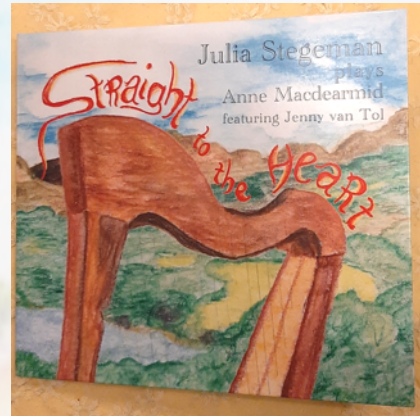


Background information about the music on the CD with music arranged and composed by Anne MacDearnid



1 - Bean Dubh an Ghleanna (The Dark Maiden of the Glen) Irish Traditional from the Bunting's Collection 1796. arranged by Anne Macdearnid in April 2010. This air is in the Bunting's Collection (1796) under the title "The Maid of the Valley". Thomas Moore (1779-1852) used this air for his song "Go when Glory Awaits Thee".

2 - Roslin Castle

(from *Ceol na Clarsaich book 2, arrangements and compositions for Celtic Harp by Anne Macdearnid*) 1990

*Composer of the melody unknown, but by style appears to be early eighteenth century. It had previously been ascribed to James Oswald. But he never claimed it. It appeared in another collection under the name "House of Glamis".

3 - The Silver Moon my Mistress Is

(from *Duets for Clarsach arranged by Anne Macdearnid*) 1991
is an old Scots song.

4 - The Athole Highlanders

(from *Duets for Clarsach arranged by Anne Macdearnid*)
is a lively Pipe March.

5 - O Rìgh nan Dùl arranged by Anne Macdearnid

Rìgh nan Dùl translates as: Lord of the Universe, Deity, God. The line is from the song 'A Mhairead O'.

6 - Flowers of the Forest

(from *Ceol na Clarsaich book 3, arrangements and compositions for Celtic Harp by Anne Macdearnid*) 1991

*The earliest copy of this air has been preserved in the tablature in the Skene Manuscript. The ballad commemorates the Battle of Flodden field, 9th September 1513, in which Thomas Howard, the Earls of Sussex, inflicted a heavy defeat on James the fourth and where many of the Scottish nobility were killed. The title refers to the Scots from Ettrick Forest. The lyric which is used for this tune was written by Miss Jane Elliot, 1775.

7 - Fear a' bhàta

(from *Ceol na Clarsaich book 4, arrangements and compositions for Celtic Harp by Anne Macdearnid*)

*The boatman: This favourite Gaelic song dates back to the late 1700s. The song was written by Jane Lindsay of Lewis and tells of her love for the fisherman and the worry about his safety at sea.

8 - Gleann Bhaile 'Chaoil arranged by Anne Macdearmid

"oh that I were living in the Gleann Bhaile 'Chaoil I would never leave again'

9 - Ned of the Hills arranged by Anne Macdearmid in July 2004

Irish Traditional

The Irish Gaelic title is Eamonn a' Chnoic.

Ned of the Hills, Edmund Ryan, evicted from his home with a price on his head, is realting his tale of woe to a woman who lets him in.

This melody bears a great resemblance to a Scottish melody in Malcom McDonalds Collection of Strathspey Reels 1788 – Miss Graham's Delight. Which came first?

10 - An Clarsair

(from Ceol na Clarsaich book 3, arrangements and compositions for Celtic Harp by Anne Macdearmid) 1991

*The translation of the title is "The Harper", and the air is "An dubh ghleus" noted from the singing of Kenneth Macleod. The words can be found in the Kennedy Fraser Collection. In the arrangement I have tried to imitate the harper improvising with the arpeggios and spread chords.

11 - Da Slockit Light arranged by Anne Macdearmid in June 1997

A tune by T.Anderson (Shetland). It tells about the few lights left in the houses on the Shetland isles when you arrive there by boat.

12 - In cold winter night Bobbin John went to Ford (3 tunes)

(from Ceol na Clarsaich book 1, arrangements and compositions for Celtic Harp by Anne Macdearmid) 1987

When ye cold winter nights were frozen

*Sometimes known as the "Breas O' Yarrow" It is an old Scots air.

