KILTS ON PARADE

Sean McGonigal, pipe major
and the St. Columba's United Gaelic Pipe Band in full parade
It was the Scotch and Irish
who discovered in the clarion of pipes and drums a call to battle... 
and their wild-clear sound traveled through centuries of history's most colorful military exploits.

But before this lay additional centuries of pastoral use of Moorish, Arabian, and medieval German shepherds who played away their lonely times to unalarmed sheep and goats. Something about the pipe there is which will always keep them with us.

Mais piste wills wo 
Das ist mein Himmel
(Old German Drinking Song)

There will be some cheeky enough to question the decorum of exposing the general public to true wide-range recordings of a crack pipe band. For every three objects there will be one fierce partisan capable of persuading a dozen of the faint of heart.

The influence of the hardy pipe connoisseur has been felt even in the witty pages of Cecil Forsyth's classic On the instruments of the orchestral.

When this book was first published, an indignant letter was received from the editor of the 'Times,' blaming why the Highland Bagpipe had been so poorly ignored. 

...the oddest fact of the post-card happened to be that from the very scores in which the author's father and grandfather were born—Alva Street, Edinburgh, there was no, and is, no orchestral passage in the scores. But ancestral memories may temper that opinion by a little more on the instrument.

The standard Highland Bagpipe has four pipes, one of which is the "bass," bored with holes, on which the curious is played. The other three are the "treble," which speak a continuous bass accompaniment to the melody.

The Bagpipe is now the only distinctly-known instrument in existence. The player has a folding wooden box in his mouth. Through this he blows. And the sound of his voice he keeps the drones sounding. Provided the many mechanical details of the Bagpipe are treated properly, the whole scale of the Chanter can be obtained with uniform vibration.

The whole scale is the following note "white notes" of the Piano:

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\[\begin{align*}
&\text{G} & & \text{A} & & \text{B} & & \text{C} & & \text{D} & & \text{E} & & \text{F}\n\end{align*}\]
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The above statement is not entirely true. The Bagpipe notes are not all exactly the same as the same, although the "G" between B and D, and the "E" between F and G, are bored exactly midway in pitch between the two notes. To our ears, accustomed to the modern tempered scale, they both sound about a quarter of a tone sharp.

The beauty of the Hunting of the Green Bagpipe is mainly due to this fact. It is for this reason that it cannot be used seriously in any orchestral combinations.

Long story to follow. For, no laboratory dabbings in quarter-notes are ever likely to be accurate enough for this genuine relic of primitive melody. One feat that Nimm would have appreciated it—what he would have done in the quarter-notes need not be mentioned.

Cecil Forsyth, Orchestration

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St. Columcille's United Gaelic Pipe Band

SEAN MCGONIGAL, Pipe Major

OUTDOOR RECORDING, with the band in motion, produces the varying balance, timbre and volume of sound as they pass by and circle around the listener in ancient town. Finally, the St. Columcille band marches on over the hill and out of hearing in a fine display of acoustics perspective.

TECHNICALLY, the sound of a dynamic moving object is rare on record—with its great volume range and outdoor acoustics. The drums are satisfying to those who listen for low frequency transient response, and of course the pipes themselves carry overtones extending well beyond audibility.

Pipe Names

Drums: James McGonigal
James Han
James Kelly
James O'Hagan
James Roche
James Shannon

Pipes:
Pat McGonigal
Michael Canady
David Creamer
James Curran
Joseph Figure
Peter Mann
Cue Mckeeley
Bob Pereznicki

Commands in true Gaelic speech

Side A:
Bonnie Dundee
Mood of the War
Pinoe of Dornal Dhu
Wearing of the Green
Believe Me I'll Aff
Gary Owen

Side B:
St. Columcille
The Mountain Boy
Believe Me I'll Aff
Las Ere Imagine
Choral O'Connell
O'Donnell's Aba
My Home
Gary Owen

Side C:
Scotland the Brave
Shane Diet Pone
The Hundred Pipers
Rond la l'Jole
The Rosean Tree
Will Ye No Come Back Again
Mariner's Horn

Side D:
St. Columcille
Midst; Through Georgia
I Love a Lady
Gary Owen
Through
Wearing of the Green
Scottish