



BAGPIPE TUTORIALS

Pipe Major Bill Robertson,
ex The Royal Scots



LOCH RANNOCH

Slow Air

John Wilson

The musical notation for 'Loch Rannoch' is presented in four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a repeat sign. The music is written in 6/8 time and features a key signature of one flat. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and repeat signs. The piece is a slow air, characterized by its gentle and expressive melody.

Points to consider when playing this strathspey are:

This nice slow air is suitable for beginners and onwards. Changes have been made from the original tune composed by the renowned John Wilson (see last month's issue). The timing of notes E and F in the first part second and sixth bars have been made to make the E shorter and the F longer than in John Wilson's Pipe Music Book 1. It is the way I recall from my earlier days in my regiment's Pipes and Drums, then under the direction of Pipe Major Willie Denholm. I think the change is more appealing and compliments the rhythm of the bar four in the first part. I think the composer would have been pleased with the change, and perhaps was aware of it at the time.

Beware when playing the tune to notice that certain eighth notes/quavers are shorter, yet subtly without being clipped. Such slow airs leave plenty of time to allow clear accurate execution of the embellishments and clean fingering. Have a well set and well tuned instrument that when playing slow airs especially should make you aware of the need to have steady good tonal blowing.