

# WORLD MUSIC

## SCOTLAND

### LORD HUNTLY'S CAVE

#### MUSIC BACKGROUND:



The composer of this piece, James Scott Skinner (1843-1927), was one of the first traditional Scots fiddlers to make records. He composed about 600 tunes in his lifetime and recorded his first discs (7" single-sided discs) at the age of 56 in Glasgow in 1899. (Cohen 1980) His discography lists four recordings of "The Marquis of Huntly's Farewell" two in 1899, one in 1906, and one in 1910 and there was also a recording of "The Marquis of Huntly" in 1908. (Anon. 2 n.d.) If he had recorded this piece around the turn of the century, it might well be the first and oldest recording of cave-inspired music. It is quite probable that this Jimmy Shand version is not the first recorded version of this march.

The title is more than likely referring to Huntly's Cave (despite slight spelling differences occasionally) located in a shady glen 2,5 miles north of Grantown-on-Spey in Morayshire, Scotland. It was here that George Huntly, the II Marquis of Huntly took refuge from the troops of the Covenant in 1644. Another story has it that he was the father of the first Duke of Gordon and he hid in this small cave during the Montrose troubles. There he was visited and supplied with food by Mary Grant of Frenchie [Sir John Grant of Freuchie] whom he later married. (Oldham 1975)

Slightly different information – "The cave is named after Lewis Gordon, 3rd Marquis (sic) of Huntly, who hid there for a time in the early 1640s [when pursued by the Earl of Argyll]. Gordon was a Royalist, loyal to the king Charles I, and had fought against the Covenanters, a religious and political movement that opposed the king's interference in the Presbyterian Church in Scotland. Because of his involvement in the Royalist campaign, Lewis Gordon was for a time forced into hiding in a cave in the vicinity of Castle Grant." (Anon. 4 n.d.)

Ref: Anon. 1 n.d., James Scott Skinner, [Wikipedia](#)

Anon. 2 n.d., The Music of James Scott Skinner, Discography, [abdn.ac.uk](http://abdn.ac.uk)

Anon. 3 n.d., Scott Skinner, [mustard](#)

Anon. 4 n.d., Lord Huntly's Cave, Speyside, 1905, Grantown Museum, [ambaile](#)

Alburger, Mary Anne 1983, *Scottish Fiddlers and Their Music*, Gollancz, London

Cohen, Norm 1980, Records Briefly Noted, JEMF Quarterly, v. XVI, n. 58, Summer 1980, p. 105

Lord Huntly's Cave, Musical Notation, [traditionalmusic](#) and [folktunefinder](#)

Oldham, Tony 1975, *The Caves of Scotland*, Bristol, p. 71



#### VARIOUS VERSIONS OF LORD HUNTLY'S CAVE In chronological order

## LORD HUNTLY'S CAVE \*

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Perf:** James **SHAND** (accordion)

Margaret Low (piano)

**Prod. Co:** Beltona Record Co.

**Time:** (Medley) (?)

**Label:** Beltona BL 2313

**Flip Sd:** Schottische

**Spec:** 10" 78rpm

**Notes:** This tune is the first of a 3-part medley entitled, "Scott Skinner by Shand."



This was probably the first recording of "Lord Huntly's Cave." About 12 years later Jim Cameron did another version for Beltona (see next entry).

Regarding both accordionists we are told – "neither Jim Cameron nor Jimmy Shand could read music so that when Shand visited the Cameron Family, Jim's daughter May used to play new tunes for them [to] learn... Cameron went on to be the best selling post war artist and sales of Scottish dance music by his band were the main competitors to Jimmy Shand. Shand had had considerable success with his records for Beltona for whom he recorded from 1935 until 1945 but this was totally eclipsed by his subsequent sales for Parlophone. Until the Beatles released their first records, Shand was their best selling artist! " (Dean-Myatt 2004)

**Ref:** Dean-Myatt, Bill 2004, Beltona Records & Their Role in Recording Scottish Music, [Mustrad](#)

Jimmy Shand Discography: 78rpm (Beltona), [NigelGatherer](#)

WD-SCOT-LH2 United Kingdom 1951

## LORD HUNTLY'S CAVE \*

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Perf:** **JIM CAMERON'S SCOTTISH DANCE BAND**

Jim Cameron (accordion)

**Prod. Co:** Beltona Record Co.

**Time:** (Medley – 2:37)

1. Original **78:** Beltona (?)

10" 78rpm

2. Reissue on Compilation **CD:** THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH (2005)

Beltona BLTCD 003 (Tk 7 – Part 1 of 3)

**Notes:** Jim Cameron recorded this solo in 1951 for the Beltona label, but the release data is not known. It was reissued in 2005 on a special compilation.

