

### Musical Notes for Book 52

#### **Ian R Muir:**

Ian started playing the accordion at school when he was 12 and playing for dances with his own band at the age of 14. At the age of 17 he was lucky enough to be invited to join McBain's Band, one of the South's most popular Scottish country dance bands at the time. In 1985 he formed his own band, which plays under the name of Craigellachie. Ian is a keen composer. Many of his compositions have been published and recorded by other Scottish dance bands, and several have been adopted as originals for dances. As a solo musician, Ian has played the accordion for classes and day schools and has been a member of the Summer School staff for many years. He is currently the Musical Director of the Society.

**Micah Thompson of Mile End** is a jig written for Micah Thompson, fiddle player in the Craigellachie band for a number of years. Micah first started playing in the band when he was 15 and continued the band's tradition of having youngsters within its membership. He is now living and working in Ho Chi Minh City.

**Judith's Strathspey** was written for Ian's wife, a very experienced musician who regularly plays accordion for classes at St Andrews and who also plays the keyboard in the Craigellachie Band.

#### **Muriel Johnstone:**

Muriel Johnstone started playing piano at the age of 7 and has been involved in Scottish music and dance all her life. She also has had a long association with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society: she was arranger of music for their publications for many years, was also a Director of Music and is a proud recipient of the Society's Scroll of Honour. She is well-known around the world for her playing, accompaniment, band work and teaching. On her "Scotscores" label she has released over 30 albums and has contributed to many other recordings. She has composed and published many pieces of music in the Scottish genre and a vast amount of tunes for dancing; several have been chosen for RSCDS dances.

**Pat Houghton's Hornpipe** was inspired by Pat's infectious joy in dancing.

#### **Charles Grant:**

Also known as Charles Grant of Aberlour, was born in Strondhu, Knockando 1807 and died in Aberlour 1892. When he was young he was a pupil of William Marshall and actually played for Marshall on his deathbed. Grant later inherited Marshall's fiddles.

*"Mr Charles Grant was one of the best known of all the long race of schoolmasters. He was affectionately known as "schooley Grant". He started in Aberlour in 1844 and taught, much of the time single handed, for the next 30 years.*

*He was a man of varied accomplishments - a classical scholar (loved Horace) a musician - famed for his skill in composing fiddle music, Highland reels and Strathspeys..... He was a good fisherman and knew every pool of the run of the Spey. He had a high reputation as a teacher and young men from other parishes came to finish under his able tuition. His daughter had his fiddle music printed in book form (Grant's Strathspey & Reels)."*

The notes about him on the web site Patrick's people tell of an amusing tale.

*"His idea of educating the boys was wide and not limited to the 3 R's. On a hot day he would leave lessons and take them down for a swim in the Spey. On one occasion His Majesty's Inspector arrived to inspect the pupils' work and they had put up a bad show. After a good dinner at the schoolhouse it was a hot summer's day - the dominie invited the Inspector to come for a swim in the Spey. Mr Grant was an expert swimmer - the Inspector was not - and he was led to a great deep hole in the river and as the Inspector realised his danger he cried out to Mr Grant to come to his rescue. Scholastic Grant called out "If ye promise tae pit in a good report on my school I'll come and help ye". "Aye, aye, I'll dae that" gasped the Inspector, whereupon Mr Grant fished him out safely to dry land."*

Patrick's People <http://www.patrickspeople.scot/our%20family/9029.htm>

**Benrinnes** is a strathspey in the traditional style whilst Ben Rinnes itself is the dominating summit of Moray and is a very popular hillwalkers. The views, as might be expected, are extremely extensive, taking in much of northeast Scotland and from the summit it is possible to see 8 counties Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, Morayshire, Nairnshire, Invernessshire, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland, and Caithness and on a clear day even the Moray coast. Another draw for the hiker are the waterfalls from the many rivers that flow down the mountain such as Linn of Ruthie

### **Donald Grant:**

Donald Grant was a Fiddler, Composer and Dance Master from Elgin (c.1760- 1839). Around 1790 he published A Collection of Strathspeys, Reels, Jigs etc. - For the Pianoforte, Violin and Violoncello - Dedicated to Mrs Col. Grant of Grant. This was re-published 1820/21 as "Grant's 1st. Collection"; a 2nd collection never seems to have materialised!

