

The Lament for MacDonald's Tutor (2)

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

- **Colin Campbell's** "Nether Lorn" canntaireachd, ii, 21-4 (with the title "Tharrin Mach bhat Mhic Cload" which would indicate, roughly, "The Putting or pulling out of MacLeod's Galley");
- **Angus MacKay's** MS, ii, 5-7 (with the title, "Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor");
- **Colin Cameron's** MS, ff.65-6 (with the title "Salute for the MacDonald's Tutor");
- **Robert Meldrum's** MS, ff.53-56;

and in the following published collections:

- **David Glen's** *Collection of Ancient Piobaireachd*, pp.4-5; and
- **C. S. Thomason's** *Ceol Mor*, p.239.

The following table shows how the more important sources develop the tune:

Colin Campbell	Angus MacKay	Colin Cameron	David Glen	C. S. Thomason
Ground	Ground	Ground	Ground	Ground
Thumb variation	Thumb variation	Thumb variation	Thumb variation	Thumb variation
	Siubhal singling doubling	Siubhal singling doubling	Siubhal singling doubling	Siubhal singling doubling
Pendulum movement singling doubling	Pendulum movement singling doubling	Pendulum movement singling	Pendulum movement singling doubling	Pendulum movement singling doubling
Taorluath singling doubling	Taorluath singling doubling	Taorluath singling doubling	Taorluath singling doubling	Taorluath singling doubling
	Ground		Ground	Ground
Crunluath singling doubling	Crunluath singling doubling	Crunluath singling doubling	Crunluath singling doubling	Crunluath singling doubling
	Ground		Ground	Ground

None of these settings has a crunluath a mach.

Colin Campbell sets the tune as follows:

Called Tharrin Mach bhat Mhic Cload

- 1st Hintradre hintrahodin Two times himtodre chetrahodroo
 2^d Hintradre hintrahodin himtodre chetrahodro himtodre chetrahodroo
 3^d Hintradre hintrahodin himtodre chetrahodroo

- D 1st Hintradili hintrahodin Two times himtodili chetrahodroo
 2^d Hintradili hintrahodin himtodili chetrahodro hintodili chetrahodroo

3^d Hintradili hintrahodin himtodili chetrahodroo

ffirst Motion

S 1st Hindaridda hinde hindaridda hindo Two times himdaridto hinde hindaridda himto

2^d Hindaridda hinde hindaridda hindo himdaridto hinde hindaridda hindo himdaridto hinde hindaridda himto

3rd Hindaridda hinde hindaridda hindo himdaridto hinde hindaridda himto

D 1st Hindaridda hindaridde hindaridda hindariddo Two times himdaridto hindaridde hindaridda himdaridto

2^d Hindaridda hindaridde hindaridda hindariddo himdaridto hindaridde hindaridda hindariddo himdaridto hindaridde hindaridda himdaridto

3^d Hindaridda hindaridde hindaridda hindariddo himdaridto hindaridde hindaridda himdaridto

Taolive

S 1st Hindarid hadarid chedarid hindarid hadarid hodin two times himdarid hiodarid chedarid himdarid hadarid hioem

2^d Hindarid hadarid chedarid hindarid hadarid hodin himdarid hiodarid chedarid himdarid hadarid hiodarid himdarid hiodarid chedarid himdarid hadarid hioem

3^d Hindarid hadarid chedarid hindarid hadarid hodin himdarid hiodarid chedarid himdarid hadarid hioem

D 1st Hindarid hadarid chedarid hindarid hadarid hodarid Two times himdarid hiodarid chedarid himdarid hadarid hiobabem

2^d Hindarid hadarid chedarid hindarid hadarid hodarid himdarid hiodarid chedarid himdarid hadarid hodarid himdarid hiodarid chedarid himdarid hadarid hiobabem

3^d Hindarid hadarid chedarid hindarid hadarid hodarid himdarid hiodarid chedarid himdarid himdarid [sic] hobabem

Crulive

S 1st Hinbandre habandre chebandre hinbandre habandre hodin Two times himdarid hiodarid chedarid himdarid hadarid hioem [sic: the compiler strays back into the taorluath variation here]

2^d Hinbandre habandre chebandre hinbandre habandre hodin himbandre hiobandre chebandre himbandre habandre hobandre himbandre hiobandre chebandre himbandre habandre hioem

3^d Hinbandre habandre chebandre hinbandre habandre hodin himbandre hiobandre chebandre himbandre habandre hioem

D 1st Hinbandre habandre chebandre hinbandre habandre hobandre Two times himbandre hiobandre chebandre himbandre hiobandre chebandre himbandre habandre hibandre [sic: suggest, himbandre hiobandre chebandre himbandre habandre hiobandre?]

