

Archie McKinley--alternative version

Retreat air



**Archie McKinley:** alternative version. This very attractive piece by Archie Duncan won a tune composing competition back in the 1970s and did much, along with “The Argylls’ Entry into Crater” (with which it goes very well) to foster the vogue for retreat airs in 9/8 time. A particular episode illustrates the way the tradition works and the music grows and changes. It was about twenty years before the tune began to figure in the published collections and we knew it only in the broadcast version. So, Ian Duncan evolved this version from partial memory, effectively re-creating the tune as he did so since there was at that stage no “original” against which it could be checked. I played this version for many years thereafter. It could be combined with Archie Duncan’s account of the tune to make a four parted piece, perhaps.



*Ian Duncan playing for the dancing*