

The Sister's Lament

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

- **Colin Mór Campbell's**, Nether Lorn Canntaireachd, i, 49-50 (with the title "Daughter's Lament");
- **Hannay-MacAuslan MS**, ff.23-5;
- **Angus MacKay's MS**, i, 151-152;
- **Colin Cameron's MS**, f.28;
- **D. S. MacDonald's MS**, ii, 69-70;
- **David Glen's MS**, ff.176-178;

and in the following published sources:

- **Donald MacDonald**, *Ancient Martial Music*, 53-55; (Donald MacDonald calls this: "Cumh na Peahair The Sister's Lament Allister MacDhomnuil Ghlaish, Chief of the MacDonalds of Keppoch was cruelly Murdered in his own house With his Brother a Youth of sixteen At the Instigation of the Next in succession. Their natural Sister, frantic with Grief, Expired at their side, Swallowing their Blood. The Air was Composed on this Melancholy Event.")
- **C. S. Thomason**, *Ceol Mor*, pp.23-4.

Colin Mór Campbell sets the tune like this:

22. Called Daughters Lament

1st Hiharim hiōdin tra hihorodo hiōdin che hihara
ra hee hee hiharara haotra hindaostro hādin
tra areotra hiōdin

2nd Che hiharara hee hee hiharara hao hee choredi
chea che hiharara hao hee choredi dilie hee
choredi chea che

3rd Hee hee chea cheve hiharara hao hee chea cheve
hag hac hiōdin hio tra hiōdin tra

4th Hiharim harōdin hio tra che hio hadarē I dare
hiharara hao hindaos harōdin hio tra che
hio hadarē I tre hiharara pahio

5th Choredi chea hio hadre he ha choredi dilie he
choredi chea he

6th Hee hee dilie hee he hiharara he ha chea hio
haeve chea hiōdin

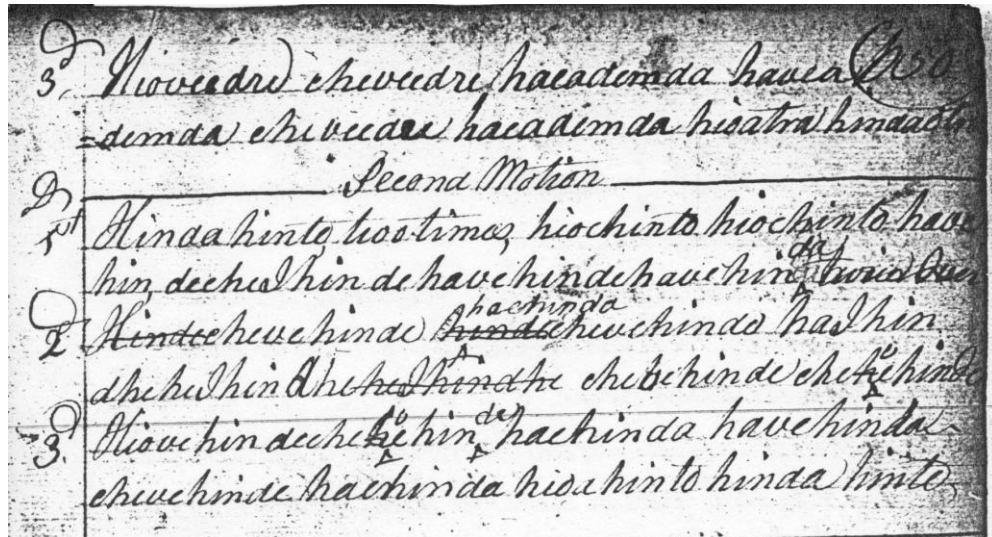
Single First Motion

1st Hindaostroas hintro hio cotro chea hio havee
dre hee ha havee dre haostro

2nd Hindaostroas hintro hio cotro chea hio have
e dre hee ha havee dre hao have chevee dre
chea hio haostro hao have

3rd Chevee dre dilie hee chevee dre chea hio hio
I dre hee ha haostro hao have chevee dre hao
hae hioaostro as hintro

4th Hindaostro hindaostro hio cotro hio cotro ha
havee dre havee dre havee dre havee dre havee dre
chevee dre havee dre chevee dre chevee dre
havee dre hee dān chevee dre chevee dre
havee dre