**Ref:** Jim Cameron and His Scottish Dance Band, The Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh, [allcelticmusic](#)

Jim Cameron and His Scottish Dance Band, The Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh, Listen to Music: Track 7 (End of Part 1), [musicinscotland](#) ( ◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Jim Cameron Scottish Dance Band, Biography, [footstompin](#)



Left to right: Dod Michie (Trumpet), Jim Cameron (Violin), Henry Webster (Drums), May Cameron (Accordion), Bill Powrie (Accordion), Nigel Alexander (Piano)

WD-SCOT-LH3 United States 1976

## LORD HUNTLEY'S CAVE \*

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER (1843-1927)

**Perf:** Alistair **ANDERSON** (English concertina)

**Prod:** Alistair Anderson & Bill Spence

**Prod. Co:** Front Hall Records; Voorheesville, NY

**Rec. Co:** Bottom Forty Recording Co.

Photo by Armen Kachaturian



**Rec. Loc:** Eldron Fennig Folk Museum of American Ephemera

**Time:** 2:13

**LP:** ALISTAIR ANDERSON – TRADITIONAL TUNES

Front Hall FHR-08 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 7)

**Notes:** "The music traditions of Northumberland, a small region in northeast England that borders Scotland, have been promoted by English concertina and smallpipe player Alistair Anderson." (Harris n.d.) Alistair Anderson has another recorded cave piece entitled, "Wedderburn's Cave" (see under World Music – United Kingdom [WD-GB1](#))

**Ref:** Alistair Anderson, Biography, [alistairanderson](#)

Alistair Anderson – Traditional Tunes LP, [thismortalcoil](#)

Harris, Craig n.d., Alistair Anderson, Biography, [Allmusic](#)

**WD-SCOT-LH4** United Kingdom 1977

## **LORD HUNTLEY'S CAVE \*** (Live)

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Rts:** Bayley & Ferguson

**Perf:** **BEARSDEN FIDDLERS**

(with over 200 guest fiddle players from  
all over Scotland)

William S. Dunlop (guest leader)

James E. Thomas & James Little

(accompanists)

**Cond:** John Mason

**Prod Co:** Rel Records Ltd.; Edinburgh, Scotland

**Rec. Co:** "Phoebly" Mobile

**Rec. Loc:** Kelvin Hall; Glasgow

**Liner Notes:** Martin Cairns

**Time:** 2:00 (Medley – 6:26)

1. **LP:** SCOTTISH FIDDLERS' RALLY SERIES VOL. 2 – LIVE AT KELVIN HALL, GLASGOW

Rel REL 455 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 1 – Part 2)

2. Reissue on **CD:** SCOTTISH FIDDLERS' RALLY (1996)

Rel RECD 509 (Tk 10 – Part 2)

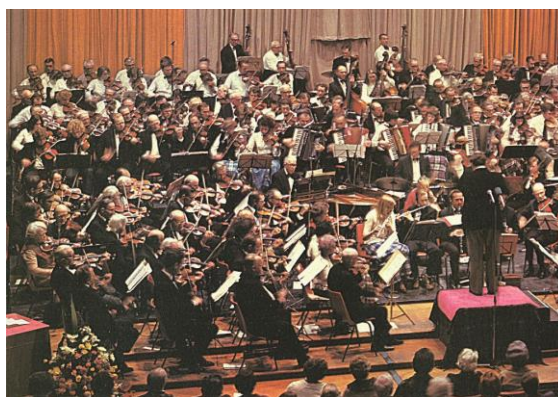
**Notes:** A grand moment, a rip-roaring live rendition of this march tune included in a 4-part medley of J. Scott Skinner's music performed by a mammoth orchestra of fiddles with accordion, flute, and drum accompaniment. A veritable joyous festival of fiddles at Kelvin Hall in Glasgow complete with the hand clapping of the audience.

