

MIXTER MAXTER 36

The district of Assynt in south-west Sutherland is an area of extraordinary beauty. In 1992 the North Assynt Estate was purchased, after legal and philosophical battles, by a trust involving the existing crofters on the land.



Aurora Over Assynt (Rich Brighton)

I found this tune on YouTube, and slightly simplified it.



Musical score for 'Aurora Over Assynt' in 3/4 time. The score consists of three systems of two staves each. Chords are indicated above the notes.

System 1: Am, Dm, Am, C, E, Am

System 2: E, C, F, Dm, Am, C, F

System 3: Dm, Am, Am, E, Am, Bm, C

System 4: F, Bm, Dm, Am, Am

System 5: Dm, F, C

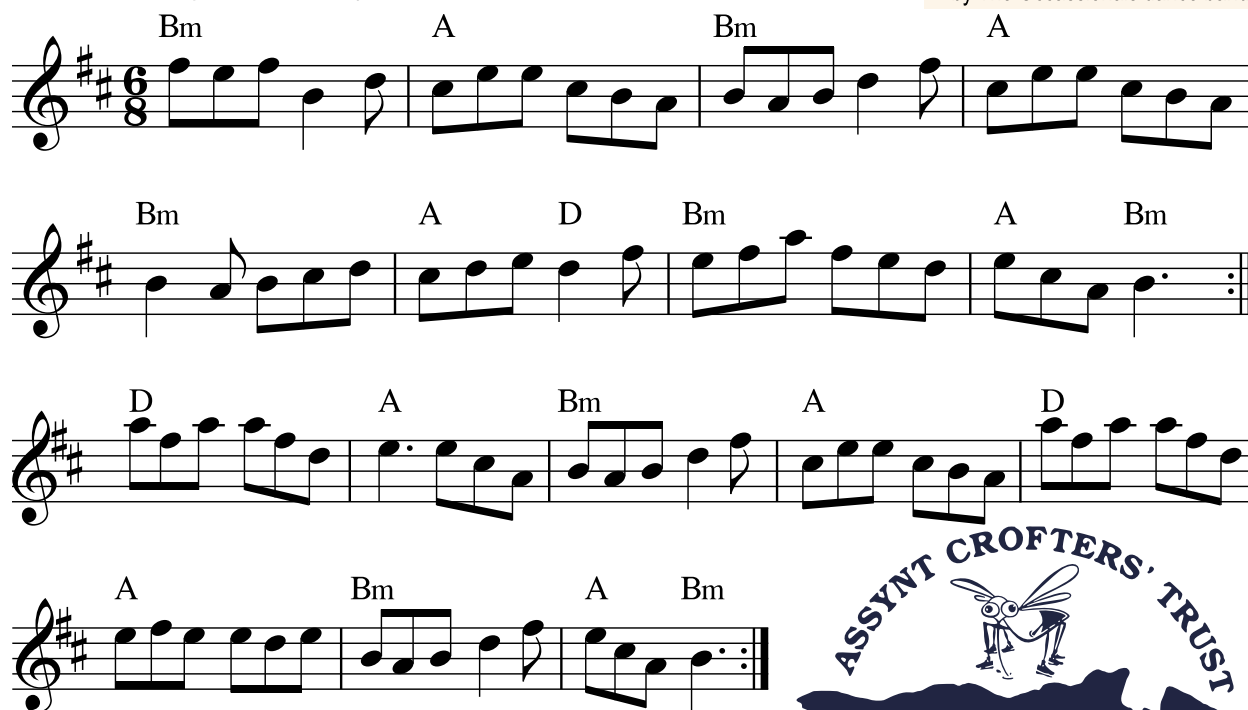
System 6: F, Dm, Dm, Dm

Composed by Rich Brighton when he "journeyed through the wild heart of the Scottish Highlands—an unforgettable adventure of misty lochs, ancient glens, and endless skies." He released an album from that experience called *Whispers of the Highlands* in 2025.

