

# Tynes

I don't write a lot of tunes. A reel here, a strathspey there, maybe a waltz or an air. However, after this many years, a tune here and there adds up, as I realized when I was cleaning up recently. Some more memorable than others. Some better than I thought when I originally wrote them. Some of them not particularly Scottish sounding, but then again, I've lived in California longer than I did in Scotland. For the record, here they are.

I hope you enjoy them, and have fun with them.

## John

July 2014

## Update

I've decided to make this book freely available as a downloadable pdf file, and so I thought I may as well add an addendum with a few tunes that I've written since the book was originally published, and at the same time make a few minor corrections to the original. I have also included pipe settings for a few of the tunes. All the tunes can be downloaded (free) in mp3 format by downloading the file jTunes.zip. Most of the new tunes can also be heard (with videos/slide shows) by going to my YouTube page...

## https://www.youtube.com/user/svscot/videos.

March 2020

# Contents

| Addendum                  | 53 |
|---------------------------|----|
| About the Tunes           | 4  |
| Airs                      |    |
| A Friend Indeed           | 38 |
| After the Dance           | 21 |
| Lady of the Mountain      | 36 |
| Old Gold                  | 43 |
| Rest Easy                 | 40 |
| Southern Cross            | 33 |
| The Back Road to Enumclaw | 20 |
| The Dark Atlantic         | 32 |
| The Mountain Bluebird     | 21 |
| The Oran Road             | 10 |
| The Shores of Loch Garten | 39 |
| Jigs                      |    |
| Craigenroan               | 41 |
| In Search of Bonnie Anne  | 24 |
| Joyce's Jig               | 18 |
| Kisses From Maisie        | 18 |
| Morrisons' Amusements     | 41 |
| Six Four Three One        | 45 |
| Tammy and Jenny           | 48 |
| The Dance Piper           | 19 |
| The Haining               | 23 |
| The Little Red Ford       | 19 |
| The Woodworker            | 22 |

#### Marches

| Jack Sutherland          | 34<br>16 |  |
|--------------------------|----------|--|
| The House on Summit Road |          |  |
| W.S.Taylor of Slackhead  | 11       |  |

### Reels

| Almost There                    | 17 |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Davy Mac's Reel                 | 27 |
| Miss Dorothy Shinnie of Finzean | 29 |
| Night Drive on Five             | 17 |
| Scotia and Megan                | 50 |
| Seven Point One                 | 37 |
| Tammy and Jenny                 | 49 |
| The Aul' Hielan' Line           | 12 |
| The Devil's Other Elbow         | 37 |
| The Drifter                     | 47 |
| Thistle on the Faultline        | 13 |
| Wally Dugs                      | 51 |
| Where's the Wean?               | 50 |
| YV330                           | 29 |

## Strathspeys

| 28 |
|----|
| 28 |
| 12 |
| 48 |
| 46 |
| 26 |
| 26 |
| 47 |
| 46 |
| 13 |
| 27 |
|    |

### Waltzes

| After the Games          | 44 |
|--------------------------|----|
| Barbara's Tune           | 15 |
| Maggie's Wee Waltz       | 30 |
| The Loose End            | 35 |
| The Next Available Waltz | 42 |
| The Road Ahead           | 25 |
| The Silvertone Waltz     | 31 |
| Welcoming Light          | 14 |

## **About the Tunes**

The Oran Road W.S.Taylor of Slackhead Doon the Slack The Aul' Hielan' Line

Slackhead, near Buckie, is where my parents lived after my father retired. The Slack is the footpath from there to Portgordon. The Oran Road was on the other side of the main road from Slackhead and was a lovely place to walk. In the season, there were brambles to be picked at the side of the road, and there was "Sticky Willy" in the ditches, which the kids thought was great fun. The Aul' Hielan' Line was what used to be the path of the defunct Highland Railway, and provided a great place to ride bikes.

#### Thistle on the Faultline

Inspired by the sight of a thistle growing under a freeway sign to San Francisco, this is dedicated to Bill Merriman, who, by way of the Prince Charles Pipe Band organization, taught generations of pipers in California, including my own family. Bill could be a prickly SOB though, so you had to be careful what you said. The title seemed appropriate. Jack Sutherland once told me that he thought I had dedicated it to Bill because he was the biggest pr\*\*\* in the PCPB.