The Second Motion has been heavily struck-through and amended, making interpretation difficult; it is not reproduced in the transcript below, but melodically it seems to have been on similar general lines to MacKay and MacDonald's versions.

pipes | drums

Called Daughters Lament



D[oubling]



pipes | drums

First Motion



D[oubling]

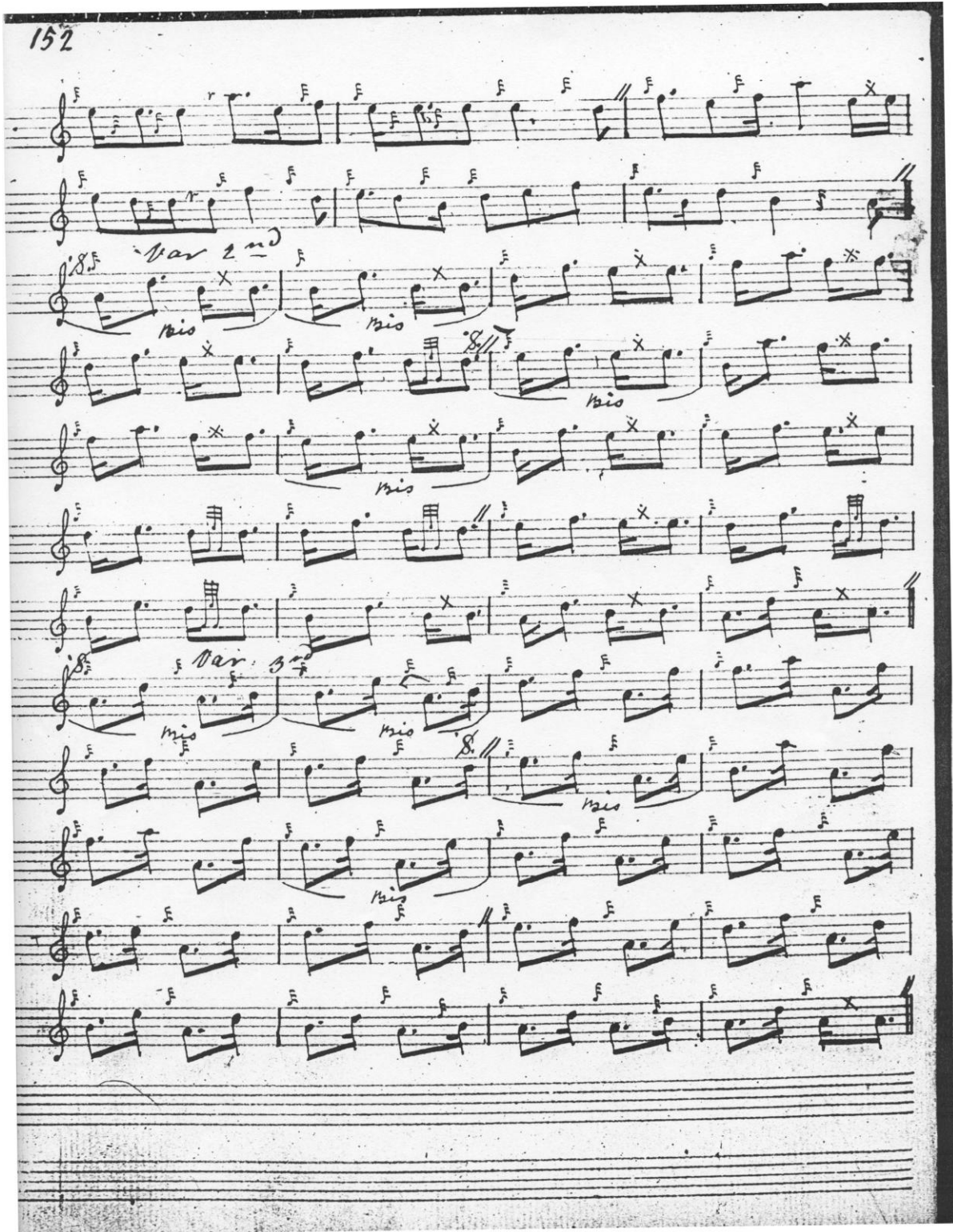


Angus MacKay sets the tune like this:

Cumha na Peathair... 151
The Sister's Lament.