MM36-1

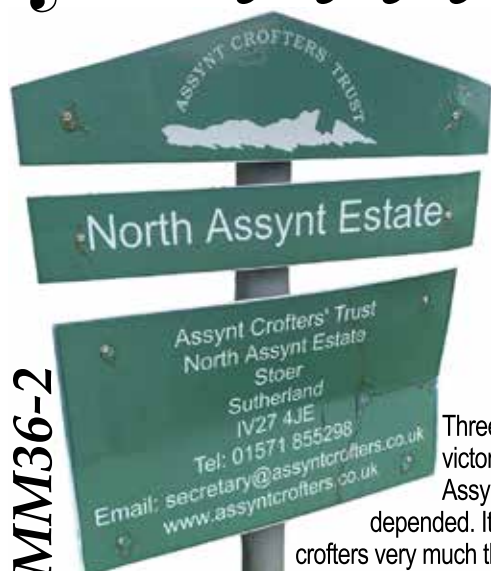
The Assynt Crofters (Malcolm Jones)

I got this tune from a 1992 recording by The Occasionals dance band.




Assynt Reclaimed (Lynn Morrison)

Composed by Lynn Morrison and recorded on a 1993 recording of the folk group Iron Horse.

Three tunes commemorating the battle and eventual victory of the Assynt Crofters who campaigned against Assynt landowners selling off the land on which they depended. It was seen as a David and Goliath struggle, the crofters very much the underdogs.



Nigel Gatherer's Workshops



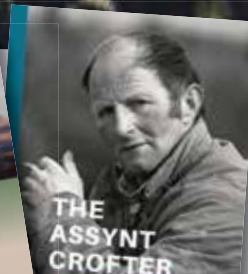
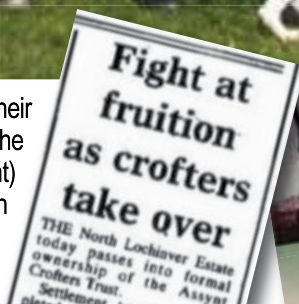
3

Assynt Crofters (Brian McNeill)

This tune was first published in
The Nineties Collection (1995)



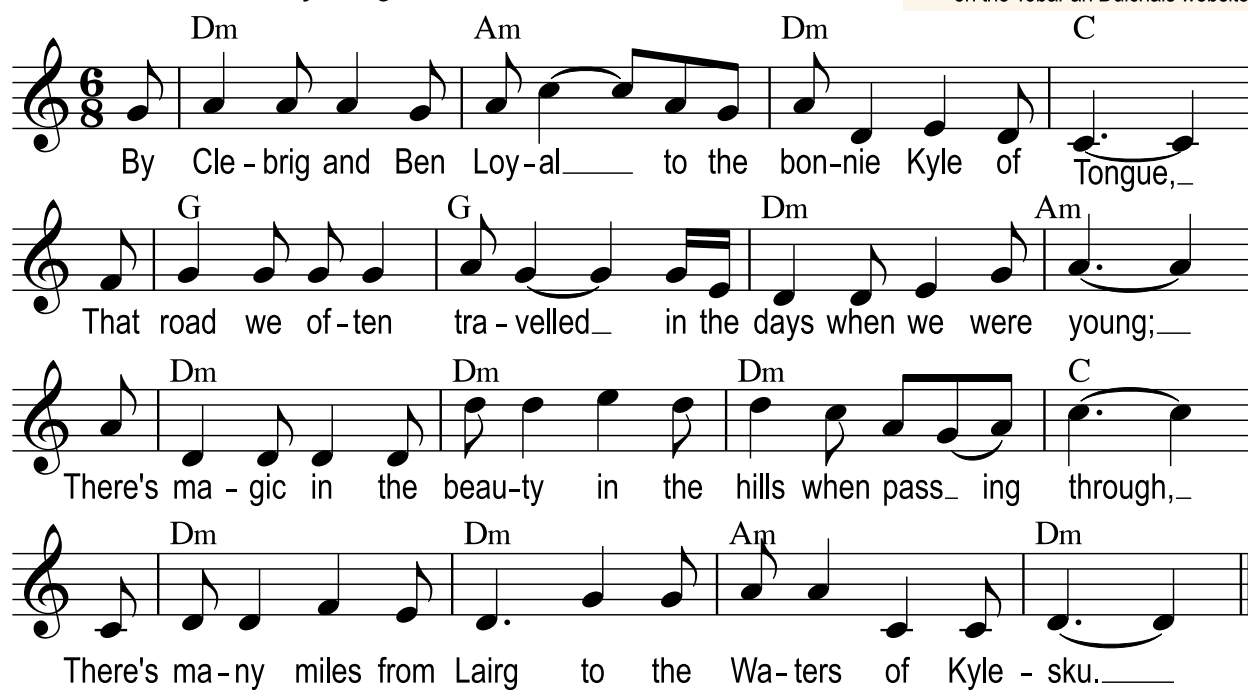
The Assynt Crofters eventually won their battle, raising £300,000 to purchase the North Lochinver (now North Assynt) estate in 1992. This led to the formation of The Assynt Crofters Trust who have managed the land since 1993.