#### Welcoming Light

A picture in the Scots Magazine of a lone house in the mountains in the blue half light of dusk, and a warm yellow light shining from the window, almost became the cover of Steppin' Out.

#### **Barbara's Tune**

For Barbara Miller, Highland Dance Mother at the time when her girls and ours were all competing.

#### The House on Summit Road

Phillippa's house, where over the years we've enjoyed some great nights of music.

#### (If we were coming here we'd be) Almost There

My response to the inevitable question from the back of the van as we approached Portland - on our way to Seattle.

#### **Night Drive on Five**

Interstate 5 is the main route up the west coast from Mexico to Canada. When we drove North (Portland, Seattle, Vancouver), we would leave after I finished work, drive a few hours then stop somewhere north of Redding in a rest area, sleep for a couple of hours, then take off again.

#### Joyce's Jig Kisses From Maisie The Little Red Ford The Dance Piper

I wrote the first jig for Joyce (the title is a clue), and our good friend Marion Logie said that I should add a tune for each of the kids and she would devise a dance called "Joyce's Jig". All this happened, and I think the dance was danced one time - in New Zealand, on a tour with Ken McFarland. Maisie was Fiona's Guinea Pig. The Little Red Ford was my old Ford Escort, which Lesley inherited when she was in high school. The Dance Piper is for Stuart, who used to get the job of piping for Highland Dance Competitions. Not an easy job in California heat.

#### The Back Road to Enumclaw

The Pacific Northwest Highland Games are held at the King County Fairgrounds in the small town of Enumclaw. When we first went there, traffic was diverted round the town by a series of little brown signs, telling you, to <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile resolution, the distance to the Fairgrounds. The signs are no longer there. Someone must have realised that traffic meant potential customers for local businesses.

#### After the Dance

It's four hours since the ball finished, and the after-after-party is done. Now it's time to play a few more tunes. Dedicated to Kim McGarrity, and to the Vietnamese cleaning crew who mopped the floor to our airs and waltzes.

#### The Mountain Bluebird

Written as a farewell gift to Lanny, the lead singer with the band I played in, when she moved to Boise, Idaho. The band was never the same again. The Mountain Bluebird is the state bird of Idaho.

#### The Haining The Woodworker In Search of Bonnie Anne

Written for Moira Theriault, for a dance (Moira of Dunblane) devised for her by the late Jack Baxter. The Haining is a footpath in Moira's home town of Dunblane. "The Woodworker" is for Moira's husband Joel, the gentlest biker you'll ever meet, and "In Search of Bonnie Anne" is for Jack Baxter himself, who regardless of what was on a dance program, would always request "Bonnie Anne".

#### The Road Ahead

Written to go with Ian Middleton's song "The Road of the Travellin' Man". Ian was a neighbour of my parents, and wrote and published two books of poems and songs in the Bothy Ballad tradition.

#### Ms. Rose

Mississippi Rose. Rose Snow – a Southern Belle from Greenock.

#### **Out of Bounds**

My thanks to Tim and the girls from the "Bounds Street Band" who backed me up a couple of times playing for dances in Mississippi.

#### Wull Broon's Strathspey

Will Brown was the driving force behind the Strathspey and Reel Society in Jackson, Mississippi. This one's for him.

#### Davy Mac's Reel

Dave McCumiskey is my long time band buddy and a great friend. He played bass guitar in a band in the North of England when the band hired a young hot-shot guitar player. This was the first band that young Eric Clapton played in.

#### **Bob Breheny's Bunnet**

Bob, an undisputed pun-master (unfortunately), is (fortunately) the president of the Monterey Bay Celtic Society, and over many years has brought an incredible variety of quality Celtic Performers to the Bay Area.

#### **Austin Originals**

Written for a dance devised by Elizabeth Chennault, honouring "Torf" Torfason and Sarah Harriman, on their Wedding Anniversary, which is celebrated annually at the Austin St. Andrew's Ball.

