



THE
SCOTTISH FIDDLE
ORCHESTRA

CONCERT SERIES
1990-1991

SATURDAY, 16th FEBRUARY, 1991
IN BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL
at 7.30 p.m.

In Aid of Charity

£1



John Mason

FOREWORD

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with eager excitement we return to Birmingham for the third time. Each year has been more and more enjoyable and the relaxed and appreciative audience which we enjoy in these magnificent surroundings seems to encourage us to perform to the limit.

1990 saw Glasgow as the European City of Culture and we had the privilege of giving a concert on Saint Andrew's Night in the new Royal Concert Hall. This year we are invited to perform in Dublin when that venerable city enjoys the European Cultural cloak. We have included some Irish material in our programme as a foretaste of our visit.

I wish you all a most pleasant evening and thank you for your support and enthusiasm.

JOHN M. MASON
Musical Director

THE SCOTTISH FIDDLE ORCHESTRA 1980-1990

The Orchestra was formed in 1980, deriving its origins from Fiddlers' Rallies which were - and are - held throughout the country. After one of these Rallies, a group of enthusiasts met to consider the formation of an orchestra which would draw its members from a' the airts and would form a cohesive, vigorously rehearsed group of musicians.

The aim was to have a group of approximately 150 keen and interested musicians who would play together consistently, provide a series of concerts in the main Scottish cities, and work together to create the finest possible standard of orchestral fiddle playing without detracting from the strong traditional strains of our music.

1990 marked a milestone in the Orchestra's history when we celebrated our tenth anniversary. It seems no time ago that the first SFO concert was held in the Music Hall, Aberdeen.

The years which have passed so quickly have led us to concert halls throughout the country and abroad. Radio and television performances have been captured on record, audio cassette, compact disc and now our first VHS video, "The Northern Lights" has been issued.

The music from the video is also available on audio cassette and compact disc and will be on sale in the hall tonight or by post from Mrs Grace Pratt, 53 Wagley Parade, Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB2 9WG (Tel. 0224 713149).



SFO FOLK SYMPHONY - THE FUTURE OF THE ORCHESTRA



PROGRAMME



THE QUEEN

1. **ORCHESTRA THE S.F.O. BIDS YOU WELCOME.**
 Fiddlers to the Fore *Comp. J. Mason*
 Ma Big Kilmarnock Bunnet *Arr. J. Mason*
 The Soor-Milk Kert
 Bonnie Wee Jeannie McCall
2. **JAMES NICOL**
3. **ORCHESTRA**
 - (a) **THE HIGHLAND BARN DANCE** *Arr. J. Mason*
 Duncan McKinnon's Welcome to Port Ellen *Comp. J. Mason*
 John MacFadyen of Melfort *Comp. J. MacCall*
 - (b) **THE MUSIC OF J. SCOTT SKINNER (1843-1927)**
All Arr. J. Mason

SLOW AIR
 Forres Cradle Song *Soloist Paul Jordan*

MARCHES
 Gay Gordons
 Lovat Scouts

STRATHSPEY
 Forbes Morrison

REEL
 Angus Campbell
4. **MARY SANDEMAN**
5. **ORCHESTRA**
 - (a) **THE AULD ALLIANCE** *Arr. J. Mason*
 La Russe
 Shean Trews
 Lottie and Chattie *Comp. J. Mason*
 The Girl I Left Behind Me
 - (b) **SUITE**
 The Spirit of Strathisla *Comp. J. Mason*

