



Thursday 31 January 2013
1.10 – 2 pm University Concert Hall

*Funded by the Ferguson Bequest
In collaboration with the University's Centre for Robert Burns Studies*

**Jamie MacDougall – tenor
Sharron Griffiths - harp**

1. O Waly, Waly: from Folk songs of the British Isles arrangements volume 3: Benjamin Britten
2. Lord, I married me a Wife: from 8 folk song arrangements: Benjamin Britten
3. Sally in our alley: from Folk songs of the British Isles arrangements volume 5: Benjamin Britten
4. A Birthday Hansel Op 92: Benjamin Britten
 - Birthday song
 - Wee Willie
 - My Hoggie
 - Afton water
 - The winter
 - Leezie Lindsay
5. Dafydd y Garreg Wen [David of the white rock] from 8 folk song arrangements: Benjamin Britten
6. Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn [I was lonely and forlorn] from 8 folk song arrangements: Benjamin Britten
7. Believe me if all those endearing young charms: Thomas Moore
8. Erin o Erin: Thomas Moore
9. The minstrel boy: Thomas Moore
10. The meeting of the water: Thomas Moore
11. An Island Sheiling song: Margaret Kennedy Fraser
12. Kishmul's Gallery: Margaret Kennedy Fraser
13. A Slave's Lament / A Man's a Man: arrangement Eddie McGuire

Today's lunchtime concert is given in collaboration with the University's Centre for Robert Burns Studies, being close to Burns's birthday on 25th January. But the year 2013 also sees the centenary of the birth of British composer Benjamin Britten (1913-76). So this concert provides a wonderful opportunity of bringing these two artists together.

Britten's *A Birthday Hansel* of 1975 included settings of seven Burns texts for harp and tenor (Ossian Ellis and Peter Pears respectively). It was commissioned by the Queen as a seventy-fifth birthday gift for the Queen Mother. Britten's choice of Burns probably had to do with the Queen Mother's Scottish roots, though Britten's biographer Humphrey Carpenter believes it had as much, if not more, to do with Britten's Scottish nurse, Rita Thomson. She looked after him during his stay in hospital a couple of years before this, and eventually moved to Suffolk to nurse him in his final illness. There is a wonderful parallel here with Burns's own relationship with his nurse Jessie Lewars, who cared for him in his house in Dumfries during his last days and for whom he had created his final song 'O wert thou in the cauld blast'.

While Britten's *Birthday Hansel* lies at the core of today's lunchtime concert, the programme also celebrates the richness of British folksong, with settings for voice and harp from across the British Isles. Britten chose to set a hefty number of folk songs during his career and today's programme features some of his finest from Scotland, England and Wales. The evocative combination of voice and harp was also at the core of the controversial collections and settings of Gaelic singer Marjorie Kennedy Fraser (1857-1930), whose songs take us to the far North Western Isles.

Alongside these are some of Thomas Moore's famous *Irish Melodies*. Moore (1779-1852) was a noted fan of Burns's poems and songs and when he began work on the 'Melodies' he wrote to composer Sir John Stevenson: 'If Burns were an Irishman (and I would willingly give up all our claims upon Ossian for him) His heart would have been proud of such music, and his genius would have made it immortal' (Moore's letter to John Stevenson, February 1807). That Burns continues to inspire artists at home and abroad is clear. Leading Scottish composer Eddie McGuire's recent settings of Burns's poignant 'Slave's Lament' and his now famous anthem, 'A man's a man', complete this celebration of Burns today.

Dr Kirsteen McCue
Co-Director, Centre for Robert Burns Studies
University of Glasgow
<http://www.gla.ac.uk/robertburnstudies/>

Born in Glasgow, **Jamie MacDougall**, has established himself as one of the country's most versatile singers and performers. Since 2001 Jamie has been the nation's voice of classical music for BBC Radio Scotland.

2003 saw Jamie's move to television when he presented and sang at the BBC Proms in the Park from Glasgow as part of the Last Night of the Proms festivities.

