



BAGPIPE TUTORIALS

Pipe Major Bill Robertson,
ex The Royal Scots



The Hens's March (page 1 of 2)

Jig

Pipe Major Donald MacLeod MBE



BAGPIPE TUTORIALS

Pipe Major Bill Robertson,
ex The Royal Scots



The Hen's March

Jig - continued page 2

Pipe Major Donald MacLeod MBE

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is written in a single line. The second and third staves continue the melody, with the third staff starting with a double bar line. The fourth staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line. The notation includes various note values, rests, and articulation marks such as accents and slurs.

LESSON POINTERS

This fine four parted jig in duple time is of a higher degree of difficulty, suitable mostly for good intermediate to the more advanced pipers. Bear in mind the regular pulse rhythm of 1,2,3; 1,2,3; and so on, almost round yet with a degree of feeling/duration on the “3”, not the “1” that gets a natural enough stress without any extra duration relatively. Simply come off the 1 to 2, then 3. With the G, D, E, groupings and strikes clarity of the G, D, E, and enough openness of three notes groupings and before strikes is necessary.

Clarity is aided with a certain relaxation as you play along with a reasonable tempo and momentum of about 108 – 112 BPM, or very slightly faster. My audio is not quite relaxed enough in the first part, but left when not too bad, as I prefer to leave “off the cuff” rather than re-record. I mention and show that in the early stages especially to play at a slower tempo to be able to methodically open up the notes just before strikes, and G, D, E, groups.

As necessary, take certain bar/s of perceived difficulty separately with slow methodical application and openness of execution repeated correctly often enough. The tune is written out in full to accommodate the small variations and certain starting notes. The very small variations were from my former Pipe Major Hugh Fraser who knew Donald well. Perhaps they were from Donald.