**The Earl of Seafield's Reel** probably refers to Francis William Ogilvy-Grant, 6th Earl of Seafield (6 March 1778 - 30 July 1853) who was a Scottish nobleman, a Member of Parliament and is listed as the 25th Chief of The Clan Grant.

### **Kim McGarrity**

Introduced to Scottish country dancing by Robert McOwen, Kim McGarrity enjoyed dancing and teaching Scottish country dancing in the San Francisco Bay Area from 1974 until her death in 1998. She had played viola as a child and switched to the violin when she started playing for dancing, becoming a frequent attendee at Alasdair Fraser's "Valley of the Moon" fiddle camps. She formed the band "Fiddlesticks & Ivory" in the early 1980's: three fiddles, accordion, piano, bass, and drum. She enjoyed putting together musical arrangements for Scottish dances, and she sometimes decided that composing a new tune was her best option.

**Mikkel's Jig** was written for Mikkel Thompson, an irrepressible lad who was then dancing in the Bay Area and now lives in Stockholm.

### **George Meikle:**

George was brought up in Crieff and started playing the accordion at the age of 6. At the age of 9 he played regularly in a local concert party which performed at various venues through the lovely Strathearn countryside.

In the early 70's George was a founder member of the Lothian Scottish Dance Band which started out playing for mixed dancing. However, he realised that he much preferred the SCD scene. Now 40+ years later he and the band have made many broadcasts and recordings.

George was awarded the RSCDS Scroll of honour for his services to the Society and held the post of Music Director for 4 years. He has played and taught at their annual Summer School in St Andrews for over 18 years.

George has around 75 compositions used as lead tunes for many SCD dances, 4 of which are "John of Bon Accord" "Scott Meikle", "The Saltire Strathspey" and "The homecoming dance".

The tune **Ruby Wilkinson of Cranshaws** was written to celebrate Ruby Wilkinson's retiral as Schools Director at the annual Summer School. It was written specifically for the dance Ruby Wilkinson of Cranshaws devised by Alistair Brown. It features a clever use of the sub-dominant 7<sup>th</sup> chord which gives it a 'jazz/blues' feel.

### **Charles Duff:**

Charles Duff (c.1760-1822) was a musician and music seller in Dundee. He is most well-known for his published Collection of Strathspeys, Reels, Jiggs etc. which appeared around 1792. It includes a number of compositions by John McDonald, dancing master, Dundee – tunes which dancers will be familiar with.

**Miss Ogilvy of Islabank's Jig** is not attributed to a composer in the 1792 collection. It may have been by Charles Duff himself and as to who Miss Ogilvy was? – probably a patron as it was the custom to write tunes for those that supported the lives of musicians and dance teachers.

### **Anselm Lingnau:**

Born and raised in the Rhine-Main area of Germany, Anselm started taking piano lessons at age 7. After joining a Scottish country dance class in early 1991 and having been interested in Scottish music for some time already, it wasn't long before he started begging his dance teacher for some music books.

Anselm currently lives in Mainz, Germany, and works as a software engineer to help finance his Scottish country dancing addiction. Anselm is a dancer, a teacher, a deviser of dances, as well as a dance musician, playing for classes, functions, and workshops. In addition, he operates the Strathspey mailing list and website and currently serves as the convenor of the Society's Membership Services Committee.

The dance **The Aviator** written for Dr Hans Prade who was a glider pilot, dance teacher and one of the first Scottish country dance pianists that Anselm met when he took up dancing. He is a member of the Freiburg Scottish Country Dance Club, in the far south-west of

Germany, and was also associated with the Strasbourg club in France (on the other side of the river Rhine from Freiburg).

The dance has been popular on the German social circuit for a good many years and did not originally have an attributable tune associated with it. When it appeared on the Frankfurt ball programme in 2016, Anselm thought it would be good to have more specific music.

Anselm describes the tune, ***Among the Clouds***, thus:

*“The idea behind the tune itself is basically that it takes off from fairly low on the scale and climbs then fools around up in the air for a while before coming to a controlled touch-down at the end, much like Hans in his glider.”*

It is styled on the 18th-century jigs, some of which are among the greatest tunes in the Scottish country dance repertoire and of which Anselm is particularly fond.

### **Hiroko Kokai:**

Hiroko started dancing and playing the piano for Scottish country dance music in 1992. In 1999 she travelled to St Andrews Summer School for the first time as a dancer and in 2000 attended the first of the music courses under the directorship of Muriel Johnstone. In 2003 Hiroko was invited to be a member of the Summer School staff and regularly played until 2013 when family commitments prevented this. She continues to play in Japan and enjoys playing music not only as a soloist but also as a duo with a fiddler. In 2013 Hiroko received the Tokyo Branch award for her services to Scottish country dancing.

