

The Barren Rocks of Aden--Ronald MacKenzie's setting

March

The image displays a musical score for a march titled "The Barren Rocks of Aden" by Ronald MacKenzie. The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of eight staves of music. The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The music features a strong, rhythmic character typical of a march. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots at the end of the eighth staff.

***The Barren Rocks of Aden*** (from previous page): This march is given here in the unusual and attractive setting preserved in the papers of Ronald MacKenzie, nephew and musical heir of John Bàn MacKenzie. The dominant modern setting ultimately traces back to James Scott Skinner who gave it a catchy third and fourth part, although these are seldom played today by pipers. The main melody itself passed into general circulation, and was sung by children to the words “We’ll awa’ to the tarry rocks, to the tarry rocks, to the tarry rocks”, the concept of barren rocks having little meaning for imaginative kids to whom the North Sea shore was a wonderful playground.

