

PROGRAM

Processional

Media Vita Medieval ... arr. Michael McGlynn (b. 1964)
Meredith Brammeier, soloist; Cassandra Tarantino, bodhran

Two Songs from the Irish Choral Series

Ardaigh Cuain arr. David Mooney (b. 1964)

The Lark in the Clear Airarr. David Mooney
Jennifer Sayre, Celtic harp

Three English Duets Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Shepherd Leave Decoying poetry John Dryden
Suzan Boatman and Chrystie Osborne, sopranos

What Can we Poor Females Do?..... anonymous
Jill Anderson, soprano; Donna Jones, mezzo

Hark! How the Songsters of the Grove from *Timon of Athens*
Meredith Brammeier, soprano; Marcy Irving, mezzo
Cassandra Tarantino and Nicki Edwards, recorders; Jennifer Sayre, Celtic harp

Poets of the British Isles

Over Hill, Over Dale text William Shakespeare; Amy Beach (1867-1944)

The Lake Isle of Innisfree poetry William Yeats; Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

Traditional Irish Set

Jennifer Sayre, Celtic harp; Cassandra Tarantino, Irish flute and Irish whistle

Siúil a Rúin..... arr. Michael McGlynn
Hannah Kenyon, soloist

Jennifer Martin, guitar; Cassandra Tarantino, Irish whistle

Colcannon..... arr. Stephen Hatfield (b. 1956)
Christina Bloom, soloist; Donna Jones, Linda Wilson, Sharron Carro, duets

INTERMISSION



Let Me Fish Off Cape St. Mary's Newfoundland folk song
Lyrics and Music, Otto Kelland; arr. Diane Loomer (1940-2012)

In memory of Diane Loomer, co-founder of Elektra Women's Choir

Linda A. Wilson, soloist

Early in the Spring..... arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
from *Folk Songs of the Four Seasons*

Four Folk Songs of the British Isles arr. Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

The Salley GardensIrish
Meredith Brammeier, soprano

Come you not from Newcastle?..... English
Chrystie Osborne, soprano

O can ye sew Cushions.....Scottish
Jill Anderson, soprano

Sweet Polly Olliver..... English
Linda A. Wilson, soprano

Three Scottish Tunes

Annie Laurie text William Douglas; music Lady John Scott (1810-1900)
arr. Arthur Frackenpohl (b. 1924)

Janice Mehring, soloist

My Heart's in the Highlands text Robert Burns; music Donna Schultz
Cassandra Tarantino, Irish flute

Baloo Baleeriearr. Stuart McIntosh (b. 1949)
Vicki L. Ewart, soloist

Follow me down to Carlow ... Irish folk tune ... arr. Percy E. Fletcher (1879-1932)

NOTES

TRANSLATIONS

Media Vita

This Latin verse appears in the 9th-century *Liber hymnorum*, a collection created by Notker the Stammerer, a monk from the Irish monastery of St. Gall in Switzerland. Translators include Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, whose version became part of the burial service in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

In the midst of life
we are in death.
What helper do we seek
except you, O Lord,
You who for our sins
Holy God, holy and powerful.
Oh holy compassionate savior,
Do not give us over
to the harshness of death.
In you our fathers placed their hopes.
They placed their hopes
and you freed them.



Ardaigh Cuain

O, to be in Ardaigh Cuain,
Near the mountains far away,
I would visit the cuckoo's glen
every Sunday

Refrain:

Alas, alas O great destruction!
My heart is full of sadness.

Many Christmases ago,
in my innocent years
I spent down in Abhann Duinne,
Playing on the white beach
With my white hurley in my hand.

(Refrain)

How tired I am here by myself,
That I do not even notice
The voices of the cock,
the blackbird nor the corncrake,
And I don't even notice
the Sundays as they pass by.

(Refrain)

There's no end to this struggle,
It steals time away.
Like it lures the sheep
from the lambs,
And takes away my youth!

(Refrain)

Siúil a Rúin

Siúil a Rúin is a traditional Irish song sung from the point of view of a woman lamenting a lover who has embarked on a military career and left the country. *Johnny has Gone for a Soldier*, a well-known American variant dating from the Revolutionary War shares a common melody and similar lyrics. The song has English verses and a Gaelic chorus, a style known as *macaronic*. The title translates to *go, my love: siúil* is an imperative, literally translating to *walk!*, a *rúin* is a term of endearment.

Chorus:

Go, go, go my love
Go quietly and peacefully
Go to the door and flee with me
And may you go safely my dear.

Colcannon

Colcannon, made from various combinations of cabbage, kale, onions, scallions and potatoes mashed with butter and milk, is one of Ireland's most famous traditional dishes. There are a few words you will want to know:

boxty – a griddle cake made from potatoes
grated into oatmeal and/or flour

oxter – armpit

boreen – a small country lane, especially one with grass growing down the middle (which means it's not used all that much which makes it a perfect place for courting)

clúrachán – the fairy people

cailín – a girl, and usually an attractive one. This is the origin of the name *Colleen*.

Let Me Fish Off Cape St. Mary's

This melody is contained in the *Doyle Collection, Old-Time Songs and Poetry of Newfoundland* and fits in perfectly with this program since according to the 2006 census, almost 23% of Newfoundlanders claim Irish ancestry. Irish author Tim Pat Coogan has described Newfoundland as “the most Irish place in the world outside of Ireland.” Many Irish immigrants were fisherman and Cape St. Mary's is part of the *Irish Shore* on the Avalon Peninsula.

Annie Laurie

Annie Laurie is an old Scottish song based on a poem attributed to Captain William Douglas of Fingland as a tribute to his secret love Annie, daughter of Sir Robert Laurie, first Baronet of the Maxwellton family. Lady John Scott (née Alicia Ann Spottiswoode) composed the now familiar air, publishing it sometime in the 1850s. The song became popular and was closely associated with Jenny Lind, the *Swedish Nightingale*. A *brae* is a hillside, and *gowen* are yellow or white flowers, most likely daisies.

Baloo Baleric

Ever fearful that their children would come to some harm from the *Fae* or fairies, Scottish mothers would hang daisy chains around their children's necks or place iron pins in their clothing. This Scottish chant would have been sung to the children by their mothers over peat fires. There are a few words you will want to know:

Baloo – lullaby *gang awa'* – gone away

peerie – little *oor* - our

ben – room *frae* – from

noo – now *saft* – safe