

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH CONCERT SERIES    SPRING · SUMMER 2010

# Concerts at The University

Friday 12 February 2010

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

**Reid Memorial Concert**

**The Erebus Ensemble**

**with John Kitchen · fortepiano**

**Programme of works by Reid and Schetky.**



### The Erebus Ensemble

Matthew Studdert-Kennedy · flute

Lis Dooner · flute

Sarah Bevan Baker · violin

Kate Miguda · violin

Mark Summers · violoncello

with John Kitchen · fortepiano

### Three Minuets

General John Reid (1722-1807)

At the same time as pursuing career as a successful soldier in the British Army, John Reid was a renowned flautist, it being said of him in 1807 that 'in the meridian of his life he was esteemed the best gentleman German flute performer in England'. Indeed, this view is confirmed by one Mrs. Alison Cockburn who, after attending a soiree given by Lady Clerk in Penicuik around 1768/9, opined that 'of all the sounds I ever heard, Colonel Reed's [sic] flute - Well, it is amazing the powers of it. It thrills to your very heart. He plays it in any taste you please and composes what he plays... I can think of nothing but that flute'.

Along with sonatas for the German flute, published as being 'by I.R. Esqr, A Member of the Temple of Apollo', Reid composed a number of marches for the various regiments of the British Army and a set of minuets. Unusually for the time, these often contained references to contemporary folk tunes. The most famous march is that for the 42nd or Old Highland Regiment which subsequently had words written for it by Sir Henry Erskine of Alva, beginning 'In the Garb of old Gaul'.

It seems to have been both Reid's love of music and his affection for his alma mater (the place he had [his] education and passed the pleasantest part of [his] youth) that led him to bequeath the bulk of his estate to the University of Edinburgh for the purpose of establishing and endowing Scotland's first Chair of Music. In his will, Reid stated that 'it is my wish that in every year after his appointment, [the Professor] will cause a concert of music to be performed on the 13th of February, being my birthday, in which shall be introduced one solo... also one march, and one minuet... in order to shew the taste of music about the middle of the last century, when they were by me composed, and with a view also to keep my memory in remembrance'.

### Trio in F for two Violins and Violoncello, Op.1 No.4

### Duet in C for two German Flutes, Op.5 No.3

### Concerto for the Harpsichord or Piano Forte

Johann Georg Christoph Schetky (1737-1824)

Born in Darmstadt in 1737 to a family of court musicians, Johann Georg Christoph Schetky studied composition with Endler, vice-Kapellmeister at the court of Hesse-Darmstadt, and cello with Anton Fils, 'cellist at the nearby Mannheim court. He stayed in Germany until 1772 when he went to London, before travelling to Edinburgh where he took up the post of principal 'cellist for the Edinburgh Musical Society in 1773, having been persuaded by Robert Bremner, the noted publisher (earlier accounts talk of J.C.Bach having a hand in this appointment).

Having come to Edinburgh with the intention of staying for only one year, Schetky soon married Maria Theresa, daughter of the Austrian violinist Joseph Reinagle. In time, the couple had eleven children, including the musician George, a leading light in Philadelphia's emerging musical culture, and painter John Christian, Marine Painter-in-Ordinary to Queen Victoria.

After arriving in Britain, Schetky produced a steady stream of works, being published in London, Edinburgh and on the continent, including sonatas, duos, trios, quartets, songs and 'cello tutors. The 'cello sonatas give a clear indication of his virtuosity as a performer on that instrument, whilst the quartets are, in the words of the late music scholar David Johnson, 'outstanding, a worthy forerunner to the mature quartets of Haydn and Mozart'.

M.S.

The **Erebus Ensemble** is a musical collective convened by Mark Summers, comprising musicians from or with a connection to Edinburgh. Praised for its "playing of the highest quality" (The Scotsman), the ensemble has played in Edinburgh and across the UK, exploring familiar and lesser known music that is the subject of Mark's research, ranging from Venetian church sonatas to the music of late 18th century Edinburgh.

The Erebus Ensemble would like to thank Sally Pagan, Pete Harvey, Alison McGillivray, and Amy Beeston for their help in the preparations for this concert.

**John Kitchen** is a Senior Lecturer in Music and University Organist in the University of Edinburgh. He also directs the Edinburgh University Singers, is Director of Music of Old Saint Paul's Episcopal Church and Edinburgh City Organist with duties at the Usher Hall. He gives many solo recitals both in the UK and further afield, and also plays regularly with several ensembles, covering a wide range of musical styles. In addition, he is much in demand as a continuo player, accompanist, lecturer, writer and reviewer. John has recorded extensively for both Priory and for the Edinburgh-based label, Delphian Records. Recent and forthcoming Delphian publications include a CD of French, English and Dutch Romantic organ music recorded in the Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling; a highly-acclaimed recording of the complete organ music of William Russell; and a third CD of historic keyboard instruments at the Raymond Russell Collection of Early Keyboard Instruments, University of Edinburgh.

**FORTHCOMING CONCERTS:**

Tuesday 16 February, 1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Emma Morwood · soprano

Jonathan Fisher · piano

HAYDN Scena di Berenice

RAVEL Cinq Mélodies Populaires Grecques

BERG Sieben Frühe Lieder

GURNEY Sleep, Down by the Salley Gardens, Spring

ADMISSION FREE

Wednesday 17 February, 2.00pm

Reid Concert Hall

Tovey Memorial Prize Competition Final

The Tovey Memorial Prize is awarded annually to the Music student who shows the greatest promise in composition or performance.

ADMISSION FREE

Friday 19 February, 1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Neil Cockburn · organ

Music by BUXTEHUDE, SWEELINCK, JS BACH, COUPERIN and FRESCOBALDI

ADMISSION FREE

Tuesday 23 February, 1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

The Edinburgh Quartet

HAYDN Quartet in G Op.64, No.4

SCHUMANN Quartet in A major Op.41, No.3

ADMISSION FREE