



Tuesday 20 January 2009
1.10pm
Reid Concert Hall

THE EDINBURGH QUARTET

Programme of works by
Earl of Kelly and Tchaikovsky



Concerts at
The University

The University of Edinburgh Concert Series

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336.

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THE EDINBURGH QUARTET

Tristan Gurney | violin

Philip Burrin | violin

Michael Beeston | viola

Mark Bailey | cello

Quartet in A major

Earl of Kelly (1732-1781) edited by David Johnson

- (i) Allegro molto
- (ii) Adagio
- (iii) Minuets I and 2

Quartet No.2 in F major

Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

- (i) Adagio- Moderato assai, quasi andantino
- (ii) Allegro Giusto
- (iii) Andante, ma non tanto
- (iv) Allegro con moto

The Earl of Kelly was Scotland's leading composer during the 1760's and 1770's. His works were played extensively in Scotland and England and exported, with some success, to Germany and the eastern states of America. However, only a small part of his output was published, and after his death at the age of 49 his music was neglected and forgotten.

Recently his unpublished work has begun to come to light, mostly in inaccurate manuscript copies which needed considerable editing and reconstructing. This quasi-archaeological effort is worthwhile: Kelly emerges as a sophisticated and fully professional composer, despite his aristocratic-amateur status during his lifetime.

The Quartet in A was composed around 1765, and comes from a set of manuscripts from Kilravock Castle, near Nairn. Here Kelly is writing in the new 'sonata' style which was soon to reach perfection in the slightly later work of Haydn and Mozart. The first movement makes a special point of the long drawn-out Mannheim crescendo device. The second movement is a powerful essay in 18th Century *Sturm und Drang* with many passages constructed, unusually, in four-part counterpoint. The concluding minuets contrast *forte* and *piano* phrases with passion and elegance.

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Tchaikovsky's three full-scale string quartets span a short but fruitful period of his creative life. His second quartet was completed in 1874. Tchaikovsky gave it pride of place among his compositions along with *Eugene Onegin* and the *Fourth Symphony*.

Unlike the first quartet, it is full of Tchaikovsky's fulsomeness of heart-on-sleeve emotionalism notably in the beautiful slow movement. The first movement is on a large scale while the second is an inspired scherzo-like movement of which the main theme comprises two 6/8 bars followed by one 9/8 bar. The finale opens with a unison theme heralding the *grazioso* first violin tune. There is a masterfully woven fugue which finally gives way to a broad rendition of the tune and then a final *Piu mosso* bringing the work to a flourishing close.

P.B.

THE EDINBURGH QUARTET

The Edinburgh Quartet was founded in 1959 and quickly became established as one of Britain's foremost chamber ensembles, appearing regularly at prestigious venues across the country including London's Wigmore Hall and The South Bank Centre. It achieved international recognition after winning the Contemporary Prize at the Evian-les-Bains String Quartet Competition and has since toured extensively across Europe, the Far East, North and South America and the Middle East. The Quartet has made numerous BBC TV and BBC Radio 3 broadcasts and can also be heard on Classic FM. 2009 marks the Quartet's fiftieth anniversary and it is now one of the longest running chamber ensembles in the UK with a busier performing schedule than ever before.

The Quartet is resident at Glasgow University and Napier University and also collaborates with Aberdeen and Edinburgh Universities. In addition to a regular classical concert series at each of these institutions, the Quartet is committed to nurturing talent and championing new music. The ensemble has worked with many important and prolific composers of our age, including the Quartet's patron, James MacMillan and Michael Tippett, who selected the Edinburgh Quartet's recording of his First Quartet for re-release on EMI shortly before his death.

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS:

Friday 23 January

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

A recital of music by J.S. Bach

John Kitchen | organ

A recital of music by J.S. Bach

Toccatà in D minor BWV 538i

Fantasia in G BWV 571

Fantasia in C minor BWV 1121

Fugue in C major BWV Anh.90

Chorale partita: Wenn wir in höchsten

Nöten sein BWV Anh.78

Organ chorale: Wenn wir in höchsten

Nöten sein BWV 668a

Fugue ('Dorian') in D minor

FREE

Friday 23 January

7.30pm

St. Cecilia's Hall

Haydn Trio Eisenstadt

Lorna Anderson | soprano

Jamie MacDougall | tenor

Robert Burns in Global Culture

Lament for Mary Queen of Scots

The Royal Society of Edinburgh

and the University of Edinburgh

present a concert of music for

Burns night including songs by

Haydn and James MacMillan's

Lament for Mary Queen of Scots

Tickets: £12.00/£6.00 concessions

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