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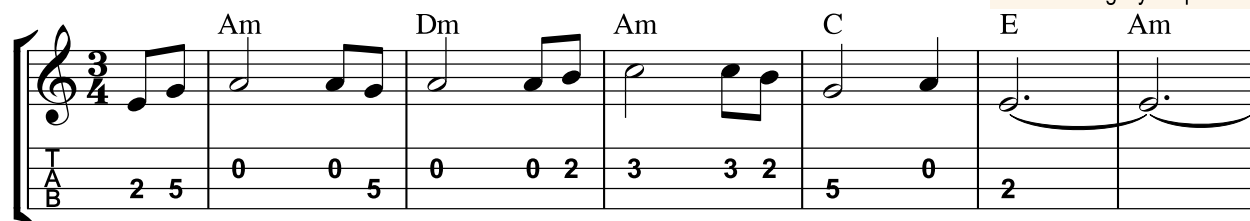
The district of Assynt in south-west Sutherland is an area of extraordinary beauty. In 1992 the North Assynt Estate was purchased, after legal and philosophical battles, by a trust involving the existing crofters on the land.



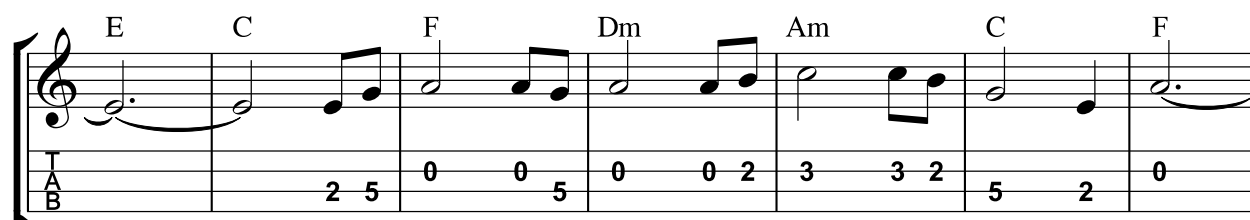
Aurora Over Assynt (Rich Brighton)

