

Border Poets and Border Ballads

90min programme with Interval

Marie Dare (1902-76)

Ettrick

Text by Lady John Scott Hope

Francis George Scott (1880-1958)

Milkwort and Bog-cotton

The Sauchs in the Reuch Heuch Haugh

The Twa Corbies

Text by Hugh MacDiarmid

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trad. Border Ballad

John Maxwell Geddes (1941-2017)

Dances at Threave

arr. for accordion and piano

Judith Weir (b. 1954)

Scottish Minstrelsy:

i. Lady Isobel and the Elf

ii. The Braes of Yarrow

Ronald Stevenson (1928-2015)

A Celtic Cycle

i. The Light and Dark of Love

ii. Peace March for the Ever-Young

for solo accordion

- **Interval**

Ronald Stevenson (1928-2015)

Three Scottish Ballads

i. Lord Randal

ii. The Dowie Dens o Yarrow

iii. Newhaven's Fishwives Cry

for solo piano

Lisa Robertson (b. 1993)

Quines

i. Diva

ii. Ma Ain Country

iii. Horsehead Nebula Speaks

iv. Òran/Song

v. The Flying of the Red Shoes and the Blue Shoes

Text by Gerda Stevenson

Programme Overview

Rieving, family feuds, unrequited love, and all in the setting of the Borders' bonnie landscapes and towns. This programme explores how the rich tradition of Border Ballads has inspired Scottish classical composers - from orchestral tone-poems to art-song settings. The music and composers in this concert may be new to you, but the stories are as old as the hills, as they say.

In the tradition of the ballads, the Scottish Borders have continued to produce verse and rhyme over the centuries - from poets like Walter Scott, Lady John Scott, and Hugh MacDiarmid. These have, in turn, been set to music by 20th century Scottish composers Francis George Scott and Ronald Stevenson - both of whom spent the last part of their lives in the Borders.



The Twa Corbies : Etching by C.O. Murray (Border Ballads: Lawrence and Bullen. 1895)