**Ref:** Scottish Fiddler's Rally CD, [Amazon](#)

Scottish Fiddler's Rally CD, Scottish Music Centre, [scottishmusiccentre](#)

Scottish Fiddler's Rally CD, Rel Records, [relrecords](#)

Scottish Fiddler's Rally CD, [musicinscotland](#)



**WD-SCOT-LH6** France 1973

## **LORD HUNTLEY'S CAVE \***

WD – Celtic – Traditional – March – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Rts:** Bayley & Ferguson

**Perf:** **LORNE SCOTTISH DANSE (sic) BAND**

Alastair Hunter (accordion)

Bert Murray (fiddle)

Sandy Sutherland (piano)



Tom Ayrton (bass)  
Billy Durno (drums)  
**Time:** 1:18 (Medley – 2:34)  
**LP:** DANCES TRADITIONNELLES D'ECOSSE  
Arfolk SB 303 (mono & stereo)  
12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 1 – Part 2)

**Notes:** This dance tune played by a band from Aberdeen, Scotland is coupled here with another march.  
**Ref:** Lorne Scottish Danse (sic) Band, Dances Traditionnelles d'Ecosse, Arfolk, [filbeypop](#)

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**WD-SCOT-LH5** United Kingdom 1978

### **LORD HUNTLEY'S CAVE \***

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Arr:** Richard Butler

**Perf:** Richard BUTLER (Northumbrian small pipes)

**Prod. Co:** Northumbrian Records; Cramlington, Northumberland

**Time:** 2:04 (Medley – 5:30)

**LP:** REFLECTIONS

Northumbrian NR 1001 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 2 – Part 1)

**Notes:** Performed on the Northumberland small pipes this version has a very special sound unlike the Highland bagpipes and Butler adds several ornamental grace notes.

Richard Butler has also published a manual for the maintenance of the Northumbrian Small Pipes.

**Ref:** Grace Note, [Wikipedia](#)

Butler, Richard 1987, Richard Butler's Handbook for the Northumbrian Small Pipes: An In Depth Maintenance Manual, Butler Publishing, 40p

Richard Butler, Biography, [northumbrianpipes](#)

Richard Butler, Reflections, [northumbrianpipes](#)

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**WD-SCOT-LH7** United Kingdom 1980

### **LORD HUNTLEY'S CAVE \***

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Arr:** BATTLEFIELD BAND

**Rts:** Kinmor Music

**Perf:** BATTLEFIELD BAND

Brian McNeill (fiddle)

Duncan MacGillivray (Highland pipes)

Alan Reid (keyboards)

Sylvia Barnes (dulcimer)

Jim Barnes (cittern)

**Prod:** Robin Morton

**Prod. Co:** Temple Records; Temple, Midlothian, Scotland

**Rec. Co:** Temple Records Studio

**Rec. Date:** 1980

**Liner Notes:** (CD – 8-page Booklet) Robin Morton

**Time:** 2:04 (Medley – 5:23)

A. British Releases:

1. Promotional **EP:** PREVIEW

Temple ETP 10

12" 33rpm (EP)



McNEILL



MacGILLIVRAY

- 2. Reissue on **LP: THE STORY SO FAR...** (1982)  
Temple TP 007  
12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 7 – Part 1)
- 3. Reissue on **CD: STAND EASY & PREVIEW** (1994)  
Temple COMD 2052 (Tk 15 – Part 1)
- B. American **LP: THE STORY SO FAR...** (1982)  
Flying Fish FF 274  
12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 7 – Part 1)
- C. German **LP: THE STORY SO FAR...**  
Spriggan SPR 009  
12" 33rpm (Sd 2 – Bd 7 – Part 1)



**Notes:** Once again the lively fiddle and pipe marching air followed by a quicker tempo rendering of the tune on fiddle with keyboard backing. However, Brian McNeill's fiddle sounds a bit squeaky at times. This piece is the first in a 3-part medley with – "Lady In the Bottle" & "Stewart Chisholm's Walkabout."

First formed by Brian McNeill and Alan Reid in 1969, the Battlefield Band broke up in 1978, then reformed the following year. Brian told about the new band – "When Alan and I changed the old Battlefield Band we decided to make it new and fresh again and we said, 'Right... this time we'll get bagpipes in and go the whole hog with electronic instruments, and we'll try different vocal textures.'" (Irwin 1986)

In 1994, the Battlefield Band celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Line-up changes have been very frequent but "the new members always brought new music and ideas that have kept the band fresh and at the forefront of traditional music." (Liner notes) This piece was released on a promotional EP in 1980 when the band was changing personnel and labels.

