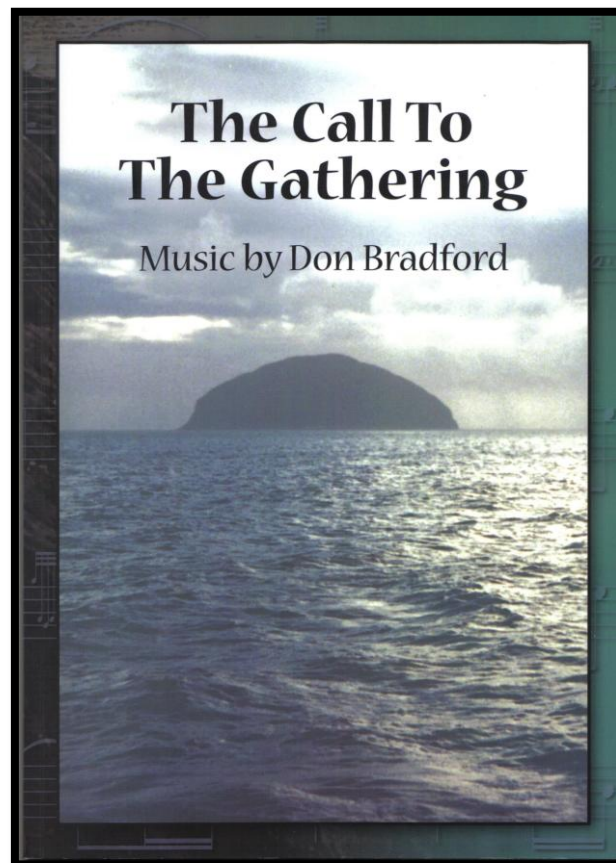


BOOK REVIEW: THE CALL TO THE GATHERING by Don Bradford

Reviewed by Pipe Major Brett Tidswell

I do not remember in the modern era a composer who has had so many tunes appear in the grade 1 list at the World Pipe Band Championships. This is surely the sign of a truly amazing and prolific composer. Amazing too is the number of top bands that Don has actually played in. More recently however he was known as the Pipe Major of the legendary Strathclyde Police Pipe Band, where I had the honour of playing alongside Don and seeing firsthand the quality of his abilities.



Too often when we purchase a book, there are one or two good tunes and the rest get left on the shelf. This is becoming more prevalent in the era of self publishing. Too often we see books by dubious quality composer with far too few good tunes. This book certainly does not fall into that category. In my view it is the best value available in the list of recently published books. "The Call to the Gathering" contains some 79 tunes and not a stocking filler to be found among them.

No Pipe Major should be without this book. It is full of contemporary masterpieces to add some music variety to any Pipe Band medley. Furthermore, many of the tunes would be superb added to the repertoire of any good soloist. They are written in a refreshing style, are musical to play and most have the odd little twist or syncopation here and there to make the fun to play as well.

The tunes contained within the book are:

13th Fredrick Street March

Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police March Past March

Alison Hargreaves' Farewell to K2 March

Tom Fisher's March
Georgina's March March
Royal Ulster Rifles Crossing the 38th Parallel March
End of the Ringing March
Barry Donaldson's March March
Angus Campbell's Tour of Beijing March
Jim Kirkwood's March March
Chief Inspector Allan Hamilton March
Superintendent Louis Munn March
Watchmaker, The March
Caretaker, The March
Challenger, The March
Annie Colquhoun Slow Air
Alison's Song Slow Air
Brooke's Lullaby Slow Air
Scott's Ballad Slow Air
Emigrants Farewell Slow Air
Miss Jays Strathspey Strathspey
Xavier Boderiou's Strathspey Strathspey
Blackwater's Strathspey Strathspey
James Fletcher Strathspey
Peggy McLean Strathspey Strathspey
Miss Angela Harkness Strathspey
Peggy McLean Reel Reel
Miss Angela Harkness Reel
Mitta Mitta Reel, The Reel
One Too Many Reel
Glenkeen Reel, The Reel
Duncan Smith's Reel Reel
Avenue of Volcanos Reel
Pacolet Reel
American Legion Bridge Reel
Piobaireachd o Donald Dubh Reel
Duncan Nicholsons Reel Reel
Harrison's Menagerie Reel
Isle of Jura Jig
McMullan's Jig Jig
Lorna's Jig Jig
Gary Cheddy's Jig Jig
Paul De Both's Jig
Spice of Life, The Jig
Fuppity Jig, The Jig
Ali the Barber Jig
Neil Selbie's Jig Jig
Andy Fuller's Jig
Bill Gregory's Jig Jig
David Hunter's Jig

Fraser Allison's Jig Jig
Gordon Shaw of Lochfyneside Jig
Ten Years on Tuesday Jig
Joe McGonigal's Jig Jig
Brendan Murphy's Jig Jig
Sylvian Hamon of Plougastel-Daoulas Jig
Cell Block Jig
In With the Bricks Jig
Iain MacPherson's Jig Jig
Rebel Without Applause Jig Jig
Judith Irwin Jig
Old Hag at the Kiln Jig
Iris Irwin's Jig Jig
Iris Irwin's Waltz Waltz
Brother's Kirkwood, The Waltz
Alicia's Dance Dance
Stevie and Gus v the Volcanos Dance
Trevor Buckley Hornpipe
PM Raymond Bradford Hornpipe
Phoenix, The Hornpipe
Usquebae Society of Melbourne, The Hornpipe
Melvin The Jeweller Hornpipe
John Lang Brown from Campbeltown Hornpipe
Hercule's Dance Hornpipe
David McInerney's Hornpipe Hornpipe
Alastair Briggs Hornpipe Hornpipe
Laura Ann McCallum Hornpipe
Miss Alison Mclean of Grogary Hornpipe
Cosmos Cascade Hornpipe
Sandpiper, The Hornpipe
Grapevine, The Hornpipe
Ross Stewart From Halkirk Hornpipe
Pipe Major Sandy Keith Hornpipe
Russell Weir Of Howwood Hornpipe
Lindsay Kirkwood Hornpipe
Owen Shaw's Hornpipe Hornpipe
Lorimar Hornpipe Hornpipe
Wee Bit Out of the Ordinary Hornpipe
Joe Maguire Hornpipe
Shifting Sands Hornpipe
Temporary Leader, The Hornpipe
Pipe Major JG Campbell Hornpipe
Call to the Gathering, The Suite
Calm Before the Storm Suite

I have heard many pipers ask over the years where to get a number of Don's tunes and I have heard many a grumbling Pipe major ask when he is going to publish a book. Well here it is! Wait no longer as I am sure like most piping collections it will get only one limited print run and this one is a must have!

Well done Don!

The book is available from Don Bradford at <http://www.bagpipermusic.com> or is available from most reputable stockists.

You can see more reviews and articles at <http://www.schoolofpiping.com/>



articles, reviews, sound files
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