The image shows a handwritten musical score on aged paper. At the top, the title 'Cumha na Peathair...' is written in cursive, followed by the number '151' in the right margin. Below this, the subtitle 'The Sister's Lament.' is written. The score consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a large, ornate initial 'C' and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is written in a style characteristic of 19th-century Scottish music notation, featuring many beamed eighth and sixteenth notes. There are several 'x' marks above certain notes, likely indicating specific fingerings or ornaments. A double bar line appears after the fifth staff, followed by the text 'Var. 1st' and a new key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The notation continues on the remaining staves, ending with a double bar line and a final flourish.

pipes | drums



pipes | drums

This seems to be the complete score. There is no sign of Colin Campbell's "Second Motion," or MacKay's usual indications that the piece has ended. **MacKay's** second variation appears in an irregular 8:10 form; perhaps the fourth bar, the E>F marked "bis" could be omitted. MacKay's timing of the double echo beats with the accent regularly falling on the initial semi-quaver of the group is also worth noting.

David Glen sets the tune like this:

176 The Sister's Lament.

48.

Var 1st

Var 2nd

Double
var 2nd

pipes | drums

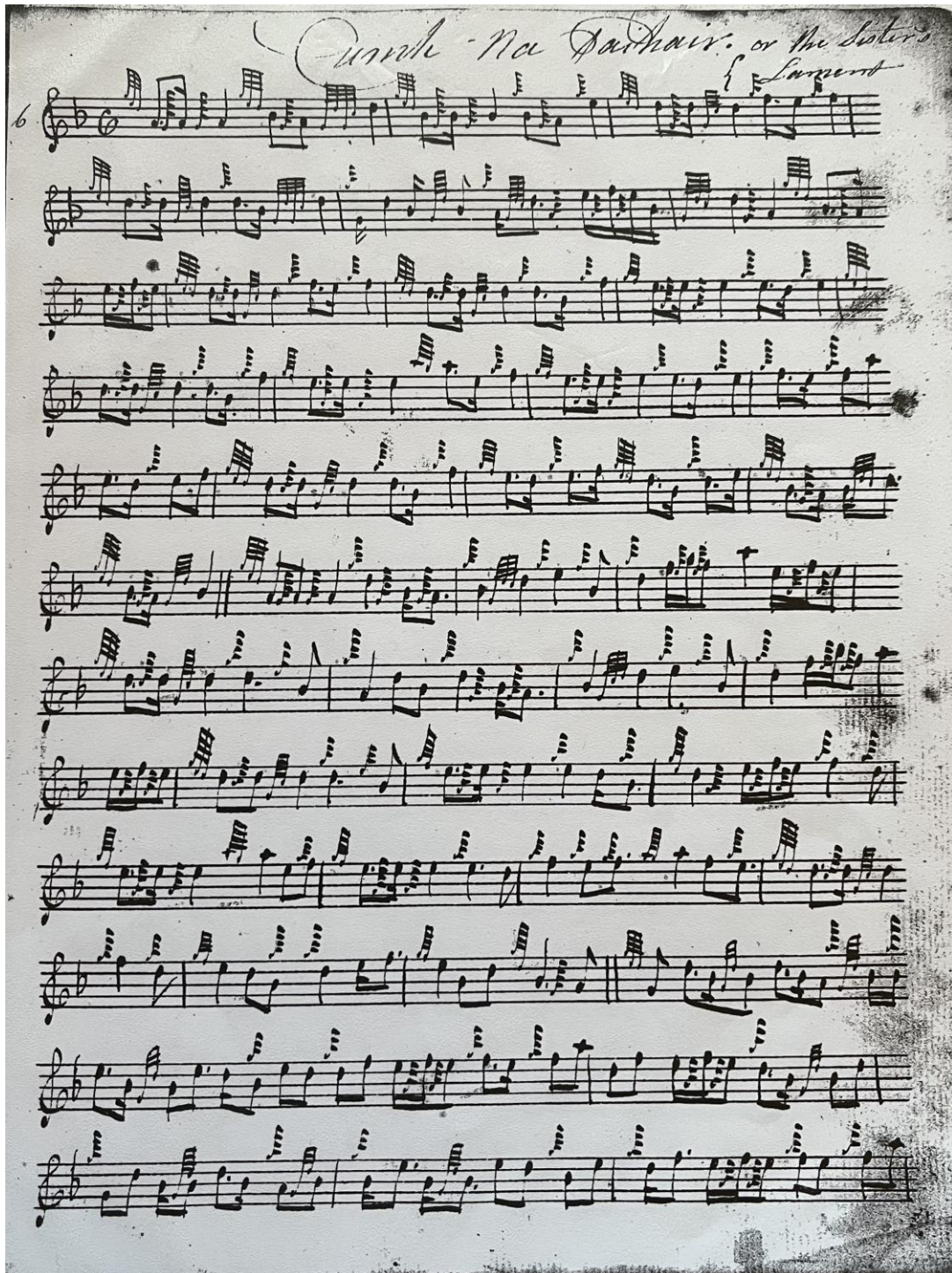
174

The image shows a handwritten musical score for pipes and drums, consisting of ten staves of music. The notation is in a traditional style, with notes, rests, and bar lines. The score is written on aged, slightly stained paper. In the top right corner, the number '174' is handwritten. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music is written in a 2/4 time signature. The score includes several annotations: 'Var. 3' is written above the third staff, 'Var 4th. Added by D. L. 24-3-06.' is written above the fourth staff, and 'Crum. in the added by D. L. 24-3-06.' is written above the eighth staff. There are also some handwritten 'X' marks and other markings on the staves. The overall appearance is that of a historical manuscript.



David Glen treats the piece as a four-line tune, with a regular sixteen-bar structure and his setting is probably the most tactful and idiomatic of the surviving arrangements, although the added taorluath and crunluath variations might be variously judged.

