***Lesson 24: Amazing Grace***

Materials:

* Practice Chanter
* Metronome
* *Beginning Bagpipe Repertoire* PDF

In this lesson, you’ll learn one of the most (if not the most) popular piping tune there is - Amazing Grace! It is a special tune that is sure to bring out an emotive response when played well. This tune will employ and require understanding of technique that has been taught in previous videos, including:

* G gracenotes
* D throws, D strikes
* Strikes, including down to low A
* Hi A doublings

Lesson Summary

* Make sure you are comfortable with all the scales listed above before attempting to play AG
* Make note that this tune has 1/16th notes and 1/8th notes, also quarter notes and half notes
  + The time signature is 3/4 , meaning there are 3 beats in the bar and the quarter note gets the beat
  + Remember a half note is the equivalent of two quarters, 2 eights add up to one quarter, and two 1/16th notes add up to one 1/8th note.
    - So, the section that goes F-E-D in bar 2 lasts the equivalent of one beat
* The low G touch at the end of lines 1 and 3 is achieved by briefly playing a low G on the way to low A
* Remember the value of tied notes are added together
  + Eg. the D after the D strike in bar 1 is held for the equivalent of 2 quarter notes, so two beats
  + The Hi A with the hi A doubling in line 2 is held for 2 beats, the one after the strike is held for 2 beats
* **General process for learning tunes with metronome:**
  + Try the tune without the metronome, doing one bar at a time
  + Then piece it together playing more than one bar at a time, still no metronome
  + Finally, only when you can play a line very confidently without stopping or making mistakes, you may add in metronome, at about ⅔ speed, then work up to full speed (eg. if full speed is 60 bpm, try at 40 bpm, then slowly work your way  up to 60)
  + Remember - the metronome is a tool to help you play with proper rhythm. The metronome is not the end-all-be-all of bagpiping music. Make sure you alternate about half and half between playing with it and playing without it. *The end goal is playing and enjoying the tune without the metronome!*