

VOICES OF SCOTLAND - St Giles Cathedral, Friday 4th July at 8 p.m.

Scotland's leading Early Music Ensemble give a fascinating choral concert to mark the 80th birthday of composer Ronald Stevenson and celebrate Scotland's incredibly rich poetic and musical heritage, in the wonderfully atmospheric and historic setting of St Giles Cathedral.

Programme

Haunting **plainsong chants** for St Columba (from Inchcolm Abbey), and for St Kentigern of Glasgow, will frame and link the following works

Elegy for Colum Cille (Rebecca Rowe, 2000)

setting Brian Johnstone's verse paraphrase of Dallan Forgaill's poem of c.597 lamenting the death of St Columba of Iona

'**In convertendo**' (Ps.126) a 5 (Patrick Douglas, prebendary of St Giles, c.1550)

'**Descendi in hortum meum**' a 4 (Lincluden Collegiate Kirk c.1550)

setting words from the Song of Songs

'**Warldis Vanitie: ane merroure for Marie Stuart**' (Gabriel Jackson, 2001)

setting poems by Sir Richard Maitland, Lord Darnley, Robert Sempill, Mary Queen of Scots, and from the Gude and Godlie Ballatis

- interval -

'**Nobilis, humilis**'- hymn to St Magnus of Orkney (c.1150)

'**Si quis diliget me**' a 4 (David Peebles, 1530)

setting words from St John's Gospel

'**Insanientis gens sapientiae**' a 4 (Stadius Olthoff, 1585)

a setting of Ps.19 in the poetic paraphrase by George Buchanan (1506-1582)

'**Vir perfecte**' (hymn to St Andrew from the St Andrews Music Book, c.1200)

'**Da tuae regi Deus aequitatis**' (Olthoff)

a setting of Buchanan's paraphrase of Ps.72

'**Ex te lux oritur dulcis Scotia**'

The Wedding Hymn of Margaret of Scotland and Erik of Norway, 1281

'**A Mediaeval Scots Triptych**' (Ronald Stevenson, 1965)

Qwhen Alyssander oure kynge - Wallace's Lament for the Grahame - Fredome

Scotland possesses a vast treasury of great poetry, and Ronald Stevenson has set over two hundred Scottish poems to music, the poets ranging from John Barbour of Aberdeen (fl.1370) to contemporaries working in Scots, English and Gaelic. The 'Mediaeval Scottish Triptych' of 1965 commemorates the suffering, heroism and idealism of the Wars of Independence, 1296 to 1314 using the words of Blind Harry and John Barbour.