

Eadar an Saghal 's a' Bhiothbhuan Between the World and Eternity

In 2006 Urras Shomhairle embarked on an ambitious project to bring the poetry of Sorley MacLean to a wider audience by:

- Commissioning the best traditional composers to set some of Sorley's poems to music or compose new music inspired by Sorley's work
- Establishing a Gaelic and a Music Residency at Sgoil Chiùil na Gaidhealtachd in Plockton to work with the students to create settings of Sorley's poems and other new works

The Trust appointed Kenneth Thomson as Project Director and he, in turn, appointed the residents, composers and performers. The result was a programme of some of the best music created in recent years.

The concerts were held in June 2007 in Plockton, Fort William, Portree, Clashmore, Inverness and Dingwall.

The composers were:

Mary Ann Kennedy
Blair Douglas
Marie-Louise Napier
Eilidh Mackenzie
Allan Henderson

Allan Macdonald
Donald Shaw
Louis de Paor and John
Spillane
Kenneth Thomson

The works were performed by

Singers

Jenna Cumming
Kirsteen MacDonald

James Graham
Alasdair Whyte

Instrumentalists

Mary Ann Kennedy
Christine Hanson
Jack Evans

Gordon Gunn
Brian McAlpine
Dougie Pincock

Choirs

Coisir Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis
Dingwall Gaelic Choir
Oban Gaelic Choir

Strath Gaelic Choir
Melvich Gaelic Choir
Lairg Gaelic Choir

Portree Primary School Choir
Lochaber Junior Gaelic Choir

Deugairean Inbhir Nis

Plockton Residencies

Music: James Ross

Gaelic: Myles Campbell

The Student Musicians were

Suzanne Houston
Lauren Weir
Coralea McKay

Emma MacInnes
Rachel Lincoln

The concerts were recorded for future transmission by Radio nan Gàidheal when they will be included in the Christmas / New Year schedule. The release of a CD is also planned.

Sponsors

An ambitious event like this would not be possible without a large number of sponsors and supporters. The Trustees gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance received from

Bòrd na Gàidhlig
Highland 2007
Proiseact nan Ealan
Scottish Arts Council
Colmcille
PRS Foundation

Comunn na Gàidhlig
BBC Alba
Gaelic Media Service
Highland Council
HIE Inverness and East Highland
HIE Skye and Wester Ross

The award from Colmcille was in respect of the composition by John Spillane and Louis de Paor. The new music award from the PRS Foundation was for the composition by Mary Ann Kennedy.

The project brought together some of the best composers and performers in Gaeldom to celebrate the rich legacy of the poetry of the best Gaelic poet - and arguably one of the best poets in any language - of the twentieth century.

