

ERIK CHISHOLM

CATALOGUE OF PIANO WORKS

About this catalogue

This catalogue has been produced and funded by the Erik Chisholm Trust (ECT), and is on display at the Chisholm web site www.erikchisholm.com
All listed music has been typeset by Allan Stephenson, proof-read by Michael Jones and assessed by pianist, Murray McLachlan.

The ECT has funded score typesetting, and by the end of 2009 the catalogue will include all Chisholm piano, vocal, choral and string orchestral works.

Printed copies of this catalogue can be obtained by written request from the Trust.

Score Prices shown are for bound copies; unbound editions are at a reduced rate.

Scores can be viewed at the Scottish Music Centre:- Email info@scottishmusiccentre.com
and can be hired from Schott and Co Ltd:- Email info@schott-music.com

Acknowledgements

The Trust acknowledges with thanks permission granted to use liner notes by Dr John Purser for the *Music for Piano* CD series and from Murray McLachlan for OCD639, DRD0174 and DRD0219

Chisholm CDs

There are 9 commercial CD's of Chisholm music; Dunelm Records recorded 6 of these with pianist Murray McLachlan whose excellence, energy and enthusiasm make him one of the major propagandists of Chisholm's music. In April 2008, Jim Pattison, Director of Dunelm Records retired and Stephen Sutton CEO of Divine Art took on the *Music for Piano* series.

In chronological order these CDs are:-

	CD Number	Divine Art
Erik Chisholm Piano Music (Olympia)	OCD639	
Songs for a Year and a Day (Claremont)	GSE 1572	
Erik Chisholm Piano concerto No 1	DRD0174	
Piano Music of Erik Chisholm and Friends	DRD0219	
Erik Chisholm Music for Piano series	DRD0221- 224	DDV131-4
Erik Chisholm Symphony No 2 Dutton Epoch	CDLX 7196	

All can be ordered from the Chairman of the Trust morag.chisholm@virgin.net

Erik Chisholm Trust



The Trust was established in April 2001, granted charitable status in June 2001, and holds the copyright of the published Chisholm works.

It aims to do all it can to promote the music of Erik Chisholm;

**“May it be heard, on the radio, CDs, i-pods, websites, in concert halls, schools
- anywhere, everywhere so that listeners may enjoy it.”**

Cover Photograph: Chisholm Conducting his 2nd Piano Concerto in Moscow, USSR in 1957

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Airs from the Patrick MacDonald Collection

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

- i Allegro
- ii Legato
- iii Commodo
- iv Rubato
- v Adagio
- vi Poco Allegretto
- vii Fadilegan Sgarba
- viii Andante
- ix Andante maestro
- x
- xi Allegro Scherzando
- xii
- xiii
- xiv
- xv Slow
- xvi Rather Slow
- xvii Slow
- xviii Very Slow
- xix Lively
- xx Anadante
- xxi Rather Slow
- xxii Very Expressive
- xxiii Slow Strathspey Time
- xiv Strong and Deliberate
- xxv Slow
- xxvi Prince Albert's March

DATE:

PAGES: 45

SCORE COST: £18.50

CD NUMBER: DDV24132

DURATION OF PIECE: 35:02

NOTES

All but the last of these Airs were drawn from *Patrick MacDonald's Collection of Highland Vocal Airs, of 1784*. Chisholm came into a copy of this as a boy and it stayed with him for the rest of his life, heavily annotated and used extensively for his *Celtic Song Book*, for piano pieces and other works.

John Purser's detailed and excellent notes made for all twenty-six short pieces to be found in *Music for Piano Vol.2* cannot be summarised in this small space.

Here is an extract from a review of the CD by Calum MacDonald (International Record Review May 2005). "It is now clear that Chisholm...holds a highly significant position in the development of Scottish music in the first half of the twentieth century. The separate Airs tend to be pithy almost epigrammatic, with plenty of percussion dissonance à la Bartók and decorative flourishes clearly derived from the pibroch of the Highland bagpipe, but covering a wide range of characters and tempos.

The sheer attractiveness of all this music is beyond question. This is turning out to be a very exciting series. So; excellent pianism, very acceptable recording, fascinating music".

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Cameos

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

1. A jewel from the Siderial Casket
2. The Companion to Sirius
3. The Witch Hare
4. The Spring Lamb
5. The Blited Tulip
6. The Seven Delicate Sisters
7. Moonlit Apples
- 8 Cargoes
9. Sweating Infantry
10. Tall Poplars
11. The Wagoner
12. The Sunken Garden
13. Seamas Beq
14. The Rainbow
15. The Mirror
16. Polnesia's Lullaby
17. The Rolling Stone
18. The Garden of Silence
19. Sleep
20. Happiness
21. The Wet Scythes
22. The Merry-go Round
23. By Avon Stream
25. The Procession of Crabs

DATE: 1926

PAGES: 36

SCORE COST: £16.00

CD NUMBERS: OCD639 DDV24134

DURATION OF PIECE: 14:14, 10:01, 24:15

NOTES

Chisholm copyrighted his *Cameos* in 1926 when Curwen published pieces 1 to 8. There are twenty five pieces and all have been recorded in the *Music for Piano Series*.

