

PENTATONIC NATURE OF CEOL MOR

by *Seumas MacNeill*

In the Bibliography at the end of Professor Alec Haddow's excellent book ("The History and Structure of Ceol Mor") you will find listed a publication by me called "Index of Tunes contained in the twelve books of the Piobaireachd Society's Collection." Somewhere within Professor Haddow's book is a note to the effect that this is in preparation.

Indeed it was; the finished article in fact has been kicking around for a long time. Alec had a copy of it and thought it was important. I don't, but so as not to cause any more confusion than already exists in the piping world, here it is.

The object of the investigation was to discover how many piobaireachds are pentatonic in character. The pipe chanter has been constructed to play three pentatonic scales, as follows:

Key of G	G	A	B	D	E	G ¹
Key of A	A	B	C	E	F	A ¹
Key of D	A	B	D	E	F	A ¹

The analysis of all this appeared in the Piping Times Vol 13 Nos 6 and 7. Sufficient to say that between our F and G¹, and our C and D, occur intervals not used in the mainstream of Western European music. These have values $27/25$ and are called **Limmas**. In what follows the F to G¹ is denoted as L¹ and the C to D as L².

This analysis was made of the tunes in the first twelve books of the Piobaireachd Society Collection. Where the tune is not pentatonic some attempt is made to indicate how. Now read on.

G	A	D	Not Pentatonic	Name	Book No.
			L1	Aged Warrior's Sorrow, The	12
			L1	A'Ghlas	11
			No D	All the Men paid Rent but Rory	11
			L2	Battle of Auldearn, The	2
G				Battle of Balladruishai, The	9
	A			Battle of Bealach nam Brog, The	9
			L2	Battle of The Bridge of Perth, The	1
	A			Battle, The Desperate	7
			L2	Battle, The Desperate, (Cullin)	11
			No L	Battle of Glensheil, The	4
			L2	Battle of Strome, The	5
			No L	Battle of The Pass of Crieff, The	1
G				Battle of Waternish, The	2
			D+G	Battle of Waterloo, The	11
			L2	Beinn a Ghriain	4
G				Bells of Perth, The	2
			L2	Beloved Scotland	6
			L2	Bicker, The	4
			G+C	Bicker, The	11
			L2	Black Wedder's White Tail, The	11
			L2	Blind Piper's Obstnacy, The	3
G				Blue Ribbon, The	5
		D		Carles with the Breeks, The	8
			L1	Castle Menzies	8
			A+G	Craigellachie	6
G				End of the Great Bridge, The	2
G				End of the Little Bridge, The	8
			L1	Evan of the Battles	12
			No L	Fair Honey	9
			L2	Farewell to the Laird of Islay	9
G				Finger Lock, The	1
G				Flame of Wrath for Patrick Caogach	5
G				Gathering, Clan Campbell's	7
			A+G	Gathering of Clan Chattan, The	2
G				Gathering, The MacDougalls'	5
	A			Gathering, The MacFarlanes'	7