2^d Hinbandre habandre chebandre hinbandre habandre hobandre himbandre

pipes | drums

hiobandre chebandre himbandre habandre [sic: suggest adding 'hobandre
himbandre hiobandre chebandre himbandre habandre'] hiobamdre
3^d Hinbandre habandre chebandre hinbandre habandre hobandre himbandre
hiobandre chebandre himbandre habandre hiobamdre

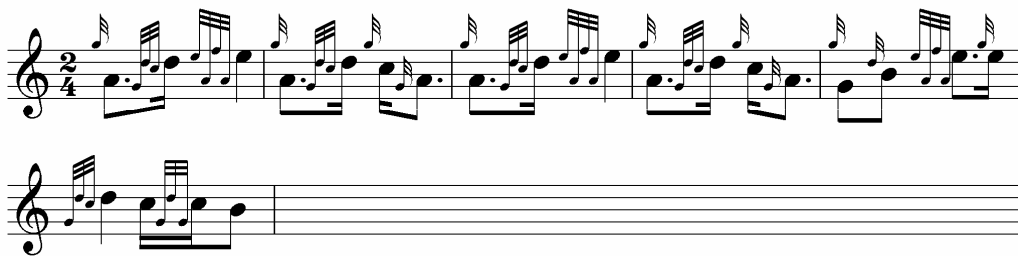
As ever with Colin Campbell's canntaireachd, this would permit of a number of interpretations. The obvious literal reading would be:

MacDonald's Tutor, Colin Campbell ground, line 1



But perhaps in playing one might push it a little towards the following style to get away from the deadly square three-even-crotchets-to-the-bar feeling that many of the scores seem to imply:

MacDonald's Tutor, Colin Campbell ground, line 1 alternative timing



Likewise the pendulum movement could be played "up," like so:

MacDonald's Tutor, Colin Campbell pendulum movement, played 'up'



or "down," this latter similar to the "round" style favoured by Donald MacDonald and heard to good effect in some settings of "Beloved Scotland" and "Mary's Praise":

MacDonald's Tutor, Colin Campbell, pendulum movement, played 'down'



Angus MacKay times the tune as follows:

Gumha Guitear Chlam Domhnall. 5

*Lament for the Macdonald's Tutori **

The Tutor of the Macdonalds
of the Isles
were

The Macdonalds of Gully

No. 9.

Variation 2nd

Doubling of bar. 2nd

pipes | drums

6

The image displays a handwritten musical score for a piece titled "Lost Pibroch". The score is written on ten staves, each beginning with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation is a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with many notes marked with an 'x' to indicate a drum beat. The score is divided into several sections by handwritten labels: "Var. 3rd" above the second staff, "Var. 4th" above the fourth staff, "Var. 5th" above the sixth staff, and "Doubling" above the eighth staff. There are also two instances of the instruction "Skip 2nd time" written above the staves. The handwriting is in ink and appears to be from a 19th or 20th-century manuscript.

pipes | drums



The salient points of MacKay's score are as follows:

pipes | drums

Lament for the Macdonalds Tutor, Angus MacKay, ground

Ground notation for 'Lament for the Macdonalds Tutor'. The piece is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a 'Bis' bracket under the first two measures. The notation includes various pipe and drum symbols, such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests, with some notes marked with a cross (x) to indicate specific drum patterns. The piece concludes with a 'Fine' bracket under the final measure of the fourth staff.

Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor, Angus MacKay, thumb variation

Thumb variation notation for 'Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor'. The piece is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a 'Bis' bracket under the first two measures. The notation includes various pipe and drum symbols, such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests, with some notes marked with a cross (x) to indicate specific drum patterns. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots (//) at the end of the fourth staff.

Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor, Angus MacKay, siubhal singling line 1

Siubhal singling line 1 notation for 'Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor'. The piece is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a 'Bis' bracket under the first two measures. The notation includes various pipe and drum symbols, such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests, with some notes marked with a cross (x) to indicate specific drum patterns. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots (//) at the end of the fourth staff.

Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor, Angus MacKay, siubhal doubling line 1

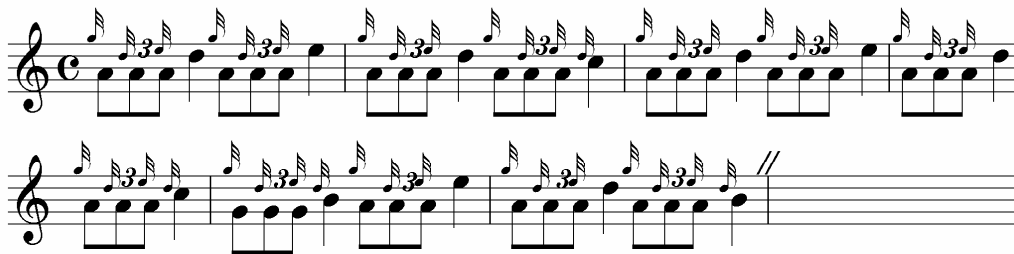
Siubhal doubling line 1 notation for 'Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor'. The piece is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a 'Bis' bracket under the first two measures. The notation includes various pipe and drum symbols, such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests, with some notes marked with a cross (x) to indicate specific drum patterns. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots (//) at the end of the fourth staff.

pipes | drums

Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor, Angus MacKay, pendulum movement line 1



Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor, Angus MacKay, pendulum movement doubling line 1



Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor, Angus MacKay, taorluath singling

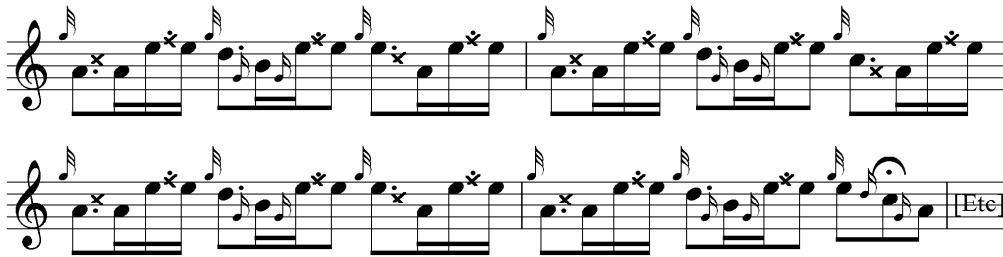


Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor, Angus MacKay taorluath doubling line 1



pipes | drums

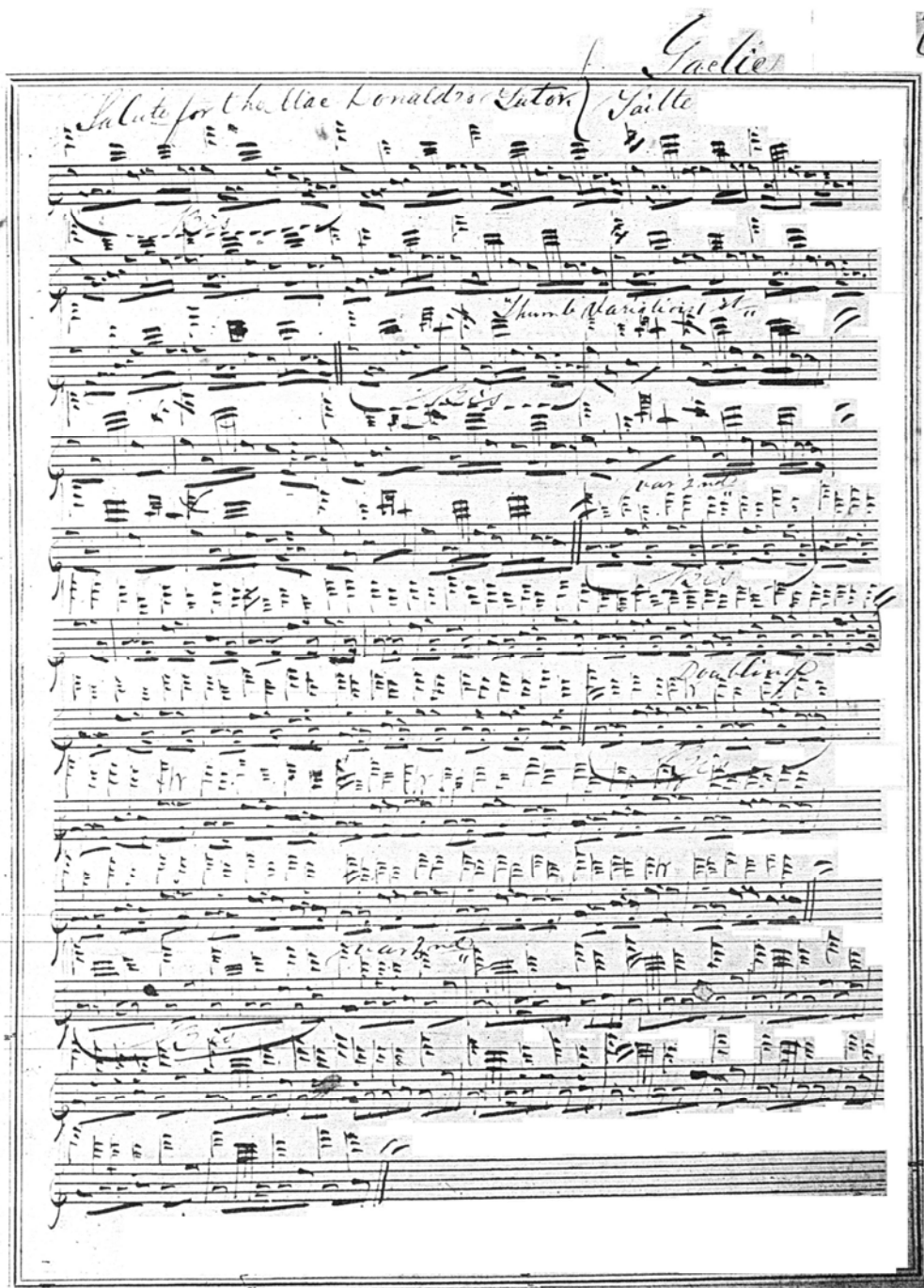
Lament for the Macdonald's Tutor, Angus MacKay, crunluath singling line 1



