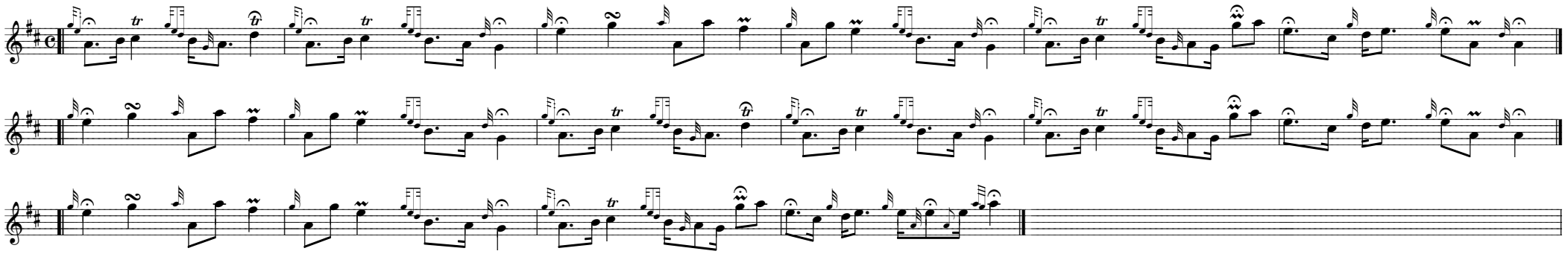
Farewell to the Reedmaker

6, 6, 4.

