

CONCERTS

AT THE UNIVERSITY

SPRING—SUMMER 2015

Friday 13 February 2015

1.10pm

Reid Concert Hall

Reid Memorial Concert

Kist of Musick

Hector Scott · violin

Alastair Hardie · violin

Tim Paxton · cello

James Hardie · harpsichord and organ

Programme of works by GENERAL REID, JAMES OSWALD, EARL OF KELLY, CHARLES BURNEY AND GIUSEPPE SAMMARTINI.



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Edinburgh College of Art

March of the 42nd Highlanders 'In the garb of old Gaul'

General John Reid (1721-1807)

'The Crocus' (Spring) from *Airs for the Seasons* (ed. J. Barlow)

James Oswald (c.1711-1769)

Trio Sonata in F (ed. D. Johnson)

Earl of Kelly (1732-1781)

Cornet Piece III for organ

Charles Burney (1726-1814)

Trio Sonata no. 5 in F major (ed. F. J. Giesbert)

Giuseppe Sammartini (1695-1750)

Sonata in C for violin and continuo

General John Reid

***Sonata of Scots Tunes* (ed. P. Holman)**

James Oswald

1. Oh Mother what shall I do
2. Ettrick Banks
3. She rose and let me in
4. Cromlit's Lilt
5. Polwart on the Green

John Reid was born at Straloch, Perthshire and died in London. 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 first set, Solo II - Sonata No 2 in C for violin and continuo - has three movements: *Allegro moderato*, *Largo affettuoso*, *Presto*.

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 Crocus' is taken from *Spring* and has two movements: Aria - *moderato* and *Allegro assai*.

In his *Sonata of Scots Tunes* (c.1739) Oswald uses Scots airs in what Peter Holman describes as "effectively a pot-pourri of popular melodies".

Thomas Erskine, the sixth Earl of Kelly born in Fife and educated in Edinburgh, was Scotland's major composer during the early Classical period. His musical training included playing violin in the Edinburgh Musical Society Orchestra, lessons in violin and composition from William McGibbon (c.1695-1756) and further studies with Johann Stamitz (1717-1757) in Mannheim.

Trio Sonata in F (c.1765) has three movements: *Andante ma non troppo*, *Allegro spiritoso*, *Tempo di Minuetto*.

Charles Burney is universally known as a musical historian, writing *A General History of Music* in the 1770s. However, he was also very active as a performer, composer, and teacher in London. 'Cornet Piece III' is taken from a teaching collection entitled *VI Cornet Pieces with an Introduction for the Diapasons, and a Fugue. Proper for young Organists and Practitioners on the Harpsichord*. It was published (date unknown) by Walsh in London.

Giuseppe Sammartini, the older brother of Giovanni Battista Sammartini, was born in Milan, but spent most of his working life in London, as a composer and oboist. From 1736 until his death he worked for Prince Frederick of Wales, and dedicated many of his compositions to the Prince and his family. Taken from the set of 12 Trio Sonatas published in 1727, Sonata no. 5 in F has three movements: *Allegro*, *Grave*, *Allegro*.

A.H.

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.

Tim Paxton combines a busy career playing and teaching the cello with a variety of wider musical interests. Since 1998 he has been Music Director of the New Edinburgh Orchestra and he has also given adult learning courses on subjects as diverse as The History and Repertoire of the Cello, The Music of Samuel Barber, and The Beatles. He has a special interest in Czech music and also in developing a dialogue between amateur musicians and local composers. As a youngster he studied cello with Ian Bewley and played in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. He went to the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and at Goldsmiths' College in London, studying cello with Christopher Bunting. Funded by two Scottish Arts Council Music Awards, he later spent two years under the tutelage of William Pleeth. More recently he studied music psychology at Sheffield University. He was for ten years a member of the Scottish Ensemble and has worked extensively as a freelance cellist, giving solo recitals and performing with all the major Scottish orchestras, throughout the UK, Europe and North America. He now also has teaching commitments at the Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools in Edinburgh, and at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow.

James Hardie (ARCO) is currently studying for a BA Hons in Music at Oxford University. James began his musical education as a chorister at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh, later moving to the Edinburgh Academy where he was a Music Scholar. During these years he studied the organ with Duncan Ferguson and Simon Nieminski. James is currently Gibbs Organ Scholar and an Academic Scholar of Keble College, Oxford, taking organ lessons with William Whitehead and masterclasses with Thomas Trotter. He studies conducting with Simon Whalley and Edward Higginbottom, and harpsichord with Mahan Esfahani. James has performed at the Usher Hall, St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, and at New College, Oxford. He is active in chapel, conducting and accompanying Keble College Chapel Choir on a weekly basis, as well as recording and touring with the choir, most recently to Poland in July 2013. He directs the Henry Ley Singers, works with *Jubilate!* and Kist of Musick, and also organises the Keble College Early Music Festival. James is a grateful recipient of a Donald Dewar Arts Award.