

The Little Spree

This tune is to be found in the following published sources:

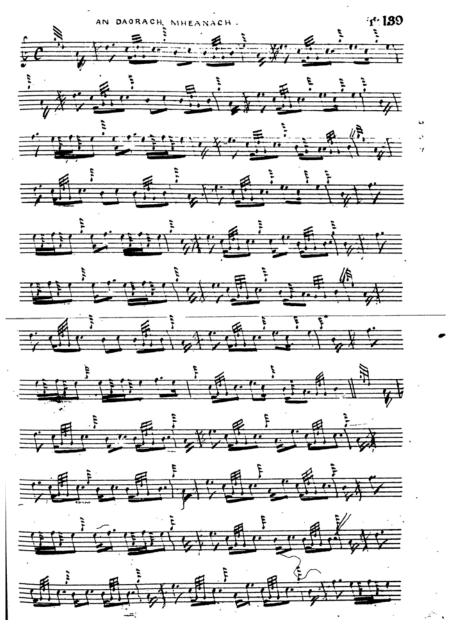
- **--C. S. Thomason**'s *Ceol Mor*, pp.104-5;
- -- David Glen's Collection of Ancient Piobaireachd, pp.178-9;

and in the following manuscript sources:

- -- **Donald MacDonald**'s MS, ff.139-143 (with the title, 'An Daorach Mheanach');
- --Angus MacKay's MS, i, f.69;
- -- **David Glen**'s MS, ff.150-151;
- --Robert Meldrum's MS, ff.31-3.

Donald MacDonald times the tune like this:

















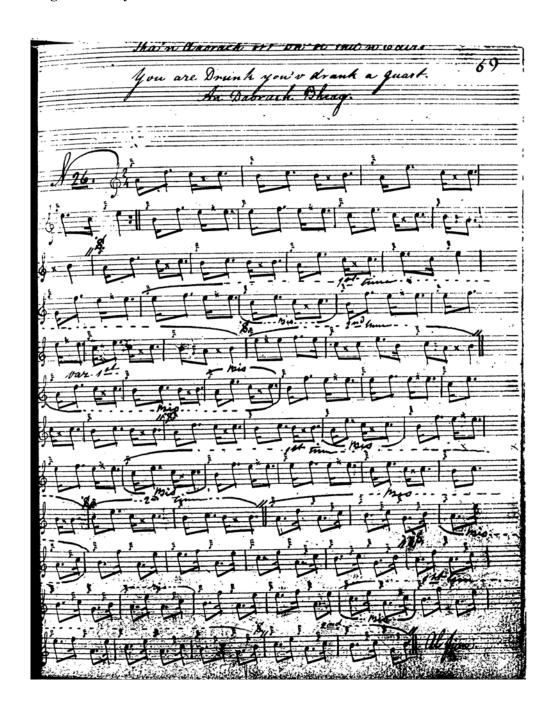




MacDonald opens with an anacrusis (for a discussion of which see "MacCrimmon's Sweetheart" in the 2002 Set Tunes series). E/A introductory notes are played onto an accented D quaver, a feature also present in Thomason's score. MacDonald has the 'spread' 4/4 taorluath fosgailte one also finds in MacKay, rather than the semi-demi quaver triplets present in the later Victorian scores and nowadays always played.



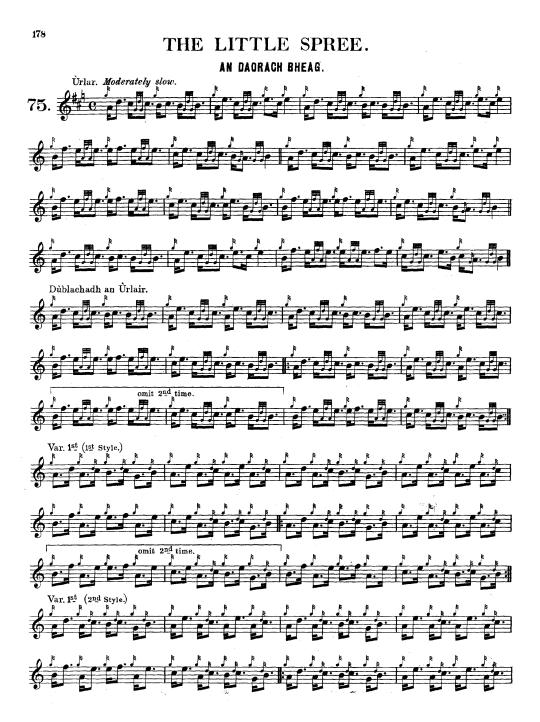
Angus MacKay sets the tune as follows:





Even although he does not develop the tune beyond the siubhal doubling, MacKay's highly compact notational system is clearly shown here: it took MacDonald nearly two pages to reach this stage of the tune.

David Glen sets the tune like this:







Glen offers alternate "up" and "down" timings for the siubhal. He directs that the ground be repeated after the taorluath fosgailte doubling, but not at the end of the tune.

C. S. Thomason cites the manuscripts of Donald MacDonald and Angus MacKay, but assumes responsibility for the final score. He plays his siubhal "up";



Robert Meldrum also plays his siubhal "up" otherwise there is nothing very remarkable about his score from a textual point of view.

Commentary:

None of the old idiomatic scores has a crunluath a mach.

There are three "Spree" tunes, "The Big Spree," "The Middling Spree" and "The Little Spree." Commenting on them in his unpublished notes, Donald MacDonald says: "*An Daorach Mhor*. This Piobaireachd was composed by one of the Chiefs of the MacGregors on one of his vassals, who was a very valiant man; he was a blacksmith by trade, and he was often the foremost at all the battles he was engaged in; but there were times when he would get quite deranged, occasioned by his partaking too freely of ardent spirits, which was the cause of the above being composed. There are three Daorachs, viz. An Daorach Mhor, 's an Daorach Mheanach, 's an Daorach Bheg; the whole of which were made upon the same wild hero."

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