Colorado Pipers
www.coloradopipers.com
Tradition - Pride - Friendship

Basic Highland Dance Tune List
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These settings and tunes are basic guidelines. Pipers may have various settings and or tunes for specific dances. These are typical tunes played in the past for the Rocky Mountain Highland Dancers. Also remember to work with the dancers to insure your selection will work for them prior to performances.

For the Strathspey and Highland Reel you may select from the tune list or play ones you know. Typically this is a 4 parted or 2 two parted Strathspey (64 bars) with a 4 parted or 2 two parted reels (32 bars). If they do a Strathspey and Half Tulloch you will add 2 more two parted reels (64 bars). If they do a Strathspey, Reel and Half Tulloch you would add yet another 2 more two parted reels (96 bars). The Reel of Tulloch would be 128 bars of reels or 8 two parted reels.

Most of the tunes will show the tempo, how many bars played for the intro and length of tune. Generaly these are written for 4 steps unless specified. Example: Highland Fling playing a 4 parted tune will be for a 4 step. If a 6 step is needed then an additional 32 bars would be added. Exsample: Marquis of Huntly (4 parted) and Captain Horn (2 parted).

The Sword Dance and Seann Triubhas may be played in different variations. Such as 2 slow and 1 quick or 3 slow and 1 quick. The Sword Dance is 16 bars per step and The Sean Triubhas is 8 bars per step. So what does that mean for the piper?

Example: Sword Dance - Tune Ghillie Callum - 2 slow and 1 quick would be played with a 4 bar intro then the slow played twice though (32 bars) then the quick once (16 bars).
Example: Sword Dance - Tune Ghillie Callum – 3 slow and 1 quick would be played with a 4 bar intro then the slow played 3 times (48 bars) then the quick once (16 bars).
Example: Sean Triubhas – Tune Whistle o’er the lave o’ it – 4 slow and 2 quick would be played with a 4 bar intro then the slow played with 32 bars or 4 parts, then the quick played with 16 bars or two parts.
Example: Sean Triubhas – Tune Whistle o’er the lave o’ it – 3 slow and 1 quick would be played with a 4 bar intro then the slow played with 24 bars or 3 parts, then the quick played with 8 bars or 1 part.

Confused? The best way to learn to play with Highland Dancers is to work with them. Listen to recordings and/or watch videos of other pipers playing for dancers.

Remember not to play for dancers if you have not mastered the tunes and play them perfectly without thinking.

Rocky Mountain Highland Dancers website: www.rmhd.org
Colorado Pipers website: www.coloradopipers.com
Highland Fling

The Marquis of Huntly's Highland Fling

Tempo 113-124 - 4 bar intro - 32 bars

Tune Substitution: Orange and Blue
Highland Fling
Tempo 113-124 - 4 bar intro - 32 bars

Orange and Blue

Tune Substitution: The Marquis of Huntly's Highland Fling
Captain Horne

The Devil in the Kitchen

Strathspeys
Tempo 119-125 - 4 bar intro - 64 bars

Strathspeys

Molly Connelly
Reels

Jock Wilson's Ball

High Road to Linton

The Piper of Drummond
Reel of Tulloch

Tempo 101 - 8 bar intro - 128 bars = 8 two parted reels
**Sword Dance**

Tempo Slow Time 105-118 - 4 bar intro - Typically 32 bars quick time 16 bars slow time

**Ghillie Callum**

Sword Dance - Slow Time

Pas de Basques - Intro 4 bars - 8 bars Typically First Line then Last - No Quick Time

Pas de Basques and High Cuts - Intro 4 bars - 16 bars - No Quick Time
Whistle o'er the lave o' it

Seann Triubhas

Traditional

Tempo 96-102 - 4 bar intro - Typically 32 bars Quick Time - 16 bars slow time

Seann Triubhas - slow Time - Tempo 96-102

Seann Triubhas - quick time Tempo 126-129
Irish Jig

Tempo 120-127 - 8 bar intro - 64 bars

Paddy's Leather Breeches
Irish Jig

Tempo 120-127 - 8 bar intro - 64 bars

The Duck
PM Donald MacLeod
Hornpipe

My Love She's but a Lassie Yet

Tempo - 94-103 - 8 bar intro - 64 bars
Barracks

High Road to Gairloch

Tempo 95 - 8 bar intro 64 bars
Highland Laddie

Tempo - 98 - 8 bar intro - 64 bars

A good follow up tune: A Man's A Man For A' That
Flora MacDonald's Fancy

Tempo 98-102 - 8 bar intro - 64 bars

Glendaruel Highlanders

Tune Substitution: The Atholl Highlanders
Blue Bonnets

All The Blue Bonnets Are Over The Border

Tempo - 96 - 8 bar intro - 64 bars
Village Maid

Tempo 94 - 8 bar intro - 64 bars

A Man's A Man For A' That
Scottish Lilt

Tempo 98-101 - 4 bar intro - 32 bars

Battle of the Somme

Tune Substitution: The Heights of Dargai
Scottish Lilt

The Heights of Dargai

Tempo 98-101 - 4 bar intro - 32 bars

Tune Substitution: Battle of Somme
Scotch Measure

Tempo - 81 - 8 bar intro - 64 bars

Teribus

Corriecholie's 43rd Welcome to the Northern Meeting
Scottish Country Dance

The Gay Gordons

J. Scott Skinner

Tempo 108-110 - 4 bar intro - 128 bars or played 4 times
Tribute to J.L. Mackenzie

Tempo 50-54 - 8 bar intro - 48 bars

Longueval