Each of the pieces is given a title, some with quotations from an eclectic gathering of sources showing that Chisholm's interests were broad ones from the start.

The opening piece *A Jewel From The Siderial Casket* is headed by an unsourced quotation "B. (Beta) Cygnus-a drop of blood red with an emerald green companion" which refers to the spectacular double star. *Cameos* includes an exuberant piece *Happiness*. The offbeat left-hand chords give it a reckless immediacy suggestive of general tomfoolery, in which Chisholm indulged throughout his life.

The concluding lines of the *Rainbow* might well describe the nature of all these miniature cameos:-

"I saw the lovely arch of rainbow span
the sky
The old sun burning as the rain swept by
In bright-ringed solitude
The showery foliage shone
One lovely moment
And the bow was gone"

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Ceol Mor Dances

CATEGORY: SOLO PIANO VERSION

MOVEMENTS:

- i Poco Adagio
- ii Allegretto scherzandro
- iii Allegretto grazioso
- iv Allegro moderato

DATE:

PAGES: 28

SCORE COST: £13.50

CD NUMBER: Not yet released

DURATION OF PIECE: 16:40

NOTES

TITLE OF WORK

Cornish Sonata

CATEGORY:

MOVEMENTS:

- I. The Wet Scythes
- II. Blown Spume
- III. Chin Tongue and Waggle
- 4. With Cloggs On

DATE: 1926

PAGES: 58

SCORE COST: £24.00

CD NUMBER: DDV24133

DURATION OF PIECE: 33:58

NOTES

The work is of interest as a kind of compositional groundwork for later developments of Scottish traditional material. The first movement *The Wet Scythes* is a set of variations, initially meditative and coloured with some beautiful “Weird discords and minute Scherzando Touches.” Chisholm describes the melody of *Blown Spume*, as “chattering along with biting accents.” The final movement *With Cloggs On* becomes increasingly rhapsodic finally expends itself in *glissandi* and exciting *presto*.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK	NOTES
<p data-bbox="95 164 442 212">Dance Bachanal</p> <p data-bbox="95 220 324 245">CATEGORY: PIANO</p> <p data-bbox="95 261 259 285">MOVEMENTS:</p> <p data-bbox="95 594 242 618">DATE: 1924</p> <p data-bbox="95 634 201 659">PAGES: 7</p> <p data-bbox="95 675 324 699">SCORE COST: £7.00</p> <p data-bbox="95 724 453 748">CD NUMBER: Not yet released</p> <p data-bbox="95 764 418 789">DURATION OF PIECE: 4.42</p>	<p data-bbox="618 196 1053 318"><i>Dance Bachanal</i> is a bold piece, as brash as its title, and calling for a virtuosic outburst of energy which here it certainly receives.</p> <p data-bbox="618 326 1071 505">It is full of directions to the performer, several suggesting orchestral colours, but less inventive in terms of its textures than most of his later work. It was completed in 1924 and was also planned in an orchestral version.</p>

TITLE OF WORK	NOTES
<p data-bbox="95 883 571 997">Dance of the Princess Jaschya-Sheena</p> <p data-bbox="95 1078 324 1102">CATEGORY: PIANO</p> <p data-bbox="95 1118 259 1143">MOVEMENTS:</p> <p data-bbox="95 1151 224 1175">I.Orientale</p> <p data-bbox="95 1321 171 1346">DATE:</p> <p data-bbox="95 1354 201 1378">PAGES: 3</p> <p data-bbox="95 1395 324 1419">SCORE COST: £6.00</p> <p data-bbox="95 1443 453 1468">CD NUMBER: Not yet released</p> <p data-bbox="95 1484 418 1508">DURATION OF PIECE : 2:38</p>	

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK	NOTES
<p data-bbox="98 168 486 277">Dunedin Suite for Piano</p> <p data-bbox="98 321 333 345">CATEGORY: PIANO</p> <p data-bbox="98 358 259 383">MOVEMENTS:</p> <p data-bbox="98 391 244 415">No.1 Prelude</p> <p data-bbox="98 423 271 448">No.2 Sarabande</p> <p data-bbox="98 456 244 480">No.3 Caprice</p> <p data-bbox="98 488 275 513">No.4 Strathspey</p> <p data-bbox="98 521 185 545">No.5 Jig</p> <p data-bbox="98 594 169 618">DATE:</p> <p data-bbox="98 634 216 659">PAGES: 30</p> <p data-bbox="98 675 350 699">SCORE COST: £14.00</p> <p data-bbox="98 724 451 748">CD NUMBER: Not yet released</p> <p data-bbox="98 764 421 789">DURATION OF PIECE: 16:13</p>	