#### **Miss Dorothy Shinnie of Finzean**

I never met Miss Dorothy Shinnie, but this was written at the request of a mutual friend as a bit of a joke really, and I thought it turned out quite well.

#### YV330

Wes Swift used to visit me regularly at work as a salesman for programmable logic. Years ago, he found a dilapidated railroad observation car (YV330) from the former Yosemite Valley Railroad, which had been converted into a diner, then later abandoned in the middle of a field. He bought it for a dollar, then, with a crew of volunteers, began the task of restoring it to its former glory. Several fortunes later, it now runs on the Niles Canyon Railway in Sunol, California.

#### Maggie's Wee Waltz

I wrote this waltz when Ed and Nora Miller's daughter Maggie was born. I was going to call it "Wee Maggie's Waltz", but I figured, since Maggie wouldn't be wee for long, that I would turn the title around. I'm glad I did. Maggie is now at University. How did that happen?

#### The Silvertone Waltz

This one is really for guitar. 60's style electric with lots of tremolo. Think Hank Marvin...

#### The Dark Atlantic Southern Cross

A soundtrack for the loss in the South Atlantic, in 1929, of the "Kobenhavn". Built in Leith, she was one of the biggest sailing ships ever built, and disappeared without a trace on a voyage from Buenos Aires to Adelaide.

#### Jack Sutherland

Jack was, along with Bill Merriman, one of the founders of the Prince Charles Pipe Band organization.

#### The Loose End

This tune just sort of happened, for no particular reason.

#### Lady of the Mountain The Devil's Other Elbow Seven Point One

These were written at the time of the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake here in the Bay Area. Lady of the Mountain is for Shirley Ryan, whose home in the Santa Cruz Mountains literally came apart at the seams. While she was fighting the local council to be allowed to rebuild, she told me she felt she was turning into a "Mountain Lady", but she's a lot gentler than that would imply, so I turned it around a little to suit.

#### A Friend Indeed The Shores of Loch Garten

Written after my mother died. "A Friend Indeed" is a comment on the way she lived her whole life, really caring about other people. Loch Garten was one of her favorite places, and her ashes are scattered somewhere round the Loch.

#### **Rest Easy**

A tune for Jeanie Stewart Moore. She always had a story to tell about growing up Scottish in Santa Barbara, and she taught us all how to say "Cool". We'll miss her.

#### Craigenroan Morrisons' Amusements

Craigenroan is a rock just off the beach at Strathlene, outside Buckie. Every year, for a week or maybe two prior to "Peter Fair", the big annual fair, Morrisons'Amusements would set up at Strathlene.

#### The Next Available Waltz

I wrote this as the first dance for a wedding, but the couple didn't want a waltz, so I decided I would keep it for the "next available waltz'. After a while, the title stuck.

#### **Old Gold**

When the kids were quite young, we had a Golden Retriever mix that we got from the "pound". Stuart thought we should call him "Spot", and when we explained why that wasn't really appropriate , he became "Goldie" – and that was that!

#### After the Games

An antidote to the bagpipes that you hear in your head when driving home after a Highland Games.

#### **Six Four Three One**

Our home since 1986.

#### The Winding Walks

After we left Scotland to come to California, Scotland got its tourism act together in a big way. Historical buildings, monuments, prehistoric sites, all of which had been ignored and unmarked for years, were cleaned up, signposted, and turned into the tourist attractions they deserve to be. On a smaller, more local scale, what I think used to be a Forestry Commission access road became , with the addition of a couple of signs and some cleared trails, The Winding Walks of Fochabers.

#### Logie's Burns Nicht

Jim Logie is a big Burns fan, and every year for many many years had a Burns Supper at his house. Without a doubt, the best Burns Suppers I ever attended.

#### The New Arrangement

Written for Lyle Ramshaw and the late Kim McGarrity on the occasion of their wedding. Kim was the leader of "Fiddlesticks and Ivory" and she and Lyle did almost all the musical arrangements for the band.

#### The Drifter

Written as a fill for Scooter Muse and Jil Chambless's recording of "Shoals of Herring".