MM36-3

The Waters of Kylesku (Alec Stewart)

I transcribed this song from a recording on the Tobar an Dulchais website.



By Cle - brig and Ben Loy - al to the bon - nie Kyle of Tongue, -

That road we of - ten tra - velled in the days when we were young; -

There's ma - gic in the beau - ty in the hills when pass - ing through, -

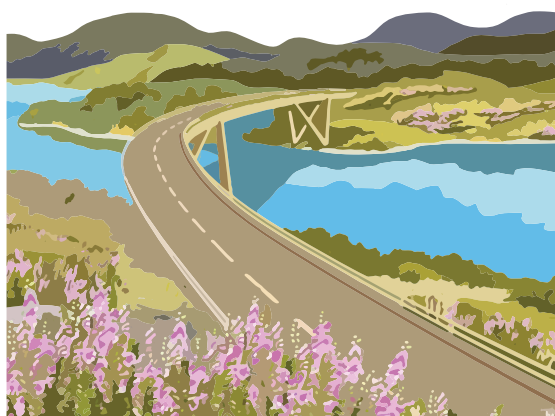
There's ma - ny miles from Lairg to the Wa - ters of Kyle - sku. -

- 1 By Clebrig and Ben Loyal to the bonnie Kyle of Tongue,
That road we often travelled in the days when we were young;
There's magic in the beauty in the hills while passing through,
There's many miles from Lairg to the Waters of Kyle - sku.

Ch O'er all of Bonnie Scotland I dearly love the west, its bens and glens in summer
surely are the best; for grandeur and for beauty in the hills when passing through,
There's many miles from Lairg to the Waters of Kyle - sku.

- 2 By Craggie Pool and Loyal, to the Coldbackie sands, I thought of them when
soldiering in far foreign lands. I dreamt
I saw the sunset on the hills of Cashel
Dhu, in fancy I was wandrin' by the
Waters of Kylesku.

Chorus

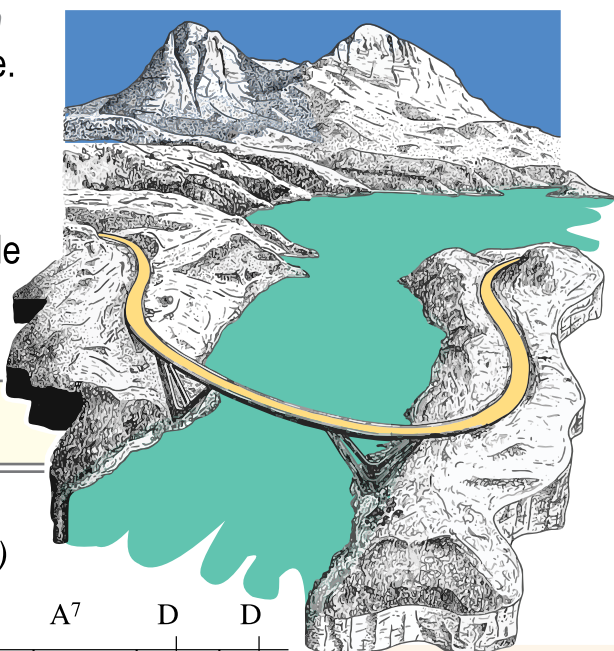


The Waters of Kylesku (continued)

3 There's beautiful Ach - fary on the shores of Loch More, when winter waves are
breaking like the sea from Skerrymore. By Laxford and Rhiconich to the bonny
Cave of Smoo, there's many miles from Merkland to the Waters of Kyle - sku.

