14 January 2015

John Pentland Esq MSP
Convener
Petitions Committee
Scottish Parliament
Holyrood
Edinburgh

Dear Mr Pentland,

I write in connection with the report in today's Scotsman about your Committee's recent deliberations on the question of an official Anthem for Scotland and enclose for your interest, and possible consideration, an effort of my own in this regard. I shall be grateful for your patience as I make one or two points.

The tune that I have discovered and adopted is one of high musical pedigree, being an arrangement (1903) by the great Paderewski of a piece by a composer called Esipof.(I have made a few minor adaptions). With proper performance by a military band with organ, choir and pipes it would hold its own with the best of national anthems, being not at all dissimilar to the tunes of the USA and Wales. The words speak for themselves and I would hope that they would fit in with your declared personal preference for something forward-looking.I certainly do not think that they would raise objection anywhere: many would.I think.like the idea of our Anthem giving Remembrance central recognition.

It is arguably a mistake to think in terms of abandoning "Flower of Scotland" - it will probably be sung regardless. What is wanted is something additional that better serves the formal occasion -including the beginning of sporting events. "Flower of Scotland" could still be sung at matches as a "secondary" anthem, just as England sing "Swing Low" and Wales sing "Guide Me" - with time telling how things resolve themselves.

"PRO PATRIA"

("For one's country"- Horace Ode III,ii.13)

CONTENTS

Words with notes on words	Page 1
Tune	Pages 2 and 3
Notes on music	Page 4
Orchestral interlude	Page 5
Appendix (for pipes)	Page 6

WORDS

Verse 1

Dear land of the Saltire blazoned wide cross the sky -
Yours a proud, lasting legacy from days now gone by!
In our turn may we leave you a rich Destiny
With friendship, broad tolerance, humane dignity.

Verse 2

In tears oft remembered, humbly honoured with pride -
All who fought in our service and selflessly died.
Such a price for our future and so early paid!
Let gratitude never cease nor memory fade.

Verse 3

Now forward with courage to fight for the right!
Now forward committed to a future lit bright!
We are close-bound forever by joy that we share -
Our love of fair Scotland, home beyond compare.

NOTES ON WORDS

a "Saltire blazoned wide cross the sky". The reference is to a legendary 9th/10th century battle when the Scots combined with the Picts to defeat King Athelstane of Northumbria (unfortunately not counting as a much-needed victory for Scotland against England as it pre-dated both Scottishness and Englishness!)The battle took place at Athelstaneford in East Lothian and is commemorated each year by a special service held at a memorial erected by the Saltire Society in Athelstaneford Churchyard. Legend has it that the Scots and Picts were fearful of defeat until they saw a St Andrews Cross form in the sky, naturally taking this as a promise of divine help towards victory. On this occasion the divine promise was honoured, giving rise to the adoption of the Saltire as Scotland's national flag.

b "Destiny".The concept of Destiny was strong in early Scottish history, eg The Stone of Destiny : the Doctrine of Predestination at the time of the Reformation.

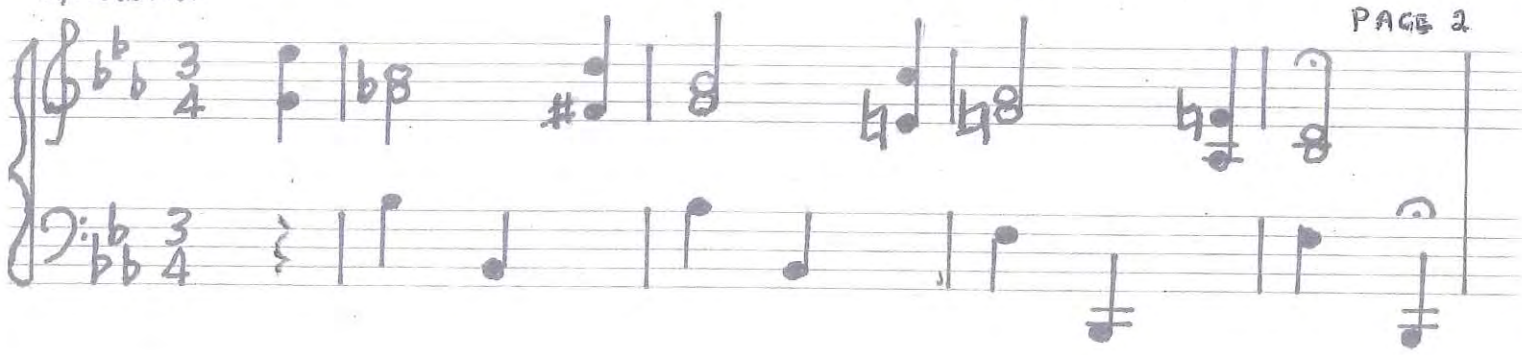
c Verse 1, lines 3 and 4. These reflect the view that a country's richness is a matter of its moral commitment rather than its economic wealth or military strength.