Amongst the remaining MSS, the **Hannay-MacAuslan** preserves a complete score, and is very close stylistically to Donald MacDonald's published version. It is thought, indeed, that the Hannay-MacAuslan may have been one of MacDonald's main sources for a number of tunes, and compiled perhaps by MacDonald himself. The score begins as follows:



And so on.

Colin Cameron's setting is very close to Angus MacKay's, and would appear to have had a MacKay manuscript as its immediate source. In stylistic terms it adds little to the expressive

possibilities of the tune, and is not reproduced here. **D. S. MacDonald's** score is in outline form only, and is not reproduced here.

Among the printed scores, the earliest is **Donald MacDonald** who sets the tune like this:

55

CUMH NA PEANNAIR
THE SISTERS LAMENT
Misses Macdonald, Gblair, a Chief of the Macdonalds of Kippich.
Cruelly Murdered in his own House
With his Brother, a Youth of 16
At the Instigation of the next in Succession.
Take natural Sighs, & breathe with Grief, Expired at their side, Swallowing their blood.
THE AIR WAS COMPOSED ON THIS MELANCHOLY EVENT.

VERY SLOW

A historical account of this Pichlemark will be given in Vol. 29

Walker & Anderson Engravers Edin.

pipes | drums

54

Doubling VAR: 1.

Trebling VAR: 1.

D.C.

pipes | drums

55

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "pipes | drums". The score is written for a piano, with a treble clef for the right hand and a bass clef for the left hand. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 2/4. The score consists of seven systems of music. The first system is marked with a "55" in the upper right corner. The melody in the treble clef is highly rhythmic and complex, featuring many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The bass line is simpler, consisting of a steady eighth-note pattern. A section of the score is marked "VAR: 2.", indicating a variation. The piece concludes with the instruction "D.C." (Da Capo).

C. S. Thomason sets the tune like this:

pipes | drums

THE SISTER'S LAMENT

1. & 7 & 8.

VI cont²

8 Vil.

2 VI.

This musical score is for the tune 'The Sister's Lament'. It is written for a pipe band and includes parts for two snare drums (labeled '2 VI.'), two tenor drums (labeled '8 Vil.'), and a bagpipe (labeled 'VI cont²'). The score is arranged in two systems of staves. The first system contains five staves, and the second system contains five staves. The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked '1. & 7 & 8.'.

