

# *Caledonia My Country*

Songs of Scotland by Kerry Milan

performed by **Claire O'Reilly** soprano

**Scott Mitchell** pianoforte



## CONTENTS

p1	Dedication to Patricia
p2	Claire O'Reilly
p3	Scott Mitchell
p4	Kerry Milan
p5	The <i>Lucy Ashton</i> and <i>Waverley</i>
p6	Patricia at Smoo Cave
p7	<b><i>Heart of Scotland</i></b> lyric
p8	Craigendoran Pier
p9	<b><i>Blue Dawn</i></b> lyric
p10	Helensburgh and Luncarty
p11	<b><i>Flame of Destiny</i></b> lyric
p12	<i>Rapture</i> Song Cycle and Horn Trio

Notice that there are actually four songs being performed with track four ***A New Twasome***

The recordings were made at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, in Glasgow, November 2022, the recording engineer Bob Whitney for ARDROSS HOUSE, Stafford, ST17 0AX, disc ref: AHP 031.



above: granddaughter Emily in her Hunting Menzies!  
- and right, Emily and Nan in 2003

This 2022 edition of these songs (originally written in 1998 and 1999) is dedicated to my dear late wife Patricia, on her father's side a member of one of the Dewar / Deor families of Perth-shire, while from her Cumbrian mother she had Reiver and Cornish Mitchell blood. She was born in Helensburgh though in 1937 and knew well the Clyde steamers at Craigendoran and the old mill at Luncarty, and of course Cruachan by Loch Awe. Her father worked for John Menzies and during the summer she would help him not just at St Enoch, but also in getting the papers out to boats such as the *Jeanie Deans* and the *Lucy Ashton*.

Patricia died on Hogmanay 2020, in the middle of the Covid lockdown, and sadly a memorial concert could not be arranged. As father Graham so movingly said at her funeral of her smile: "always on her face ..., a light to others, cheerful, loving and caring right up to the very end. Hold on to memories of that smile, that laugh, that joy, of that love. Patricia walked in that light and reflected it wherever she went". At the thought of this CD she will be smiling now!

## CLAIRE O'REILLY soprano

Lyric Soprano Claire Joanne O'Reilly began her vocal education in her native Germany. She went on to study singing at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where she received acclamations, including The Norma Grieg *French Song Prize*, the Frank Spedding *Lieder Prize* and the Hugh S. Robertson *Scots Song Prize*.

After receiving first place in the latter, she began to dive into the Scots language and Song, beginning a life-long love affair with the genre. She has recently worked with the “Scots Opera Project”, coaching new and adapted works in both Scots and Gaelic, with the help of Joy Dunlop.

She has recorded much Scots repertoire with her husband, composer Kevan O'Reilly, and looks forward to similar upcoming projects in 2023. Other commercial recordings include Malcolm Arnold's complete works for voice and piano for Queen's Temple.

She has sung a wide variety of repertoire including Jazz, Concert Repertoire and Opera on many stages around Europe. She is a dedicated voice teacher and choral conductor in her adoptive home of Glasgow, as well as in Germany and the Netherlands as a regular guest vocal coach, adjudicator and conductor alike.



## SCOTT MITCHELL piano

Scotland-based pianist SCOTT MITCHELL has performed extensively as a chamber music pianist and accompanist throughout Great Britain, Europe, South America and the Middle East. As a result of his varied chamber music activities he performs regularly at St. John's Smith Square, Purcell Room and the Wigmore Hall in London. He has also appeared at many of the world's major festivals including the Edinburgh and the Festival Wiener Klassik.



As a recording artist Scott Mitchell has released CDs for Chandos Records, ASV, Collins Classics, Black Box and Tosca Records. He has recently recorded Dave Heath's Piano Concerto, "The Passionate", with the BBC Concert Orchestra, recently released on the Freestyle classics label. He is a regular performer on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM and has also appeared on Channel 4 and the satellite Arts Channel.

Scott Mitchell has performed with John Wallace (Trumpet), Michael Collins and Emma Johnson (Clarinets), Raphael Wallfisch (Cello), Andrew Watkinson (Violin), Richard Watkins (French Horn), James Bowman (Counter-tenor) and Andrew Kennedy (Tenor), also with the Duke Quartet. He performs regularly in a duo capacity with flautists Wissam Boustany, Katherine Bryan, Lorna McGhee, Ruth Morley and Yvonne Robertson, also clarinetists John Cushing and Maximiliano Martin, saxophonist Simon Haram and cellist Sarah Oliver.