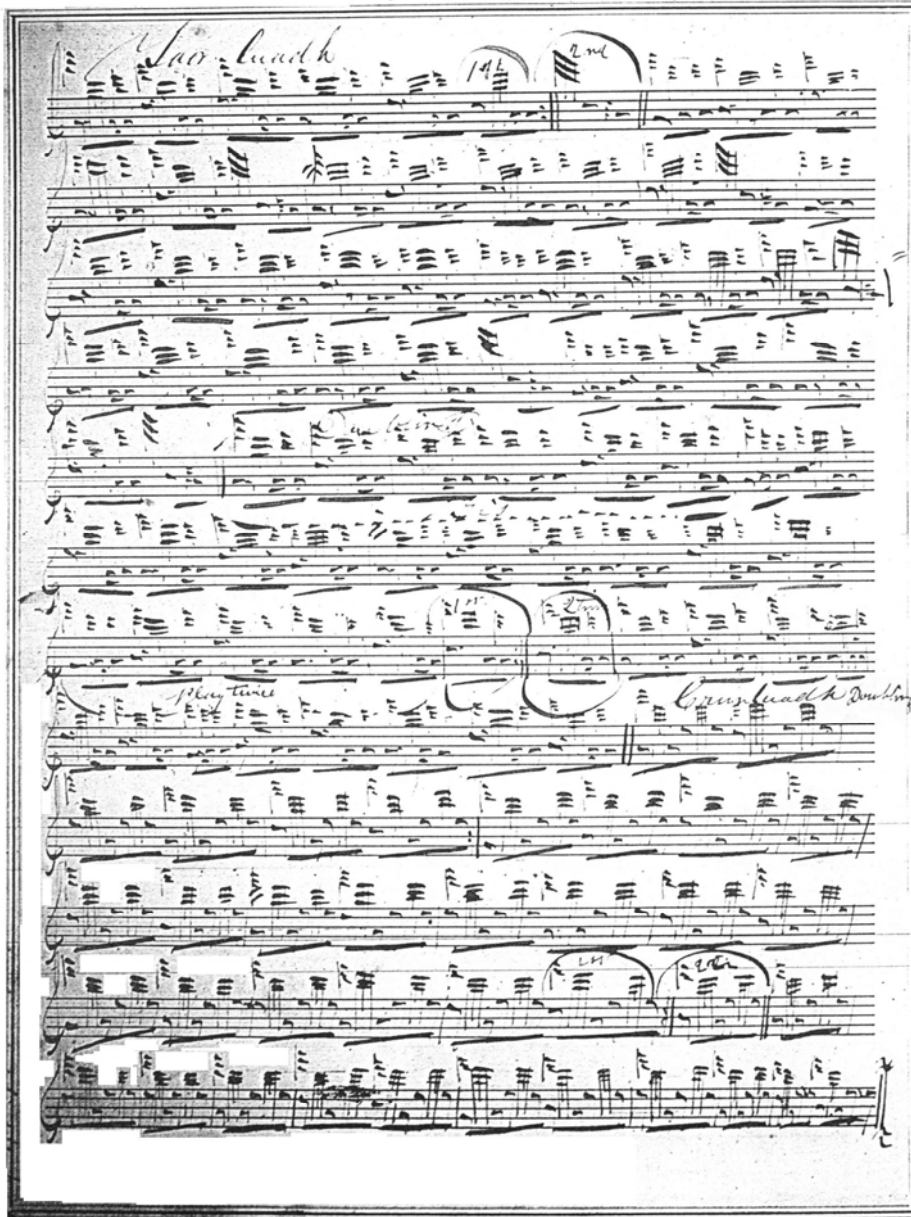
Lament for the MacDonald's Tutor, Angus MacKay, crunluath doubling line 1



Colin Cameron sets the tune thus:



66



Colin Cameron adds a marginal note as follows:

"You see here I marked first the doubling of Crunluadh instead of the singling in a mistake."

