

HIGHLAND CATHEDRAL

Air

Traditional

The generic form for 'Highland Cathedral' has various combinations of options that are used, depending which massed band is playing it.

The basic phrase is as detailed below:



The two main ways of starting the tune are a) with a solo piper(s) or b) a solo drummer playing the basic phrase (twice) and then being joined by a solo piper(s).

The 1st part is normally played solo then everyone joins in for the 2nd part onwards.

The two common combinations for the parts for the tune are

- a) 1st part (solo) – 2nd part – 1st part – 2nd part and finish (the phrase played 24 times (3x8 bars)) or
- b) 1st part (solo) – 2nd part – 1st part – 2nd part – 1st part and finish (the phrase played 32 times (4x8 bars)).

Drumming wise the tune can be played with the basic phrase throughout (very repetitive but a nice easy format when played by a lot of drummers) or with rolls at the end of each part. That is why the triplets are illustrated starting with the left hand, that means you naturally will start the roll with your right. The end of the 1st part has a 3-pace crescendo roll:



and the end of the 2nd part a 5-pace crescendo roll:



There are four common phrases to end the tune, depending upon which part the tune is ending on:

- 1) Triplet phrase finishing on the fifth beat:



2) Triplet phrase with an extra triplet tap taking it on to the sixth beat:



3) Three-pace roll taking it to the fifth beat:



4) Four-pace roll finishing on the fourth beat:



As you can see there are numerous combinations to choose from and the final decisions will probably be made on the day, or based upon how the feel of the tune is going.