d Verse 2. Scots deaths in fighting since, say, 1914 are as much to be honoured as those in medieval wars.

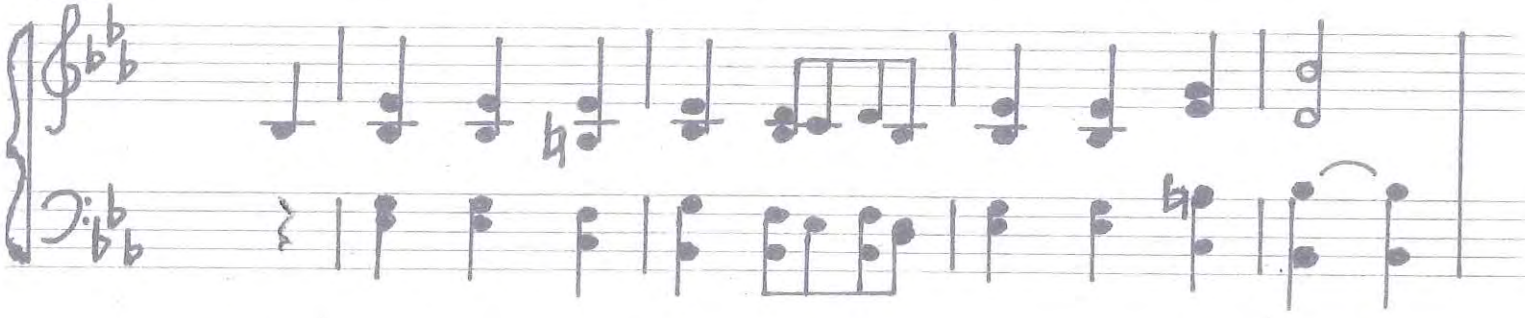
e "fight for the right". Not just a military concept. It lies at the heart of political thought and social conscience.