G	A	D	Not Pentatonic	Name	Book No.
	A			Gathering, The Macnabs' - - - - -	5
	A			Glen is Mine, The - - - - -	6
G				Grain in Hides - - - - -	5
G				Groat, The - - - - -	1
			A+G	Hector Maclean's Warning - - - - -	2
			L2	I am Proud to Play a Pipe - - - - -	6
	A			I got a Kiss of the King's Hand - - - - -	7
		D		Isabel Mackay - - - - -	6
G				King's Taxes, The - - - - -	5
	D			Lachlan MacNeill Campbell's Fancy - - - - -	8
	A			Lament for Captain MacDougall, The - - - - -	6
			L2	Lament for The Castle of Dunyveg, The - - - - -	1
			D+G	Lament, Catherine's - - - - -	5
	D			Lament for The Children - - - - -	3
			A+G	Lament for Colin Roy MacKenzie - - - - -	3
			L2	Lament, The Company's - - - - -	1
G				Lament, The Daughter's - - - - -	6
G				Lament for The Departure of King James, The - - - - -	3
		D		Lament for Donald Ban MacCrimmon, The - - - - -	2
			D+G	Lament for Donald of Laggan, The - - - - -	8
G				Lament for The Duke of Hamilton, The - - - - -	3
			L2	Lament, Duncan MacRae of Kintail's - - - - -	4
	A			Lament for The Earl of Antrim - - - - -	3
G				Lament, Finlay's - - - - -	1
	A			Lament, His Father's for Donald MacKenzie - - - - -	9
G				Lament, John Garve MacLeod of Raasay's - - - - -	5
			No L	Lament, Lady Anapool's - - - - -	9
			No L	Lament, Lady MacDonald's - - - - -	8
G				Lament, The Laird of Anapool's - - - - -	9
			No C	Lament, The Laird of Contullich's - - - - -	9
	A			Lament, Lord Lovat's - - - - -	9
	A			Lament for Lord Breadalbane - - - - -	12
			L1	Lament for The Little Supper - - - - -	8
			L1	Lament, MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart's, I - - - - -	6
A				Lament, MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart's, II - - - - -	6

G	A	D	Not Pentatonic	Name	Book No.
			L2	Lament for MacDonald's Tutor, The	- - 3
		D		Lament, Mackintosh's	- - - - 8
G				Lament for MacSwan of Roaig, The	- - - 1
	A			Lament for Mary MacLeod, The	- - - 5
	A			Lament for the Dead	- - - - 11
			A+G	Lament for the Harp Tree	- - - - 12
			L2	Lament for The Old Sword, The	- - - - 3
G				Lament for The Only Son, The	- - - - 6
G				Lament, Patrick Og MacCrimmon's	- - - - 3
			L2	Lament, Prince Charles'	- - - - 10
			L2	Lament, Queen Anne's	- - - - 7
	A			Lament for Red Hector, The	- - - - 4
	A			Lament, Mackenzie of Gairloch's	- - - - 10
G				Lament, MacKinnon's	- - - - 12
		D		Lament, MacLaine of Lochbuie's	- - - - 11
	A			Lament, MacLeod of Colbeck's	- - - - 10
G				Lament, Ronald MacDonald of Morar's	- - - - 8
			No C	Lament, Rory MacLeod's	- - - - 11
			L2	Lament, Sir James MacDonald's	- - - - 7
		D		Lament, The Sister's	- - - - 4
G				Lament for the Union, The	- - - - 6
			L1	Lament for The Viscount of Dundee, The	- - - 1
G				Little Finger Tune, The	- - - - 9
	A			MacCrimmon's Sweetheart	- - - - 7
			L2	MacDonalds are Simple, The	- - - - 9
	A			Mackay's Banner, The	- - - - 7
	A			Mackays' Short Tune, The	- - - - 8
G				MacLeods Controversy	- - - - 10
			A+G	MacLeods' Short Tune, The	- - - - 6
G				MacNeil is Lord There	- - - - 11
	A			March, Black Donald's	- - - - 3
			L2	March, Donald Gruamach's	- - - - 2
		D		March, The Earl of Ross's	- - - - 10
G				March, Glengarry's	- - - - 2
			L2	March, MacNeil of Barra's	- - - - 10
			No L	March, The MacLean's	- - - - 10
			No L	March, The MacRae's	- - - - 10
			D+G	March, Keppoch's	- - - - 12

