

The Dark Hours of the Night

March

The image shows a musical score for a march titled "The Dark Hours of the Night". The score is written in treble clef with a 2/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The music is a single melodic line. The second staff continues the melody. The third staff includes a repeat sign at the beginning. The fourth and fifth staves are marked with "1." and "2." respectively, indicating first and second endings. The score concludes with a double bar line.

The Dark Hours of the Night: This tune was given to me at her home in Woodside by Lizzie Higgins's Uncle Isaac. Isaac Higgins said it was given him by his father, who got it from his father, who was taught it by an Elemental in the woods of Fintry, near Dyce in Aberdeen. After this he came back to their encampment "fair delerit" in the Scottish phrase, and could not rest, and played it day and night for forty eight hours on end. The tune was published in three parts with the title "Duke of Sutherland's March" in the "Poetry and Music" section (written by Henry Whyte and Malcolm MacFarlane) of Adam Gunn and John Mackay, eds., *Sutherland and the Reay Country* (Glasg., 1897), p.316. It is also in David Glen's *Highland Bagpipe Music* vol. 7, once again in three parts, and with the title "The Braes of Busby" given as an alternative.

The Dark Hours of the Night (continued from previous page) Lizzie had earlier described “The Ruffian’s Rant” as having been learned by Donald Stewart from an elemental in Cothal Woods, a fairy woman called Christine; and that he had played it on the chanter with great excitement all night. She told the folklorist David Buchan, who was recording her at the time at my house in Aberdeen, “leave it, David, it’s unholy: it’ll pit ye aff yer heid.” “The Ruffian’s Rant” is an 18th century tune which was used by Burns; it is basically a variant of “Roy’s Wife of Aldivalloch”, a song recorded by Lizzie’s mother, Jeannie Robertson



Cothal on the River Don from the old kirk of St. Fergus, Dyce