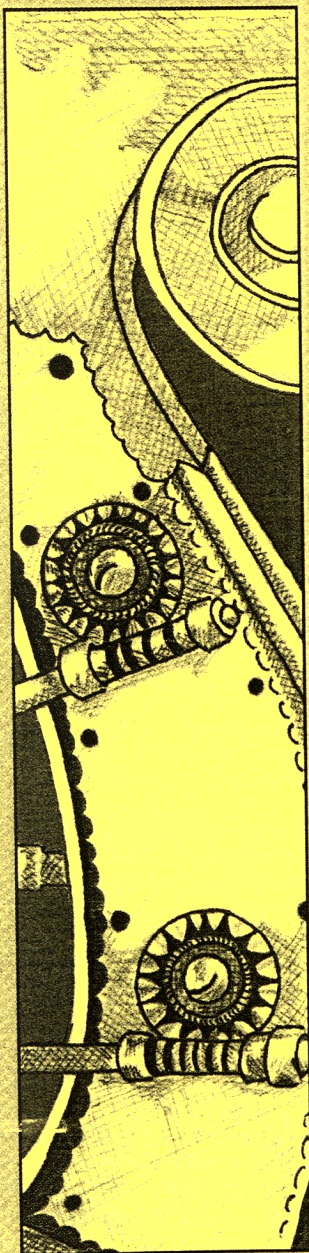
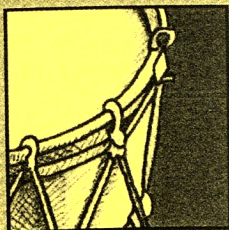
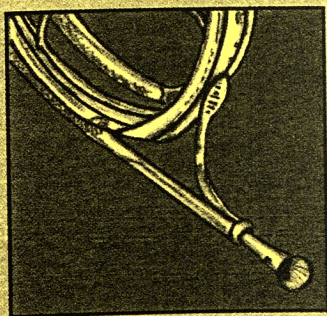
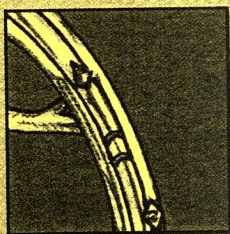


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***The Scotsman***



**CONCERTS  
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**AUTUMN  
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CONCERTS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH 2003-4

Lunch-hour recital  
McEwan Hall, Bristo Square, Teviot Place

FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER at 1.10pm  
(admission free)

RUARAIKH SUTHERLAND organ

Symphony No. 1 in D minor, Op. 73

Prelude  
Fugue  
Pastorale  
Allegro Vivace  
Andante  
Final

Louis Vierne  
(1870-1937)

Widely considered to be one of the finest organists of all time, Louis Vierne led a career similar to that of many of his contemporaries. He was a pupil in the organ class at the Paris Conservatoire, and studied under both Franck and Widor. He acted as assistant to both Widor and Guilmant (at St Sulpice and La Trinité respectively) and left the Conservatoire with several major prizes. Although he was born blind, he was appointed to the position of *titulaire* at Notre Dame at the age of 30, holding the position for the rest of his life, and, in a rather romantic twist, dying at the organ console.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Symphony for Organ was completed in 1899, the year before his ascent to the organ loft of Notre Dame. The 'organ symphony' as a genre had begun with Widor, with his multi-movement, varied, highly original compositions. Dedicated to Alexandre Guilmant, the work still follows the traditions established by Widor, while taking the genre to a whole new level in terms of harmony and emotion.

The gothic stature and grandeur of the Prélude is almost a musical picture of the great Notre Dame itself. The Fugue is rather academic, and with its quirky subject, Vierne writes some rather bizarre harmonic and structural twists. A graceful *pastoral* follows, depicting a largely stereotypical country scene with its lilting siciliano rhythms and ominous flute and oboe sounds. Listen out for the middle section, featuring that most bizarre of organ sounds, the *voix humaine*, a register once described by Widor as a "herd of nanny goats"! Perhaps a small pun of Vierne's...

A grotesque *Scherzoso* follows, with a more thoughtful middle section. The Andante (actually marked Adagio) feature the spicy *voix celestes* and the foundation stops of the organ. The glorious Final culminates the symphony and has been popular since it was first published for obvious reasons. With its toccata-like manual figurations and the majestic pedal theme, this is a piece full of grandeur and ceremony. After a gradual diminuendo, the toccata figurations never ceasing, rhythmic diminution, harmonic tension (the augmented 4<sup>th</sup> being one of Vierne's favourite chords), and rising sequences bring the piece to its climax and crowns the entire work in a blaze of sound.