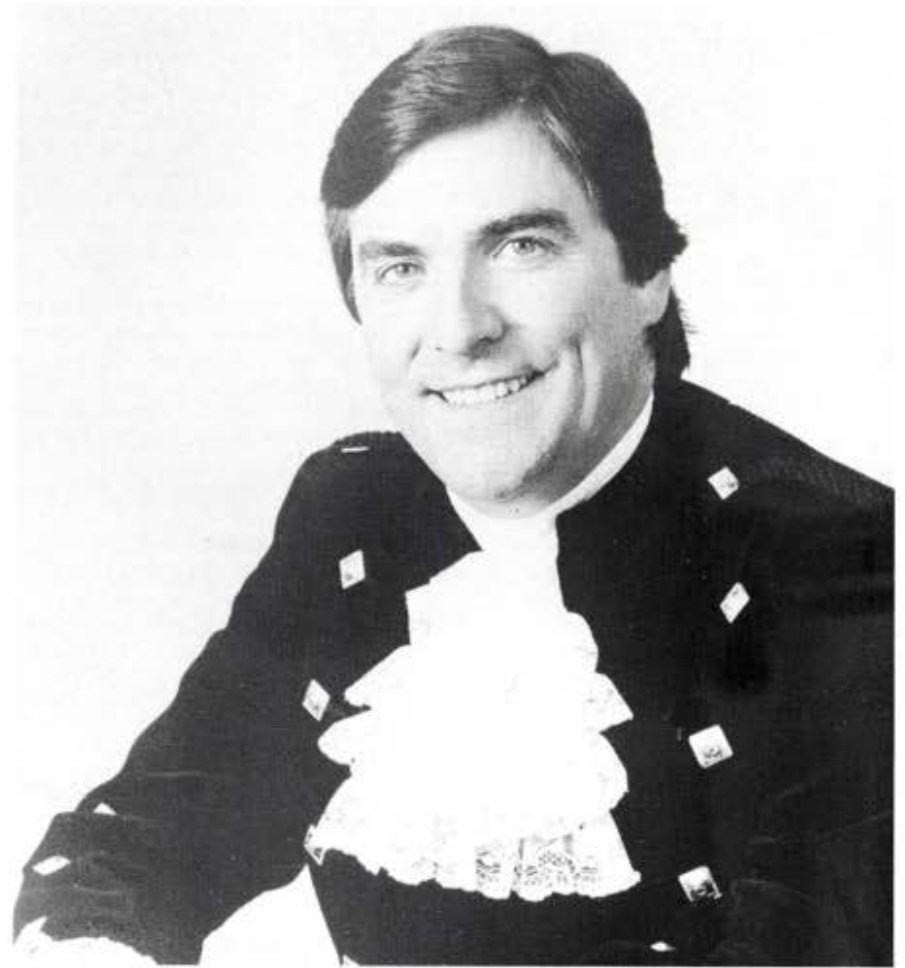
INTERVAL

6. **ORCHESTRA**
 - (a) **DASHING WHITE SERGEANT** *Arr. J. Mason*
 Original
 Rakes of Mallow
 The Waves of Tory
 The Stronsay Wedding *Comp. J. Mason*
 The Siege of Ennis
 The Reel of Kildinguie *Comp. J. Mason*
 - (b) **MILITARY TWO-STEP** *Arr. J. Mason*
 The Shetland Two-Step
 The Dwarfie Stane *Comp. J. Mason*
7. **JAMES NICOL**
8. **ORCHESTRA**
 WHISTLING RUFUS *Arr. Mason/Laing*
9. **S.F.O. GLEE CLUB Songs to Dance to**
 1. Waltzes *Irish Favourites*
 2. Military Two-Step *Irish Favourites*
10. **ORCHESTRA**
 Scotland the Brave
 The Saints Go Marching In
11. **MARY SANDEMAN**
12. **THE S.F.O. FOLK SYMPHONY**
 - (a) **GROUP The Four String Polka**
 - (b) **GROUP CANADIAN REELS**
 Ottawa Valley Reel
 Boil Them Cabbage Down
 Gary Murphy's Jig
 Bowing the Strings
 - (c) **ALISTAIR McCULLOCH — DOUGLAS WHYTE**
 Violin Piano
 The Orange Blossom Special
13. **ORCHESTRA, PIPER AND SINGERS**
 Highland Cathedral *Comp. Roever/Karb*
Arr. J. Mason

