Battle of Auldearn (no.1)

There is a setting of this variant of the Auldearn tune in the following manuscript source:


One of the chief interests of the so-called "No.1" setting is the rather free way in which the original canntaireachd score was edited on the tune's first publication in staff-notion in The Piobaireachd Society Collection (Second Series, ii, 45-7). A decision appears to have been taken to insert cadences at various points and then the original score was silently emended to include the presence of the inserted movements.

Colin Campbell sets the tune like this:
Commentary:

The treatment of this tune was typical of the editorial methods applied in much of The Piobaireachd Society Collection (Second Series). Detaching this single text from the main scribal tradition and calling it "Setting No.1," implying that it was in some way a separate tune and not, as it is, a mere variant, was not perhaps very helpful.

The apparent occasion of the tune (nameless in Colin Campbell's book) – the battle of Auldearn – was one of the key battles in Montrose's campaigns during the civil wars of the 17th century. For further historical details see the Commentary section to "The Battle of Auldearn No 2" elsewhere in the Set Tunes series.

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