

LESSON 4

SCOTS WHA HA'E – First Measure



The above is the first part, or 'measure' as it is called, of *Scots Wha Ha'e Wi' Wallace Bled* (*Scots Who Have With Wallace Bled*), or *Bruce's Address to His Troops At Bannockburn*.



Read the first bar aloud, and then try playing it slowly and carefully on the chanter. Repeat it many times then try the other bars in the same way.

The particular points to note are:

Bar 1 Be sure you make the strike on F cleanly and follow it with a G gracenote.

Bar 3 Watch for E to D crossing noises.

Bars 5, 6 and 7 as bars 5, 6 and 7 of the first measure.

Bar 8 Be sure to give the final low A its full two beat value.

Copy this measure into your manuscript book, and, as before, continue practising from your own copy. Remember to play each part twice, and keep in mind the various points mentioned above.

The original name for the air to which Robert Burns put the words *Scots Wha Ha'e* was, so far as can be traced, *Hey Tuttie Tattie*. The melody, like that of many of Burns' songs, was recorded only in instrumental collections before he discovered it. Apparently only unprinted words had been set to it until that time.

Burns found a strong tradition in Scotland, particularly around Stirling, that this had been the tune played for Bruce's troops on their march to Bannockburn. The words composed by him are supposed to be Bruce's address to his men before the battle.

When the Bard presented the song for publication, the publisher's expert advisers commented that the words were too good for the music, and suggested an alternative tune.

This Burns reluctantly agreed to, against his own firm opinion that the melody was of high excellence. After his death the original tune was published with the words and the poet's judgement was amply justified by the universal acclaim with which they were received.