#### Where's the Wean? Scotia and Megan

While playing for a dance workshop in Tucson many years ago we stayed with Verna and Jerry. Jerry affectionately called Verna "The Wean", and the question "Where's the Wean?" seemed to crop up a lot. They had two dogs called Scotia and Megan, who, when they got excited, would jump straight up and down in front of you till you got the ball and played with them.

#### Fiona's First Fling Tammy and Jenny

Fiona and the Smiths! When Fiona started Highland Dancing, it was a long time before she would go on stage (and stay on stage) to compete. The first time she actually danced on stage was at a fund-raising concert for the Prince Charles Pipe Band when one of her school friends was in the front row of the audience. The next competition after that, we told her it was a concert, and she got up no problem! Tammy and Jenny Smith were Fiona's Highland Dance buddies. I remember walking round the Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa one year with the three of them in tow, all holding hands, and all three of them calling me "Dad".

#### Wally Dugs

Like English Cucumber, this tune will keep coming back on you. Let me know if you "get" it.

The Oran Road



W.S.Taylor of Slackhead



Doon the Slack

John Taylor ©1987



The Aul' Hielan' Line









## Thistle on the Faultline

Strathspey

John Taylor ©1987









Thistle on the Faultline









# Welcoming Light



Barbara's Tune



The House on Summit Road



 $({\rm If} \ {\rm We} \ {\rm Were} \ {\rm Coming} \ {\rm Here}, \ {\rm We'd} \ {\rm Be}) \\ Almost \ There$ 



Night Drive on Five

John Taylor ©1993

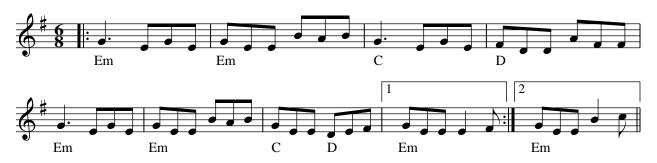


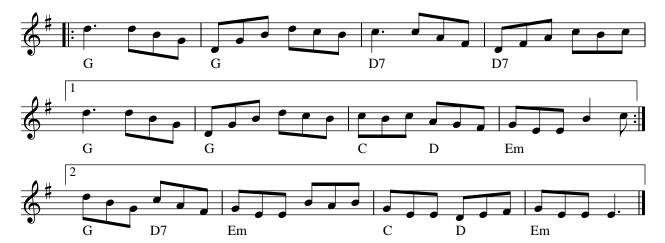




# Joyce's Jig

John Taylor ©1993





# **Kisses From Maisie**



## The Little Red Ford

John Taylor ©1994



The Dance Piper









The Back Road to Enumclaw

John Taylor ©1993 Intro Em D Em Asus4 Asus4 D G G С D G D Е B7 A D CMaj7 D Asus4 Asus4 Twice Through Tune D Em D Em Asus4 G С D G D G Е D B7 CMaj7 D Asus4 Asus4 А Guitar Break ο Ο 0 **0 0** ο 0 g θ σ σ 0 <del>o</del> С G/B Asus4 Asus4 Bm Am Bm Outro