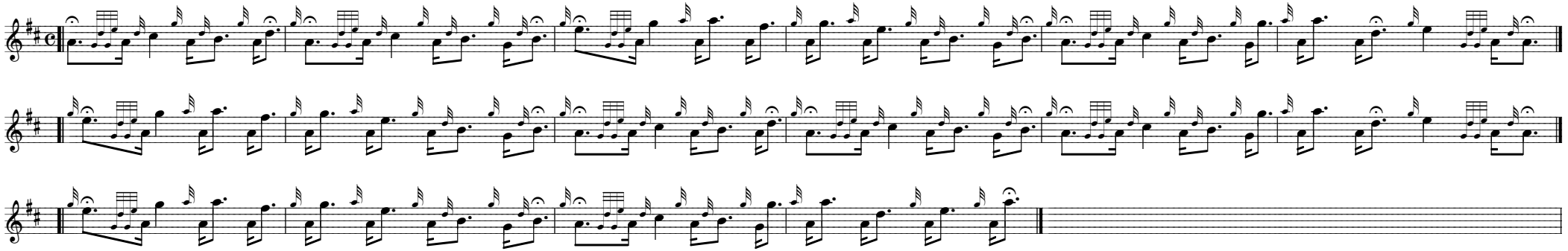
Stuart D. Samson MBE

Dedicated to the memory of Pipe Major Robert T. Shepherd MBE

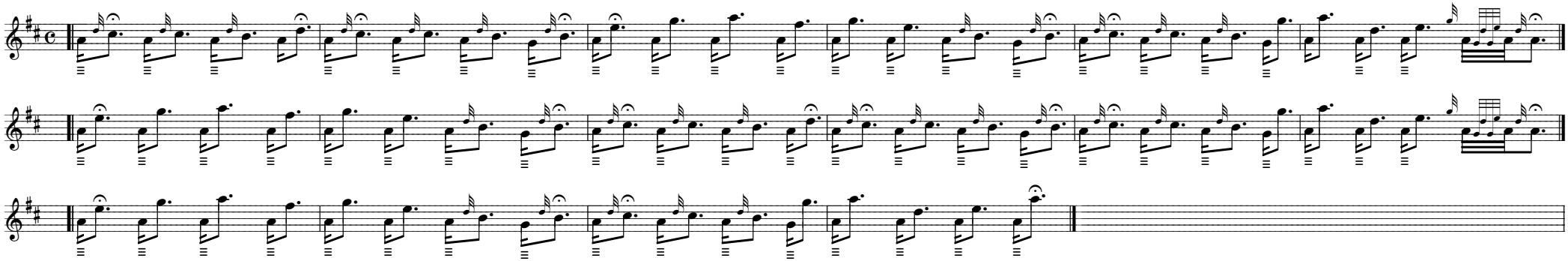
I. Urlar



II. Variation 1



III. Variation 2



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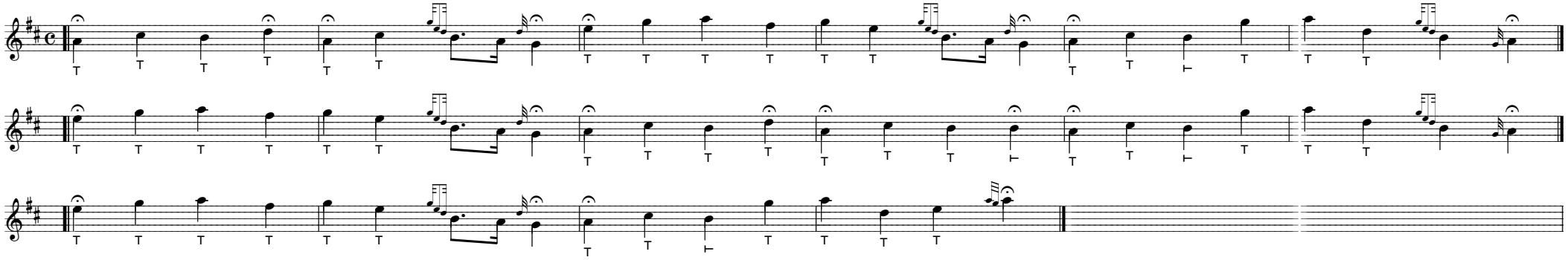
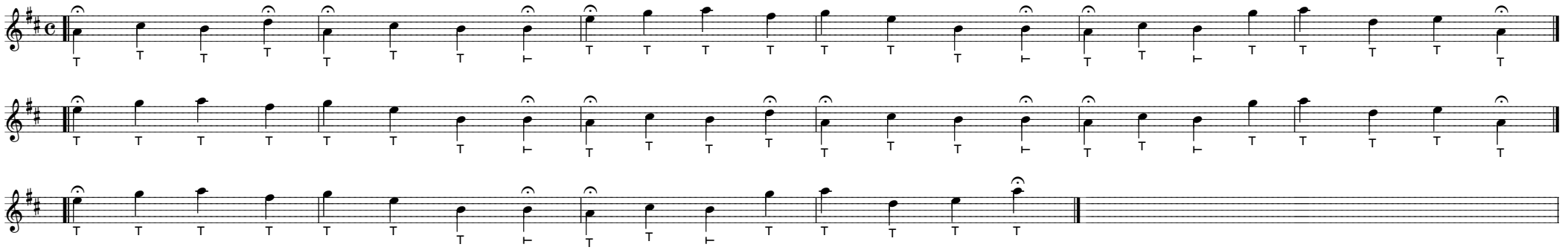
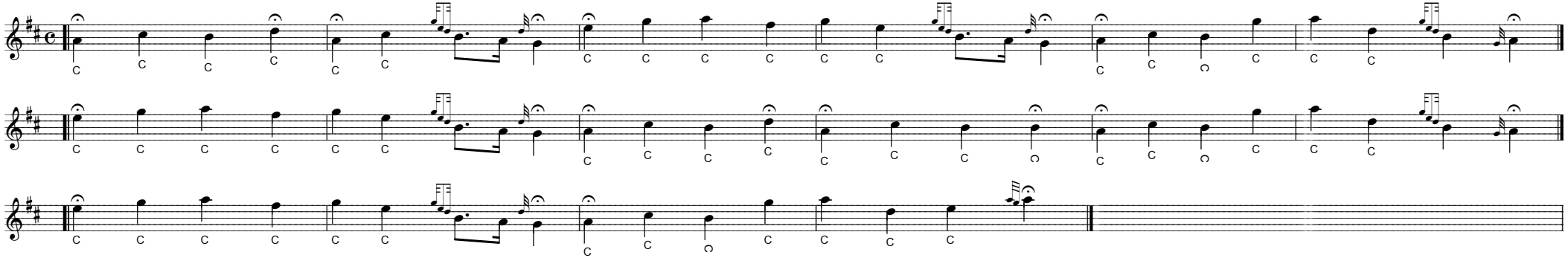
IV. Taorluath Singling