Colin Cameron's ground has a similar flavour to Colin Campbell's, and may also give a more precise indication of the intended timings behind MacKay's even quavers (there were close links between Angus MacKay and the Cameron family, although the latter were often independent of him stylistically: see *The Highland Pipe and Scottish Society*, pp. 219-22); it is interesting, too, how Colin Cameron varies the timing of the E cadences between Ground and Thumb Variation:

Salute for the Macdonald's Tutor, Colin Cameron, ground line 1



Salute for the Macdonald's Tutor, Colin Cameron, thumb variation line 1



Robert Meldrum's setting is generally consistent with the later published scores, but he has a rather unusual MacDonald style doubling of his pendulum movement, as follows:

pipes | drums



David Glen sets the tune as follows:

THE MACDONALDS' TUTOR'S LAMENT.

CUMHA FIR-FHOGLUIM NAN DÒMHNALLACH.

Ùrlar. *Slow.*

2. 

twice

1st time only.

1st Var. 

twice

1st time only.

Var. 2nd Siubhal. *Quick.* 

twice

1st time only.

Doubling of Var. 2nd Siubhal Sleamhuinn. *Quick.* 

twice

1st time only.

Var. 3rd 

twice

1st time only.

Var. 4th 

twice

1st time only.

Written  Played 

pipes | drums

Taor-luath

Dùblachadh an Taor-luath.

Crùn-luath.

Dùblachadh a' Chrùn-luath.

Repeat the Ùrlar.

C. S. Thomason's setting does not add to the stylistic possibilities of the tune and is not reproduced here.

Commentary:

Relatively little is known about the background of this tune, but there is an entry by "Fionn" in the "Historic, Biographic, and Legendary Notes to the Tunes" attached to David Glen's *Collection of Ancient Piobaireachd*. These notes were also published as a separate book entitled *The Martial Music of the Clans* (Glasg., 1904). "Fionn" was the pen-name of Celtic journalist, musician and scholar Henry Whyte (1852-1913) who came from Easdale in Argyll, where his father was manager of the slate-works. He was one of the most prominent figures in the Gaelic movement in the later 19th and early 20th centuries and one of the founders of the great annual festival of Gaelic music known as "The Mòd." He was Glasgow correspondent of the *Oban Times* and in its columns frequently criticised the linguistic and musical practices of the Piobaireachd Society. He also conducted numerous wide-ranging surveys amongst the *Oban Times's* readers in the fields of language, music, poetry and folklore. Although not eminent as a player, Henry Whyte knew as much about the cultural context and historical background of piobaireachd as anybody in his generation. He wrote of "MacDonald's Tutor" as follows:

The Tutor in whose memory this Lament was composed was William MacDonald of Aird in Troternish, sometime styled of Bornaskittag, son of Sir Donald MacDonald of Sleat, and Tutor during the minority of Sir Alexander MacDonald, who figured on the wrong side in the '45. The Tutor fought at Killiecrankie, and was in his day the most outstanding warrior of the Clan Uisdein. His son Ewen MacDonald of Vallay, in North Uist, was a famous piper and composer of pipe music. The Tutor died in 1730. (Glen, *Collection of Ancient Piobaireachd*, "Notes," p.5)

A note to this tune in Angus MacKay's MS states that "The Tutor[s] of the Macdonalds of the Isles were the Macdonalds of Valley." (ii, 5)

In his notes to his setting of "MacDonald's Tutor" in the *Piobaireachd Society Collection* (second series), vol.3 p.86, published in 1930, Archibald Campbell stated that "Angus MacKay's is the setting printed," and commented upon several details where his score differed from those of MacKay and Colin Campbell's canntaireachd. He omitted to mention, however, that in every bar of the Ground he had also turned MacKay's opening A and G quavers into crotchets, significantly altering the timing of the tune. This prolongation of the themal notes was carried still further in his *Kilberry Book of Ceol Mor* where the Ground was translated from 3/4 into 4/4 time, and cadence notes were further lengthened by use of fermatas (four in a row at phrase endings in the Taorluath and Crunluath singlings).

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