Em

Asus4 Asus4

D

D

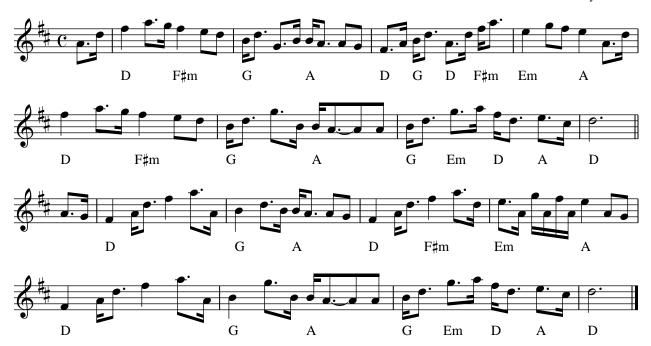
Em

## After the Dance

John Taylor ©1996



## The Mountain Bluebird



# The Woodworker For Joel Theriault







# In Search of Bonnie Anne For Jack Baxter



The Road Ahead



## Ms. Rose

John Taylor ©2003



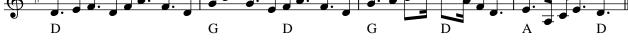






## Out of Bounds









Wull Broon's Strathspey

John Taylor ©2004



Davy Mac's Reel









# Bob Breheny's Bunnet

John Taylor ©1995



# Austin Originals









## Miss Dorothy Shinnie of Finzean

John Taylor ©1998



YV330









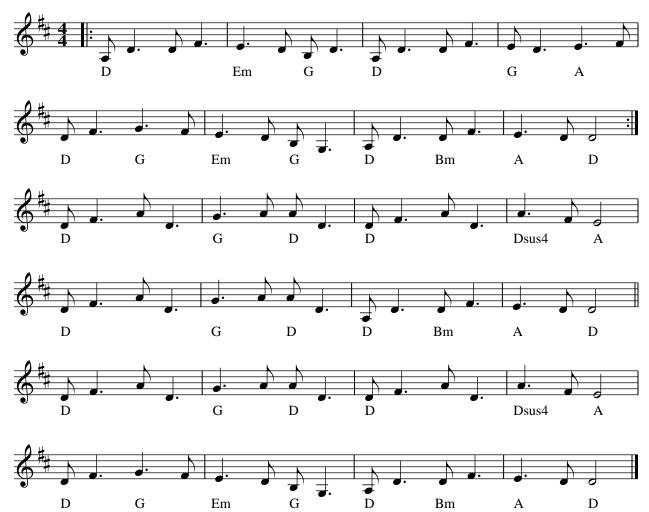


# Maggie's Wee Waltz

# The Silvertone Waltz







# Southern Cross

Jack Sutherland



### The Loose End





John Taylor ©1990

Lady of the Mountain









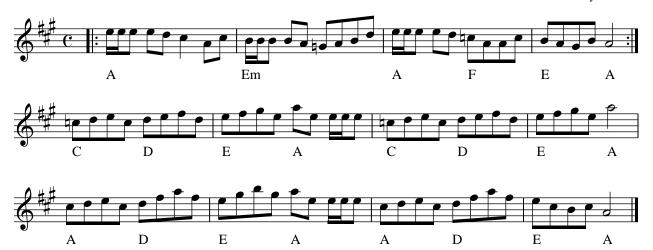


### The Devil's Other Elbow

John Taylor ©1989



# Seven Point One





# A Friend Indeed

John Taylor ©1993

The Shores of Loch Garten





Rest Easy A Tune for Jeanie

# Craigenroan

John Taylor ©1993





Em

John Taylor ©1996

D



F#m





# Old Gold

## After the Games

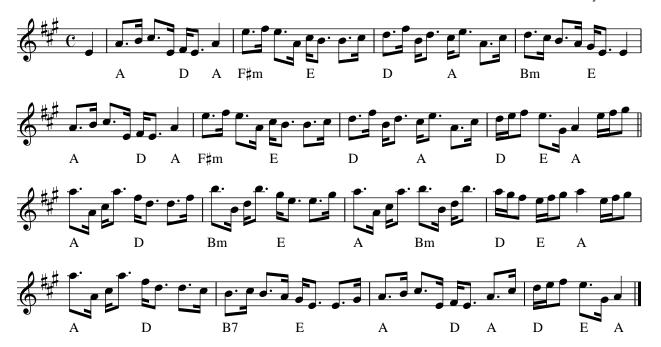




# Six Four Three One

## The Winding Walks

John Taylor ©1993



Logie's Burns Nicht

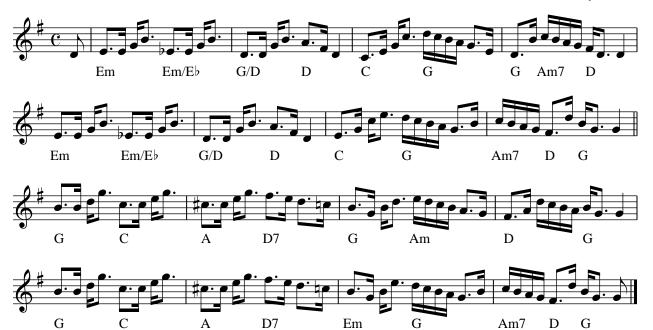






## The New Arrangement

John Taylor ©1996



## The Drifter



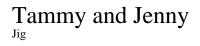






Fiona's First Fling





John Taylor ©1995











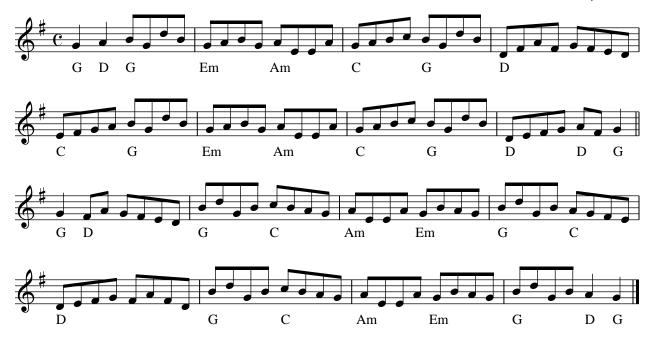
 $\underset{\mbox{\tiny Reel}}{\mbox{Tammy and Jenny}}$ 



Where's the Wean?



Wally Dugs



### About the Tunes

### The Tunes

| * Alex Beaton's Welcome to the St. Louis Highland Games | March      | 55 |
|---|------------|----|
| * Red Sky At Night                                      | Air        | 56 |
| * The Return  | Song       | 57 |
| * Josey   | Air        | 58 |
| * The Last Waltz  | Waltz      | 59 |
| The Non-Conformist                                      | Strathspey | 60 |
| Pushing the Envelope                                    | Strathspey | 60 |
| This is Not Fun – This is Dancing!                      | Strathspey | 61 |
| * Warburton Waterwheel                                  | Air/Waltz  | 62 |
| * Ron's Invitation to Holyrood                          | Air        | 63 |
| Pipe Settings   |            | 64 |