TUNE

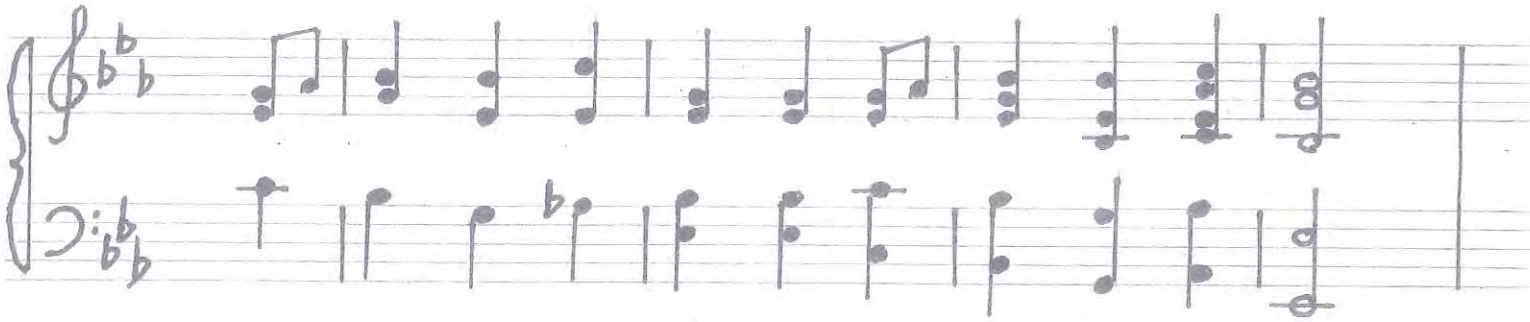
INTRODUCTION



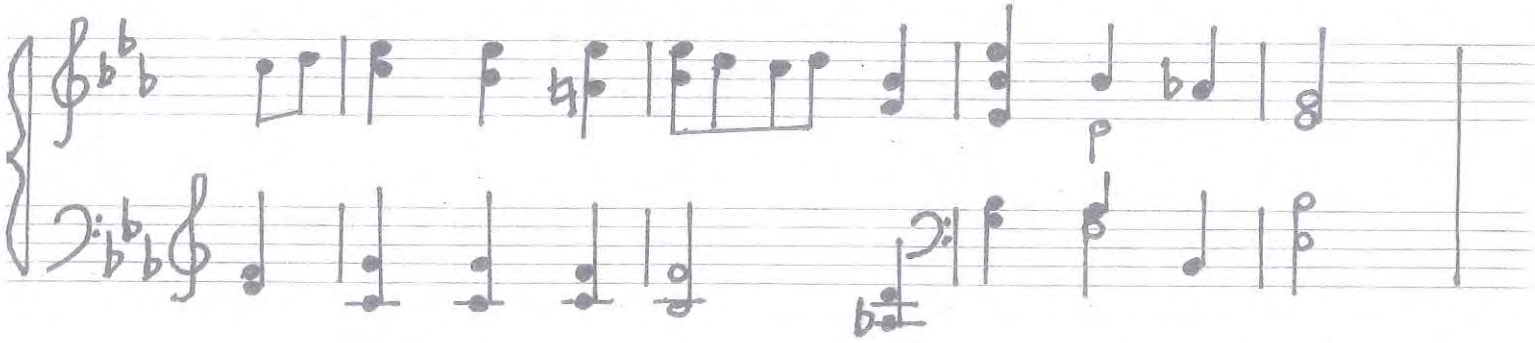
VERSES



1 DEAR LAND OF THE SALTIRE BLAZONED WIDE CROSS THE SKY—
2 IN TEARS OFT RE^MEMBERED, HUMBLY HON^OURED WITH PRIDE—
3 NOW FOR^WARD WITH COURAGE TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT!

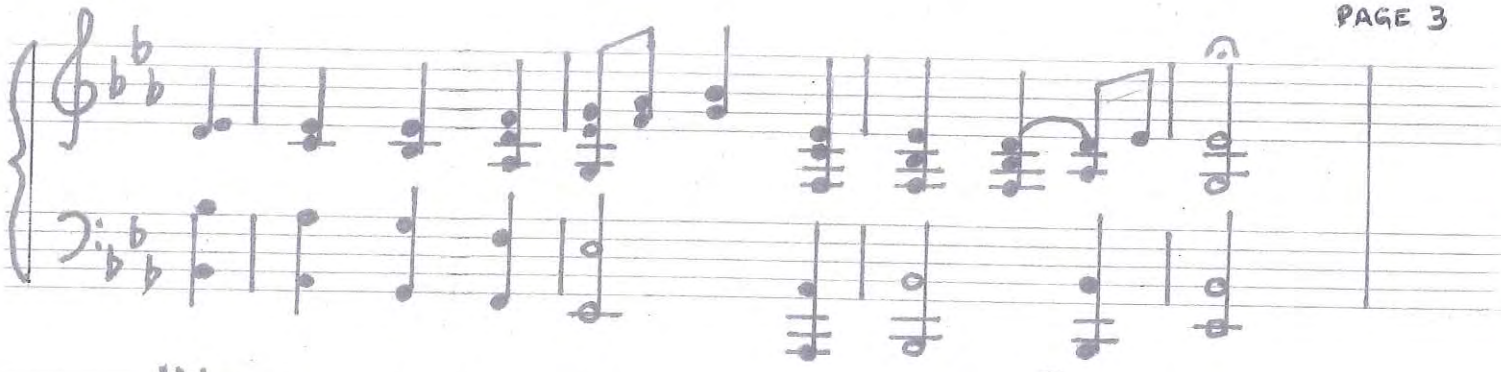


1 YOURS A PROUD, LAST ING LE^GA^CY FROM DAYS NOW GONE BY!
2 ALL WHO FOUGHT IN OUR SER^VICE AND SEL FLESS LY DIED.
3 NOW FOR^WARD COM^MIT^TED TO A FUTURE LIT BRIGHT!