**Ref:** Abrams, Sarah 1982, *The Record Roundup*, n. 26, Aug.-Sept. 1982, p. 13-14

Battlefield Band, Biography, [Wikipedia](#)

Battlefield Band, Stand Easy & Preview CD, Lord Huntley's Cave, [Amazon](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Battlefield Band, Stand Easy & Preview CD, [templerecords](#)

Battlefield Band, The Story So Far..., [Discogs](#)

Irwin, Colin 1986, Battlefield Rising, *Folk Roots*, n. 34, (v. 7, n. 10), April 1986, Farnham, Surrey, UK, p. 11-13

Keller, Fred 2002, Battlefield Band, Stand Easy & Preview, Review, [Rambles](#)

**WD-SCOT-LH8** United Kingdom 1995

## **LORD HUNTLY'S CAVE \***

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Perf:** Gordon **PATTULLO & HIS ALL STAR SCOTTISH BAND**

Gordon Pattullo (accordion)

**Prod. Co:** Ross Records; Scotlandwell, Kinross-shire

**Time:** (Medley – 4:04)

**CD:** THE GOLDEN SOUND OF SCOTTISH MUSIC

Ross CDGR149 (Tk 4 – Part 1 of 2)

**Notes:** This is the first tune in a 2-part medley.

**Ref:** Gordon Pattullo, Biography, [gordonpattullo](#)

Gordon Pattullo, The Golden Sound of Scottish Music, Lord Huntly's Cave, [allcelticmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Gordon Pattullo, The Golden Sound of Scottish Music, Ross Records, [rossrecords](#)



**WD-SCOT-LH9** United Kingdom 1996

## **LORD HUNTLY'S CAVE \***

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Perf:** Augus **FICHET & HIS SCOTTISH DANCE BAND**

Augus Fichet (violin)



**Prod. Co:** Ross Records

**Time:** (Medley – 2:41)

Compilation **CD:** SCOTTISH REFLECTIONS PAST AND PRESENT

Ross CDGR157 (Tk 11 – Part 2 of 2)

**Notes:** This is the second in a two-part medley that leads off with “Scott Skinner’s Compliments to Dr. MacDonald.”

**Ref:** Scottish Reflections Past and Present CD, [allcelticmusic](http://allcelticmusic.com)

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**WD-SCOT-LH10** United Kingdom 1997

### **LORD HUNTLY'S CAVE \***

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Perf:** Fiona DRIVER

Billy Peace (keyboards)

Stewart Shearer (guitar)

**Prod. Co:** Newtonhill Records

**Time:** (Medley – 3:46)

**CD:** THE ORKNEY FIDDLER

Newtonhill FDF 002 (Tk 2)

**Notes:** This piece is the first of a 3-part medley. The 30-second audio clip had her lively fiddle backed by keyboards.

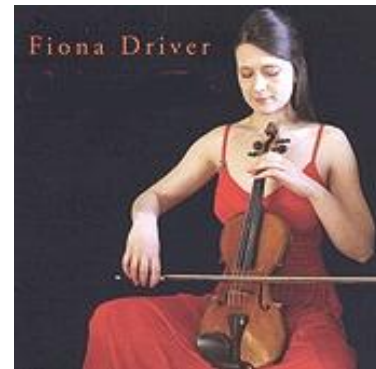
The photo of the artist shown here is from another album.

The Orkney Islands are an archipelago off the coast of northern Scotland.

**Ref:** Fiona Driver, The Orkney Fiddler, [footstompin](http://footstompin.com) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

Fiona Driver, The Orkney Fiddler, Listen to Music: Track 2, [musicinscotland](http://musicinscotland.com)

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**WD-SCOT-LH11** Netherlands 1998

### **LORD HUNTLEY'S CAVE \*** (Live)

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Arr:** BATTLEFIELD BAND

**Rts:** Kinmor Music

**Perf:** BATTLEFIELD BAND

Brian McNeill (fiddle)



Alan Reid (synthesizers)

Ged Foley (mandolin)

**Prod:** Ben Mattijssen

**Prod Co:** Munich Records Holland Production;  
Wageningen, The Netherlands

**Rec. Date:** Dec. 13, 1980

**Liner Notes:** (4-page Booklet)

**Time:** 1:47 (Medley – 5:26)

**CD:** LIVE CELTIC FOLK MUSIC – BATTLEFIELD BAND  
Munich MRCD 188 CD (Tk 1 – Part 1)

**Notes:** The second version of this piece by the Battlefield Band with Brian McNeill again on fiddle. The band broke up in 1978 and reformed a year later. At some point they decided, contrary to traditional standards, to add electronic instruments, a synthesizer and a drum machine. (Irwin 1986)

The synthesizer certainly adds nothing here and, as far as traditional music is concerned, it definitely detracts, even overriding the fiddle in the mix. One is grateful when, towards the end of this short piece the synthesizer steps back and lets the other instruments play. The bagpipes are not heard.

