

A voice of Music

Three songs for Tenor by Kerry Milan

performed by **Jamie MacDougall** tenor

Scott Mitchell pianoforte



... like a running river winds along into a leafy wood ... (The Green River)

A Voice of Music

These three songs were part of a concert of student compositions performed on 21st June 1963 in the Stevenson Hall of the then Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

They were performed by the tenor Roger Crook accompanied by pianist Anne Strachan.

I have always be so grateful to them for giving what was one of my earliest premières. The manuscript was rediscovered during Lockdown and it is so lovely that sixty years later it is now being recorded in Glasgow at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and by Jamie MacDougall, himself from the city.

Kerry Milan

- Patricia with me at Luss in April 1963,
so sources of inspiration aplenty!



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The *A Voice for Music* recordings were made at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, in Glasgow, December 2023, the recording engineer Bob Whitney for ARDROSS HOUSE, Stafford, ST17 0AX, disc ref: AHP 033.

JAMIE MACDOUGALL Tenor

Jamie MacDougall was born in Glasgow and is one of Scotland's leading artists. He has appeared with ENO, Scottish Opera, Opera Holland Park and Opera North, as well as companies in Europe and Canada, and is passionate about new opera and collaborates closely with New Opera in Scotland Events (NOISE).

In concert, he has worked with some of the world's top baroque, chamber and symphony orchestras. In 2017 he was Artist in Residence at the St Andrews Voices Festival and together with pianist Tim Dean launched Scotland's first song recital group, Song Tellers. In 2017, in a co-production with Scottish Opera, he staged an adaptation of Jimmy Logan's one-man play *Lauder!* that helped mark the 150th anniversary of the Theatre Royal, Glasgow. In 2014 he took his show *Inspirations* to the Wintergarten, Berlin, and subsequently to Mexico and America. His extensive discography of over 45 titles covers baroque and classical, German, Scottish and English song, as well as contemporary. With Haydn Trio Eisenstadt he released the 20CD collection of Haydn's folksong arrangements. His recording with Trio van Beethoven of Beethoven folksong arrangements was released in 2018 and performed at Celtic Connection in 2019. Since 2001 he has been Scotland's voice for classical music on BBC Radio Scotland and can be heard regularly presenting for BBC Radio 3, for many years now anchoring BBC TV's Proms in the Park from Glasgow as part of the Last Night of the Proms festivities.



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SCOTT MITCHELL piano

Scotland-based pianist SCOTT MITCHELL has performed extensively as a chamber music pianist and accompanist throughout Great Britain, Europe, South America and the Middle East.

As a result of his varied chamber music activities he performs regularly at St. John's Smith Square, Purcell Room and the Wigmore Hall in London. He has also appeared at many of the world's major festivals including the Edinburgh and the Festival Wiener Klassik.

As a recording artist Scott Mitchell has released CDs for Chandos Records, ASV, Collins Classics, Black Box and Tosca Records. He has recently recorded Dave Heath's Piano Concerto, "The Passionate", with the BBC Concert Orchestra, recently released on the Freestyle classics label. He is a regular performer on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and has also appeared on Channel 4 and the satellite Arts Channel.

Scott Mitchell has performed with John Wallace (Trumpet), Michael Collins and Emma Johnson (Clarinets), Raphael Wallfisch (Cello), Andrew Watkinson (Violin), Richard Watkins (French Horn), James

Bowman (Counter-tenor) and Andrew Kennedy (Tenor), also with the Duke Quartet. He performs regularly in a duo capacity with flautists Wissam Boustany, Katherine Bryan, Lorna McGhee, Ruth Morley and Yvonne Robertson, also clarinetists John Cushing and Maximiliano Martin, saxophonist Simon Haram and cellist Sarah Oliver.

In competitions he has been awarded the Lisa Fuchsova Prize for outstanding chamber music pianist and the Eric Rice Memorial Prize for outstanding accompanist, both at the Royal Overseas League Music Competition in London.

Scott Mitchell is a Senior Staff Accompanist and Senior Lecturer in Piano Accompaniment at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow where he was recently made a Fellow and where he also taught piano at the Junior Department. He was also a member of the accompaniment staff at Napier University in Edinburgh and also one of the founding members of the Cantilena Festival on Islay, a Festival for strings taking place on the island of Islay every summer.



KERRY MILAN composer and violinist.

The name originally Mill or Milne from Edzell in Angus, John married a Yorkshire lass, sadly dying in Dundee when his stage coach overturned, buried there with the name now spelt Milan. Kerry, born 1942 in Yorkshire and later brought up and educated near Glasgow, studied violin with Paisley-born Jean Rennie, then with Louis Carus at the RSAMD where he won the Robert Highgate prize. In 1962 he performed the Max Bruch concerto in Paisley Abbey with the Renrewshire Schools Orchestra. Later he studied on a scholarship with Maurice Raskin at Brussels Conservatoire and David Martin in London. As a soloist, performances and broadcasts range from Bach to Bruch, Brahms to Berg, and he has led a number of symphony orchestras, including those for Shrewsbury Orchestral Society and the County of Staffordshire, where he taught for 30 years.



