**PIPE TUNE BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2-4 Marches

High Road to Gairloch:

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/highroadtogairloch.htm>
2. <http://www.answers.com/Q/Who_wrote_High_Road_to_Gairloch>

This is normally credited as "Traditional". It was published around 1910 but the same tune had been known under a Gaelic name Gabhaid sinn an Rathad mò or We'll take the High Road.

Weary Maid (An cailin tuirseach):

1. <https://thesession.org/tunes/647>

Traditional Irish folk song arranged by James O’Neil. Exists also in strathspey form as an old Gaelic song collected in the Hebrides (Tha Mi Sgith – pulling bracken)

Mairi’s Wedding

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/mairiswedding.htm>
2. <https://thesession.org/discussions/31414>

John Roderick (Johnny) Bannerman (1865-1938) from South Uist wrote the original Gaelic words of the song in 1935, for 1934 National Mod gold medalist singer Mary C. MacNiven of Portnahaven, Islay. Mary’s actual wedding (to sea captain John Campbell) didn’t take place until 1941. Sir Hugh S. Roberton (1874-1952), founder of the acclaimed Glasgow Orpheus Choir and a leading choir master of the time, came up with the well-known English lyrics – only very loosely related to Bannerman’s Gaelic ones – in 1936. Mary had been born in 1905 and passed away on 25 March 1997, at age 91.

Barren Rocks of Aden

1. <https://thesession.org/tunes/3640>
2. <http://forums.bobdunsire.com/forums/showthread.php?t=144800>

The Barren Rocks of Aden was an unnamed composition composed by Piper James Mauchline in 1843. Pipe Major Alexander Mackellar re-arranged and named the tune.

Brown Haired Maiden

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/brownhairedmaiden.htm>

One of the most popular songs of the Highlands, this was translated from the Gaelic in the late 19th century by the Scottish poet John Stuart Blackie (above).

John Stuart Blackie (28 July 1809 – 2 March 1895) was a Scottish scholar and man of letters. He was born in Glasgow, and educated at the New Academy and afterwards at the Marischal College, in Aberdeen, where his father was manager of the Commercial Bank.

3-4 Marches

Green Hills of Tyrol

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/greenhillsoftyrol.htm>

One of the best known, and oldest, tunes played by pipe bands today. It was originally from the opera "William Tell" by Rossini, but was transcribed to the pipes in 1854 by Pipe Major John MacLeod after he heard it played by a Sardinian military band when serving in the Crimean War with his Regiment, the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders.

When the Battle’s O’er

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/greenhillsoftyrol.htm>
2. <http://www.pipetunes.ca/composers.asp?pg=Details&composerID=94>

An excellent player, and winner of the Gold Medal at Oban in 1893, William Robb (1863-1909 is best known as the composer of one of the most popular retreat marches ever penned: "When the Battle is Over," commonly known to pipers as "The Battle's O'er." He was Pipe Major of the 2nd Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders from 1887-1891, and of the 1st Argylls from 1891-1894.

Farewell to Nigg

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/farewelltonigg.htm>
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duncan_Johnstone>

Nigg is a small village on the northeast coast of Scotland on Nigg Bay. **Duncan Johnstone** (July 25, 1925 – November 14, 1999) was a Scottish bagpiper and composer. During World War II, Duncan served with the Submarine Surveillance Mine Sweeping Service in the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas. On his return from the war, he became a joiner for the Clan Line and Stephen shipyards, whilst taking piping lessons in his free time. He was the first piper to win the Scottish Pipers' Association Knockout Competition in 1964. In 1974, he moved on to be a bagpipe instructor full time at the College of Piping in Otago Street, Glasgow; a position he held until 1978 when, he founded his own piping school in Robertson Street.

Loch Maree

1. <http://www.ceolsean.net/content/mclennan/MacLennan_TOC.html>

G. S. MacLennan was born in 1884, and according to Wm. Donaldson, was "a child prodigy". He had fantastic career as a soloist, and served as Piper Major with the Gordon Highlanders. Sadly, he died at an early age. G. S. MacLennan's "Highland Bagpipe Music" was first published in 1929 (the year that he died).