| Jack Sutherland   | March      | 65 |
| Alex Beaton's Welcome to the St. Louis Highland Games   | March      | 66 |
| The Last Waltz  | Waltz      | 67 |
| Warburton Waterwheel                                    | Air/Waltz  | 68 |
|   |            |    |

54

## \* <u>https://www.youtube.com/user/svscot/videos</u>.

#### About the Tunes...

#### Alex Beaton's Welcome to the St. Louis Highland Games

Written to commemorate Alex being presented with an award from the St. Louis Highland Games for his contribution to Scottish music at Highland Games and festivals in the US.

#### Red Sky At Night

For Ros and Paul Shepherd, now living in Spain. Red Sky at Night, Shepherds' Delight!

#### The Return

The first tune I ever wrote, probably around 1970. Written to go with an Ogden Nash Poem from 1935. Check the video on YouTube for its relevance today.

#### Josey

This tune evolved from me noodling on guitar while I was trying to program an old Alesis Quadraverb to emulate an even older Meazzi Echomatic Delay Unit (Geek Alert!). Fiona (my daughter) had recently lost one of her dogs, so I decided to make it a tribute to "Josey".

#### The Last Last Waltz

Written to mark my retirement from serious gigging. I got to play this at both my last dance gig with Fiddlesticks and Ivory and at my last festival gig at the North Texas Irish Festival (NTIF). Let the young ones take over!

#### The Non-Conformist Pushing the Envelope

#### This is Not Fun – This is Dancing!

I started writing the first tune and realised that the B part sort of naturally flowed back to the A part, so it seemed right to play it AABA. However, I couldn't find another Strathspey with that structure so the tune became the "Non-Conformist" (There's one in every dance group, and they tend to get vilified somewhat by the purists). So I wrote another two tunes to follow the theme so that someone could devise a suitable dance....!

#### Warburton Waterwheel

For an old friend of mine from university days - Jim McEwan - and his wife Lavinia. Warburton, where they live, is a village in Victoria, Australia, and the Waterwheel is the town "Tourist Information Center". It is also an outlet for local arts and crafts and has a gallery for exhibitions by local artists, including Jim (photography) and Lavinia (hand made jewelry).

