

A CONCERT IN  
CELEBRATION OF

ROBERT  
BURNS



WITH OCTAVOCE

Octavoce

## Programme

Cattle Call	Trad. arr. K. L. Cooper
Three Scots songs:	Trad arr. S. M. Mitchell
1. Comin' Thru the Rye	Lyrics R. Burns
2. O Gin I Were Where Gaudie Rins	Lyrics J. Imiah
3. Will Ye No Come Back Again	Lyrics C. Oliphant
The Shepherd's Wife	R. Burns arr. K. L. Cooper
Ca' the Yowes	R. Burns arr. R. V. Williams
Ae Fond Kiss	R. Burns arr. S. Hope
The De'il's Awa'	R. Burns arr. S. Hope
Ye Banks and Braes	R. Burns arr. J. Sterling
Ye Jacobites by Name	R. Burns arr. S. M. Mitchell
My Luve is Like a Red, Red Rose	R. Burns arr. Ēriks Ešenvalds
Time Wears Awa' & Parnassus Hill	T.Elliot; A.Hume arr. K. L. Cooper Lyrics R. Burns; Trad. arr. K. L. Cooper
Both Sides the Tweed	Trad.,Tune D. Gaughan arr. F. Cockburn
The Boatman (Fhir a'Bhata)	Gaelic Air arr. M. Starr-Lassen
Loch Lomond	Trad., arr. D. Overton
Auld Lang Syne	R. Burns arr. A. Burns and G. Partington

**Octavoce** is a multi-award-winning, eight-part vocal ensemble. Formed in 2009 in Aberdeen by students united by a love of choral music, Octavoce is now based in Edinburgh and enjoys performing across the UK.

Most recently, Octavoce marked the 100th anniversary of Disney in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2023 with two sold-out performances, and performed the closing concerts of the Korçyra Baroque Festival in Croatia, 2022. In October 2019, the choir travelled to Northern Ireland to compete in the City of Derry International Choir Festival and were delighted to win 1<sup>st</sup> place in the National Mixed Voice category, as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> place in both the National Vocal Ensemble and National Pop, Jazz and Gospel categories. In the 2018 Derry Festival, Octavoce also won the National Vocal Ensemble category.

Octavoce's recording of *Es ist Ein Ros' entsprungen* was broadcast on Classic FM in the run up to Christmas 2019. The group's highly popular annual candlelit Christmas concert series has been running for ten years with concerts in the Black Isle and Edinburgh, with full sell outs in 2023. During summer 2018, the choir toured to Hampshire to perform two concerts in aid of the Cameron Bespolka Trust, raising over £4000 for the charity.

Previously, Octavoce has sung for the music launch for Music at Paxton (2016); performed at the prestigious Edinburgh Festival Supper (2012); were runners up in the Brewers Fayre nationwide carol competition (2011); and gave the world premiere of 'She Walks in Beauty' which was composed specially for Octavoce by Paul Mealor (2011).

### **The Singers**

Jessica Conway, Ali Croal, Nicola Henderson, Jennifer Sterling

Tim Cais, James Kennedy, Stuart Murray Mitchell, Daniel Walsh

[www.octavoce.org.uk](http://www.octavoce.org.uk)

**Robert Burns** (25 January 1759 – 21 July 1796) is the national bard of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide for his poetry. He is most famous for his Scots writing with themes of love, friendship and politics, filled with messages that are still relevant and relatable today. He also wrote in standard English, and in these writings his political or civil commentary is often at its bluntest. Burns is almost as famous for his complex love life as he is for his poetry, with many of his love interests featuring regularly in his work.

Burns wrote most of his lyrics to existing Scottish melodies. As well as his own poetic output, he is responsible for sourcing folk songs from across Scotland, ensuring that they live on through his many collections. Many of the songs that we associate with Burns have been adapted or revised during this process. Auld Lang Syne, for example, started as a small fragment – probably a verse and chorus – which Burns built upon. The melody you will hear this evening is not the most famous version of the song, but it is the original melody that Burns had in mind.

On the fifth anniversary of Burns' death, nine friends sat down to a meal of haggis and sheeps' head to remember the poet. The following year, there were Burns suppers across the UK and his birthday is now marked across the world; little has changed in the traditions of the Burns supper since it was first celebrated in 1802. We hope you enjoy this evening's celebration of Scotland's much-loved treasure, Rabbin Burns.

### **Next Concert: Songs for Spring**

Our next concert will be held at Bowden Kirk in Melrose on Saturday  
22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2.30pm

Check out our website for more details of how to purchase tickets.