In competitions he has been awarded the Lisa Fuchsova Prize for outstanding chamber music pianist and the Eric Rice Memorial Prize for outstanding accompanist, both at the Royal Overseas League Music Competition in London.

Scott Mitchell is a Senior Staff Accompanist and Senior Lecturer in Piano Accompaniment at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow where he was recently made a Fellow and where he also taught piano at the Junior Department. He was also a member of the accompaniment staff at Napier University in Edinburgh and also one of the founding members of the Cantilena Festival on Islay, a Festival for strings taking place on the island of Islay every summer.

KERRY MILAN composer and violinist.

The name originally Mill or Milne from Edzell in Angus, John married a Yorkshire lass, sadly dying in Dundee when his stage coach overturned, buried there with the name now spelt Milan. Kerry, born 1942 in Yorkshire and later brought up and educated near Glasgow, studied violin with Paisley-born Jean Rennie, then with Louis Carus at the RSAMD where he won the Robert Highgate prize. In 1962 he performed the Max Bruch concerto in Paisley Abbey with the Renrewshire Schools Orchestra. Later he studied on a scholarship with Maurice Raskin at Brussels Conservatoire and David Martin in London. As a soloist, performances and broadcasts range from Bach to Bruch, Brahms to Berg, and he has led a number of symphony orchestras, including those for Shrewsbury Orchestral Society and the County of Staffordshire, where he taught for 30 years.



Kerry has written numerous articles, for the Strad magazine, Music Teacher, Times Educational Supplement etc, and was for ten years string reviewer for the British Journal of Music Education. He has also edited two house magazines for Staffordshire County Council, its *Ad Lib* music bulletin, and its *ArtsMadd!* magazine of the arts generally. He has served at local and national level on committees both of the ISM (Incorporated Society of Musicians ) and of ESTA (European String Teachers Association) and had charge of both Stafford Music Centre, and also the County's school for talented young musicians. Since retirement he has enjoyed devoting much of his time to composition, a particular love in far off student days but since then for many years put on 'hold'. He is presently hon. treasurer of the *Central Composers' Alliance*. His love of Compline, the inspiration for *Completus*, six settings for double choir, dates from the time of his youth in Scotland, where the service has always been a favourite in the Scottish Episcopal Church. The setting *Look down, O Lord and Be Present, O merciful God* was broadcast in 2008 on BBC Radio 3. *Completus* was recorded in Brno by Ars Brunensis Chamber Choir conducted by Dan Kalousek. For information about further works and recordings visit [tutti.co.uk](http://tutti.co.uk), [composersalliance.com](http://composersalliance.com) or [ardrosshouse.com](http://ardrosshouse.com).





Patricia in 1987 at Smoo Cave near Durness



## ***Heart of Scotland***

There's a castle in a glen that speaks of Scotland,  
An island in a Hebridean sea,  
But while loch and ben may awe you,  
Burns cascade afore you,  
The real heart o' Scotland beats in me.

*And I declare its glory's in my freedom,  
Its richness and its honour's being free.  
There's a world to face, but no prouder race,  
For the heart of Scotland beats in me.*

There's a canny skill and drive that speaks of Scotland,  
Its genius spreads our fame 'cross monie sea.  
But while glories past may awe you,  
Tales of old enthrall you,  
The real heart o' Scotland beats in me.

*And I declare ...*

Caledonia, my country, each generation new,  
Has left its print embedded, each step one step till now.  
Caledonia, my country, one thousand years rolled on,  
Let hist'ry judge its finest, the vict'ries we have won.

*And I declare ...*



## *Blue Dawn*

The waters flow on,  
 through old Luncarty mill,  
 I still mind the day,  
 when a Clyde launch would thrill.  
 The waters flow on,  
 lovers pledging "I do." \*  
 And hope springs again,  
 As each new day dawns blue.

The waters flow on,  
 by some desolate quay,  
 I still mind the day  
 steamers paddled the sea.  
 The waters flow on,  
 Cruachan's heart beats anew,  
 And hope springs again,  
 As each new day dawns blue.