5 Vil.

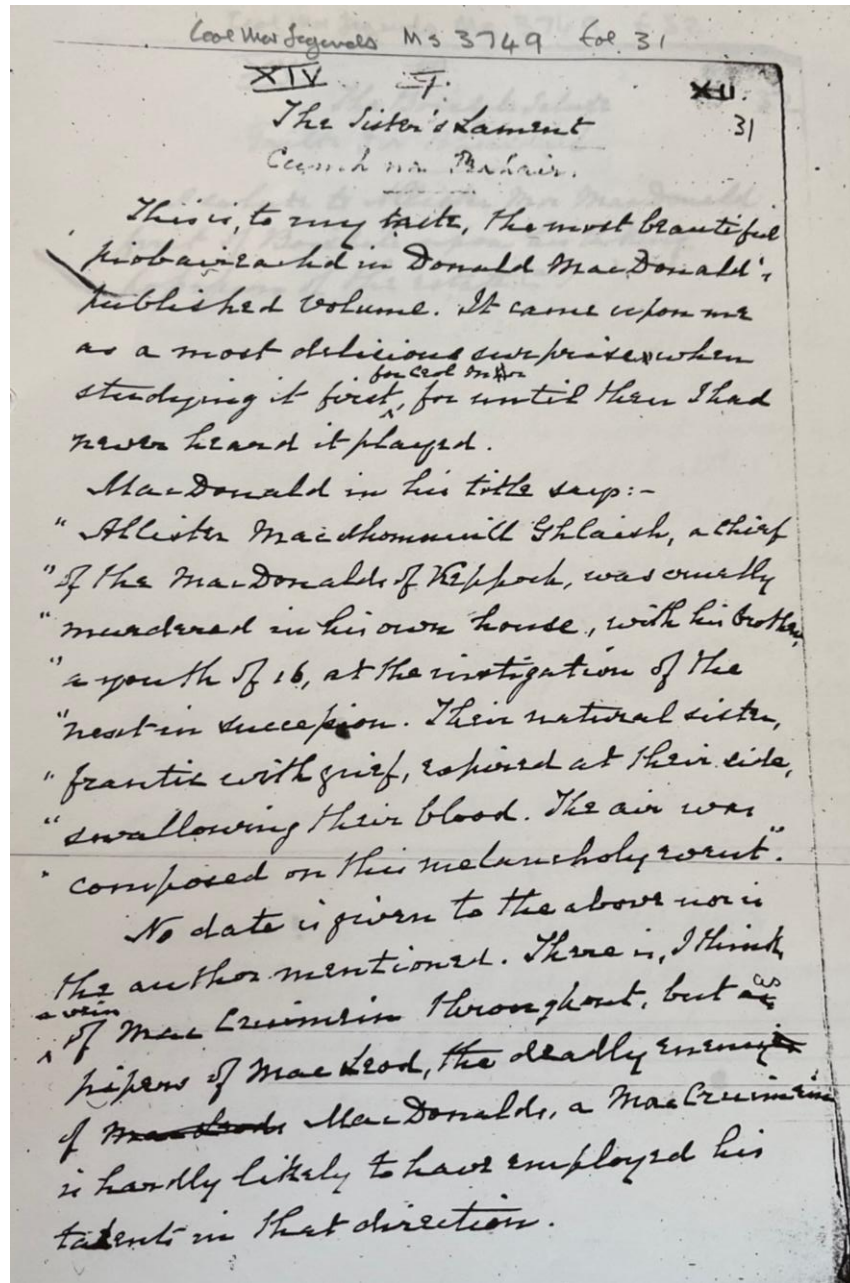
6 O.

9. cont²

This section continues the musical score for 'The Sister's Lament'. It features parts for two snare drums (labeled '6 O.'), two tenor drums (labeled '5 Vil.'), and a bagpipe (labeled '9. cont²'). The score is arranged in two systems of staves. The first system contains five staves, and the second system contains five staves. The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature.

Commentary:

All the settings of this beautiful and famous old tune develop it in the same general way, apart from David Glen, who adds taorluath and crunluath foscailte singlings. Nobody else has them. It is unusual that the tune should appear in so many manuscripts after being published by Donald MacDonald, which could indicate, perhaps, that it was not so widely played and existed in people's secondary repertoires rather than the front line of playing tradition. This would square with C. S. Thomason's remarks on the tune in his manuscript collection of piping lore entitled "Ceol Mor Legends":



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