

Banjo Breakdown

Hornpipe

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "Banjo Breakdown" and "Hornpipe". The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of 12 staves of music. The notation is primarily in treble clef, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together in groups, and includes various rests and repeat signs. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The music is organized into measures, with some measures containing multiple notes beamed together. There are several repeat signs (double bar lines with dots) throughout the score, indicating sections that are repeated. The overall style is that of a traditional folk or dance tune.

**Banjo Breakdown** (from previous page): I've set this the way we used to play it at Aberdeen University. It first appeared in a four part setting in *Henderson's Collection* (1888) arranged by Pipe-Major Robert Hall of the Volunteer outfit the Glasgow Highlanders (themselves the dedicatees of one of the most famous and lovely strathspeys), and in a different setting, also in four parts, in David Glen's *Edinburgh Collection* (1903-8), with the title "The Yankee" (although Glen's part endings are awkward; the modern way does it much better). It was later published in jig time in John MacFadyen's collection (1966), arranged by Donald MacLeod. I have heard an English country band play a version in a pre-Great War recording under the title "Boscastle Breakdown", indicating it is one of those pieces widely known and played throughout Anglo-American tradition. The motifs lend themselves to a multitude of improvised, or semi-improvised variation possibilities, many more indeed than appear here. The tune enjoyed a considerable vogue during the later 1960s but when we expressed our enthusiasm about it to Bob Brown and Bob Nicol under the impression that it was a new tune, we got no encouragement. They just snorted "oh *that thing*. Ach, we were playin' that before ye were born."

## PIPERS OF THE PAST AND PRESENT

### AN INTERESTING GROUP



Pipe-Major John MacColl, Oban.



Group of Champion Pipers, including Pipe-Majors William Ross, Alick Mathieson, Colin Thomson, Roderick Campbell, John MacDonald, William Gray, William Taylor, Andrew MacDonald, Murdo MacKenzie, James Gordon, John Stewart, J. Ewing, Robert Meldrum, Bailie Donald MacLeod, Lieut. John MacLennan, James Campbell (King's Piper), John MacGregor Murray, J. Selby, Piper M. Beattie, Duncan MacDonald, Angus MacPherson.




Pipe-Major William Robb, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.



Piper John Ban MacKenzie (Piper to Marquis of Breadalbane).



Pipe-Major Angus MacRae, Callander, P.M. Scottish Horse.



Angus MacPherson and his son, Malcolm MacPherson, Invershin, Sutherland.



Pipe-Major Ronald MacKenzie (late Seaforth's), Piper Gordon Castle.

Five generations have now competed at the Northern Meeting.

*Pipers of the Past and Present, from the Oban Times about 1930*