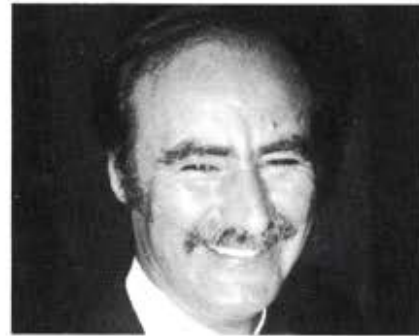
AULD LANG SYNE



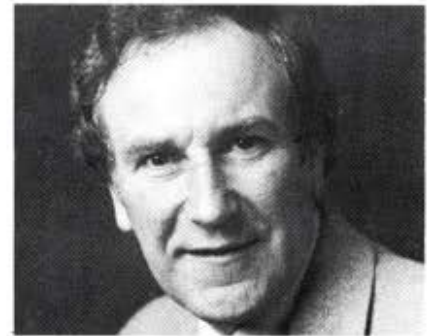
Mary Sandeman



James Nicol



William Cook - Leader



Robbie Shepherd

“THE SPIRIT OF STRATHISLA” – SUITE

THE art of distilling in one form or another is as steeped in the history of Scotland as the art of Scottish Fiddle Music. This piece was instigated to provide a dedication to the Strathisla Distillery in the year of its bi-centennial celebrations, 1986.

The music which commemorates the two-hundredth anniversary of the granting of the Lease or “Tack” of the Keith Distillery takes the form of a tone poem (slow section), march, strathspey and reel with the return to the slow measure to conclude the suite.

“**The Spirit of Strathisla**” – Tone Poem – opens with the traditionally Scottish bagpipes. Based on the history of distilling in the area, the early influence of the Monastic Christian Church is demonstrated in the slow movement with chimes and flute pastoral effects; thereafter follows the effects of the strong and aggressive reformation, and then the statement of the “Spirit” is taken on the solo fiddle extending into the breadth of the full orchestration to bring the history up to date.

“**Stewart McBain**” – March – is dedicated to the Director of the distillery and the countering of the second fiddles adds a different dimension.

“**The 40 Gallon Still**” – Strathspey – is based on the traditional dance tempo unique in Scotland, and the title alludes to the old original size of pot still used in the whisky making process.

“**The Water Kelpies**” – Reel – is descriptive of the mystical fairy folk who look after the water supply so essential to the production of Scotland’s National Beverage at the Distillery.

The return to the finale of slow movement is to encapsulate the entire piece into one unit of history, tradition and folklore of Scotland.

