

# Erik Chisholm

The Erik Chisholm Trust Newsletter

Spring 2015

## Welcome to the Spring Newsletter

This year, now begun, may well be the busiest one we've ever had. Events in 2004 to commemorate the centenary of Chisholm's birth raised the level of interest in his music. In the following years, many concerts, CDs and a number of broadcasts (not enough of these) have taken place. A major typesetting programme and a vibrant website have raised awareness of Chisholm's music to a new level.

The main focus of this Newsletter, only two months since the last one, is to give you details of forthcoming events commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chisholm's death on June 8<sup>th</sup> 1965. A great programme is in the pipeline and we hope we will see many of you there.

## Recent ECT events

**The first ECT meeting** of the year took place on 28<sup>th</sup> January at London's Festival Hall, a happy working party to discuss the 2015 programme, which we here give in detail. Later the Editor of Opera, John Allison, joined us. A past student in Cape Town's College of Music he knew of Chisholm's music but not the man and wanted to find out more about him.



The Happy Working Party 1 to r: Michael Jones, Mike Spring, Morag Chisholm, John Allison & Hugh Macdonald

The opera *Simoon*, one of Chisholm's trilogy '*Murder in three Keys*' performed in New York by Punch Opera in 1953 will have its UK premier this year.

**E-book Production** We are pleased to report renewed discussion with Michael Richards, Director of Boydell and Brewer the publishers of John Purser's Chisholm Biography *Chasing a Restless Muse*. Currently we are selling hard copies on our website's on-line shop but life moves on and e-book publication by the publishers is the next step. The process takes time but will happen.

**Concerto for Violin and Orchestra** The latest event happened last week and is very exciting. The BBC SSO will perform Chisholm's only violin concerto in Glasgow City Halls on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and a BBC broadcast will follow. This will be the first performance since Szymon Goldberg premiered it in Cape Town in 1952 and later that year with Marc Rostal at the Edinburgh Festival.

## Update on other ECT activities

### 1 Complete catalogue of Chisholm works

The much-needed Catalogue of Chisholm works held on several sites worldwide (United Kingdom, Scottish Music Centre & Chisholm centre, Isle of Wight & University of Cape Town) will shortly be on view on the website

**2 The Website** This goes from strength to strength with many new features. Latest viewing figures show there are 8,000 visitors a month.

**3 Future meetings** The next meeting of the Trust is scheduled in Glasgow for 24 April.

Morag Chisholm Chair Emeritus

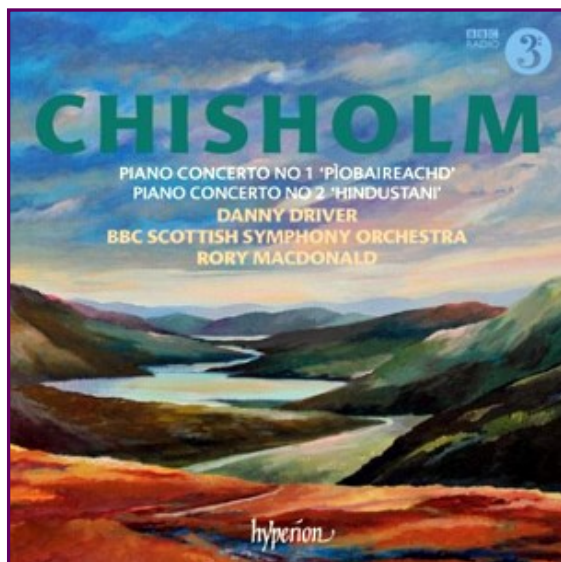
## ECT Chairman's Comment

Plans are now well in hand for the special commemorative events the Trust is promoting to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chisholm's death this year. It is both exciting and rather an indictment of his past neglect that there will be a number of important premieres during the days leading up to the anniversary date, June 8<sup>th</sup>. We're delighted that Kevin Bowyer, one of the UK's foremost organists, will be playing the *Hebridean Organ Symphony* on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kevin, Organist of Glasgow University, has a formidable reputation as a virtuoso, making something of a speciality of the jaw-dropping difficult music of Chisholm's friend Sorabji - so we couldn't have wished for a better exponent!

We shall also have a *Glasgow University Study Day* to look forward to on June 6<sup>th</sup> and during the day will have the opportunity to hear the first performance of the *Concerto for Orchestra* (originally known as the van Riebeeck Concerto) in Chisholm's arrangement for two pianos.