**Loch Maree** is a loch in Wester Ross in the Northwest Highlands of Scotland.   It is the fourth largest freshwater loch in Scotland.  Loch Maree contains five large wooded islands and over 25 smaller ones. Isle Maree has the remains of a chapel, graveyard, holy well, and holy tree on it, believed to be the 8th Century hermitage of Saint Maol Rubha (d. 722), who founded the monastery of Applecross in 672. The same island also contains ancient stands of oak and holly which have been linked with ancient Scottish druids. The waters of the loch were also thought to have curative effects, with being submerged in the water thought to be a cure for lunacy. Like Loch Ness, Loch Maree has its own monster in the form of the *muc-sheilch*. It is often referred to as the most beautiful loch in the Highlands.

Lochanside

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/lochanside.htm>

The tune was composed by Pipe Major John McLellan DCM.  Known to pipers as “John MacLellan, Dunoon” but to friends and family as “Jock,” John MacLellan was a quiet and shy man who composed some of the most enduring melodies in pipe music.

Colin’s Cattle

1. <http://www.ceolsean.net/content/Dglen/Dglen_TOC.html>

Traditional tune first published by David Glen in 1886.

4-4 Marches

Caber Feidh

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/caberfeidh.htm>

**Caber Feidh** or Caberféidh (pronounced cab-ar-fay) meaning deer antler in Gaelic is one of the symbols of Clan Mackenzie.  Clan Mackenzie is a Highland Scottish clan, traditionally associated with Kintail and lands in Ross-shire. Caber Feidh is also in the long toast of the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforths and Camerons) regiment.

Scotland the Brave

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/scotlandthebrave.htm>

A constituent nation of the United Kingdom, Scotland lacks an official, legislated "national song"; in fact there are several songs in use as "national songs" of Scotland. The one most often considered as the unofficial national anthem (and most often presented as Scotland's anthem at sporting matches) is "Flower of Scotland", written by Roy Williamson for the popular folk group The Corries. Other popular "national songs" of Scotland are "Scotland the Brave" and "Scots Wha' Hae" (another traditional melody with words by the national poet Robert Burns).

Rowan Tree

1. <http://forums.bobdunsire.com/forums/showthread.php?t=71862>

Lady Carolina Oliphant Nairn wrote it, as well as some other famous Scottish songs such as Charlie Is My Darling, The Laird o' Cockpen and Will Ye No Come Back Again.  
She wrote many sentimental "Jacobite" songs, but the rebellion had been over by 50 years by the time she did, and the fashion amongst the rich for all things highland had begun. It was a lucrative money spinner.

Wings

1. <http://forums.bobdunsire.com/forums/showthread.php?t=95185>

The tune is the regimental march of the Corps of Royal Engineers of the British Army, as well as some affiliated Commonwealth units. It was originally composed for military brass bands and was transposed to the pipes probably in the late Victorian era and certainly prior to WWI. It dates from 1870.

Major Davidson

1. <http://www.bagpiper.com/webpage-3366/pipeband-usa-northcarolina-grandfather-mountain-highlanders-pipe-band.html>
2. <http://www.lochnormanpipeband.com/aboutus.html>

Modern composition by P/M Ed Krintz previously P/M of the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders Pipe Band and later founder of Loch Norman Pipes and Drums.

Flett from Flotta

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/flettfromflotta.htm>
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_MacLeod_%28pipe_major%29>

The tune has an interesting story behind it. Pipe Major Donald MacLeod, MBE (1917–1982) was a very prominent piper of old in the Scottish regiments. The regimental silver was on its way down to London for a big "do" and Donald and another soldier were guarding the silver on a train. While sitting on the crates containing the silver, they played their chanters to while away the time. Donald said they should write a tune to pass the time and when the tune was finished they were looking for a title. He asked the big soldier what was his name and where was he from. The rest is (as they say) history. The tune was written after Donald observed the peculiar gait of Flett. The rhythm is supposed to reflect his awkward walking style; it helps with the phrasing of the tune if you think of it like that, too.

Flotta is an island off the south west of Mainland, Shetland. The name may come from the Old Norse, *flatey* meaning flat island, and the island's highest point is only ten meters.  Until 1914, Flotta was a quiet farming community. In 1910, a population of 431 included two blacksmiths, four carpenters and three dressmakers. But everything changed with the arrival of the Royal Navy in Scapa Flow at the start of WWI.  During World War I, the island was home to a naval base. The dreadnought HMS *Vanguard* sank nearby in 1917, reputedly the worst maritime disaster in UK waters. In WW2, the island was again used as a military base.