G	A	D	Not Pentatonic	Name	Book No.
	A			Mary's Praise - - - - -	5
	A			Massacre of Glencoe - - - - -	6
		D		Men Went to Drink, The - - - - -	11
		A+G		My Dearest on Earth, Give Me Your Kiss - - - - -	11
G				My King has Landed in Moidart - - - - -	5
		No C or G		Nameless, Cherede darievea - - - - -	8
		L2		Nameless, Hiharin dro o dro - - - - -	4
		L1		Nameless, Hiharin odin, hiharin dro - - - - -	5
G				Nameless, Hihio tro tro - - - - -	4
		L1		Nameless, Hihorodo hao - - - - -	4
	A			Old Men of The Shells, The - - - - -	7
	A			Old Men of The Shells, The - - - - -	7
	A			Old Woman's Lullaby, The - - - - -	4
		D+G		Parading of The MacDonalds, The - - - - -	7
		D		Park Piobaireachd, The - - - - -	4
		D		Park Piobaireachd, The - - - - -	4
		L1		Piper's Warning to his Master, The - - - - -	12
		L1		Port Urlar - - - - -	12
		L2		Praise of Morag, In - - - - -	1
		L1		Pretty Dirk, The - - - - -	11
		A+G		Pride of Barra, The - - - - -	5
		A+G		Red Hand in the MacDonald's Arms, The - - - - -	10
	A			Red Speckled Bull, The - - - - -	4
	A			Rout of Glenfruin, The - - - - -	8
		No L		Rout of The MacPhee's, The - - - - -	4
G				Rout of The Lowland Captain, The - - - - -	9
	A			Salute on the Birth of Rory Mor - - - - -	4
G				Salute, Abercairney's - - - - -	11
G				Salute, Borlum's - - - - -	12
		A+G		Salute, Chisolm of Strathglass's - - - - -	9
		D+G		Salute, Clanranald's - - - - -	7
		A+G		Salute, Cluny Macpherson's - - - - -	4
	A			Salute, Corrienessan's - - - - -	8
		L2		Salute to Donald - - - - -	8

G	A	D	Not Pentatonic	Name	Book No.
			L2	Salute, Duntroon's or MacDonald's	- - - 6
			No D,F	Salute, Gordon's, The	- - - 10
			L2	Salute, Highland Society of Scotland's, The	- 12
			L2	Salute, King James the Sixth's	- - - 11
			L2	Salute, Lady Margaret MacDonald's	- - - 3
			L2	Salute, MacGregor's The	- - - 10
G				Salute, Macdonald's, The	- - - 11
			L2	Salute, MacIntyre's, The	- - - 11
G				Salute, Mackenzie of Applecross'	- - - 10
	A			Salute, MacLeod of Raasay's	- - - 8
			D+G	Salute, Mrs MacLeod of Talisker's.	- - - 11
G				Salute, MacLeods, The	- - - 12
	A			Salute, Marquis of Argyll's	- - - 10
G				Salute, The Prince's	- - - 1
				Salute, Earl of Seaforth's, The	- - - 5
			No L	Salute, The Young Laird of Dungallon's	- - - 10
G				Salute, Mrs Smith's	- - - 9
			D	Salute, Sir Ewan Cameron of Lochiel's	- - - 10
			L2	Salute, Munros', The	- - - 11
G				Salute, Sobieski's	- - - 5
			No L	Salute, Struan Robertson's	- - - 8
G				Salute, Young George's	- - - 9
			A+G	Scarce of Fishing	- - - 3
			L2	Sound of the Waves against the Castle of Duntroon, The	- - - 6
	A			Spree, The Big	- - - 1
			L2	Spree, The Little	- - - 7
	A			Spree, The Middling	- - - 11
G				Stewarts' White Banner, The	- - - 7
	A			Too Long in this Condition	- - - 7
				Tulloch Ard	- - - 6
				Tulloch Ard, The Mackenzies Gathering	- - - 12
			No F	Unjust Incerceration, The	- - - 2
G				Vaunting, The	- - - 7
			L1	Vol. 1. "One of the Cragich"	- - - 12
			L1	Vol. 2. (Hihorodo tra cherede che)	- - - 12
			L2	Vol. 2. (Hodabain Hodre Chi Hodro)	- - - 12

G	A	D	Not Pentatonic	Name					Book No.	
			L1	Vol. 1. (Hindro Hindro)	-	-	-	-	-	12
			L2	War or Peace	-	-	-	-	-	10
G				Weighing From Land	-	-	-	-	-	2
			L2	Welcome, Johnny, Back Again	-	-	-	-	-	9
G				You're Welcome, Ewan Lochiel	-	-	-	-	-	2