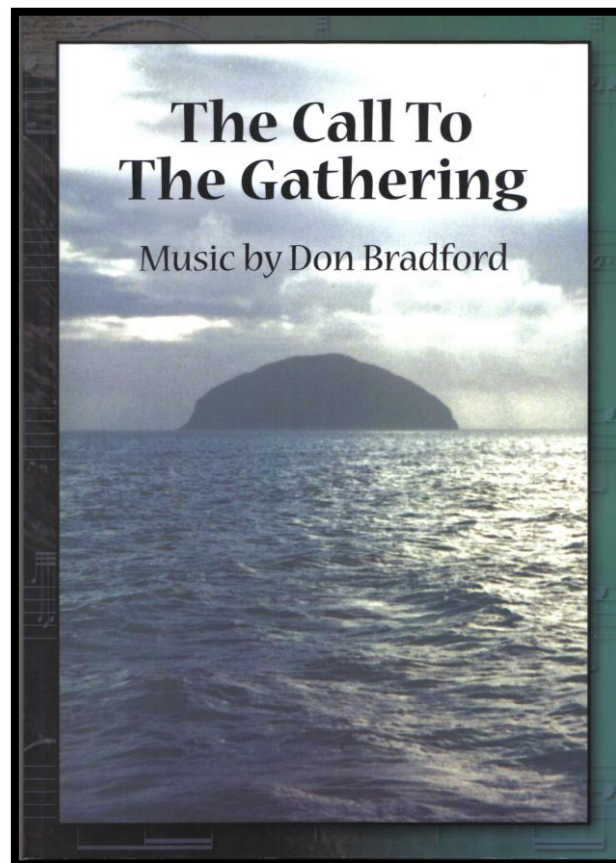


## BOOK REVIEW: THE CALL TO THE GATHERING by Don Bradford

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/>



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