Airds Lament

This tune is preserved in a single manuscript source: – Colin Mór Campbell's Nether Lorn Canntaireachd, ii, 103-7.

Colin Mór sets the tune like this:

fled Duds Lament nodo hih rodo hin adre hihoro do hadre histra do anin cherede hadre hihoro do hinotra

hiharin hadre hihoro do hadre hidra him otro hi harin near had anin haen aim hina do oundarm hindana houndoem haendoe menhioon hoen hinen his ren en cheen haen cheen he haen hinen hioon heen haen cheen hoven hover hain en hinen hinen hiven hain hinen hiven nen hoen cheen cheen have chee haen ch om ourtimes mo nen hinen oen in 0 enh he haha hiskis checke his his haha checke his has a

inen his his hinen hinen highes chee 11 he hopio checheth ha ha cheche hio haha his haha his hinen hinen hiohis our times. rishis hinen hin haha 10 hmen 10 dave ato dariade hi his david his advidto daridlo. hiodandada daniaHi. chedariad hiharin atohiharin davidde hisdaridda h 30 de hihorodo ha tio dan hedaridae hio io dariada hendari is dariato hadariato hindariato david his david his david h and hindaria hodaria hinda hisdaridha ud hindarid his dand chea and chedand hadan Trodand his david modarid his davia and hindaria adana sdand hadand chidand a david hin david his david hindavid (daria)

david io davia hiodaria chedaria chedaria had and che iodaria hadaria chedaria his adariah ndaria audhin his a aria four times, hattaria hostaria hindarid nia hindaria wdavid h hint heharin his bandreento chebandreende ac hehorodo habandreende mobandreendahin bandreento hiharin iobandicento cheban dreen de habana horado andreenda hi harin hipporodo habandreende hisbandreena bandreento hiharin ndreento che bandriende habana habanareende hisban. dreenda ann hisbandreento andreento hinbandreento hiharin four times hin banare hisbanare Misbandre ban are hist andre et andre hab andre chebanan bananchiobandre haban dre cheband nare haban are himbanare hisbanded none hinbandre handre ch Hisbandre hiobandre 1 habandre e hinbande abandre hinbandre hidran nare hisbanare hisbandreh. dre che are chebanare hisbandre habanare hu dre hisbandre hinbandre hinbandre Hisbandre hisban are chebanare chebanare

habandre eheb andre hisbandre hisbandre hu bandre eheb andre hisbandre habandre hinban dre hisbandre hinbandre hisbandre hisban dre four times habandre hisbandre hinban dre four times habandre hisbandre hinban dre hisbandre hinban dre hunbandre

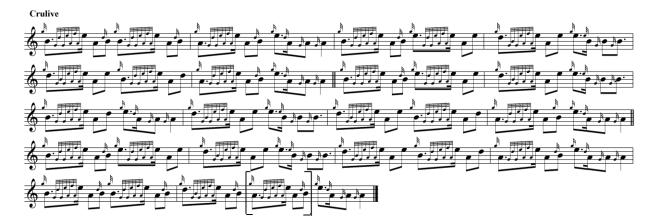
The tune is structured as follows:

ground;
siubhal
singling
doubling
trebling
taorluath
singling
doubling
crunluath
singling
doubling

The ground is in three lines, 6-6-6 based on a pleasing and inventive tone row. Each of the subsequent variations, however, appears to show some kind of irregularity. In the ffirst Motion, there seems to be a superfluous half bar in line three, and I have suggested omitting the second half of bar five, i.e repeating the vocable *hinen* twice rather than the stipulated four times. There seems a half bar too many in line three of the Taolive singling: in bar six the latter half of the bar seems to have a vocable, *hindaridto*, too many. And there's a half bar too many–*hindarid hiodarid*– towards the end of line three in the doubling. There is a superfluous half bar *hinbandre hinto* in a similar position in line three of the Crulive singling, and also in the doubling: the final couple of bars probably should read *habandre hiobandre hinbandre hinbandre hinbandre hinbandre hinbandre*. Unless...Colin Campbell actually meant to give an additional wry twist to the little *ritornello* which ends each part. The tune might be realised somewhat thus in staff notation:



| Taolive |
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| D[oubling] |
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Commentary

It has been suggested that the subject of this tune may have been George Campbell of Airds, scion of a family of minor Campbell lairds in Argyllshire and who died in 1685 (Bridget MacKenzie, *Piping Traditions of Argyll*. College of Piping: Glasgow, 2004, pp.125-6). But the style might seem to indicate a later laird, possibly John William Campbell, 5th of Airds (1737-1788). It seems to follow the melodic "house style" of a number of tunes in the Nether Lorn Canntaireachd—it is recorded in no other source– which may imply a date of composition nearer the end of the eighteenth century. The Airds lies near the head of Loch Creran, a short sail up the Firth of Lorn from Colin Campbell's base at Ardmaddy. Neil MacLean, piper to Major Campbell of Airds controversially won the prize pipe at Falkirk in 1783. The complicated, and not altogether creditable, circumstances surrounding his win are discussed in my book *The Highland Pipe and Scottish Society 1750-1950* (pp.69-75).

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