1 IN OUR TURN MAY WE LEAVE YOU A RICH DES^TI^NY
2 SUCH A PRICE FOR OUR FUTURE AND SO EA RLY PAID!
3 WE ARE CLOSE-BOUND FOR^EV^ER BY JOY THAT WE SHARE—

OVER



1 WITH FALENDSHIP, BROAD TOLERANCE, HUMANE DI⁀G NI TY.
2 LET GRATI TUDE NEVER CEASE NOR ME⁀MO⁀RY FADE.
3 OUR LOVE OF FAIR SCOT LAND, HOME BE⁀YOND COM PARE.

NOTES ON MUSIC

1 Tune

The tune is an arrangement by Paderewski, published in 1903, of a piece by Esipof - with minor adaptation by myself.

2 Ordinary use

This would involve simply the three verses with, or without, introductions. Pipes could be added as in the Appendix.

3 Concert situation

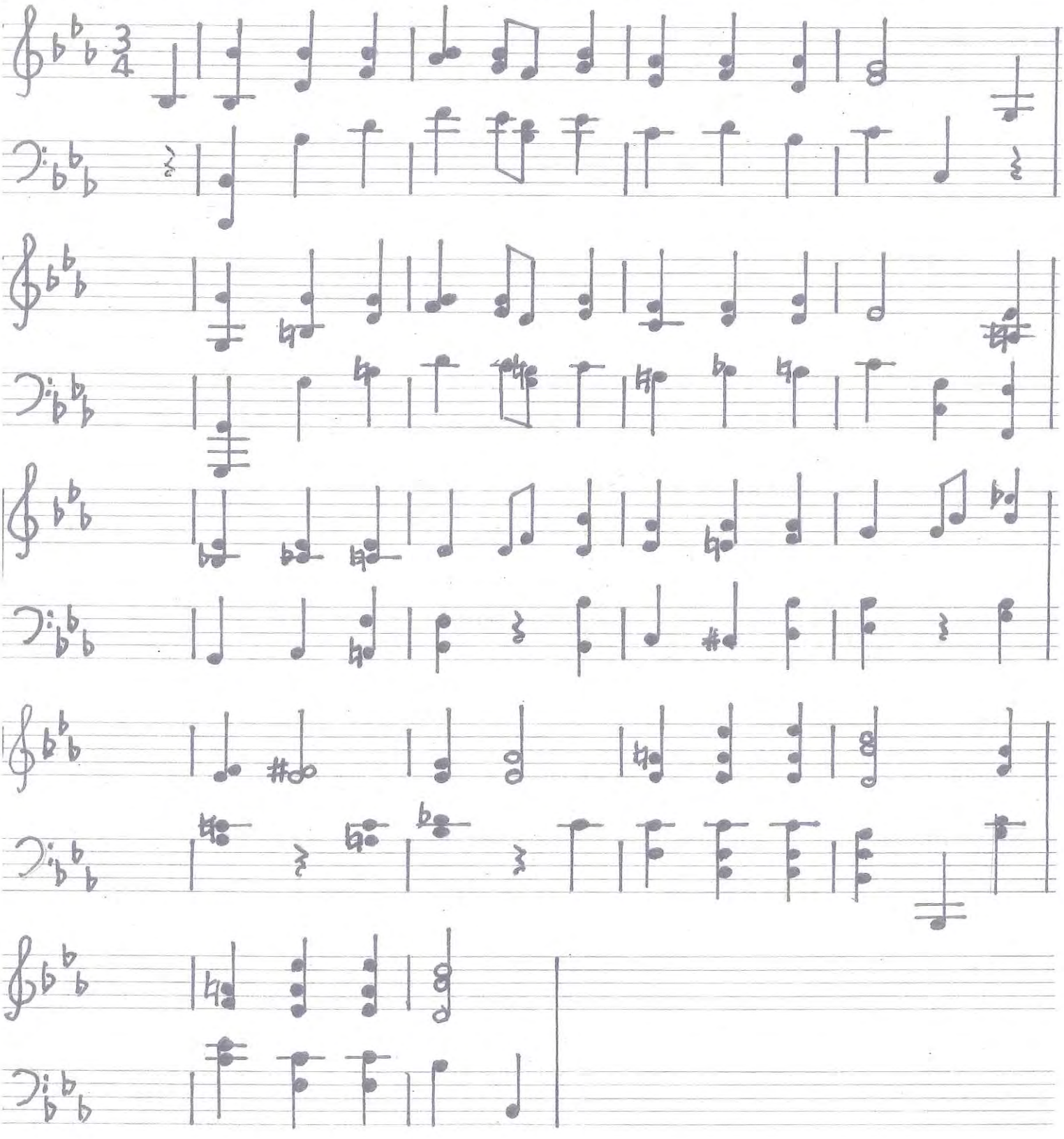
Here there would be advantage in including the following Section (also Paderewski/Esipof) as an orchestral interlude between verse 2 and the introduction to verse 3. This would give time for reflection on verse 2 and provide a fine build-up to verse 3, thus adding greatly to the occasion.