Kerry has written numerous articles, for the Strad magazine, Music Teacher, Times Educational Supplement etc, and was for ten years string reviewer for the British Journal of Music Education. He has also edited two house magazines for Staffordshire County Council, its *Ad Lib* music bulletin, and its *ArtsMadd!* magazine of the arts generally. He has served at local and national level on committees both of the ISM (Incorporated Society of Musicians) and of ESTA (European String Teachers Association) and had charge of both Stafford Music Centre, and also the County's school for talented young musicians. Since retirement he has enjoyed devoting much of his time to composition, a particular love in far off student days but since then for many years put on 'hold'. He is presently hon. treasurer of the *Central Composers' Alliance*. His love of Compline, the inspiration for *Completus*, six settings for double choir, dates from the time of his youth in Scotland, where the service has always been a favourite in the Scottish Episcopal Church. The setting *Look down, O Lord and Be Present, O merciful God* was broadcast in 2008 on BBC Radio 3. *Completus* was recorded in Brno by Ars Brunensis Chamber Choir conducted by Dan Kalousek. For information about further works and recordings visit tutti.co.uk, composersalliance.com or ardrosshouse.com.

The Green River

I know a green grass path that leaves the field,
and like a running river winds along
into a leafy wood where is no throng of birds at noon-day
And no soft throats yield their music to the moon.
The place is sealed.
An unclaimed sovereignty of voiceless song.
And all the unravished silences
Belong to some sweet singer
Lost, or unrevealed.

So is my soul become a silent place;
O may I wake from this uneasy night,
to find a voice, a voice of music manifold.
Let it be shape of sorrow with wan face,
or Love that swoons on sleep, or else delight
That is as wide eyed as a marigold.

Lord Alfred Douglas 1870 - 1945

Il Penseroso extract

Oft on a plat of rising ground,
I hear the far-off curfew sound,
Over some wide water'd shore
Swinging low with sullen roar.

Or, if the air will not permit,
Some still removed place will fit,
Where glowing embers through the room
Teach light to counterfeit a gloom.

Far from all resort of mirth,
Save the cricket on the hearth,
Or the bellman's drowsy charm,
To bless the doors from nightly harm.

John Milton 1608 - 1674

Il Penseroso (*The Melancholic Man*) is a pastoral poem by Milton, often paired with his contrasting pastoral poem **L'Allegro** (*The Happy Man*)

Gilbert & Ellice Isles Song

Even in a little thing, (A leaf, a child's hand, a star's flicker)
I shall find a song worth singing,
If my eyes are wide, and sleep not.

Even in a laughable thing, (Oh hark! The children are laughing!)
There is that which fills the heart to over-flowing,
And makes dreams wistful.

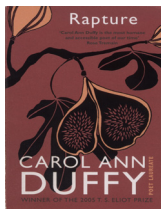
Small is the life of a man (Not too sad, not too happy):
I shall find my songs in a man's small life.
Behold them soaring!
Very low on earth the frigate bird young are hatched,
Yet they soar as high, soar as high as does the sun.

This song was translated from a Gilbert & Ellice Isles song by Arthur Grimble, then resident Commissioner there. It is quoted in his book *Return to the Islands*, a companion to his earlier *A Pattern of Islands*.

Earlier in Glasgow, with Scott:



below, **Rapture**, 2018, with Yvonne Howard
and right: **Caledonia My Country**, 2022, with Claire O'Reilly



Rapture © Carol Ann Duffy
2005 published by Picador, an
imprint of Pan Macmillan
Rapture Song Cycle © Kerry
Milan 2016 published by
Ardross House -recorded 2018
RCS, Glasgow



And to come in 2024:

Rapture - a tone poem for horn trio, its five movements drawn from the twenty settings of the song cycle, part of Carol Ann Duffy's collection of 52 poems: *Forest*, *River*, *Rapture*, *Grief*, and the finale, *Art - Give*, each retaining the author's original poem titles. *Give* in the original is not with *Art*, lying between *Rapture* and *Grief*.

to be recorded by

Scott Mitchell

Christopher Gough: *ex-principal horn with the RSNO*

Maya Iwabuchi: *leader of the RSNO since 2011, her playing described in The Strad as "simply brilliant" and in the Times as "gorgeous".*



Caledonia My Country

Songs of Scotland by Kerry Milan

performed by **Claire O'Reilly** soprano

Scott Mitchell pianoforte



ARDROSS
HOUSE

Track 1: I know a green grass path	2' 21"
Track 2: Oft on a plat of rising ground	1' 48"
Track 3: Even in a little thing.	1' 47"

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