

### **John Renton**

Born into a musical family his father played melodeon and mouth organ, whilst his Mum, who was a champion Highland dancer, had been taught to play the pipes and the accordion. John likes to listen to pipe and fiddle music in his spare time, as well as traditional jazz and a wee touch of classical.

John is an accomplished composer of tunes – thirty three of which have been published. This is the first for the Society in the RSCDS book, although he has had tunes published by branches.

The first band John played with was the Bluebell Scottish Dance Band back in the early 1960s. The band was led by Duncan MacKay of Inveraray and had a “very West Coast feel”. This is the only band, other than his own, that John has ever played with.

John has had some success in the competition arena where he achieved 3rd in the Senior Scottish at Perth in 1970, 1st in the Senior Scottish at Blairgowrie in 1971, 1st in the Own Composition at Perth in 1973 and was 1st in the Band Competition at Musselburgh in 1977. He has a published collection of tunes in the Deeya music range.

Working full time as an engineer in the merchant navy, John’s interest in the accordion has always been a hobby. He and his family moved to Zambia in 1977 where he worked as an engineer in Zambia Breweries in Ndola until 1982, returning to Inveraray in 1986. John’s first radio broadcast with his band in 1990, and he was a regular musician at Summer School until recently.

John Holt is a good friend and accordionist from Lochgair.

### **Scott Band**

Scott formed the current band around 2012 to audition for BBC Radio Scotland’s “Take the Floor”. They successfully passed their audition and their debut broadcast was aired in November 2013, followed by a second in March 2015. The band consists of: Scott Band on lead accordion , Gillian Ramsay on fiddle, Steven Carcary on second accordion, Suzanne Croy on double bass , Bill Ewan (Bill is a regular member of staff at Summer School) on piano and Graham Sherrit on drums. The band prefers the older fashioned style with influences coming from those such as Ian Holmes, Ian Powrie, Jimmy Blue, Kenny Thomson and Lyndsay Ross. The CD for Book 50 is their first for the Society.

Sasha is a white Samoyed dog belonging to friends Steven Carcary and Graham Bell.

### **Lindsey Ibbotson**

Lindsey is an accomplished violinist and teacher. This is her second composition to be used by the Society. Thomas is her husband.

### **Tom B Robertson**

Son of Ian Robertson and nephew of Judith Muir, Tom comes from a very musical family. This is his first composition which was written at the tender age of 14 for a friend who was having a particularly hard time. Tom plays trumpet and drums, and also sings. He often plays drums in his father’s band, and occasionally with his aunt and uncle!

### **Alistair Forbes**

Alistair leads the Craigevar Dance Band in London. He is an accomplished musician, playing accordion piano and saxophone, and is also a prolific composer of tunes. Alistair’s uncle, Bill Forbes, is a well-known composer of dances who sadly passed away in July 2016.

This tune was written for Ian and Judith Muir.

### **Kevin Piquemal**

Kevin was an attendee at Summer School, initially as a dancer, in 2016. He transferred onto the music course and proved himself to be an accomplished band pianist! This is one of his first compositions to be published and is unusual in its style – but guaranteed to be an ‘ear-worm’!

Dots and Dashes refers to the articulation in the tune – nothing more than that!

### **John Browne**

John Browne, originally from Edinburgh, now lives in Powys in North Wales where he works for the Environment Agency (formerly the Forestry Commission). John plays accordion, violin and the concert harp, and is a regular member of The Craigellachie Band based in the south of England.

Audrey and Edward Bell are Scottish Dancing friends from Barnard Castle where Audrey taught the class and ran the dances for many years.

### **Steven Carcary**

From Friockheim by Arbroath, Steven is well known not only as a band leader but as an accordion tutor with a large number of pupils in the Arbroath area.

Helen and Jim Gray were his aunt & uncle from Guthrie, sadly no longer alive, and they both encouraged him with his accordion playing from an early age. Steven also has another of his compositions on the CD, Willie McHardie's Jig, which was composed for a great 3 row button accordion player from Friockheim.

### **Ron Kerr**

Ron has now retired from playing but was one of the finest fiddle players in Scotland, being heard regularly on the air in many fine bands with his own distinctive and instantly recognisable style. He was 8 years old when he first started violin lessons and when he was 10 he passed an audition for solo fiddle for Children's Hour and played on many programmes. The years that followed saw Ron playing at engagements throughout the country and doing many broadcasts on B.B.C. Radio's Scottish Dance Music and for the Scotch Corner programmes.

Fiona Robertson is Wayne Robertson's mum, Wayne being another well-known Scottish accordionist.

### **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 Ian. In 1985 he formed his own band which plays under the name of Craigellachie. Ian is a keen composer and 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.

This reel was written for Anne Barnes, a dancer in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, when she temporarily emigrated to Canada!

### **Abraham Mackintosh**

This tune appears in Abraham Mackintosh's 1st Collection c. 1792. Abraham Mackintosh (or Mackintosh), born 1769, was the son of the great composer Robert Mackintosh. He published

"Thirty New Strathspey Reels etc..." composed by him, at Edinburgh c. 1792. A second edition "with additions by the Publishers" includes tunes not composed by him. His 3rd book is "A Collection of Strathspeys, Reels, Jigs etc...Selected and Composed by Abraham Mackintosh, Teacher of Dancing, Newcastle -upon- Tyne"

(Highland Music trust notes)

### Charles Grant

Charles Grant was born at Strondhu, Knckandu, in 1806, the son of a Banffshire farmer. After graduation from Aberdeen University he became a school teacher first at Elchies and then at Aberlour where he remained for thirty years. Charles enjoyed an excellent reputation as a talented and enthusiastic exponent as well as being an excellent teacher. He was a frequent performer at dances and other social gatherings and was in demand as an adjudicator at local competitions. He himself was a pupil of William Marshall and held in such regard that, on Marshall's death, was bequeathed his fiddle. He also played with Scott Skinner. Grant was also an accomplished composer. A collection of fifty-five compositions entitled *Strathspeys, Reels, Pibroch's and Marches* was published privately after his death in 1892 by his family.

It is from this publication that the tune comes from. Many of his tunes were inspired by the ordinary people and places around him on Speyside.

(The Scots Fiddle (Vol1) J Murray Neil)

### 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. I hope that you find this useful.

Composer	Title	Tune type notes
John Renton	John Holt's Reel	Hornpipe
Scott Band	Sasha's Jig	Single Jig
Lyndsey Ibbotson	Dr Thomas Ibbotson	Sits between a traditional strathspey and a 'slow air/pastoral' type
Charles Grant	Miss Ann Gordon, Heath Cottage	Double Jig
Ian R Muir	Anne Barne's Reel	Hornpipe
Thomas Robertson	Air for Megan	Slow Air
Ian and Judith Muir	Alastair Forbes	Double Jig
Dots and Dashes	Kevin Piquemal	Single Reel with a hint of Double reel in the 'B' music
Abraham Mackintosh	Miss Charles Hamilton Scott's Jigg	Double Jig
John Browne	Audrey and Edward Bell of Midway	Hornpipe
Steven Carcary	Jim and Helen's Jig	Double Jig
Ron Kerr	Fiona Robertson's Reel	Single Reel