

# Road to the Isles

## The Bens of Jura

1891 John McClellan (Dunoon, Scotland)

Chords: G, G7, C, A7, D, D7, G, G7, C, G, D, G

Originally written in the Key of D

John "Jock" McClellan (1875-1949) composed "The Bens of Jura" around 1891, which soon became "The 71st's Farewell to Dover" after he enlisted the following year, then "The Highland Brigade's March to Heilbron" [South Africa] and later "The Burning Sands of Egypt" - following his military career. What probably began as a rousing 2/4 march was gradually transformed into today's popular song and slow march.

'Ben' is the Gaelic word for mountain. Jura is a remote, sparsely populated, bare and infertile, mountainous island in the Inner Hebrides, adjacent to and north-east of Islay. Jura some 80 miles west of Dunoon, is nearly 5 hours away by roads and 3 ferries. Dunoon, about 33 miles west of Glasgow, lies on the upper Firth of Clyde's western shore and is the Cowal peninsula's main town.

McClellan was a middling painter and poet, who served with the Highland Light Infantry and later as Pipe-Major of the 8th Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders during World War I. Jock also played the fiddle and was said to be an excellent whistle player. He wrote dozens, possibly 100s of tunes, but never published a collection of his own. "Lochanside" is one of his greatest contributions.

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Rhythm: Srathspey

Source: FC