





Andrew Cronshaw

The the Beasts' returning



- 1 The Dark-haired Youth/Taladh ar Slanair
- 2 Freumh as Craobh Taigh Challadair (The Hawthorn Tree of Cowdor)
- 3 Wasps in the Woodpile
- 4 Turning the Tide
- 5 Alala de Castro/Ronda de Cuestacion
- 6 Seana Mheallan
- 7 Giullan nam Bo (The Cow Boy)
- 8 Our Captain Cried
- 9 Ho Ho Nighean Donn (Ho Ho brown maid)/
The First of May/The Prince of Wales' Jig
- 10 The Sarotoga Hornpipe
- 11 An Old Highland Air

Topic Records 1988
Produced & engineered by Andrew Cronshaw
at Ideal Sound Recorders
Sleeve designed by Andrew Cronshaw & Tony Engle
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The music

1 The Dark-haired Youth/Taladh ar Slanair

talla slanyer

Zither, chinese flute – Andrew Cronshaw

The second of these is a rowing or waulking song tune, converted to a hymn by Father Ranald Rankin sometime before 1855; the first is almost certainly a Gaelic air which found its way into ‘Kerr’s Merry Melodies’.

2 Freumh as Craobh Taigh Challadair

frev cruv tie

(The Hawthorn Tree of Cawdor)

Clavichord – Andrew Cronshaw

Violins (& string arrangement) Ric Sanders

3 Wasps in the Woodpile

Whistle – Andrew Cronshaw

Bass guitar – Ian Blake

Hammered dulcimer – Rosie Cross

Piccolo trumpet – Dave Clewlow

Violins – Mark Emerson, Laurie Harper

Electric guitar & lap steel – Martin Simpson

Alto sax – Lev Liberman

4 Turning the Tide

English concertina – Andrew Cronshaw

Violins (& string arrangement) – Ric Sanders

5 Alala de Castro/Ronda de Cuestacion

Zither/shawm – Andrew Cronshaw

Guitar – Steve Newman

Bass guitar – Rick Kemp

Piano – Ian Blake

Violins – Ric Sanders

6 Seana Mheallan

shenna vellan

Zither – Andrew Cronshaw

Bass guitar – Rick Kemp

Violins, (& string arrangement) – Ric Sanders

This appears in Ross’s collection as ‘An Old Highland Air, March’. To avoid confusion with track eleven, it hereby receives the name, which means ‘ancient, small lump’ of a hill I lived opposite for a couple of years. Night, a dog of great brain, considered it unworthy of her time, and would turn back, if a walk looked like it was heading that way.

7 Giullan nam Bo (The Cow Boy)

gioolan

Harmonica – Rory McLeod

Zither – Andrew Cronshaw

Violins, (& string arrangement) – Ric Sanders

8 Our Captain Cried

Vocal – June Tabor

Admirable restraint – everyone else

9 Ho Ho Nighean Donn (Ho Ho brown maid)/

neeun

The First of May/The Prince of Wales’ Jig

Shawm, whistle, cimbalom, zither - Andrew Cronshaw

Mandolin – Laurie Harper

Bass guitar – Ian Blake

Tambourine – Rosie Cross

Lap steel – Martin Simpson

Pedal steel – BJ Cole

Violins – Mark Emerson, Laurie Harper

This sequence is opened & closed by another tune with the feel of a *iorram*, from Mingulay according to the singer, Nan Mackinnon & dealing lyrically with the threats of a lecherous foster-father. The First of May is a hornpipe.

10 The Sarotoga Hornpipe

Steel pans – Andrew Cronshaw

Octave violin – Ric Sanders

Violin – Mark Emerson

Harmonica – Rory McLeod

Clarinet – Ian Blake

11 An Old Highland Air

Zither, whistle – Andrew Cronshaw

Trumpets, flugelhorn – Dave Clewlow

Violins – Ric Sanders

Strings & brass arranged by Ric Sanders, with Dave Clewlow, Mark Emerson & Laurie Harper.

Titling in italics isn’t true phonetic spelling, but might help with pronunciation.

Sources

All the tunes except ‘Turning the Tide’ are traditional. Thanks to the following for helping to pass them on. ‘Kerr’s Collection of Merry Melodies for the Violin’ for ‘The dark-haired youth, ‘Wasps in the Woodpile’ & ‘The Saratoga Hornpipe’.

Uilleam Ross, in his 1855 ‘Collection of Pipe Music’, for ‘An Old Highland Air’, ‘Seana Mheallan’ & ‘The Hawthorn Tree of Cawdor’ (which he has as ‘Cockabendie’) The Rev. P Donostia, in the 1954 edition of ‘The Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians’ for ‘Ronda de Cuestacion’.

Nan Mackinnon, Vatersay, via James Ross & Francis Collinson in the latter’s 1966 book ‘The National and Traditional Music of Scotland’, for ‘Ho Ho Nighean Donn’. Simon Fraser, and the collections of his father and grandfather, combined in the 1874 edition of his book ‘The Airs and Melodies Peculiar to the Highlands of Scotland and the Isles’, for ‘The Hawthorn Tree of Cawdor’ & ‘Giullan nam Bo’.

Father Ranald Rankin, via Margaret Fay Shaw in her book, ‘Folksongs and Folklore of South Uist’, 1955 for ‘Taladh ar Slanair’.

Singers and musicians in La Guardia, and the Coral de Ruada de Orense, for ‘Alala de Castro’.

Thanks to everyone, particularly Ric & Ian, for work above and beyond.