

## Lochnell's Lament

---

There is a setting of this tune in the following manuscript source:

– **Colin Mór Campbell**, "Nether Lorn Canntaireachd," ii, 64-6, with the title "Lochnails ~~March~~ Lament."

Colin Mór treats the tune as follows:

25 Called Lochmail Aaseph Lament  
 26 Hino tras hotra dreho hio endroo hino do doro  
 do hihar in hihar in two times hio hotras  
 horeho have cheho hihoro do cheve hoe hio  
 o dro din hio e dro hio din

27 Hino tras hotra dreho hio endroo hino do  
 doro do hihar in hihar in hio hotras hore  
 have cheho hihoro do hihoro do cheve  
 hoe cheve hoe hino dro din hio e dro hio din  
 30 Hino tras hotra dreho hio endroo <sup>hio do dro do</sup> hihar in  
 hihar in hio hotras horeho have che  
 ho hio din hihar in four times

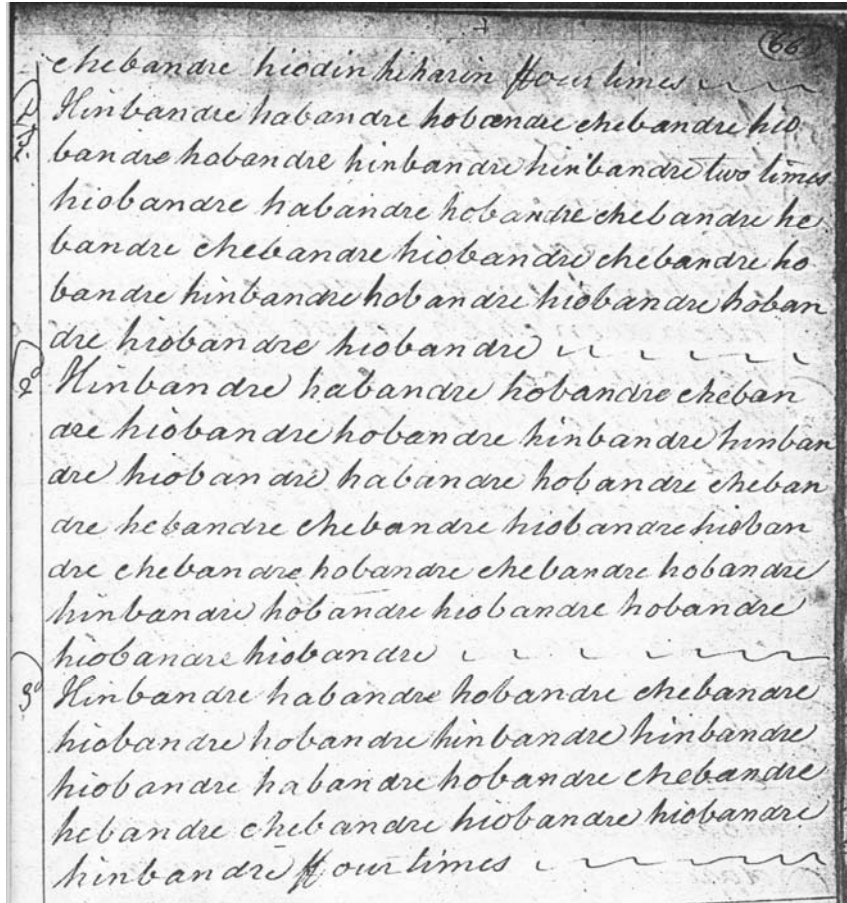
31 Taolwe Sach  
 Hinda ria hada ria hoda ria che da ria  
 hio da ria hoes hihar in hihar in two times  
 hada ria hada ria hoda ria che da ria he  
 da ria che da ria hihoro do che da ria ho  
 da ria hinda ria hoda ria hio da ria ho  
 da ria hio din

32 Hinda ria hada ria hoda ria che da ria  
 hio da ria hoes hihar in hihar in hio da ria  
 hada ria hoda ria che da ria hada ria che da ria  
 hihoro do hihoro do che da ria hoda ria che  
 da ria hoda ria hinda ria hoda ria hio  
 da ria hoda ria hio din

33 Hinda ria hada ria hoda ria che da ria  
 hio da ria hoes hihar in hihar in hio da ria  
 hada ria hoda ria che da ria hada ria che  
 da ria hio din hihar in four times