***Triple Happiness*** was written specifically for the dance of the same name by Yoshiki Oyama for Mr and Mrs Iwama.

### **Captain Campbell’s Strathspey** (Captain Campbell of Carphen)

The tune is published in MacDonald’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection of Strathspey Reels in 1789. Macdonald was cellist to Niel Gow and whether he actually wrote the tune is not clear. The collection, dedicated to the Earl of Breadalbane, contains mostly strathspeys and reels, and a few jigs, and the book includes tunes by both Niel and Nathaniel Gow. It also has a substantial subscribers’ list who were patrons of MacDonald.

### **Iain MacPhail:**

For more than five decades, accordionist, dance band leader and composer Iain MacPhail has made his distinctive mark in the world of Scottish traditional dance music, combining the essential swing with harmonic sophistication.

He has composed some 350 tunes, and it’s a rare Scottish dance band that doesn’t have a few MacPhail compositions in its repertoire. His reputation as an innovator, in terms of his arrangements and band sound, has seen Iain and his band constantly in demand for dances, theatre, broadcasting and cabaret as far apart as Shetland and Brazil. His passion for playing, promoting and teaching Scottish traditional music internationally is fuelled by the simple maxim that “music comes from the heart and pride in our culture”. In 2017 Iain was presented with the RSCDS Edinburgh Branch Award for outstanding service to Scottish Country Dancing by Stewart Adam.

From The Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame

<https://projects.handsupfortrad.scot/hall-of-fame/iain-macphail/>

**Stewart Adam – Bon Viveur** Iain MacPhail and Stewart Adam have been friends for many years and they share a passion for Scots music, dance, history and malt whisky! With his irrepressible sense of fun, 'Bon Viveur' aptly describes Stewart's outlook on life and this is what Iain had in mind when he was asked to compose the tune for this dance.

**Andy Imbrie:**

Andy plays regularly for dances and workshops throughout the United States and Canada, and has been on the music staff at TAC Summer School, Pinewoods, and a number of international dance tours. He was honoured to have been invited to provide instruction in piano accompaniment at the Valley of the Moon Scottish Fiddling School for several years. Andy has had the good fortune to accompany some of today's leading fiddle talent, including Deby Benton Grosjean, Calum MacKinnon, Judi Nicolson, Hanneke Cassel, Laura Risk, and John Taylor. He leads the "Reel of Seven" band, which has played internationally, released a number of popular CDs, and was a finalist in the Dance Music for the Future competition.

**The Whirlwind** was written for Kathleen McAdam, a founder of the San Francisco Branch and recipient of the RSCDS Scroll of Honour in recognition of her boundless energy and enthusiasm!

**Tune Types:**

Over the years, having given talks on the types of Scottish dance music, teachers and dancers have often asked me to categorise the original tunes for dances in terms of their tune types. Although this is not an exact art and is open to different interpretations, I believe that dancers, teachers and musicians need to appreciate the differences that the tune types bring to the dance and the music. Book 52 will be the third of the Society's publications for which we have prepared notes – previous examples being received with interest by teachers, musicians, and dancers alike. So here are the details for this year's book. I hope that you find this useful.

Composer	Title	Tune type notes
Ian R Muir	Micah Thompson of Mile End	Double jig
Muriel Johnstone	Pat Houghton's Hornpipe	Hornpipe
Charles Grant	Benrinnes	Traditional Strathspey
Donald Grant	The Earl of Seafield's Reel	Double Reel – Typical 'fiddle' tune
Kim McGarrity	Mikkel's Jig	Single Jig
George Meikle	Ruby Wilkinson of Cranshaws	Modern Strathspey with a 'jazz' influence
Charles Duff	Miss Ogilvy of Islabanks Jigg	Double jig
Ian R Muir	Judith's Strathspey	Traditional Strathspey
Anselm Lingnau	Among the Clouds	Double Jig
Hiroko Kokai	Triple Happiness	Modern Strathspey
	Captain Campbell	Traditional Strathspey

## Book 52: Notes on Composers and Tunes

Iain T MacPhail  
Andy Imbrie

Stewart Adam – Bon Viveur  
The Whirlwind

Double Reel  
Double Reel

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