Chorus

4 By Ledmore and Loch Assynt, from Loch - inver down to Stoer, you may view the
wild Atlantic from that wild, rocky shore.
The clear, sparkling rivers where the
salmon are not few, there's many a mile
from Oyckell to the waters of Kyle-sku.



Chorus

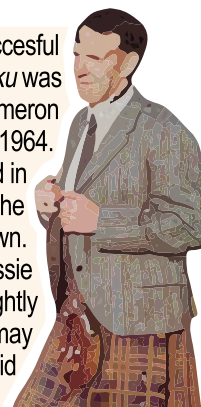
The Waters of Kylesku (trad)

I've known this version of the tune for many years.

The song *Waters of Kylesku* was recorded by Hamish Henderson in 1957 from 16-year-old Essie Stewart of Lairg. She told him that the song was written by her cousin Alec Stewart (1882-1969) after he came back from the army.

The first commercially successful version of *Waters of Kylesku* was released by Argo Cameron (1930-2020) in 1964.

A baker by trade, he lived in Bonar Bridge and worked at the Kyle Bakery in the town. It has a different tune from Essie Stewart's version, and slightly different words. The tune may have been composed by David Henderson.



Achmelvich Beach (Iain Fraser)

Musical score for *Achmelvich Beach* (Iain Fraser). The score is written for guitar in 4/4 time, featuring a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. Chords are indicated above the staff: D, D, Em, D, A, Em, D, D, Em, D, Bm, Em, D, D, F#, D, Em, Em, A, D, F#, Bm, D, G, D, Bm, Em, D.

Lochinver (J McIvor)

Musical score for *Lochinver* (J McIvor). The score is written for guitar in 4/4 time, featuring a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, A, A, A7, G, A, A, A, G.



Achmelvich Beach was part of a suite composed by Iain Fraser recorded in 2023. *Lochinver* is from *The Cowal Collection Book 2* (1912).

Nigel Gatherer's Workshops



John Morrison Esq of Assynt House (W Ross)

Sheet music for "John Morrison Esq of Assynt House" (W Ross). The music is in 4/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). The melody is written on a single staff. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, A, G, Em, G, A, A, G, Em, A, A, A, A, G, A. The music features a first and second ending. An image of the book cover "Pipe-Major W. ROSS'S HIGHLAND BAGPIPE MUSIC" is shown to the right.