This tune is the first in a 3-part medley as in the previous version by the band. It was recorded during a live concert at the Winterfolkfestival in the Concerthall Kunstmin in Dodrecht, The Netherlands. Decidedly a far cry from the great live version by Bearsden Fiddlers in 1977.

**Ref:** Battlefield Band, Biography, [Wikipedia](#)

Battlefield Band, Live Celtic Folk Music, [Amazon](#)

Battlefield Band, Live Celtic Folk Music, Munich Records, [munichrecords](#)

Irwin, Colin 1986, Battlefield Rising, *Folk Roots*, n. 34, (v. 7, n. 10), April 1986, Farnham, Surrey, UK, p. 11-13

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**WD-SCOT-LH12** France 1998

## **LORD HUNTLEY'S CAVE \***

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Perf:** **SMOKING STONE BAND**

Douglas Montgomery (fiddle)

Richard Levens (mandolin)

Jim Hall (banjo)

John Adams (electric bass)

**Prod:** Jacques Erwan

**Prod. Co:** Rym Musique / Buda Musique

**Rec. Co:** Studio La Voix du Son; Brussels, Belgium

**Rec. Date:** Feb.-Mar. 1995

**Liner Notes:** (24-page Booklet in French & English) Jacques Erwan (English trans: Joyce Waterhouse)

**Time:** 0:55 (Medley – 2:16)

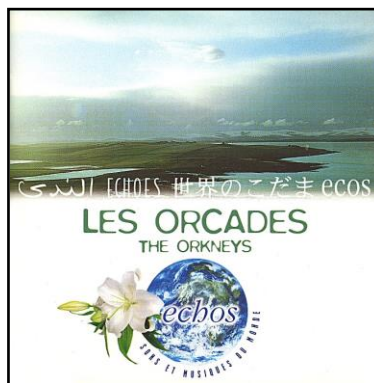
**CD:** THE ORKNEYS – LES ORCADES  
RYM Musique 191 902-2  
CD (Tk 22 – Part 1)

**Notes:** Played at frantic speed on fiddle and banjo, this march has a frenzied traditional reel feeling. It is paired with another tune, "Dunbarton Castle."

The band comes from the Orkneys, an archipelago of 70 islands between the Atlantic and the North Sea off the north coast of Scotland.

**Ref:** The Orkneys CD, [Amazon](#)

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**WD-SCOT-LH13** United Kingdom 2002

## **LORD HUNTLY'S CAVE \***

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Perf:** May **CAMERON** (accordion)

**Prod. Co:** Ross Records

**Time:** (?)

Compilation **CD:** ACCORDION MAGIC – VOL. 3

Ross CDROSS 8003 (Tk 9 – Part 1 of 3)

**Notes:** May Cameron was Jim Cameron's daughter and she formerly played with Jim Cameron's Scottish Dance Band. This part of a 3-part medley, but it is not known if this was recorded earlier and reissued much later on this compilation.

**Ref:** Accordion Magic – Vol. 3, [independantscottishaudio](#)

Accordion Magic – Vol. 3, Ross Records, [rossrecords](#)

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**WD-SCOT-LH14** United Kingdom 2003

## **LORD HUNTLY'S CAVE \***

WD – Celtic – Traditional – Ceilidh – Instrumental

**Comp:** James Scott SKINNER

**Perf:** **WEST TELFERTON**

### **CALEDONIAN DANCE BAND**

(with accordions & fiddle)

**Prod. Co:** Shielbum Associates

**Time:** (Medley – 2:28)

**CD:** INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH

Shielbum Associates SHIELCD 019 (Tk 1 – Part 1 of 2)

**Notes:** The accordion plays a ceilidh or country dance. A ceilidh is a social gathering, which usually involves playing Gaelic folk music and dancing. This piece is the first part of a medley entitled "Gay Gordons."

The West Telferton Caledonian Dance Band is from Edinburgh. Photo shows band members (lt. to rt.) Karen Higgin, Stuart Adamson, Andrew Knight, Richard Ross and George Bremner. It is not known if this was the lineup playing on this recording in 2003.

**Ref:** Anon. n.d., Guest Dance Band Sets Toes Tapping, *The Northern Times*, [northern-times](#)

Ceilidh, Social Gathering, [Wikipedia](#)

West Telferton Caledonian Dance Band, Industrial Strength, [allcelticmusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)

West Telferton Caledonian Dance Band, Industrial Strength, Listen to Music: Track 1, [musicinscotland](#)



[caveinspiredmusic.com](http://caveinspiredmusic.com)