



Dances from the Collections of

**Mary
Isdale
MacNab**



Volume 2

Music by the Muriel Johnstone Ensemble



Mrs MacNab (nee Mary Isdale) was born in Govan and emigrated to Canada in 1907. She taught highland dancing and, encouraged by some old highland ladies in Vancouver to learn some of the dances they knew as children, collected dances outside the standard competition repertoire. Most of her collecting, which was mainly from visiting teachers, was done in the 'twenties but she collected the Hebridean weaving lift as late as 1946.

Many of her dances were step-dances, including sword-dances and a magnificent dirk-dance. Others, including many on these CDs, were the sort that a highland teacher would display at his or her annual concert, and once Mrs MacNab's school became established she used them for her own concerts, reconstructing them from her brief notes, her memory, and her feel for the kind of movement that is a valid part of Scottish tradition.

These dances were for various numbers of couples, mostly in square or longwise formation, but using three sides of a square in some, half a square in one, and in McNeil of Barra a formation that represents a ship. This dance is clearly a rediscovery of An long Bharrach (the Barra ship), thought to have been lost. The dances vary from some with plenty of highland stepping, through The Braes of Balquhiddy, with a sporadic highland schottische and the Earl of Errol's reel with only balance, polka and pas-de-basque, to the stately waltz-quadrille Kelvingrove.

In 1948 Mrs MacNab taught four of her dances at the RSCDS summer school, adding much-appreciated variety to country-dancers' repertoire. The RSCDS published them and others later, ending with the books from which the dances in these CDs are taken.

Mrs MacNab died in 1966, leaving many gaps that will not be filled, but her dances will remain a fitting memorial.

Hugh Thurston

The dances on this C.D. are those contained in Volume 2 of the books "Scottish Dances collected by Mary Isdale MacNab" published by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. The music played is as published in the book with the following exception; for McNeil of Barra, "Cameron's Got his Wife Again" replaces "Because He Was a Bonnie Lad" which is used for the dance of that name in Volume 1.

As in Volume 1 the sets provide a variety of exciting musical arrangements including again the lovely singing of Gillin Anderson for Moulin Dhu.

1. **BONNIE ANNE** Jig (96 bars)
The Glendaruel Highlanders
2. **BRIG O' DOON** Strathspey (96 bars)
Banks of Clyde; MacKenzie Hay
3. **JEANNIE O' THE WITCHIN' E'E** Jig (8x40 bars)
Original; Mrs. Maule of Panmure's Favourite;
Lady Harriet Montague's Favourite; The Maid of Craigmaddie
4. **LAIRD O' DOCHART'S REEL** Jig (1x80 bars)
Original
5. **LAIRD O' DOCHART'S REEL** Jig (2x80 bars)
Grace Hay's Delight; Original
6. **THE LERWICK REEL** Strathspey (128 bars)
Bonny Bridge; Blin' Jamie
7. **LOCHANSIDE 3/4** Time (72 bars)
Original; Lord Buchan; Kinfauns House
8. **MACLEOD OF DUNVEGAN** Reel (136 bars)
Original; Miss Rattray
9. **MCNEIL OF BARRA** Medley (48S + 64R + 32 bars finale and exit)
Cameron's Got His Wife Again; The Kilt Is My Delight
10. **MOULIN DHU - THE BLACK MILL** (120 bars)
Larach do Thacaidean; Stocainnean daoimean
11. **OVER THE DEE AND OVER THE DON** Jig (32 entry + 88bars + 32 finale)
The Cock of the North; Hills of Glenorchy
12. **ROTHESAY AT THE FAIR** (Reel 240 bars)
Mount Stewart House; Polly Stewart
13. **THE ROYAL SALUTE** Reel (112 bars)
The Visit; Kilecrankie; Drum House
14. **ROUKEN GLEN** Strathspey (72 bars)
The Caledonian Society of London
15. **ST. ANDREWS CROSS** Reel (136 bars)
The East Neuk o' Fife; O'er the Muir to Ketty

All arrangements
Muriel Johnstone
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