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

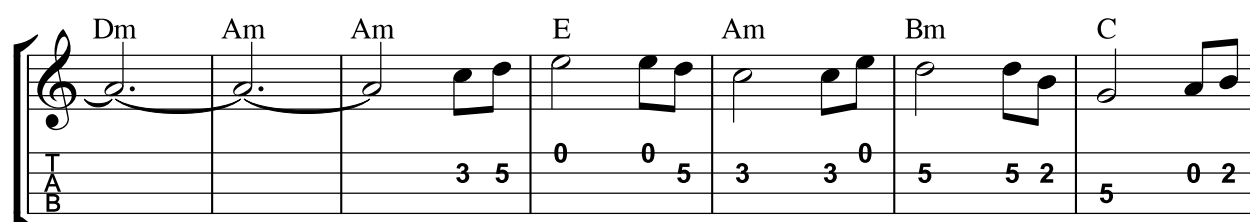
Am Dm Am C E Am



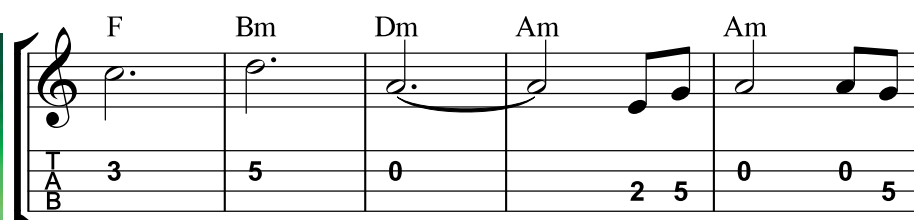
E C F Dm Am C F



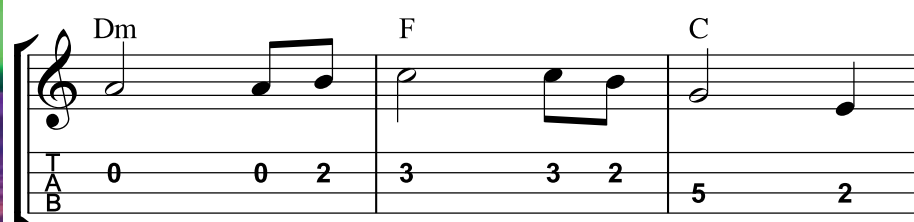
Dm Am Am E Am Bm C



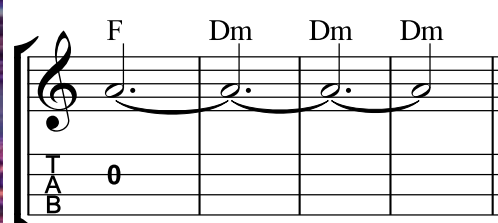

F Bm Dm Am Am



Dm F C



F Dm Dm Dm

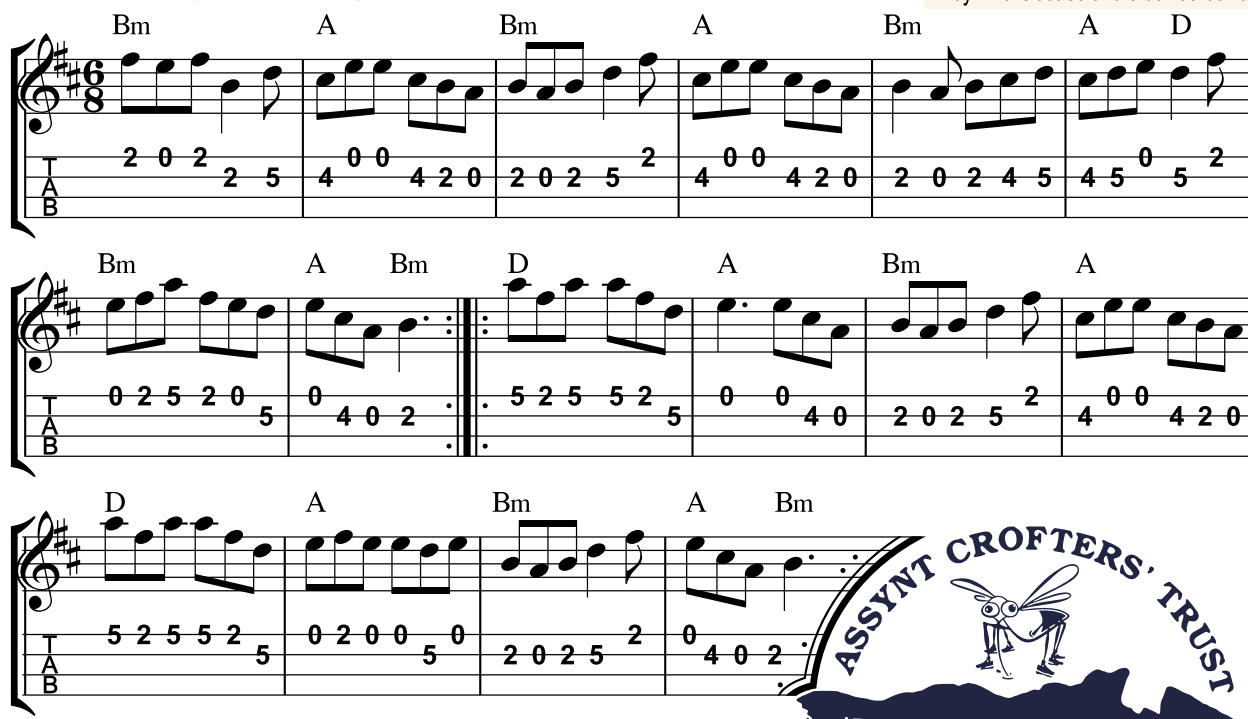


Composed by Rich Brighton when he "journeyed through the wild heart of the Scottish Highlands—an unforgettable adventure of misty lochs, ancient glens, and endless skies." He released an album from that experience called *Whispers of the Highlands* in 2025.

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



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Assynt Crofters (Brian McNeill)

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

Musical score for Mandolin in 4/4 time, key of A major (three sharps). The score consists of four systems of music, each with a treble clef staff and a bass staff for fretting. Chords are indicated above the staff: A, Bm, E, F#m, G.

System 1: A, A, Bm, Bm, E. Fretting: 0, 0 4 0 0 4 0, 2 0 4 0 2 5 0, 4, 2 5 2 2 5 0, 2 0 2 5 0, 4 2 4.

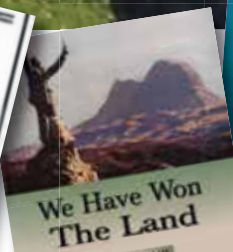
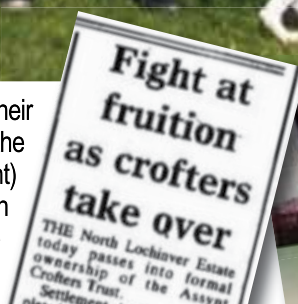
System 2: A, A, Bm, F#m, G, A. Fretting: 0, 0 4 0 0 4 0, 2 0 4 0 2 5 0, 4, 2 2 0 2 5 0, 4, 2 0 0.

System 3: A, A, A, G, A, G, A. Fretting: 4 0, 5 5 0 5 5 0, 5 0, 5 4 0 4 0, 2 6, 2 5 4 0 4 0, 5 2 5, 2 2 0, 4 0.

System 4: A, A, Bm, F#m, G, A. Fretting: 5 5 0 5 5 0, 5 0, 5 4 0 4 0, 2, 2 0 2 5 0, 4, 2 0 0.



