

Concerts at The University

Tuesday 12 February 2013

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Reid Memorial Concert

Kist of Musick

Hector Scott · violin

Alastair Hardie · violin

Donald Gillan · cello

James Hardie · harpsichord

**Programme of works by GENERAL REID, McGIBBON,
EARL OF KELLY, CORELLI and JAMES OSWALD.**



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

March for the 32nd Regiment (General Amherst's)

General John Reid (1721 – 1807)

Trio Sonata No.5 in G 'In Imitation of Corelli'

William McGibbon (c.1690-1756)

Sonata No.2 in G for violin and continuo

General John Reid

Keyboard Minuet and 'Capillaire' Minuet

Earl of Kelly (1732-1781)

Trio sonata in E Op.4 No.6

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

'The Golden Rod' (Winter) and 'Narcissus' (Spring) from *Airs for the Seasons*

James Oswald (c.1711-1769)

March for the 35th Regiment (General Campbell's)

General John Reid

John Reid was born at Straloch, Perthshire in 1721 and died in London in 1807. He studied law at Edinburgh University around 1740 and from 1745 pursued a military career, eventually rising to the rank of general. He bequeathed a sum of money to his Alma Mater to set up the Reid Chair and the Reid School of Music. He composed about twenty marches including the celebrated Highland March ('In the garb of old Gaul') which he dedicated to his own regiment, The 42nd Highlanders.

Reid published his twelve *Solos for a German flute or violin with a thorough bass* in two sets of six in 1756 and 1762. Taken from the second set, the Sonata in G has four binary movements: a siciliano-like 6/8 *Andante* is followed by a pert rococo *Allegro*; the Scots snap rhythms in the *Moderato cantabile* third movement clearly define the country of origin; a 6/8 'Giga' (*Allegro*) rounds off the proceedings with appropriate good humour.

William McGibbon was the son of an Edinburgh oboist. He studied the violin and composition with William Corbett in London. The *Six sonatas for two German flutes or two violins and a bass* appeared in 1734 dedicated to the Countess of Eglinton.

Sonata No.5 in G major has four movements: *Adagio* leading to a fugal *Allegro*; the brief *Largo* is a 12/8 siciliano and the concluding *Allegro* – another skilfully spun fugal texture – is cast in a spirited 6/8 metre.

Thomas Erskine, the sixth Earl of Kelly, born in Fife and educated in Edinburgh, was Scotland's major composer during the early Classical period. Kelly received lessons in violin and composition from William McGibbon.

The minuet was as popular in Scotland as elsewhere in Europe and Kelly wrote about 20 examples of the form. Capillaire was a kind of 18th century cocktail and gave rise to an Edinburgh club of the same name, for whose members this minuet was composed c.1762.

The 'father of modern violin playing', Arcangelo Corelli was born in Fusignano near Bologna in 1653 and died in Rome, exactly 300 years ago, in 1713. As a composer his Trio Sonatas, Solo Sonatas and Concerti Grossi were highly regarded in his lifetime and hugely influential on subsequent composers.

The Trio Sonata in E has three movements: the opening 'Preludio' (*Adagio*, *Allegro*, *Adagio*, *Allegro*, *Adagio*) leads to a common time 'Allemande' (*Allegro*); the concluding movement is a sprightly 12/8 'Giga' (*Allegro*).

James Oswald was born in Crail, Fife and lived in Edinburgh before moving to London in 1741. He was a dancing master, singer, cellist, composer and publisher, who eventually became Chamber Composer to King George III. Oswald's *Airs for the Seasons* were published in 1755 for a violin or flute and continuo; at least 12 of them were reprinted in 1756 adding a part for a second flute or violin.

'The Golden Rod' (a tall, bright yellow member of the Daisy family, with useful healing properties). The three movements are 'Pastorale' (*Andante*), 'Musette' (*Allegro moderato*) and 'Tempo di Minuetto' (*Allegro*). A musette is a small French bagpipe.

'The Narcissus' (a brightly coloured popular spring flower of myriad hybrid forms). There are two movements: the 'Air' (*Pastorale andante*) is cast in pentatonic style with a marked use of terraced dynamics; flattened leading notes and prominent internal drones give the 'Giga' (*Vivace*) finale a marked Scottish character.

Alastair Hardie

Hector Scott born in Edinburgh in 1969, won all the string prizes at the RSAMD in Glasgow before going to Switzerland on a Caird Travelling Scholarship to study with Max Rostal and then to the New England Conservatory, Boston, USA, where he won the Concerto Club of Boston Prize, the Margaret Spanel Prize and led the NEC Honors Quartet. He now leads the Saltire Quartet and is a frequent guest on Television and BBC Radio. He is Head of Instrumental Studies at Clifton Hall School, Edinburgh and serves on the Music Advisory Committee for the Sir James Caird Travelling Scholarships Trust. Recordings are: 'GOMA'; 'Working Through'; 'Breath of June'; 'Under the Hammer'; and 'Sound Asleep' for Adults, Seniors and Babies, of which 'Sound Asleep for Babies' won the Classical Music Magazine's Record of the Year award in 1993. He has performed concertos with the BT Scottish Ensemble, the Meadows Chamber Orchestra, the Edinburgh Symphony Orchestra and the Dundee Symphony Orchestra.

Alastair Hardie was born in Aberdeen and is the son of the north-east traditional fiddle player Bill Hardie. His main contributions to the Scots fiddle revival have been in areas of performance, broadcasting, teaching, adjudication, and in the printed domain as publisher, author and editor. As a player he has appeared frequently at the Edinburgh International Festival, culminating in 1996 in devising and participating in 'Scottish Fiddle Music', a five-concert series surveying the tradition from 1600 to the present day. As a teacher he is best known through his commitment from 1978 to 2006 as a tutor at Stirling University's Scots Fiddle Summer School. Author of *The Caledonian Companion*, Alastair has also contributed to Scotland's musical life as co-founder (with Mary-Anne Alburger) and violinist with the chamber ensemble Kist of Musick (1978), founding partner in 1984 of music publishers The Hardie Press and founder of The Scottish Fiddle Society.

Donald Gillan joined the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in 2007. Before that he enjoyed a busy freelance career playing with chamber groups and orchestras including the Scottish, Paragon and Hebrides Ensembles, Northern Sinfonia, BBC SSO and Scottish Opera. Donald was born in Aberdeen and had his first cello lesson on his sixth birthday. In 1989 he went to London to study with Eileen Croxford and William Pleeth as a scholarship student at the Royal College of Music where he won all the major cello prizes. After leaving the RCM, he won the Muriel Taylor Cello Prize which enabled him to continue post-graduate study with Emma Ferrand and Ralph Kirschbaum at the Royal Northern College of Music. Donald's varied career has also included writing music and playing with theatre companies, recording solo cello for film soundtracks, and sessions with numerous pop/folk groups and singers including Justin Currie and Eddi Reader. Tours abroad have taken him as far as Japan and Montreal and he has performed many of the major cello concertos with various orchestras. Donald also teaches and he plays on an English cello by Thomas Dodd c.1815.

James Hardie began his musical education as a chorister at St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh. After five years of daily choral services, weddings, broadcasts and concerts, he moved to the Edinburgh Academy where he was a Music Scholar. He has studied the organ with Duncan Ferguson and Simon Nieminski, alongside piano, harpsichord, viola and violin. In October 2012 James took up an organ scholarship at Keble College, Oxford, while reading music at the University.