*"As each new day dawns blue"* is a reference to Thomas Carlyle's famous poem "Today" which begins, challenging us to useful action, with the words "So here hath been dawning another blue day." (It was a poem Patricia, who taught in the Gorbals for six years before we married, introduced to her school pupils, and to me!) Carlyle was born in the Borders, at Ecclefechan, in 1795, becoming one of the most influential writers of his age.

\* -standing on opposite sides of a wee burn, holding a bible, to plight their troth. Burns is said to have done this with Mary Campbell - "kissing the book across the water".

Helensburgh's East Clyde Street house, near right, where Patricia was born on July 10th 1937, the Clyde almost on the doorstep, Craigendoran less than half a mile upstream, left.



The linen bleaching mill at Luncarty which closed in 1996. The beautiful dark green table cloth still graces our dining room.

## *Flame of Destiny*

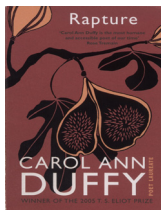
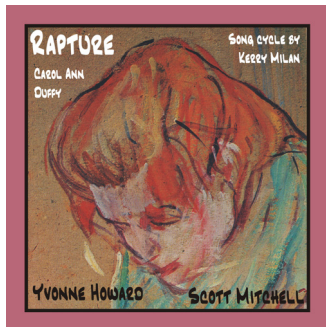
I have heard the ling'ring echo,  
In some deserted glen.  
Where once a distant mem'ry,  
I see life stir again.

*There's a flame is burning brightly,  
Sheds light in ev'ry wynd.  
And brave's the heart of Scotland,  
Each destiny entwined.*

I have heard the ling'ring echo,  
In some abandoned mill.  
Where once a distant mem'ry,  
I see a new-found will.

*There's a flame is burning brightly,  
Sheds light in ev'ry wynd.  
And brave's the heart of Scotland,  
Each destiny entwined.*

Earlier in Glasgow:



*Rapture* © Carol Ann Duffy  
2005 published by Picador, an  
imprint of Pan Macmillan  
*Rapture Song Cycle* © Kerry  
Milan 2016 published by  
Ardross House -recorded 2018  
RCS, Glasgow



And to come in 2023:

*Rapture* - a tone poem for horn trio, its five movements drawn from the twenty settings of the song cycle, part of Carol Ann Duffy's collection of 52 poems: *Forest, River, Rapture, Grief*, and the finale, *Art - Give*, each retaining the author's original poem titles. *Give* in the original is not with *Art*, lying between *Rapture* and *Grief*.

to be recorded at the RCS by

Scott Mitchell

Christopher Gough: *principal horn with the RSNO*

Maya Iwabuchi: *leader of the RSNO since 2011, her playing described in The Strad as "simply brilliant" and in the Times as "gorgeous".*





# Rapture

*Song Cycle*

## Kerry Milan

*Settings of 20 of Carol Ann Duffy's poems*

Recorded at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Glasgow  
September 8, 9 and 10, 2018

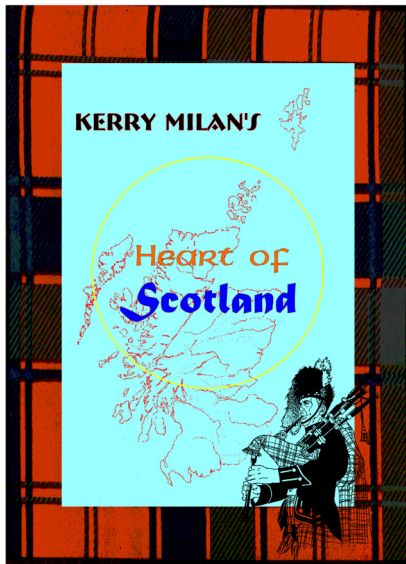
YVONNE HOWARD  
SCOTT MITCHELL

*recording engineer: Bob Whitney*

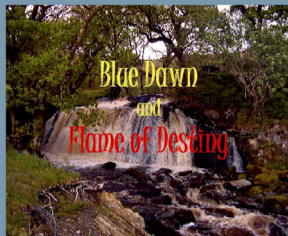
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# *Caledonia, My Country*



A New  
Twosome:



*Kerry Milan*

"Blue Dawn" and "Flame of Destiny" are two unison songs which also combine to form a two-part "Twosome".

- track 1: *Heart of Scotland*  
track 2: *Blue Dawn*  
track 3: *Flame of Destiny*  
track 4: *A New Twosome*

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