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 Clebrig and Ben Loy al_ to the bonnie Kyle of Tongue, That road we often travelled_ in the

days when we were young; There's ma-gic in the beauty in the hills when pass_ ing through, There's

ma-ny miles from Lairg to the Waters of Kyle- sku._

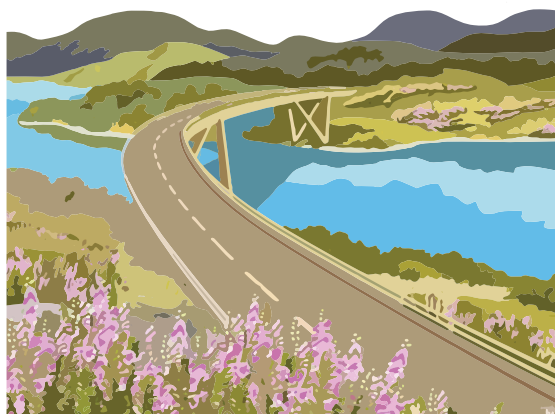


1 By Clebrig and Ben Loyal to the bonnie Kyle of Tongue, that road we often travelled in the days when we were young; there's magic in the beauty in the hills while passing through, there's many miles from Lairg to the Waters of Kylesku.

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

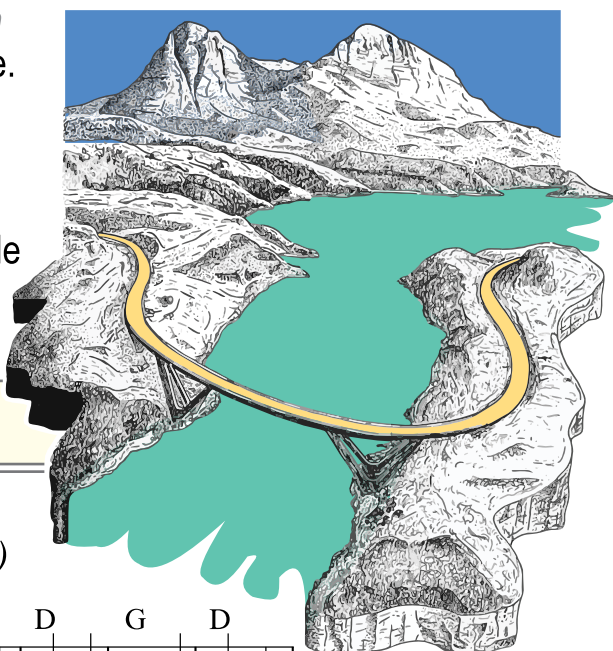


The Waters of Kylesku (continued)

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)

Musical notation for the song, showing chords and fingerings for the mandolin.

Chords: D, D, F#m, D, G, A7, D, D, D, G, D, Bm, F#m, Em, A7, A7, D, D, F#m, D, G, A7, D, D, D, G, Bm, G, D, G, D, A7, D, D.

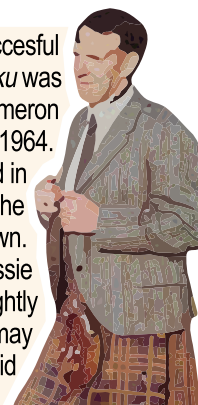
Fingerings: 0, 4, 2, 0, 4, 0, 0, 4, 0, 5, 5, 4, 2, 0, 4, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 4, 0, 4, 0, 0, 5, 4, 2, 0, 4, 0, 0, 4, 0, 5, 5, 4, 2, 0, 4, 0, 0, 2, 4, 5, 2, 0, 5, 4, 0, 4, 2, 0.

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 notation for *Achmelvich Beach* (Iain Fraser). The piece is in D major, 4/4 time. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a common time signature of 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff. The accompaniment is written on a second staff, showing fret numbers (0-5) and chord symbols (D, Em, A, Bm, G). The piece consists of 16 measures, ending with a repeat sign.

Lochinver (J McIvor)

Musical notation for *Lochinver* (J McIvor). The piece is in D major, 4/4 time. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a common time signature of 4/4. The melody is written on a single staff. The accompaniment is written on a second staff, showing fret numbers (0-5) and chord symbols (A, G, A7). The piece consists of 16 measures, ending with a repeat sign.



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

Loch nan Claidheamhan (Rachel Newton)

Mandolin sheet music for "Loch nan Claidheamhan" (Rachel Newton). The music is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of 16 measures, divided into two systems of eight measures each. The first system includes a first ending (1. C) and a second ending (2. C). The second system includes a third ending (3. C). The music is written for mandolin, with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Chords indicated above the staff:

- Measure 1: C
- Measure 2: Am
- Measure 3: Em
- Measure 4: G
- Measure 5: G
- Measure 6: Am
- Measure 7: G
- Measure 8: Am
- Measure 9: C
- Measure 10: Am
- Measure 11: Em
- Measure 12: G
- Measure 13: G
- Measure 14: Am
- Measure 15: Em
- Measure 16: Bm
- Measure 17: G
- Measure 18: C
- Measure 19: G
- Measure 20: Em
- Measure 21: D
- Measure 22: C
- Measure 23: G
- Measure 24: Em
- Measure 25: C
- Measure 26: Am
- Measure 27: Em
- Measure 28: Am
- Measure 29: Em
- Measure 30: Am
- Measure 31: Em
- Measure 32: C
- Measure 33: G
- Measure 34: G

First ending (Measures 15-16):

Second ending (Measures 17-18):

Third ending (Measures 29-30):



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.