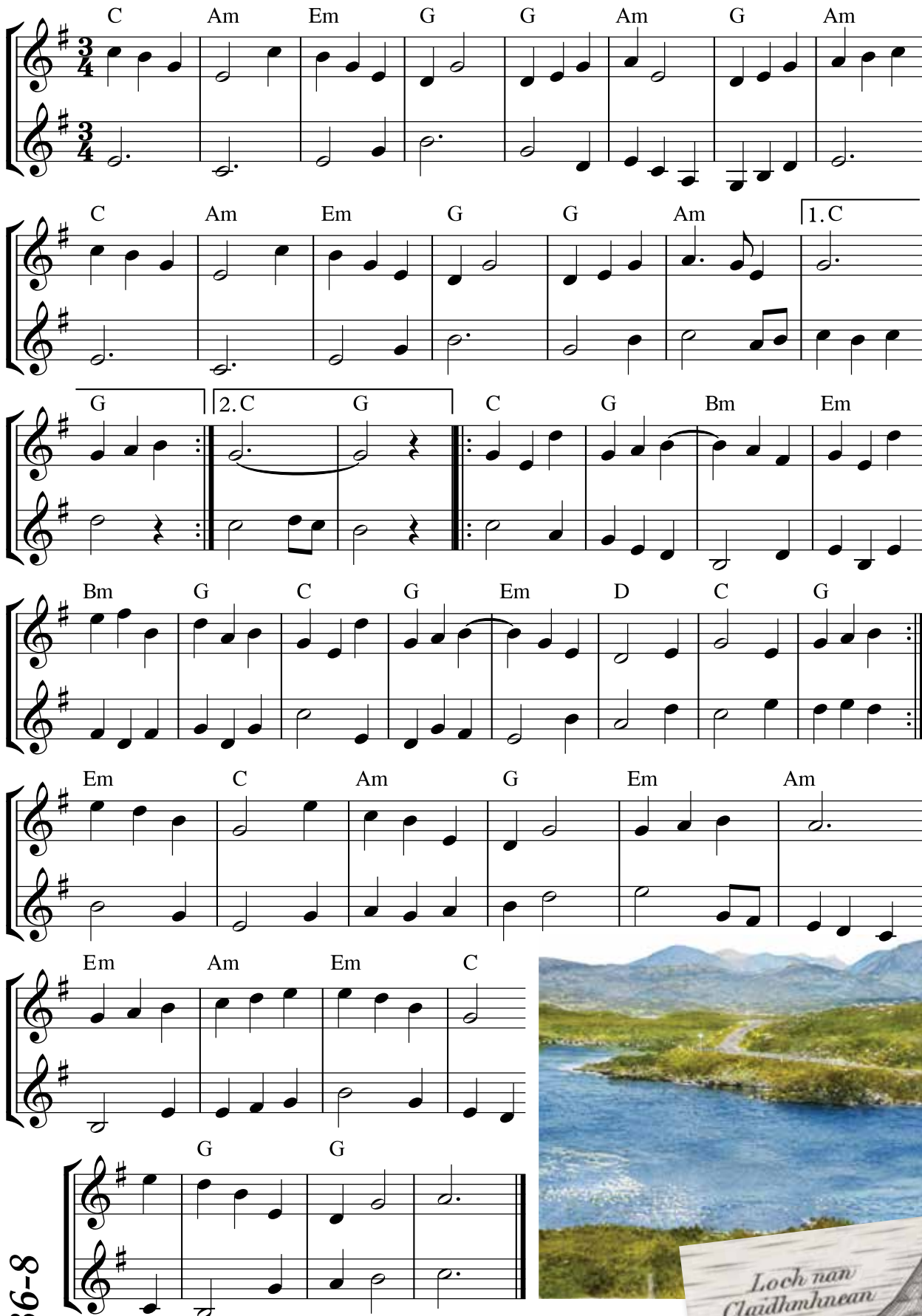
Assynt House (P MacLeod, arr. Gatherer)

Sheet music for "Assynt House" (P MacLeod, arr. Gatherer). The music is in 6/8 time, key of D major (two sharps). The melody is written on a single staff. Chords are indicated above the notes: A, Em, G, G, A, Em, A, G, A, A, A, G, G, A, Em, A, G, A. The music features a first and second ending. An image of the book cover "JOHN WILSON'S COLLECTION OF HIGHLAND BAGPIPE MUSIC BOOK 1" is shown to the left.



Two bagpipe tunes about the same person, John Morrison, founder of the Lewis Pipe Band in 1904. The second tune is actually a 4-part reel by Peter MacLeod Senior (1878-1964, left), also from Lewis. I have taken the sacrilegious move of turning it into a 2-part jig.

Loch nan Claidheamhan (Rachel Newton)



Chords: C, Am, Em, G, G, Am, G, Am, C, Am, Em, G, G, Am, 1. C, G, 2. C, G, C, G, Bm, Em, Bm, G, C, G, Em, D, C, G, Em, C, Am, G, Em, Am, Em, Am, Em, C, G, G.



Composed by Rachel Newton, the story goes that there was a battle between the men of Assynt and the men of Coigach for the ownership of Inverpolly. After Coigach were victorious, they threw their swords into Loch nan Claidheamhan.