4 Pipes

Although the Pipes cannot accomodate the full range of the melody line they could play a slightly amended line effectively with orchestra or band and a possibility for this is given in the Appendix.In the concert situation mentioned above there would be some attraction in bringing on the pipers during the musical interlude, ready to play with verse 3. This would increase the build-up of emotion and add colour to the event.

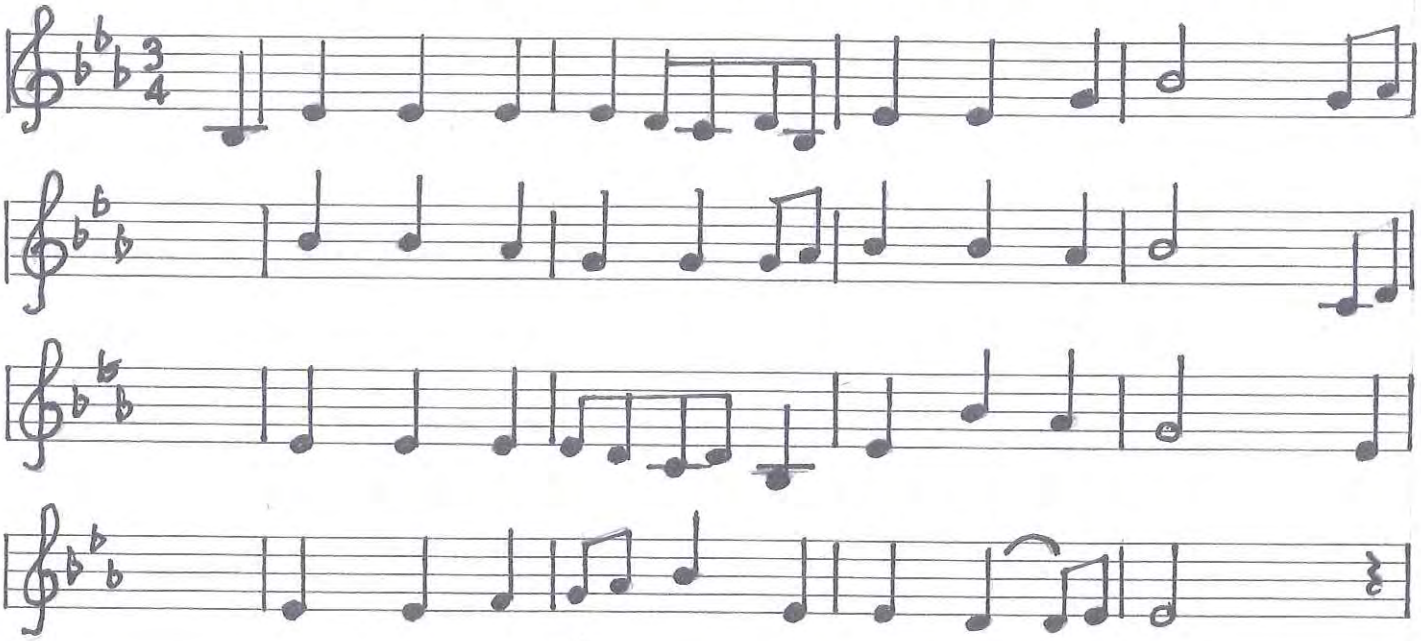
An additional option would be to bring on a single piper to accompany verse 2, and a possible line is given in the Appendix. This might give the performance something of the flavour of a Highland lament.

