

♩ = 60

Scotland The Brave

Traditional



March

<http://BCFDPipesAndDrums.com/>

Last Modified 12/09/04

SCOTLAND THE BRAVE. AKA "My Bonnie Lass(ie)," "Brave Scotland," "Scotland Forever." Scottish, March (2/4 time); English, Morris Dance Tune. Tune used for a polka step in the North-West (England) morris dance tradition, and a march in Scotland and Shetland.

Jack Campin believes it first appeared around the turn of the 20th century, with words set to it in 1950 by Cliff Hanley (which may be tongue-in-cheek—there is a story that Hanley, a great humorist, tried to put as many clichés about Scotland into the lyric as possible!).

Another story told regarding the lyric is told by Harry Burns: *Robert Wilson, who was at the time at the peak of his career, was looking for a new song for his stage show. Hanley was commissioned to write the song. The fee was £25 and Wilson was to get the copyright. Hanley took the completed song to Wilson who read it, gave him the agreed £25 then refused to let Hanley sign away the rights. "Naw, naw son, this is far too good. I'd be cheating you if I took the rights to this," said Wilson.*

The oldest appearance of the melody Campin has seen was in a Boys' Brigade pipe tune book from about 1911 where the title appeared as "Scotland, the Brave!!!" Charles Gore says the tune appears to date from about 1891-5, when it was published in Keith Norman Macdonald's Gesto Collection of Highland Music under the title "Brave Scotland" and/or "Scotland for Ever."

http://www.ibiblio.org/fiddlers/SC.htm#SCOTLAND_THE_BRAVE

Verse 1

Hark, when the night is falling; Hear, hear the pipes are calling
Loudly and proudly calling; Down through the Glen

There where the hills are sleeping; Now feel the blood a-leaping
High as the spirits of the old highland men. (Chorus)

Verse 2

High in the misty highlands; Out by the purple islands
Brave are the hearts that beat; Beneath Scottish skies

Wild are the winds to meet you; (Such) are the friends that greet you;
Kind as the light that shines; From fair maiden's eyes. (Chorus)

Chorus

Calling in gallant fame; Scotland my mountain hav'n
High may your proud standards; Gloriously wave

Land o' my high endeavor; Land o' the shining river
Land o' my heart forever; Scotland the brave