

The Rout of the MacPhees

There are settings of this tune in the following manuscript sources:

- **Colin Campbell's** "Nether Lorn Canntaireachd", ii, 24-7 (with the title "Vuirlin Corrich Chaoil");
- **Angus MacKay's** MS, ii, ff.89-90;
- **D. S. MacDonald's** MS, i, 118-20;
- **David Glen's** MS, ff.241-243;

and in the following published source:

- **C. S. Thomason's** *Ceol Mor*, p. 331.

There are basically two ways of doing this tune: that preserved by Colin Campbell in the Nether Lorn Canntaireachd, and the shorter version of Angus MacKay. Of the two, the Nether Lorn is by some distance the more interesting. Colin Campbell sets the tune as follows:

Called Vuirlin Corrich Chaoil

- 1st Hintradre hadre hodin Two Times hiotradre hodreodin
- 2^d Hintradre hadre hodin hiotradre hodrodre hiotradre hodreodin
- 3^d Hintradre hadre hodin hiodareche hodreodin

D

- 1st Hintra dili hadre hodin two times hiotradili hodreodin
- 2^d Hintradili hadre hodin hiotradili hodrodre hiotradili hodreodin
- 3^d Hintradili hadre hodin hiodiliche hodreodin

S

ffirst Motion

- 1st Hintrache hache hodin Two times hiotrache hocheodin
- 2^d Hintrache hache hodin hiotrache hodroche hiotrache hocheodin
- 3^d Hintrache hache hodin hiodareche hocheodin

D

- 1st Hintrache hacheho two times hiotrache hochehio
- 2^d Hintrache hacheho hiotrache hohoche hiotrache hoche hio
- 3^d Hintrache hache ho hiodareche hochehio

S

Second Motion

- 1st Hinen haen cheen haen cheen hoen Two times hioen haen cheen hoen cheen hioen
- 2^d Hinen haen cheen haen cheen hoen hioen haen cheen hoen hoen cheen hioen haen cheen hoen cheen hioen
- 3^d Hinen haen cheen haen cheen hoen hioen heen cheen hoen cheen hioen

D

- 1st Hinen haha cheche haha cheche hoho Two times hiohio haha cheche hoho cheche hiohio

2^d Hinen haha cheche haha cheche hoho hiohio haha cheche hoho hoho cheche hiohio haha cheche hoho cheche hiohio

3^d Hinen haha cheche haha cheche hoho hiohio hehe cheche hoho cheche hiohio

S Taolive Gear

1st Hendaridda hinde hindda hinde hindo two times hinto hinda hinde hindo hinde hinto

2^d Hendaridda hinde hindda hinde hindo hinto hinda hinde hindo hindo hinde hinto hinda hinde hindo hinde hinto

3^d Hendaridda hinde hinda hinde hindo hinto hindhe hinde hindo hinde hinto

S Taolive Fadh

1st Hendarid hadarid chedarid hadarid chedarid hodin Two times hiodarid hadarid chedarid hodarid chedarid hiodin

2^d Hendarid hadarid chedarid hadarid chedarid hodin, hiodarid hadarid chedarid hodarid hodarid chedarid hiodarid hadarid chedarid hodarid chedarid hiodin

3^d Hendarid hadarid chedarid hadarid chedarid hodin hiodarid hedarid chedarid hodarid chedarid hiodin

D

1st Hendarid hadarid chedarid hadarid chedarid hodarid Two times hiodarid hadarid chedarid hodarid chedarid hiodarid

2^d Hendarid hadarid chedarid hadarid chedarid hodarid, hiodarid hadarid chedarid hodarid hodarid chedarid hiodarid hadarid chedarid hodarid chedarid hiodarid

3^d Hendarid hadarid chedarid hadarid chedarid hodarid hiodarid hedarid chedarid hodarid chedarid hiodarid

S Crulive Fadh

1st Hinbandre habandre chebandre habandre chebandre hodin two times hiobandre habandre chebandre hobandre chebandre hiodin