V. Taorluath Doubling



VI. Crunluath Singling



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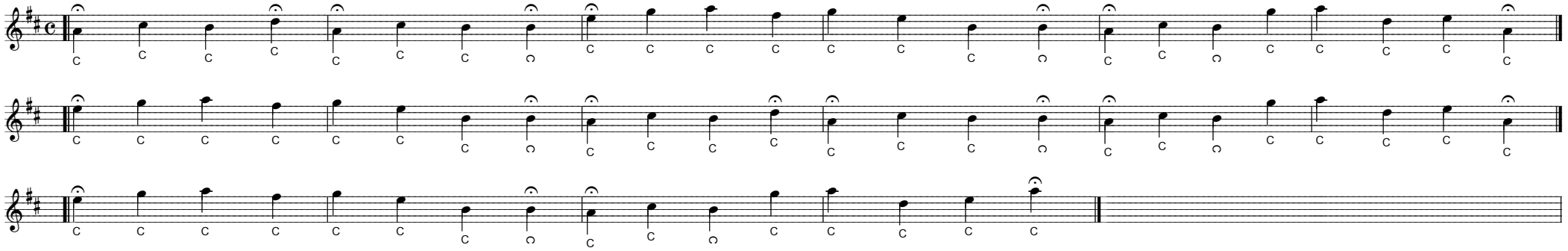
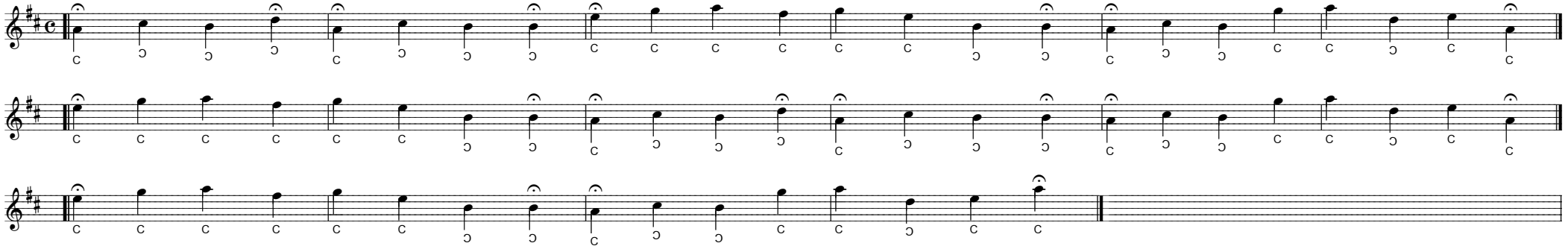
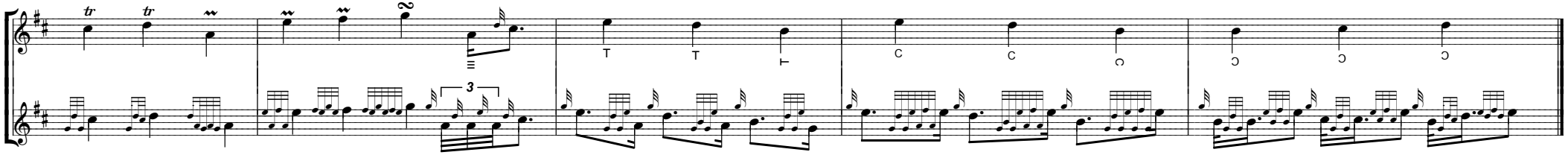
VII. Crunluath Doubling



VIII. Crunluath A Mach



Abbreviations used



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Notes on the background of the tune

Metre 6,6,4 Phrases A & B, 1 bar duration. Phrases C & D, 2 bars duration.

Secondary Phrase Construction: Line 1, A B C D. Line 2, C A B D. Line 3, C D* (*slight change in melody)

I have composed this piobaireachd in a style which I hope allows the performer to capture the feeling of a lament through the ground and 1st variation. The latter part of the tune is intended to be played more in the style of a salute, especially through variation 2, the taorluath and crunluath doublings and the crunluath a mach. What I have tried to achieve is an overall mood of remembrance and commemoration.

"Farewell to the Reedmaker" is dedicated to the memory of Pipe Major Robert T. Shepherd MBE. Making pipe reeds was the foundation of Bob's business and that is why I have given the piobaireachd this title. Of course Bob was much more than a maker of very fine pipe reeds, he was in fact a man of many talents which he used to the full in the solo and pipe band community. A bagpipe maker, adjudicator, teacher and World Champion Pipe Major to list a few of his achievements. He was also very generous with his time and knowledge and so many of us have gained from that. Perhaps most of all he was a man with vision and strong principles throughout his entire life. On a personal level, Bob and I formed a good friendship over the last 25 years of his life and I admired him greatly. He was very much a force for good in both the piping world and in wider society. We will all miss him and this piobaireachd is my tribute to him.

Stuart D Samson

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