Pipe Major Donald MacLeod (1917-1982) was born in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis.  He was one of the finest, most creative and merriest, recent, great highland Scottish bagpipers. He was also a remarkable teacher of the highland bagpipe. In addition, Donald MacLeod was one of the most original and innovative composers for the bagpipe. His most popular and most recorded tunes include "Susan MacLeod", "The Blackberry Bush" and "The Hammer on the Anvil". He died in Glasgow in 1982.

Murdo’s Wedding

1. <http://www.pipetunes.ca/displayproduct.asp?catID=146&tuneID=970>
2. <http://www.pipetunes.ca/composers.asp?pg=Details&composerID=159>

This great little marching 4/4 has been in the pipe band repertoire for so long it's often forgotten that it's a fairly recent composition by Gavin Stoddart (1948 - ), former head of the Army School of PIping and Drumming.

Macrae Meadow

1. <http://moonstarmusic.com/audio.html>

Composed by Charlie Glendinning in 1972.

Scots Wa Hae

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/scotswhahae.htm>

Scots Wha Hae (a calque on the English Scots Who Have; the traditional Scots idiom would be Scots That Haes) is a patriotic song of Scotland which served for a long time as an unofficial national anthem of the country, but has lately been largely supplanted by Scotland the Brave and Flower of Scotland.

The lyrics were written by Robert Burns in 1793, in the form of a speech given by Robert the Bruce before the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, where Scotland maintained its independence from England. Although the lyrics are by Burns, he wrote them to the traditional Scottish tune Hey Tuttie Tatie which, according to tradition, was played by Bruce's army at the Battle of Bannockburn. The tune tends to be played as a slow dirge, but can sound much better given a more sprightly arrangement, as in the Scottish Fantasy by Max Bruch.

6-8 Marches

Leaving Port Ascaig

1. <http://www.pipetunes.ca/composers.asp?pg=Details&composerID=22>

Written by P/M Willie Ross (1878 - 1966). He was born to piping parents in Glenstrathfarrar near Beauly in Inverness-shire on June 14, 1878, and was taught primarily by his mother, Mary Collie. He turned his sights on the army quickly, joining the Scots Guards at age 18 in 1896, thus beginning an military association that would last for 60 years.

The Bind

1. <http://www.pipetunes.ca/browseproducts.asp>

Syncopated 6/8 march written by P/M John K. MacAllister

Slow Airs

Morag of Dunvegan

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/moragofdunvegan.htm>

**Mórag** is a Scottish female given name, sometimes translated as Sarah. It means "great", or "great one" (MÓR is great in Gaelic).  **Dunvegan** (Gaelic: *Dùn Bheagain*) is a town on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. It is famous for Dunvegan Castle, seat of the chief of Clan MacLeod.  The name Dunvegan is Scottish Gaelic for "small castle".

The castle houses a number of family and clan relics; chief among them is the famous *Fairie Flag of Dunvegan,* the *Dunvegan Cup,* and *Sir Rory Mor's Horn* (shown above) as well as the MacCrimmon Pipes. The tune is traditional and often used as a wedding march.

Highland Cathedral

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/highlandcathedral.htm>

**Highland Cathedral** is a popular bagpipe tune from Scotland. The first lyrics below were written as a tribute to Scots fighting and serving overseas in Scottish regiments. It is Scotland's equivalent of "Abide with Me" for National Sporting Events and as a hymn on the eve of battle. The melody composed for the bagpipes was written by German musicians Ulrich Roever and Michael Korb in a Scottish style in 1982 for the Highland games.  It has been proposed as the Scottish national anthem to replace Scotland the Brave and/or Flower of Scotland**.**

Amazing grace

1. <http://www.amazinggrace.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10&Itemid=19>

A traditional hymn written by John Newton in 1773 and later set to pipes.

Lament to Je ar Penven

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jef_Le_Penven>
2. <http://forums.bobdunsire.com/forums/showthread.php?t=94203>
3. <http://www.freebase.com/m/02666s6>
4. <https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polig_Monjarret>

Jef Le Penven was a French composer, born in Pontivy, Morbihan, Brittany. Le Penven was the twelfth child of a family of cabinet makers. He was brought up in an atmosphere of traditional vernacular music, learning to play the bombard as a child. He studied at the Schola Cantorum in Paris, working with Marcel Dupré. In 1940, he became the conductor or the Orchestre de Bretagne. Le Penven's music expresses his attachment to Brittany and Celtic culture. The bagpipe tune was written by Polig Monjarret (1920 - 2003) a collector of traditional Breton music.

