

## ONE TONE OVER THE LINE, SWEET MHAIRI BY G.A. TAYLOR.

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Young Regina, Saskatchewan piper Gordon (G.A. Taylor) has compiled an impressive collection of original music in *One Tone Over the Line, Sweet Mhairi*. His third collection is filled with 81 pages of tunes that were composed and compiled over a period of eight years. Each tune was apparently “rated” by a collection of premier pipers whose scores determined whether a tune made it into the collection or ended up in the reject pile. With such a pool of opinions to draw from, it is no wonder the tunes contain true spark, with clear melodies and driving rhythms that speak to the piper’s ear.

Gordon has not left any tune idiom untouched and pipers will have a good time in just about any of them. An equal balance of reels, jigs, marches, strathspeys, and hornpipes is to be found broken up by a number of polkas and waltzes. As one usually encounters with modern tune books and tunes, the composer has hinted at longer stories and deeper meanings in his tune titles and rhythms. Tunes such as the multi-harmonied jig “Slick Dixie,” the 12/8 “The Crunluath Crusader” or the hornpipe “The Cog Zombie” give us an idea of the wild folks Gordon may have encountered in his past. Others such as the clever jig “Wash the Monkey” and the reel “The Mediterranean Smugglers,” complete with C naturals, only allude to tales that may or may not have happy endings, but are likely doozies nonetheless! In a unique twist, Gordon has included settings of various harmony arrangements in many tunes to give the piper a good start in performing these pieces.

All the melodies you’ll find in *One Tone Over the Line* are infectious and draw you in no matter which tune you’re trying out. Infused sometimes as much with elements of contemporary jazz as they are with celtic rhythms, the tunes are designed to be “picked up and played,” and picking them up, you won’t be able to stop yourself. (*One Tone Over the Line, Sweet Mhairi* by G.A. Taylor; Sherbrook Music; [www.sherbrookmusic.com](http://www.sherbrookmusic.com))