



BAGPIPE TUTORIALS

Pipe Major Bill Robertson,
ex The Royal Scots



Pipe Major Willie Gray's Farewell to the Glasgow Police

March

Pipe Major John MacDonald

The musical score is written in 2/4 time and consists of ten staves. It begins with a repeat sign. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are two first endings, marked with '1' and '2' above the staves. The first ending leads back to the beginning of the piece, while the second ending concludes the piece with a final cadence.

Note: The above second time for those unsure, you must omit the F and high G at the end of bar four and replace with high A as above in 2.



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LESSON POINTERS

This is a Competition type 2/4 march that was fairly popular some years ago, although even today I know of some bands playing it. Tempo of course for this type of March (could be about 72-84 BPM) is much steadier than for parade etc., marching. With the rhythm beware of the need for controlled upbeats in particular, although at times certain downbeats may have a subtle extra stress/duration feeling without seemingly weakening the upbeat. Notice in the second part how many dotted and 8th note Es are on the upbeats. Pointing as we call it is also important with relatively longer and shorter notes duration quite marked, yet retaining good clarity of execution, especially short 32nd notes in cuttings, and tachums etc. The high G grace note clarity is necessary in these cutting and tachums as well. Maintain a certain steady momentum within the controlled rhythm.



GCPB as today