Mist covered mountains

1. <https://thesession.org/tunes/3411>

Traditional Gaelic Air - was supposedly one of President John F. Kennedy’s favourite tunes, and it was played at his funeral.

Other Marches

Cullen Bay

1. <http://www.plheineman.net/cullenbay.htm>

Cullen, located on the Moray Firth Coast in the North East of Scotland, is a town originally built around the mouth of the Burn of Deskford. The town is in two parts. Sandwiched between the sea wall on one side, and the curve of the main road on the other is the fishing village, Seatown. The "inland" side of Cullen stretches up an imposing main street that continues from Seatown under the most easterly of the three railway viaducts.

Ian Duncan (above) of Perth, Scotland, is the Pipe-Major of the Lothian & Borders Police Pipe Band of Edinburgh.  Duncan was the Pipe-Major of the Grade 1 Vale of Atholl Pipe Band of Pitlochry, Scotland, for 26 years, taking it from a mainly Juvenile organization to the top grade, winning several major championships along the way as well as the Pipe-Major of the Drambuie-Kirkliston Pipe Band.  Duncan studied under Bob Brown and Bob Nicol at Balmoral in the early 1970s. Solo prizes include the Highland Society of London Gold Medal competitions at Oban and Inverness.

Hornpipes

Bumpy Old Road

An Dro

1. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Dro>

**An dro** or *en dro* (Breton: "The Turn") is a traditional Breton folk dance in 4/4. It is a form of a circle dance.

Strathspeys

Inverness Rant

1. <http://forums.bobdunsire.com/forums/showthread.php?t=135826&highlight=Inverness+Rant>

A traditional strathspey. According to the Scots Dialect Dictionary-- **to rant** is to frolic, romp, revel, live a fast life, roister. **A rant** (noun) is a merrymaking, a rough noisy frolic, a jolification, a lively story or song.

Molly Connel

1. <http://www.pipetunes.ca/composers.asp?pg=Details&composerID=82>

James Wark was born in 1949 and raised in Glasgow. His piping career began with lessons at the local Boys Brigade Company in Kinning Park: the '99th', under the instruction of one of the officers, Alec MacLean. A little later, he was taught by Angus Campbell, a native of Carradale, in Argyllshire. He seemed to know absolutely everyone, and they all seemed to know him, which was fairly mind-blowing for the young, star-struck James. It was to Angus Campbell that he owes any success he achieved in 'bagpipe world.'

Mac an Irish

1. <http://www.ceuig.co.uk/mac-an-irish/>

Mac an Irish, a dance and pipe was evidently written about a son of “An Irish”, Calum Macritchie (b1845) of Carnish, Aird, Kneep and Reef, and the eldest of the Reef Raiders.  He wasn’t Irish of course, but so called as he was always a rebel.

Lady Carmichael (of Craig Castle)

Yester House

1. [tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Yester\_House](http://tunearch.org/wiki/Annotation:Yester_House)

**Yester** **House** is located in East Lothian, Scotland, a mile from the village of Gifford, and was built on the site of a previous 16th century tower **house** (itself a replacement for the original 13th century **Yester** Castle, one mile away).

Reels

Barney’s Balmoral

Composed by Pipe Sergeant E. Macdonald of the Scots Guards, with third and fourth parts by A. Macdonald

The Ale is dear

1. <https://thesession.org/tunes/866>

As far as I know it’s a traditional Scottish bagpipe reel. I have never seen any composer’s name attached to it.

Drowsie Maggie

A traditional Irish reel

Jigs

Fittie Boatmen – traditional jig

Sources:

1. Behind the Tunes: http://www.plheineman.net/behindthetunes.htm

2. The Session: https://thesession.org/login?redirect=%2Fdiscussions%2F31414

3. Jimmy McGillivray: <http://www.pipetunes.ca/browseproducts.asp?catID=186>

4. Bob Dunsire Forum: <http://forums.bobdunsire.com/forums/index.php?s=694827e0e90b625e1d43ba8d4133e5e6>

5. Uig Historical Society, Isle of Lewis: <http://www.ceuig.co.uk/mac-an-irish/>