

HEBRIDES ENSEMBLE

MEDIA RELEASE: 16 October 2015

Hebrides Ensemble brings MacMillan's magnificent Resurrection setting back to Scotland

This November, Hebrides Ensemble brings James MacMillan's *Since it was the day of preparation...* back to Scotland for just two performances.

Co-commissioned by Hebrides Ensemble, Edinburgh International Festival, Soli Deo Gloria and Kings Place, London, and dedicated to Hebrides Ensemble's Artistic Director William Conway, the piece was first performed at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2012. The response was extraordinary. 'Wonderfully rich', wrote *The Times*; 'Broad, blazing and stunning', said *The Herald*.

Written as a sequel to James MacMillan's *St John Passion*, '*Since it was the day of preparation...*' tackles the miraculous story of the Resurrection. Few composers address this aspect of the Paschal Triduum, and MacMillan has written an intimate account of the aftermath of the crucifixion. The composer explains:

'The challenge was to pick up the story again and take it right through to the Resurrection. I wanted to continue the story but in quite a different way. My Passion setting is big but my Resurrection story is much smaller, more intimate – just a handful of singers and a handful of instrumentalists. So the music goes away in a different and quite unexpected direction.'

In today's 'post-religious' culture, MacMillan believes that the story of the crucifixion is something that everyone can identify with:

'I think that lots of people, regardless of what they believe, if they are lovers of music, think of it as the most spiritual art-form... I'm just another of those people involved in that journey to discover, or rediscover, the sacred in our world through music.'

With only five instruments (clarinet, horn, cello, harp and theorbo) and five singers, MacMillan conjures an impressively rich musical landscape, interspersing virtuosic interludes for each of the performers between the unfolding narrative. British bass Brindley Sherratt, known for his gutsy and charismatic performances on the worldwide opera stage, joins four flawless soloists from Synergy Vocals for these performances.

Following the concerts, Hebrides Ensemble will record the work for a Delphian Records release in May 2016.

Hebrides Ensemble presents James MacMillan's *Since it was the day of preparation...* in Glasgow at St Andrew's Cathedral and in Edinburgh at St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th November 2015. James MacMillan will take part in a pre-concert talk in both cities from 7.00pm.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Available for interview:

Composer James MacMillan, Brindley Sherratt and Synergy Vocals.

Since it was the day of preparation...concert dates, venues and booking details:

Glasgow

26 November 2015 @ 7.45pm

St Andrew's Cathedral,

Clyde Street, G1 4JY

Tickets: £18.00 (£15.00 conc. £10.00 students, unemployed, under 18s)

08444 77 1000

www.ticketweb.co.uk

Edinburgh

27 November 2015 @ 7.45pm

St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral,

61 York Place, EH1 3JR

Tickets: £18.00 (£15.00 conc. £10.00 students, unemployed, under 18s)

08444 77 1000

www.ticketweb.co.uk

Pre-concert talk

Glasgow & Edinburgh

with James MacMillan, 7.00pm

Upcoming concerts:

Ravel *Piano Trio*

Takemitsu *Between Tides*

Debussy *La Mer arr Beamish*

4 March 2016 @ 7.30pm

Catstrand, New Galloway

7 March 2016 @ 1.00pm

Perth Concert Hall

7 March 2016 @ 6.30pm

Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh

Come and Play Contemporary Music!

Participants work alongside Hebrides Ensemble to prepare a programme of contemporary music for public performance.

6 March 2016 @ 6.30pm

Tom Fleming Centre for Performing Arts, Stewart's Melville College, Edinburgh.

For more information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact James Coutts on 07510

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