Bobbin John

*Scots traditional air. "Bobbin John" was the nickname for the Earl of Mar, a supporter of James Stuart. The melody is printed in Robert Petrie's Fourth Collection of Strathspeys, Reels and Jigs.

Road to Ford

*This little tune I composed to complete this selection. For a few years the road to Ford has become quite familiar to me driving to the Northumberland Clarsach Weekend Course held in the lovely surroundings of Ford Castle beyond Coldstream.

13 - Compliments to Ank van Campen composed by Anne Macdearmid in 2006 celebrating her 75th birthday.

Ank van Campen was a dear Dutch friend harpist, the first harp teacher of Julia. Ank invited Anne many times to the Netherlands to give workshops during Harp weekends she organised. Julia first met Anne in 1972 during a harp weekend in Ede. When Ank, after many years passed the baton to Julia to continue organizing the weekends, Anne was her regular guest and main 'act'.

14 - Lament for Ank composed by Anne Macdearmid January 2011
'With many fond remembrances of Ank' . Ank van Campen died in August 2010.

15 - The Lowlands of Holland arranged by Anne Macdearmid in 1981
From "a Selection of Scottish Airs for Clarsach", Clarsach Jubilee 1931-1981

16 - Coilsfield House

(from Ceol na Clarsaich book 2, arrangements and compositions for Celtic Harp by Anne Macdearmid) 1990

*The home of Col. Hugh Montgomerie (1749-1819) Twelfth Earl of Eglinton, an enthusiast of Scottish Dance Music. This tune was written by Nathaniel Gow, fourth son of Niel Gow. He was a fine musician and played violin, trumpet and cello. He was a leading music publishing figure.

17 - Durrisdeer arranged by Anne Macdearmid in 1981
From "a Selection of Scottish Airs for Clarsach", Clarsach Jubilee 1931-1981

18 - The Stool of Repentance arranged by Anne Macdearmid
Niel Gow

The Stool of Repentance is an elevated seat in a Scottish Church, on which persons were formerly compelled to sit as a punishment for having committed certain of the deadly sins.
(Julia and Jenny say 'sorry' after playing the tune, so this is no mistake ☺)

19 - Suo Gan Welsh Lullaby arranged by Anne Macdearmid in July 2010
A parent's song of protection and responsibility.

20 - Tros Y Garreg arranged by Anne Macdearmid in July 2004
The tune is a traditional Welsh tune. The sentiment of the tune is attributed to Rhys Bodychen, who led a troop of Welsh forces at the Battle of Bosworth Field where Richard III was defeated by Henry Tudor in 1485. It translates as: 'over the stone, the old gray stone'.

21 - An Droighean Donn arranged by Anne Macdearmid in July 2003
This tune appears in Bunting's collection (1796). It is a love song in which the singer says: "My love is like the blossom of the sloe that grows on the blackthorn bush".

22 - Mr. Sharpe of Hoddam

(from Ceol na Clarsaich book 2, arrangements and compositions for Celtic Harp by Anne Macdearmid) 1990

*Written by Mr. Sharpe who was a highly respected amateur violinist and musician, who played in the orchestra conducted by Niel Gow. He was noted for his "cheerful and able assistance but more particularly for private parties".

23 - Cumha Iain Ghairbh (Lament for Iain Ghairbh) arranged by Anne Macdearmid in July 2003

24 - Niel Gows Lament for the second wife arranged by Anne Macdearmid

This air is one of the most celebrated compositions of the famous Scots fiddler and composer Niel Gow (1727-1807). His second wife was Margaret Urquhart of Perth, to whom he was happily married for three decades.

25 - Miss Barbara Hay's Favourite arranged by Anne Macdearmid in July 2003

Scottish Jig

26 - Will ye no come back again arranged by Anne Macdearmid in June 2000

Scots Traditional. This is a sad Jacobite song.

Bonnie Prince Charlie has escaped from Scotland after the 1745 Rising and is safe in France. The Highland Scots who fought for him and sheltered him in secret after the terrible battle of Culloden, even though big rewards were offered for him, wish he would return again. But the song was written at least 30 years later than the events it describes.

*The information about the songs is written by Anne Macdearmid in the books **Ceol na Clarsaich**

When no further information is written, I was not able to recover it. If you have more information please contact me and I will write it on my website

Julia Stegeman November 2022