

The main differences arise in the timing of the ground, the pointing of the siubhal, and the opening section of the first variation as illustrated in the examples below :

Donald MacDonald's closing bars in Ground of Donald Gruamach



Opening of Donald MacDonald's Var.1



[MacDonald has C at end of phrase but this is an obvious misprint]

Angus MacKay, and the Nether Lorn begin variation one like this

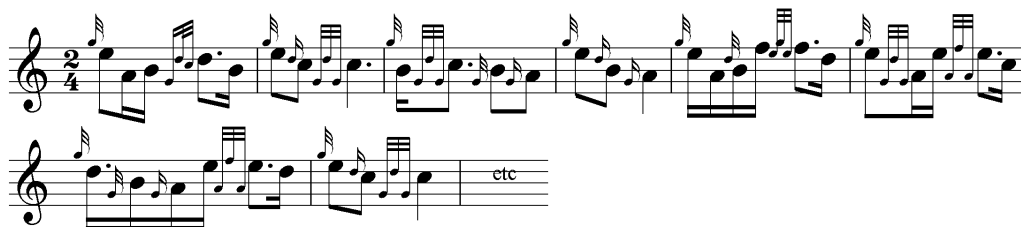


MacDonald Ground bars 3 & 4



[Note the B at end of bar 3 and whenever this figure occurs throughout Ground]

Opening sequence of Ground in Angus MacKay's MS



Siubhal: MacKay plays 'up'

Mac Donald plays 'down'



Donald Gruamach from John MacDougall Gillies's MS Book, ff.91-2

The musical score consists of ten staves of music. The first five staves represent the main melody, with various ornaments (sharps and slurs) above the notes. The sixth staff is labeled "Var. 1st" and shows a variation of the melody. The seventh staff is labeled "Var 2nd" and shows another variation. The eighth and ninth staves are labeled "etc" and show further variations. The tenth staff is labeled "etc" and shows a final variation. The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 6/8. The music is written in a style characteristic of Scottish Piobaireachd.

Follows a note indicating that a taorluath and crunluath should be played

Of the later published settings, Donald MacPhee shows an attractive ending to the first line of the ground, as follows:

Donald MacPhee, ground, line 1, bars 5-6, Collection of Piobaireachd, (i, 46)



Bar six is a single little decorative gesture, not repeated elsewhere in the ground, or in the tune.

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