

SIDE 1

1. RAASAY HOUSE

Composer: the late Pipe Major A.M. Lee

Musicians: the late Pipe Major Norman Gillies, Ullapool, and his late son, Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies, 1st Battalion, The Highlanders.

2. MO BHEUD 's MO CHRÀDH

Traditional arrangement: Barbara Smith

Singer: Barbara Smith

One of the few remaining elegies to Iain Garbh Mac Gille Chaluim, Ratharsair, who was drowned along with one of his brothers while returning from a christening in Lewis in the Easter 1671.

It is said that his sister composed a lament every Friday for a year after his death. These words are taken from Watson's Gaelic songs of Mary MacLeod, the tune from Mary MacLennan (nee Nicolson).

3. CABHANAICH

Melody: Kenna Campbell

Musician: Steve Gwyn Davis on the soprano recorder

Author: Sòmhairle Maclean's poem of the same name.

4. ORAN MOR SGOIREBREAC

Traditional arrangement: Rebecca Mackay

Singer: Rebecca Mackay

A song about a Nicolson wedding at Brochel. Rebecca was keen to include this song since one of her forebears, a few centuries back, was the brother of the then Chief of Clan Nicolson. The song tells of the marriage of the brother to a golden-haired daughter of MacLeod of Raasay.

5. PETER MACLEOD'S STRATH SPEY, BEFORE I MARRY, SOUTH UISIT GOLF CLUB

Composed by Lachie Bàn MacCormack

THE REEL OF BOGGIE, J. M. CLAVERING'S REEL, DANCING FEET

Composed by pipe Major G.S. MacLennan

JACK DANIEL'S REEL

Composer: John Morris Rankin

MOLLY RANKIN

Composer: John Morris Rankin

Traditional arrangement: Norman Gillies except where indicated.

Musician: Pipe Major Norman Gillies, Ullapool

6. DUILICH DUILICH DUILICH LEAM

Traditional arrangement: Rebecca Mackay

Singer: Rebecca Mackay

This song was composed by Rebecca's great grandfather Seonaidh Mòr, Eilean Taighe, John Nicolson, who "was a well-known and respected bard of his day" .

7. SWALLOW-TAILED COAT, MOLL ROE, DROPS OF BRANDY, GIE US A DRINK O'WATER,

WELCOME THE PIPER, DONALD MACLENNAN'S EXERCISE

Composed: Pipe Major G.S. MacLennan

Traditional arrangement: Alasdair Gillies except where indicated

Musician: Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies 1st battalion, The Highlanders

8. ALASDAIR MACLEÒID

Melody: Barbara Smith

Singer: Barbara Smith

Author: Sòmhairle Maclean in 1942.

Alasdair MacLeod, Barbara's uncle, was the third of a family of seven sons and three daughters of John Malcolm MacLeod, shoemaker, Clachan and Lexy MacLennan, Fladda.

Alasdair had been studying at Aberdeen University, but left to join the RAF and was killed in action in March 1942 at the age of 22. The words describe the sadness at the loss of such a promising life

The poem was first set to music by Barbara in 1995.

9. THE AULD NOOST

Composer: Ronald Jamieson, Shetland

Arrangement: Savourna Stevenson

Musician: Helen MacLeod on the clàrsach

Helen comes from Inverinate in Lochalsh and at the time of recording was studying clàrsach, harp and piano at St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh. She is the granddaughter of the late Donald MacLeod of Eyre, Raasay.

10. JOHN MAKAY OF RAASAY

Composer: Rebecca Mackay

Musician: Steve Gwyn Davis on the soprano recorder.

SIDE TWO

1. 'S MI NAM SHUIDH' AIR AN FHAOLINN

Traditional arrangement: Rebecca Mackay

Singer: Rebecca Mackay

This song is said to have been composed by Mac Gillie Chaluum's wet nurse, a witch, who had repented her part in his drowning.

2. MARGARET DUNCAN

Composed by William Ferguson#

MORAG RAMSAY

Composer: Peter R MacLeod

Musician: Pipe Major Norman Gillies, Ullapool

3. BEINN NA H-IOLAIRE

Composer: Steve Gwyn Davis

Musician: Steve Gwyn Davis on the soprano recorder

This is a new tune and named after a hill, north of Torran, Raasay

4. CUMHA MAC GILLIE CHALUIM, RATHARSAIR

Traditional arrangement: Barbara Smith

Singer: Barbra Smith

Another elegy to Iain Garbh. The song makes a reference to the Earl of Seaforth, Kintail, who had a residence in Lewis.

It, also, refers to Siòl Thorcuil, the MacLeod line from whom some Raasay MacLeods are descended. The tune and words are from the late James Campbell of Kintail, they are transcribed in *17th Century Gaelic Poetry*, edited by Meg Bateman;

5. MACLEOD OF RAASAY SALUTE

Composer: Angus Mackay, Gairloch

Musician: Pipe Major Alasdair Gillies, 1st Battalion, The Highlanders

PHOTOGRAPH: Rebecca Mackay

PRODUCER: Arthur Cormack for Macmeanma

RECORDED at: Raasay House, November 1996

COPYRIGHT: Urras Dualchas Ratharsair

The title of the album *An Talamh Brèagha* is derived from the name of an area of ground in Fearn, Raasay from which the photograph was taken. It means *The Fine Fertile Ground*.