2^d Hinbandre habandre chebandre habandre chebandre hodin, hiobandre habandre chebandre hobandre hobandre chebandre hiobandre habandre chebandre hobandre chebandre hiodin

3^d Hinbandre habandre chebandre habandre chebandre hodin hiobandre hebandre chebandre hobandre chebandre hiodin

D

1st Hinbandre habandre chebandre habandre chebandre hobandre two times hiobandre habandre chebandre hobandre chebandre hiobandre

2^d Hinbandre habandre chebandre habandre chebandre hobandre, hiobandre habandre chebandre hobandre hobandre chebandre hiobandre habandre chebandre hobandre chebandre hiobandre

3^d Hinbandre habandre chebandre habandre chebandre hobandre hiobandre hebandre chebandre hobandre chebandre hiobandre

pipes | drums

The intended timing presents interesting possibilities here. Presumably the ground is meant to have a similar rhythmical pattern to the sister-tune, "Lament for MacDonald's Tutor", in which case the timing of the first motion must take a different path, perhaps along the lines suggested in the staff notated example below:

Ground



ffirst motion singling



ffirst motion doubling



Colin Campbell's is the fullest development of the tune we have, with a ground and thumb variation, his "ffirst motion" singling and doubling, a siubhal singling and doubling, a pendulum movement, and duinte taorluath and crunluath movements singling and doubling.

Angus MacKay sets the tune on more economical lines, omitting Colin Campbell's first motion, and pendulum movement as follows:

*

Ruaidh air Blann a Phie

89

The Rout of the Mac Phies

The image shows a handwritten musical score for a pipe and drum tune. At the top, the title is written in cursive as 'Ruaidh air Blann a Phie' with a small asterisk above it, and 'The Rout of the Mac Phies' below it. The page number '89' is in the top right corner. The music is written on 12 staves in 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The first staff has a key signature of one flat. The score includes several variations: 'Bis' (first and second), 'Var 2nd', 'Doubling', and 'Var 3rd'. The notation is dense with many notes, including grace notes and slurs. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

90

Doobling.

Viv.

Ad. C. Thuma.

Con furto

Doobling

Viv.

Ad. C. Thuma, et al. Thuma.

MacKay directs that the ground be repeated at the end of the taorluath and crunluath doublings in his normal fashion.

D. S. MacDonald's score follows his main source, Angus MacKay's manuscript, closely. It adds nothing to the stylistic possibilities of the tune and it is not reproduced here.

David Glen's score is marked "from Ceol Mor". It adds nothing to the stylistic possibilities of the tune and it is not reproduced here.

C. S. Thomason gives Angus MacKay's manuscript as his source and follows it closely. Since his score does not add to the stylistic possibilities of the tune it is not reproduced here.

Commentary:

In the second edition of William F. Skene's *The Highlanders of Scotland*, edited by Alexander MacBain (Stirling 1902) it is stated that

The Macduffies or Macphees are the most ancient inhabitants of Colonsay [...] Of their early history nothing is known [...] The Macduffies certainly remained in possession of Colonsay as late as the middle of the seventeenth century, for we find them mentioned on several occasions during the troubles of that period; but they appear at that time to have been nearly exterminated, as we find in the criminal records for 1623, Coil Mac Gillespie Macdonald, in Colonsay (afterwards the celebrated Collkitto), was 'delaitit [i.e. accused or denounced] of airt and pairt of the felonie and cruell slaughter of Umqhuill [i.e. deceased] Malcolm Macphie of Colonsay,' with others of his clan. From this period their estate seems to have gone into the possession of the Macdonalds, and afterwards of the Macneills [...] while the clan gradually sunk until they were only to be found, as at present, forming a small part of the inhabitants of Colonsay.' p.344.

* * *

Electronic text © Dr. William Donaldson, Aberdeen, Scotland, November 2007