

## **Turning the Elements**

*Music for soprano and clarinet*

**Frances Cooper - soprano**

**Joanna Nicholson - clarinet**

**Afton Water**

poetry by Robert Burns

Traditional - arranged by Joanna Nicholson

**Birdsong**

**The Butterfly**

from *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*

Six songs with texts by children of the Holocaust

Lori Laitman (b. 1955)

**Of all the birds that I do know**

From *Three Songs*

Gordon Jacob (1895 – 1984)

**Monolog 3**

Erland von Koch (1910 – 2009)

**Turn Ye to Me**

(poetry by Christopher North)

Traditional

**Three Pieces for Soprano and Clarinet**

Rebecca Rowe (b. 1970)

*Beautiful Feathered Tyrant – Duologue – Past Sula Sgeir*

With a strong passion for the written word and the close relationship between language and music, I sought to embrace the meaning and intention behind the words and illustrate them musically in as clear a way as possible. The text had not to be crowded by overcomplicated harmonies and rhythms; the vocal melodic lines shaped and phrased in a very natural way, exactly as they would be spoken, but with nuances and colours which give insight in the feelings and images being depicted.

The clarinet is used in a variety of ways, at times accompanying the voice, at other times, being in the foreground, either to represent the bird or the falling snow, or to set the scene and context by changes in musical gesture and shape. *Duologue* is somewhat of a vocalise for two, playfully exploring the similar timbres of voice and clarinet, by having them in unison then slowly shifting apart, either in pitch or rhythm.

The three pieces share tonalities and harmonic colours, as the relationship between man and nature is explored in a very direct way, thanks to the evocative texts. © Rebecca Rowe 2015

- I. **Beautiful Feathered Tyrant** (poetry by Jane McKie)
- II. **Duologue**
- III. **Past Sula Sgeir** (poetry by Stewart Sanderson)

## INTERVAL

### **Behold my love, how green the groves**

Poetry by Robert Burns

Traditional tune 'On the cold ground'

### **Sweet fa's the eve on Craigieburn**

Poetry by Robert Burns

adapted from an arrangement by

Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809)

### **Fantasia No2 in A minor** from **Twelve fantasias for solo flute**

arranged for clarinet

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681 – 1767)

### **Song to the Seals**

(melody inspired by a traditional song)

Granville Bantock (1868 – 1946)

### **Horo**

Stuart Murray-Mitchell (b.1989)

- I. **Ceòl Na** (poetry by Stewart Sanderson)
- II. **Mhairi Du**
- III. **Contrary Bird** (poetry by Jane McKie)

The work is in three movements: a central vocalise for the clarinet is framed by two settings of specially commissioned poems, influenced by the words of the traditional Scottish song, 'Turn ye to Me.'

However, the work as a whole can be felt as an extended aria for voice and clarinet, with the opening movement serving as the introduction and recitative; much of the notation here is free, allowing the performers some amount of liberty. This is followed by an extensive instrumental interlude, taking its structure almost entirely from the text of the original Scots song. The work concludes with the resulting aria, its repetition of the phrase 'Turn ye to me' acting as a mantra throughout and employing material heard in the previous movement.

© Stuart Murray Mitchell 2015

### **To a Blackbird**

Traditional tune Scot's Queen  
(poetry by 'A Lady')

### **Of a' the Airts**

Traditional tune  
'Miss Admiral Gordon's Reel'

### **The Fisherman's Wife - Here we come scoorin' in**

Traditional  
arranged by Joanna Nicholson

**Frances Cooper** was born in Inverness. She began her singing studies at the North East of Scotland Music School in Aberdeen with Raimund Herincx, continuing in London with the late Johanna Peters. She performs as a soloist in oratorio and recital throughout Scotland and has sung regularly with the vocal ensembles Cappella Nova and Dunedin Consort, performing in the St Magnus Festival, Noirlac Festival in France and at the Belfast at Queens Festival. With the early music quartet, Fires of Love, she sang in festivals and for music societies all around the country for seventeen years and released three critically acclaimed recordings on the Delphian Records label. She is well known to music club audiences through her performances with the trio, Triplicity. She also has a busy teaching practice and runs vocal workshops for adult and youth choirs.

**Joanna Nicholson** held an Exhibition Scholarship at the Royal College of Music, London, where she was the winner of numerous prizes. Since graduating she has pursued a lively freelance career performing, broadcasting and recording with many of the UK's finest orchestras and ensembles, and featuring as a soloist – notably on Bass Clarinet with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra at the London Proms, and with the Scottish Ensemble, performing the Finzi Clarinet Concerto. She has been invited to play chamber music in venues including the Purcell Room and New York's Lincoln Center. Her compositions include the score for the dance work In Situ, which won a Herald Angel at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and several musical stories for primary school children, which are performed by her group Sonsie Music.