2009 saw the release of the complete Haydn Folk Song arrangements on Brilliant Classics. This 20 CD collection of 429 songs was recorded over 5 years with the Haydn Trio Eisenstadt and Scottish soprano Lorna Anderson. During the year long celebration of Haydn's 200th anniversary, Jamie performed these songs in Milan, New York, Washington DC, Vienna, London, Edinburgh and Glasgow as well as at numerous European festivals.

Jamie's recent appearances include touring his one man tribute show on Kenneth McKellar, the Messiah at the Royal Albert Hall with the Royal Choral Society, and song recitals in Scotland with Malcolm Martineau and Fali Pavri. He appears regularly with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and fronted BBC's Christmas Classics and Christmas at the Movies at the City Halls in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Ayr. Future appearances include the Nelson Mass (Haydn) at Southwark Cathedral and The Kingdom (Elgar) at Canterbury Cathedral both with the Royal Choral Society and Mendelssohn's Lobgesang in Seoul. In January he gave a series of song recitals with Mexican concert Harpist Angel Padilla and in February he has been invited to appear in Australia with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

Jamie has worked with many of the leading British opera companies, as well as in Europe, America and Canada and in 2011 he appeared in the Sloane's Project the inaugural production with NOISE (New Opera in Scotland Events)

On the concert platform he has worked with some of the world's top baroque, chamber and symphony orchestras, including the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the St Louis and Houston Symphony Orchestras. He has worked with conductors including Tamas Vasary, Ivan Fischer, Marin Alsop, Richard Hickox, Trevor Pinnock, Nicholas McGegan and Daniel Harding.

As a recitalist, Jamie has performed with pianists Malcolm Martineau, Graham Johnson, Roger Vignoles and Julius Drake, at many of the world's greatest music festivals, including the Edinburgh International Festival, the Perth Festival, the Salzburg Festival and the Aldeburgh Festival. He has also appeared in the Wigmore Hall's International Song-Makers series.

Jamie's extensive discography of over 45 titles, covers baroque and classical, German, Scottish and English song as well as 20th century music.

Sharron Griffiths started playing the harp at the age of ten in her native Wales and studied at the Royal Northern College of Music, and Trinity College of Music. She has pursued a busy career as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician in recitals both on the concert platform, recording and radio broadcasts in Glasgow, following many years of working in London.

Sharron works regularly with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scottish Opera, Northern Sinfonia and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. She has also freelanced with several International Orchestra's, including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Royal Ballet Sinfonia, Trondheim Symphony Orchestra, RTE National Symphony Orchestra and has held harp positions on West End and touring Musicals, along with playing for many pop and film sessions, including work at the famous Abbey Road studios.

Sharron is a busy soloist and chamber musician, having recently performed Debussy's 'Danse Scaree e profane' with the Northern Sinfonia, is a member of the Clyde Ensemble and the Solway trio and also performs regularly with many established ensembles, including the Paragon Ensemble, Scottish Voices and the RSNO Glasgow Quartet, at concerts & festivals including the Lammermuir Festival, Cottiers Chamber Project, North Yorkshire Moors Festival, Edinburgh Festival, Celtic Connections, Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival, Manchester Midday Series, UKLA festival in Los Angeles, T-in-the-Park and the Belladrum Festival.

Sharron is also a busy harp teacher, currently teaching at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Hutchesons' Grammar School and was recently the harp tutor for the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland.

Mobiles phones and recordings

Unauthorised use of recording, video equipment and cameras is not permitted.

Please switch all mobile phones off in the Concert Hall, thank you.

The University's Ferguson Bequest

Today's concert is funded by the Ferguson Bequest. Professor Thomas Ferguson (1900-1977), Henry Mechan Chair of Public Health (1944-64), bequeathed his estate to the University, with the instruction that the money should be used to foster the social side of University life.

Next week:

A Concert for Chinese New Year with the Harmony Ensemble

Thursday 7 February @ 1.10 pm, University Concert Hall

新年快乐! Happy New Year!

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