34 Hinda ria hada ria hoda ria che da ria  
 hio da ria hoda ria hinda ria hinda ria

1<sup>o</sup> two times hie daria hadaria hodaria chedaria  
 hedaria chedaria hie daria chedaria hadaria  
 hindaria hodaria hiodaria hiodaria hioda  
 ria hiodaria  
 2<sup>o</sup> Hindaria hadaria hodaria chedaria hiodaria  
 hiodaria hindaria hindaria hiodaria  
 hadaria hodaria chedaria hedaria cheda  
 ria hiodaria hiodaria chedaria hodaria  
 hindaria hodaria hiodaria hodaria hio  
 daria hiodaria  
 3<sup>o</sup> Hindaria hadaria hodaria chedaria hio  
 daria hodaria hindaria hindaria hiodaria  
 hadaria hodaria chedaria hedaria cheda  
 ria hiodaria hiodaria hindaria four times  
 Cruive Tadh  
 4<sup>o</sup> Hinbandre habandre hobandre cheban  
 dre hobandre hoco hiharin hiharin two  
 times hio bandre habandre hobandre che  
 bandre hebandre chebandre hiorodo che  
 bandre hobandre hinbandre hobandre hio  
 bandre hobandre hiodin  
 5<sup>o</sup> Hinbandre habandre hobandre chebandre  
 hio bandre hoco hiharin hiharin hio bandre  
 habandre hobandre hebandre hebandre hella  
 midhi hiodo hiorodo chebandre hobandre hin  
 bandre hobandre hio bandre hobandre hiodin  
 6<sup>o</sup> Hinbandre habandre hobandre chebandre  
 hio bandre hoco hiharin hiharin hio bandre  
 habandre hobandre chebandre hebandre



This tune is based upon a single, evidently flawed, manuscript source, and the absence of other scores makes it impossible to produce a composite text. Problems of interpretation centre on the seemingly inconsistent use in the original score of the double echo movements on A and B which are sometimes repeated and sometimes not, and the generally irregular nature of the tune. As it stands, the score seems corrupt, a conclusion underlined by the fairly frequent emendations made by the compiler. This piece may not have been in the front line repertoire of Colin Campbell as further indicated by the uncertainty about its title and various other little signs such as setting the movement from C to E as "hotradre" in bar one of the ground and elsewhere as "hodre" which latter seems a more natural way of doing it. One ambiguity is exactly what Colin Mór meant to be repeated when he said "Two times: in line one of the ground: the double eallach—"hiharin hiharin"—or all of the opening four bars? The instruction is repeated in the corresponding position throughout the tune. If it is taken as applying to the eallach movements alone in line 1, the result is an apparently regular eight bar line thus:

Hinotrao hotradreho hioendroo hindodarodo hiharin hiharin hiharin hiharin hiohotrao  
hodreho have cheho hihorodo cheve hoe hinodrodin hioeodro hiodin.

Perhaps the ground might be treated roughly along the following lines:

Lochnails Lament (Ground) Nether Lorn Canntaireachd, ii 64

The image shows a musical score for 'Lochnails Lament (Ground)'. It consists of seven staves of music, each starting with a treble clef. The notation is complex, featuring many beamed eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The music is written in a single system across the seven staves.

### Commentary:

There is a problem here with titles, with the result that two quite different tunes have been published as "Lochnell's Lament." The melody nowadays known as "Scarce of Fishing" is recorded under this title in Peter Reid's MS, f.62 and also in William Stewart et. al., eds., *Piobaireachd Society Collection* (First Series), ii, 12-15. The title of the "Scarce of Fishing" group is itself unstable. Donald MacDonald, jr., calls the latter tune "O Kelly's Lament," while Uilleam Ross's title is "Spiocaireachd Iascaich. The Fishers of Geogh Brodinn." This piece was set in 2001, and further information may be found under that tune's title in the "Set Tunes" series on the PipesDrums website. The melody published in *The Piobaireachd Society's Collection* (Second Series, xiii, 398-9) under the title "Cumha Loch an Eala Lament for Lochnell" translated into staff notation from the Nether Lorn Canntaireachd by the volume's editors James Campbell and Archibald Kenneth, is a completely different tune. The Society's version leaves unresolved a number of structural issues and is "cut" in a rather mannered way in the ground which contributes little to the natural rhythm of the tune. Some may think this second "Lochnell's Lament" a rather dull and graceless piece at best, no matter how one times it, because of the too-constricted tonal space in which it manoeuvres. The Campbells of Lochnell were an important cadet branch of the house of Argyll who rose to considerable power and influence in the affairs of clan Campbell from the later 16th century onward. Indeed the earldom of Argyll itself might have lain within the family's grasp if they had played their cards sufficiently crookedly. One of them was involved in a plot to murder Archibald, the 7th Earl (1576?-1638), and later fell at the Battle of Glenlivet (3 October 1594); another laird of Lochnell was killed at 2nd Inverlochy in Montrose's time.

\* \* \*

Electronic text © Dr. William Donaldson, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 3 February 2011