

Arr: Pipe Major J. Racliff

The Green Hills of Tyrol

Rossini's "William Tell"
Pipe Major John MacLeod

♩ = 74



3/4 Retreat March

<http://BCFDPipesAndDrums.com/>

Last Modified 10/15/04

One of the best known Pipe Band tunes, this melody is, ironically, Italian in its origins. In 1854, Scottish pipers of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders heard the melody being played by a Sardinian band. Pipe Major John MacLeod transcribed the tune, which originally had been part of Rossini's "William Tell" opera, into pipe music while quartered near the Italians during the Crimean War.

Soon afterwards the tune became famous when the 93rd and its pipers withstood a Russian Calvary charge at the Battle of Balaclava. The words to the tune were added much later.

<http://www.geocities.com/springfieldband/Greenhills.html>

Verse 1

There was a soldier, a Scottish soldier
Who wandered far away and soldiered far away
There was none bolder, with good broad shoulder
He's fought in many a fray, and fought and won.
He'd seen the glory and told the story
Of battles glorious and deeds victorious
But now he's sighing, his heart is crying
To leave these green hills of Tyrol.

Verse 2

And so this soldier, this Scottish soldier
Will wander far no more and soldier far no more
And on a hillside, a Scottish hillside
You'll see a piper play his soldier home.
He'd seen the glory, he'd told his story
Of battles glorious and deeds victorious
The bugles cease now, he is at peace now
Far from those green hills of Tyrol.

Verse 3

And now this soldier, this Scottish soldier
Who wandered far away and soldiered far away
Sees leaves are falling and death is calling
And he will fade away, in that far land.
He called his piper, his trusty piper
And bade him sound a lay... a pibroch sad to play
Upon a hillside, a Scottish hillside
Not on these green hills of Tyrol.

Chorus

Because these green hills are not highland hills; Or the island hills, they're not my land's hills
And fair as these green foreign hills may be; They are not the hills of home.