ORCHESTRAL INTERLUDE BETWEEN VERSE 2 AND INTRODUCTION TO VERSE 3 - IF DESIRED

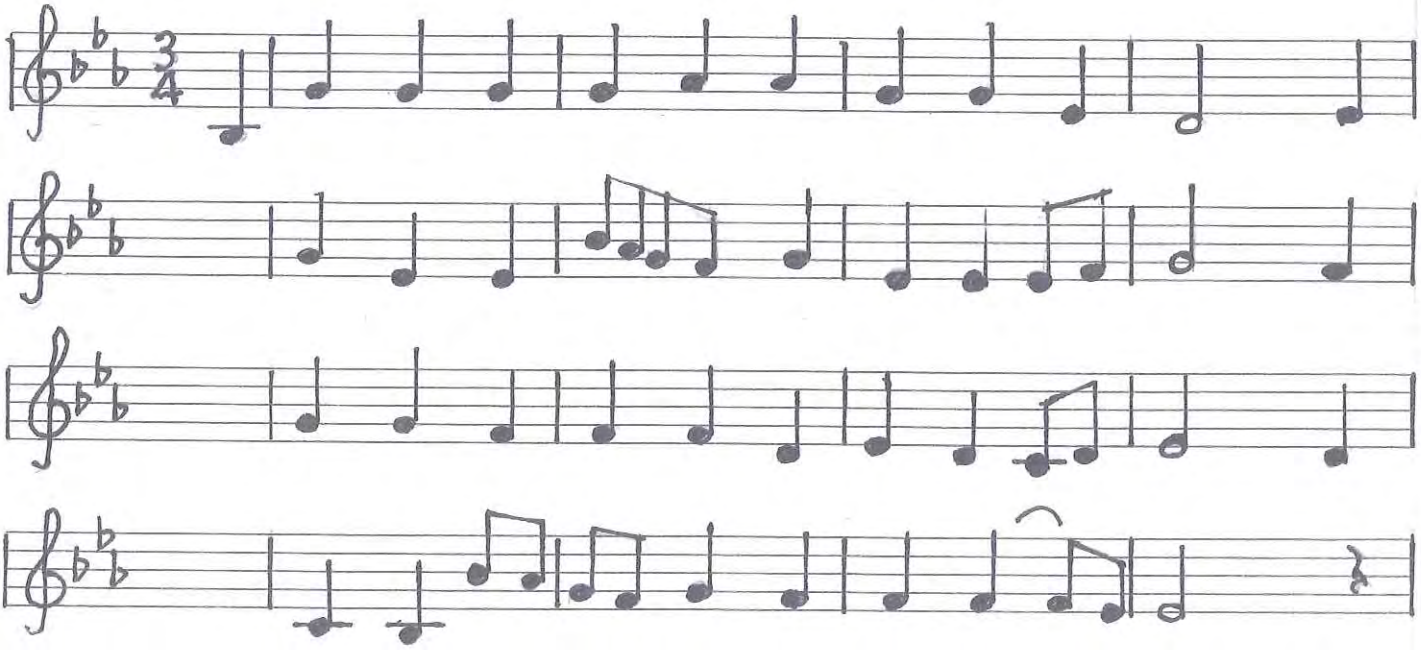


FOR PIPES

A. MINIMAL DEVIATION FROM MELODY eg GROUP OF PIPERS ACCOMPANYING VERSE 3



B DESCANT-TYPE LINE eg SOLO PIPER ACCOMPANYING VERSE 2



PANOPUS 12 STAVE