

Slow Tunes

Farewell to Airthrey Castle

Slow Air on Eb

♩ = 44

By Angus MacGunn
Setting by Angus MacGunn

The musical score is written for guitar in the key of E-flat major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody is written in a single line with various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, along with rests. Chords are indicated by letters below the staff: Eb, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Bb7, Eb, Eb. The second staff continues the melody with chords: Ab, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Eb7, Ab, F#7, Bb7. The third staff has chords: Eb, Eb7, Ab, Eb, F#7, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Eb7. The fourth staff concludes the piece with chords: Ab, F#7, Bb7, Eb, Eb7, Ab, Bb7, Eb. The piece ends with a final chord of Eb.



Airthrey Castle, Stirling University (July 1982) photo courtesy Adam Patterson archive

This was composed at the first Heritage of Scotland Summer School at Stirling University in 1978. At that time none of us thought that so many years later the school would be still going. I played this onto a tape recorder and Remick MacArthur wrote it down. [The castle was partially designed by the famous Scottish architect Robert Adam in 1791, and the Airthrey estate later incorporated into the new Stirling University, established in 1967. The summer fiddle courses were held in the castle for over 20 years. — ad]

Over the Chindwin

6/8 Pipe March in G

By P.M. Evan MacRae (1912 - 1991)

Setting by Aronsson Gagne

♩ = 300

Musical score for guitar with guitar tablature. The score consists of six lines of music. Chords indicated below the staff include D, A7, E7, G, and D.

Pipe Major Evan MacRae was in the Cameron Highlanders during the war. He served in various jungle areas including Burma, where he wrote this tune. The Chindwin was a river there. When Evan left the Army he taught for many years in Lochaber High School, turning out good young pipers, my daughter Dundee being one. When Evan retired, he made more fiddles, mostly with local Lochaber wood. I used to get them up for him and one of the last he made was for me as a present - it's his fiddle that's pictured in the painting by Alastair Smith on the front cover. It has a sweet tone.

Evan has gone now but his pupils are keeping his music and memory alive. This tune was played at his funeral by P.M. John D. Burgess, now himself passed on.



Aronsson and the Highland Fiddle Class at Anthony Coak, Strling University, 1966.

The Millennium Hornpipe

Hornpipe in G

♩ = 20

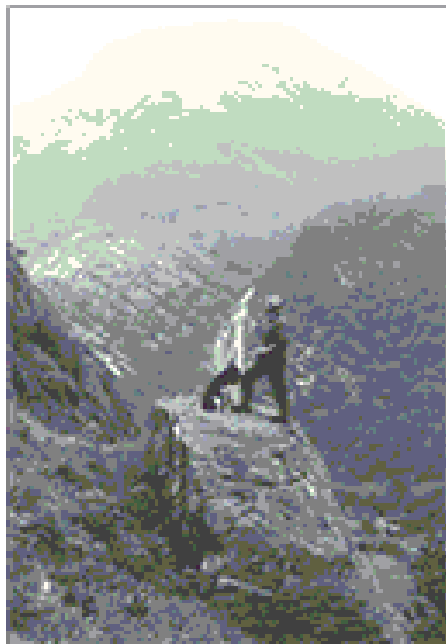
By Angharad Gwynn
Setting by Angharad Gwynn



G G7 C Am D7 G D7
G G7 C Am D7 G D7
G G7 C Am D7 G D7
G G7 C Am D7 G D7

For the year 2000, I thought, this is a new century and things have got to get better. The previous century seemed such a terrible century of war - the 1914-18 war, then the Second World War. But in no time we're back into the war again.

I play this on The Hills of Glengary CD - my first recording after the 1978 LP. The tune was written down from my playing by Louise Mackenzie.



Angharad, working for the Ranger Service, Glas Nevis Cairn, 1993. "We took the top path up the cairn. There's no road there, we just used the hill ponies. The waterfall in back is Steall Ban, the third highest waterfall in Great Britain." - Angharad Gwynn