

## Rhu Vaternish

The musical score for "Rhu Vaternish" is written in 3/4 time and D major. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written in a treble clef. Chords are indicated above the notes: D, A7, D, G, D, A7, D, A7, D, A7, D. There are two first and second endings marked with "1." and "2.".

---

"Rhu Vaternish", also known as "Rhu Waternish", "Leaving Rhu Vaternish" or (Gaelic *Fàilte Rubha Bhatairnis*) is a pipe and fife march or slow air.

I learned this from John Moon's **Musick of the Fifes and Drums, vol. 2: Slow Marches**. He gives the title as "Rhu Waternish" and states that it is "the lament of a native son leaving the Hebridean port of Artornish". This apparently refers to the Castle of Ardtornish (Scottish Gaelic: *Àird Tòirinis*) which is a Highland estate in Scotland located in Morvern, Lochaber. It was one of the principal seats of the high chiefs of Clan Donald from the early 14th to late 15th century. The chief of the clan was known as the "Lord of the Isles", although Morvem is located on the mainland and not in the islands.

Another possible location is Waternish Point or *Bhatairnis/Vaternish* which is a peninsula on the island of Skye which is traditionally inhabited and owned by Clan MacLeod whose clan seat is at the nearby Dunvegan Castle.

The fife version sounds in D major (using the C#) while the pipe version sounds in D mixolydian (using the C natural). The version shown is the fife version as I learned it from the book.