

# The Singers

Conducted by Donald Halliday

St Giles at 6

Sunday June 14, 2009, 6.00pm

St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Programme

O Lord, make Thy servant Elizabeth  
William Byrd (c.1540 – 1623)

June 13 was the official birthday of Queen Elizabeth II.  
This piece was written by Byrd for Queen Elizabeth I.

O Lord, make thy servant Elizabeth our Queen to  
rejoice in thy strength: give her her heart's desire, and  
deny not the request of her lips; but prevent her with  
thine everlasting blessing, and give her a long life,  
even for ever and ever. Amen.

Jubilate Deo, omnis terra  
Orlando di Lasso (1532 – died 14 June 1594)

Sing joyfully to God, all the earth, serve ye the Lord  
with gladness; come in before His presence with  
exceeding great joy; for the Lord He is God.

Remember not, Lord, our offences  
Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695)

Purcell, one of England's most famous composers, was  
born 350 years ago, and this anniversary is being  
widely celebrated.

Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of  
our forefathers. Neither take thou vengeance of our  
sins, but spare us, good Lord, spare thy people whom

thou has redeemed with thy most precious blood. And  
be not angry with us for ever.

Three pieces by Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)

The 200th anniversary of Mendelssohn's birth is being  
celebrated this year. Mendelssohn famously toured  
Scotland in the summer of 1829 and Scotland was the  
inspiration for two of his best works – the Hebrides  
overture and the Scottish Symphony, the latter inspired  
by a visit to the ruined abbey at Holyrood Palace here  
in Edinburgh on 30 July 1829.

Richte mich, Gott

Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against unholy  
people. O Lord, save me from false and wicked people.  
For Thou art my God, in whom I take my strength.  
Why do you reject me? Lord, why let me go sadly in  
the way of mine enemies? Send out thy light and  
truth, let them lead me to your holy mountain and  
dwelling place. Then I will go to the altar of God who is  
my joy and grace. I will praise Thee with harp and lyre,  
O my God. Why are you cast down, O my soul, why are  
you restless within me. Take hope in God. I shall praise  
my Lord and God again. Again I shall give him thanks  
now and for evermore.

Lift thine eyes (from Elijah)

Lift thine eyes to the mountains whence cometh help.  
Thy help cometh from the Lord the maker of heaven  
and earth. He hath said thy foot shall not be moved.  
Thy keeper will never slumber.

Hear my prayer  
Soprano solo: Lindsey Nicholls  
Organ: Peter Backhouse

Hear my prayer, O God, incline Thine ear!  
Thyself from my petition do not hide! Take heed to  
me! Hear how in prayer I mourn to Thee! Without  
Thee all is dark, I have no guide. The enemy shouteth,  
the godless come fast! Iniquity, hatred upon me they  
cast! The wicked oppress me, ah, where shall I fly?  
Perplexed and bewildered, O God, hear my cry! My  
heart is sorely pained within my breast. My soul with  
deathly terror is oppressed. Trembling and fearfulness  
upon me fall, with horror overwhelmed, Lord, hear me  
call!

O for the wings of a dove! Far away would I rove!

In the wilderness build me a nest, and remain there for ever at rest.

Ca' the yowes

Words by Robert Burns (1759 – 1796)

Arr. Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

Tenor solo: Chris Vernazza

Robert Burns was born 250 years ago and is the national poet of Scotland. The anniversary of his birth is the inspiration for Homecoming Scotland 2009.

Ca' the yowes tae the knows, Ca' them whar the heather grows, Ca' them whar the burnie rows, My bonnie dearie.

Hark, the mavis' e'enin' sang, Soundin' Cluden's woods amang; Then a fauldin' let us gang, My bonnie dearie. Fair and lovely as thou art, Thou hast stol'n my very heart. I can die, but canna part, My bonnie dearie.

The Gallant Weaver

Words by Robert Burns (1759 – 1796)

Music by James Macmillan (born 1959)

Soprano solos: Charlotte Treglown, Suzanne Longley, Lindsey Nicholls

James Macmillan is one of Scotland's best known and popular composers. He is celebrating his 50th birthday this year and this setting of words by Robert Burns was written for the centenary of Paisley University in 1997.

Where Cart rins rowin to the sea  
By monie a flower and spreading tree,  
There lives a lad, the lad for me -  
He is a gallant weaver!

O, I had woers aught or nine,  
They gied me rings and ribbons fine,  
And I was fear'd my heart wad tine,  
And I gied it to the weaver.

My daddie sign'd my tocher-band  
To gie the lad that has the land;  
But to my heart I'll add my hand,  
And give it to the weaver.

While birds rejoice in leafy bowers,  
While bees delight in opening flowers  
While corn grows green in summer showers,  
I love my gallant weaver.

This Marriage

Words by Jalal Al-Din Rumi (1207 – 1273)

Music by Eric Whitacre (born 1970)

This beautiful setting of Rumi's words by the American composer Eric Whitacre was written for his wife, Hila Plitmann, to celebrate their seventh anniversary. It will become a popular request for weddings and wedding anniversaries.

May these vows and this marriage be blessed.

May it be sweet milk, this marriage, like wine and halvah. May this marriage offer fruit and shade like the date palm.

May this marriage be full of laughter, our every day a day in paradise. May this marriage be a sign of compassion, a seal of happiness here and hereafter.

May this marriage have a fair face and a good name, an omen as welcomes the moon in a clear blue sky.

I am out of words to describe how spirit mingles in this marriage.

Ezekiel saw de wheel

Trad. arr. Moses Hogan (1957 – 2003)

The poet Rumi was a whirling dervish so a connection to our final piece is not as far fetched as might appear. This exuberant spiritual setting celebrates Ezekiel's vision of the wheels.

Ezekiel saw de wheel 'way up in de air. An' de lil' wheel run by faith, oh yes, an' de big wheel run by de grace of God. 'Tis a wheel in a wheel in de middle of de wheel way up in de middle of de air. Oh, some go to church fo' to sing and shout, and befo' six months dey's all turned out. Let me tell you what a hypocrit' do. He'll talk about me and he'll talk about you. I'm goin' jine the heav'nly choir when dis worl' is set on fyer, One o' dese days, 'bout twelve o'clock, dis ole worl' gonna reel and rock.

[The Singers](#)

Newcastle upon Tyne

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This concert is dedicated to the memory of NORMAN CAIRNS who taught me music at Dingwall Academy a long time ago. Norman retired to Edinburgh and remained a friend and mentor. He always came and supported our singing here in St Giles. Norman died in 2008.

Donald Halliday

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