A recital of Chisholm's songs and piano music in the very grand and beautiful setting of William Adam's Pollok House (1752) will be something to look forward to on Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>. The house is a National Trust property in Pollok Park, close to the famous Burrell Collection and well worth a visit in its own right.

Most exciting of all is our premiere of the full score of the one act opera *Simoon*, based on a Strindberg play, on the actual day of the anniversary, June 8<sup>th</sup>. For the first time it will be heard in its proper orchestral garb with members of the Orchestra of Scottish Opera accompanying a cast of talented young singers.



Later in the summer, another important development: music by Chisholm being played (for the first time, we think) in China. Rory Macdonald and the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland will be on tour there in early August (with a concert in Perth before they leave) and Danny Driver will play the *Piobaireachd Concerto* with them in three major Chinese cities, including a performance in China's premiere concert venue, the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing. It will be fascinating to see how the concerto, with so many melodies that are almost as Chinese sounding as they are Scottish, goes down with the audiences there.

***Conclusion some details of these events are still to be finalised, and will follow on the website, but there is no doubt 2015 is going to be a vintage Chisholm year!***

Hugh Macdonald

## 2015 Programme Music festival events linked to June's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**\*Wednesday, June 3 at 7.30 pm Glasgow** University Memorial Chapel. Kevin Bowyer will play Erik Chisholm's *Hebridean Organ Symphony* and music by William Sweeney

**\*Saturday, June 6 Study Day, 10am – 4pm** University of Glasgow, Centre for Open Studies.

### **Scottish Modernism: literature, music, painting and Erik Chisholm**

Erik Chisholm (1904-1965) was a vital force in the arts at a crucial time in Scotland in the 1920s and 1930s, bringing internationally significant figures like Bartok to Scotland. His activities as composer, performer and catalyst are set in the context of his contemporaries –The presentation will be abundantly illustrated in sound and vision. Led by John Purser and Prof Alan Riach.

Application details, venues, etc from Centre for Open Studies, Tel.: 0141-330 1860/1853 (Mon-Fri 10.00-16.30); email enquiries: [openstudies-enquiry@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:openstudies-enquiry@glasgow.ac.uk)

**\*Saturday, June 6 -part of GU Study Day but also open to the public,**

**Lunchtime Recital** Glasgow University Concert Hall

### **Music for two pianos played by Andrew Johnston and Michael Jones**

Erik Chisholm: *Celtic Wonder Tale and Concerto for Orchestra* (a first performance)

Further details [www.gla.ac.uk/events/music](http://www.gla.ac.uk/events/music)

**\*Sunday, June 7 at 5pm** Pollok House Arts Society, The Library, Pollok House Pollok Park, 2060 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow G43 1AT

### **Recital of music by Erik Chisholm for voice and piano and for solo piano**

Emily Mitchell soprano, Baritone TBA, Edward Cohen piano Introduced by John Purser

Tickets (first time attendees £12) from Daisy Henderson, PHAS Secretary, 4 Bute Crescent, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 1BS. Tel.: 0141 942 0023 (email: [secretary@phas.org.uk](mailto:secretary@phas.org.uk))

Optional dinner after the concert must be booked with Secretary at least 48 hours in advance.

**\*Monday, June 8 (time tbc)** Western Baths Club, 12 Cranworth Street, Glasgow G12 8BZ (0141 576 0294) Cottier Chamber Project in association with Music Cooperative Scotland and the Erik Chisholm Trust presents

### **Simoon, one act opera by Erik Chisholm** (premiere of full score)

Details of cast and production to follow Tickets on sale following programme launch on March 4

[www.cottierchamberproject.com](http://www.cottierchamberproject.com)

[www.facebook.com/pages/Cottier-Chamber-Project/203816516323728](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cottier-Chamber-Project/203816516323728)

**\*July 29** (Perth Concert Hall, Scotland); **August 1** (Shanghai); **August 5** (Beijing); **August 6** (Tianjin)

### **National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, Tour of China**

*Shostakovich: Festival Overture*

*Erik Chisholm: Piano Concerto No 1, Piobaireachd.*

Danny Driver, piano, Rory Macdonald, conductor

*Rachmaninov: Symphony No 2.*

Further details of the China Tour will be announced on February 19<sup>th</sup>. [www.nyos.co.uk](http://www.nyos.co.uk)

Perth Concert Hall website: [www.horsecross.co.uk](http://www.horsecross.co.uk)

**Note this not a final programme Keep watching the Website for new events**