JOHN MASON

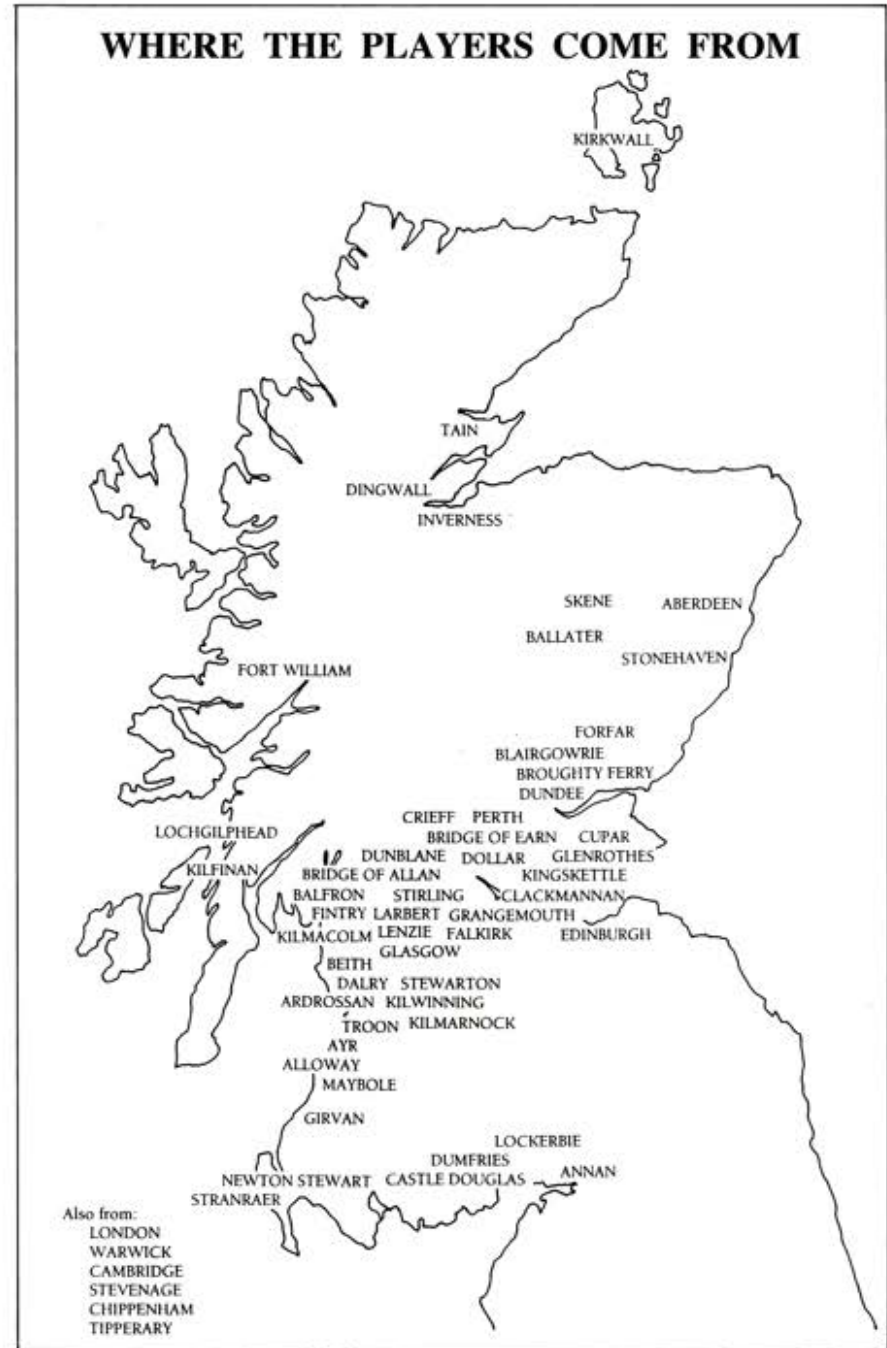
HIGHLAND CATHEDRAL

Inspired by a love of Scotland and its Churches the composer set out to capture something of the style of Worship and yet follow the path of the traditional Scottish Psalm. Originally written for pipes and a brass ensemble this arrangement by John Mason has been extended to feature the complete Scottish Fiddle Orchestra. Poignant words by Mary Sandeman have added yet a further dimension to this admirable piece and encapsulate the whole atmosphere which the composer sought to achieve.

Go in peace, tell the world to share,
That love for mankind, is today in our prayer,
Take my hand, as we walk away,
In search of a brighter day.

Here is the place, where Highland hearts beat true,
Here where our spirits lift, and strengths renew,
Lone on the hillside stands the cross so tall,
Beckons its timeless message unto all.

WHERE THE PLAYERS COME FROM



SCOTT SKINNER,
the great composer
of Scottish
traditional music, and
spectacular concert
fiddler was born in
Grampian Highlands,
in 1843, at Banchory, a
lovely little town about
eighteen miles west of
Aberdeen. He contrib-
uted greatly to our
superb heritage of
Scottish music with his
Strathspeys, Reels and
poignant Airs.

The landscape of
Grampian Highlands
and its air is varied, full
of light, shade and
history. Castles, Malt
Whisky distilleries,
Flowers, secluded



harbours and the Royal
Road are our themes.
There is a directness
about them all and a
feeling of melodies in
counterpoint.

Why not follow these
trails and experience

them for yourself? Get
in touch with us at
Grampian Highlands
and Aberdeen. Write
for more information
about the area or
'phone to-

**Grampian Highlands
and Aberdeen
NESCOT**

**930 St. Nicholas House,
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB9 1DE
Tel: (0224) 632727**



Old Invercauld Bridge. Deeside.