#### **Ron's Invitation to Holyrood**

For longtime friend Ron Young, on the occasion of his being invited to the Queen's Garden Party at Holyrood Palace in recognition of his community work in Aberfeldy.

©2015 John Taylor



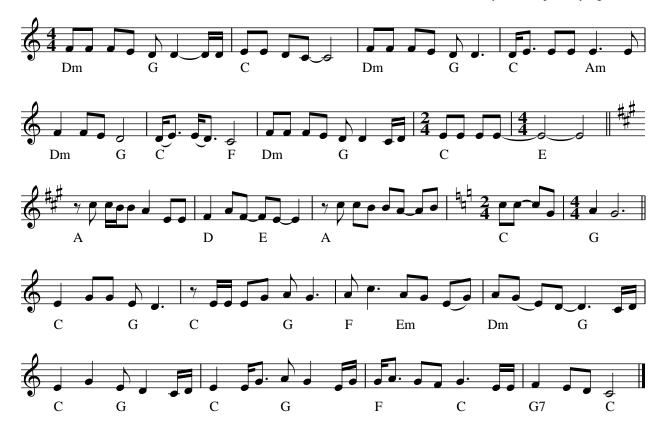
Red Sky at Night

©2016 John Taylor



### The Return

©2017 John Taylor (for a poem by Ogden Nash)



#### The Return

Ogden Nash (1935)

Early is the evening, reluctant the dawn Once there was a summer, sudden it was gone It fell like a leaf, whirled downstream Was there ever summer or only a dream? Was ever a world that was not November? Once there was summer, and this I remember...

Cornflowers and daisies, buttercups and clover Black-eyed Susans and Queen-Anne s lace A wide green meadow, and the bees booming over And a little laughing girl with the wind in her face

Strident are the voices and hard lights shine Feral are the faces, is one of them mine? Something is lost now, tarnished the gleam Was there ever nobleness, or only a dream? Yes, and it lingers, lost not yet; Something remains till this I forget...

Cornflowers and clover, buttercups and daisies Black-eyed Susans under blue and white skies And the grass waist high where the red cow grazes And a little laughing girl with faith in her eyes

# Josey

©2018 John Taylor











#### The Last Last Waltz

©2017 John Taylor



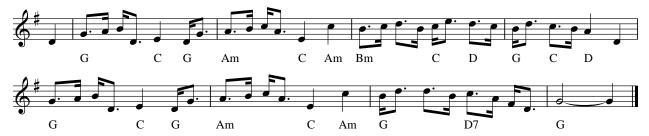
The Non-Conformist

©2018 John Taylor









This is Not Fun - This is Dancing!



### Warburton Waterwheel

©2019 John Taylor



# Ron's Invitation to Holyrood

©2019 John Taylor



#### **Pipe Settings**

When I do these little recordings like you'll find on <u>YouTube</u>, I sometimes want pipes in the band. I don't really have a setup that allows me to record real pipes, and I can't be bothered dealing with the hassle of bagpipe pitch differences. So I use technology.

For those who might be interested, I use a couple of tools to achieve this. Firstly, I enter the pipe part (with grace notes) into a program called Celtic Pipes. Check it out at...

https://www.celticpipes.com/index.html

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hh4-ynpFyCU&t=7s

From Celtic Pipes, I export the pipe part as a MIDI file and import it into Cakewalk. The pipe track is set to play back using a bagpipe "soft synth" - Universal Piper.

http://www.universal-piper.com/en/the-virtual-bagpipe-lab/

The net result is a pipe track that's passable for most people. It's not going to fool a good piper, I'm sure, but it's the best sounding bagpipe emulation that I've tried so far for a reasonable cost.

I've included pipe settings for ....

**Jack Sutherland** Pipe setting by Stuart Taylor

**Alex Beaton's Welcome to the St. Louis Highland Games** Pipe setting by Neil Beaton (Alex's brother)

**The Last Last Waltz** Pipe setting by Stuart Taylor

**Warburton Waterwheel** Pipe setting by Stuart Taylor

## Jack Sutherland



# Alex Beaton's Welcome to the St. Louis Highland Games



### The Last Last Waltz



### Warburton Waterwheel