RS

RUARAIKH SUTHERLAND was born in 1984 and is a former pupil of Wellington School in Ayr, leaving with prizes in music and history. Also a former student of the RSAMD Junior Academy in Glasgow, he studied organ, piano and composition with David Hamilton, Alina Smith and Tom David Wilson respectively. Whilst there, he performed as both a solo and orchestral keyboard player, and was a concerto soloist with the Chamber Orchestra in May 2002. He is currently a second-year music undergraduate at the University of Edinburgh, and studies the organ with Matthew Owens.

As a performer, he has won several awards, including the coveted M.L.Limond Prize at the 2002 Ayrshire Music Festival for his participation as a soloist and accompanist. At university, he is the Beecham Instrumental Scholar for his year, and last year's winner of the Anderson Organ Prize, awarded annually by the Music Department at the University of Edinburgh. Today's recital is part of the latter award.

As a composer, Ruairaidh was winner of the 2002 Carlisle International Festival's Composition Competition, and has subsequently written a Magnificat and Nunc dimittis for the Youth Choir of the Cathedral, which he is currently expanding into a full service, covering all the Anglican liturgical offices. He has also recently completed an organ transcription of Elgar's Enigma Variations, which is to be premiered at Carlisle Cathedral during the summer of 2004.

In June, Ruairaidh was appointed Organ Scholar of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh. His duties there are wide; as well as assisting in the accompaniment and conducting of the daily liturgies, he is also choir librarian, administrator to the junior choir, and he assists in the probationers' training. Already he has taken part in several prominent services, most recently as organist for the cathedral's internationally renowned annual devotional performance of Fauré's Requiem.

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

Saturday 15 November – 6.00pm – Reid Concert Hall  
The Scottish based group **InvisibleArts** present a selection of their recent electroacoustic works, including those by Stollery, Dow, MacDonald and Murphy.

Saturday 15 November – 8.00pm – Reid Concert Hall  
**Students from the Department of Music** diffuse electroacoustic classics.

Sunday 16 November – 6.00pm – Reid Concert Hall  
A showcase of electroacoustic work from the German based **Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie (ZKM)**.

Sunday 16 November – 8.00pm – Reid Concert Hall  
Electroacoustic music concert, including the winners of the 'Jeu de Temps' competition, a collaboration between the **Canadian Electroacoustic Community** and the **Sonic Arts Network**.  
Tickets: £5.00 (£2.00 concessions) Weekend Tickets: £10.00 (£5.00 concessions)

## FORTHCOMING CONCERTS

Tuesday 18 November – 1.10pm – Reid Concert Hall  
**THE EDINBURGH QUARTET**  
McCrae, Haydn

Friday 21 November – 1.10pm – Reid Concert Hall  
**JAMES JOHNSTONE (organ)**  
Buxtehude, J.S. Bach

Friday 21 November – 7.30pm – Reid Concert Hall  
**EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY STRING ORCHESTRA**  
Mahler, Debussy, Britten, Barber, Vaughan Williams, Elgar  
Tickets: £6.00 (£3.00 concessions) on the door

Saturday 22 November – 8.00pm – Reid Concert Hall  
**SIRIUS MUSIC ENSEMBLE**  
20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century contemporary music.

Tuesday 25 November – 1.10pm – Reid Concert Hall  
**JOANNA NICHOLSON (clarinet) GRAEME McNAUGHT (piano)**  
Kovács, Copland, Kókai

Wednesday 26 November – 1.10 pm – Glass Arcade, School of Agriculture, King's Buildings  
**GEORGE WATSON'S SCHOOL BAROQUE ORCHESTRA**  
Concerts are free and open to all.

Thursday 27 November 2003 – 6.30pm – St. Giles' Cathedral  
**EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR**  
**ERIC von IBLER (conductor)**  
Royal Norwegian Advent Concert, Carols for Advent

Friday 28 November 2003 – 1.10pm – Reid Concert Hall  
**MARK HINDLEY (organ)**  
J.S.Bach, Sweelink, Bruhns

28 November – 7.30pm- Reid Concert Hall  
**EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY SOCIETY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
**JAMES LOWE (conductor)**  
Programme to be announced  
Tickets: £7.00 (£4.00 concessions) on the door

Saturday 29 November – 8.00pm – St. Cuthbert's, Lothian Road  
**EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY CHAMBER CHOIR**  
**ERIC von IBLER (conductor), ROBERT FREED (guitar)**  
Gabrieli, Schütz, Buxtehude, Charpentier, Grandi, Palestrina  
Tickets: £6.00 (£4.00 concessions) on the door