

Conclusion

How can we provide the correct context for the revitalization of the Piobaireachd tradition?

- Abolishing the Set Tunes is in my view the best long-term answer to this question. Immediately this would narrow the canonical repertoire, but in the long-term, would open up not just new composition, but crucially, would encourage much greater diversity in performance style.
- Abolition would necessitate submission of scores as well as tune titles, but this could be managed online, focusing upon non-standard sources.
- Other musical traditions demonstrate that opening up repertorial canons is generally not a threat, but a benefit in encouraging new performers and enthusiasts.
- The abolition of the set tunes would encourage composition of Piobaireachd as individual composers felt that they may have a chance to hear their tunes played.
- Devolving the make-up of the music committee would be a first step towards a more outward-facing and flourishing Piobaireachd tradition.
- New compositions and free choice would encourage competitors to listen to other tunes, and to see past the placings.