerel in the Creel, Broadford Bay.

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*Please Note: After clicking on a tune, a launch warning message will appear. Tick the "Do not show this message again", then click Open.*
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
The Clan MacColl

March

John MacColl
As played by Alasdair Gillies

This tune has been deemed suitable for Grade 1 and “Open”
John MacDonnell of Glencoe

March

Written with FlobMaster (Cool Mor Software Ltd.)
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grade 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grade 1 and "Open"
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grade 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grade 1 and “Open”
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This tune has been deemed suitable for the "Open" Grade
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grade 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
Brigadier Cheape of Tiroran

March

As played by Alasdair Gillies

Written with FlobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)

This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for Grades 2, 1 and “Open”
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade

Cabar Feidh

Reel

5th & 6th parts by John MacKay
As played by Alasdair Gillies

Written with PiobMaster (Ceol Mor Software Ltd.)
The Balkan Hills

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

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

Reel

Donald McPhedran
As played by Alasdair Gillies

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

Reel

As played by Alasdair Gillies

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

Strathspey

As played by Alasdair Gillies

This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade

Written with PiobMaster (Coo Mor Software Ltd.)
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
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This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
The 74th Farewell to Edinburgh

March

William MacKinnon
As played by Alasdair Gillies

This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
The Shepherd's Crook

This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade

As played by Alasdair Gillies
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade
This tune has been deemed suitable for the “Open” Grade