TITLE OF WORK	NOTES
<p data-bbox="98 888 416 932">Elektra Sonata</p> <p data-bbox="98 943 333 967">CATEGORY: PIANO</p> <p data-bbox="98 984 259 1008">MOVEMENTS:</p> <p data-bbox="98 1317 169 1341">DATE:</p> <p data-bbox="98 1357 216 1382">PAGES: 10</p> <p data-bbox="98 1398 350 1422">SCORE COST: £9.00</p> <p data-bbox="98 1446 451 1471">CD NUMBER: Not yet released</p> <p data-bbox="98 1487 421 1511">DURATION OF PIECE: 4:35</p>	<p data-bbox="627 919 1056 1162">This undated piece of pastiche is in the genre of the exhibitionist transcription indulged in by virtuoso pianist-composers. Chisholm might well have become a virtuoso pianist but in the context of his real compositional achievements this is simply a bombastic curiosity.</p>

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

“E Praeterita” First Sonatina for piano after Luis de Narvaez (fl. 1538)

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

I Grave

II Allegro Moderato

III Lento

IV Moderato e Poco Maestoso

DATE: 1929 - 40

PAGES: 12

SCORE COST: £9.00

CD NUMBER: DDV24133

DURATION OF PIECE: 7:20

NOTES

Chisholm composed six sonatinas, with the overall title, E Praeterita meaning “From the Past.” Three movements of Sonatina I are stated by Chisholm to be *Diferences on O Gloriosa Domina* by Luis de Narvaez who flourished c1538. The theme is presented with contrapuntal clarity and variety of texture, appearing in the left hand in the second movement, sombre in the Lento and, in the concluding movement, given fluent fugal treatment of the highest quality.

TITLE OF WORK

“E Praeterita” Second Sonatina for piano

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

I Allegro

II Andante

III Moderato

DATE:

PAGES: 11

SCORE COST: £9.00

CD NUMBER: DDV24133

DURATION OF PIECE: 7:03

NOTES

The opening Allegro of the Second Sonatina is after a *Fantasia for Lute* by Luis de Milan c1535; and is essentially a prelude to his second movement, treatment of a Jakob Obrecht *Agnus Dei* from his *Missa Sine Nomine*. Chisholm’s ability to find the splendour in the clean, almost modest lines of his model without any sense of unwanted exaggeration, demonstrates how much he is technically at home and emotionally at ease in this neo-classical idiom, both as a composer and a pianist.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

“E Praeterita” Third Sonatina on Four Ricercars

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

1. Prelude
2. Adagio
3. Ricarcara
4. Moderato e maestoso

DATE:

PAGES: 13

SCORE COST: £9.00

CD NUMBER: OCD639, DDV24134

DURATION OF PIECE: 8:04, 7:48

NOTES

Third Sonatina on four Ricercars is a tour-de-force of bravura, texture counterpoint and superb chording. The term “*Ricercar*” means to “research” but is not the meaning here. These are more properly preludes preparing us for the next piece. The first movement is a *Prelude*, the second an *Adagio*. The third Ricercar is essentially a three part invention strutting self-confidently, indeed joyously. The final movement announces itself with majesty and proceeds to a subtle toccata-like *Allegretto*

TITLE OF WORK

“E Praeterita” Fourth Sonatina

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

I Allegretto

DATE:

PAGES: 4

SCORE COST: £6.00

CD NUMBER: DRD0174,

DURATION OF PIECE: 3:64

NOTES

This is one of the six Sonatinas that make up *E Praeterita*, which was inspired by ancient and obscure motifs from the pre-classical era. Most of the equations and thematic fragments used in the cycle are taken from the Spanish lutenists, such as Dalza and Spinaccio. Chisholm’s sonatinas branch out from free transcription becoming affectionate commentaries on the original material they use, rather than mere arrangements. Number 4 is especially charming.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

“E Praeterita” Fifth Sonatina

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

i Menuet

ii Berceuse

iii The Jew's Dance

DATE:

PAGES: 10

SCORE COST: £9.00

CD NUMBER: Not yet released

DURATION OF PIECE: 6:07

NOTES

Chisholm's accomplished contrapuntal writing more than honours the style of Conrad Pauman's original of 1452 based on a traditional love song, *Mitganczen Willen*. The conventional turns and gestures are given enlivening chromatic colouring by Chisholm, and the rhythms are enhanced by subtle contrasts between *legato* and *staccato*.

TITLE OF WORK

“E Praeterita” Sixth Sonatina after Claude Gervaise (fl.1550)

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

i. Basse Dance

ii. Aria

iii. Burlesque

DATE:

PAGES: 16

SCORE COST: £9.00

CD NUMBER: Not yet released

DURATION OF PIECE: 6:54

NOTES

The opening Basse Danse is initially based quite closely on Claude Gervaise's *La Volunte* of around 1550, but Chisholm extends the treatment with lively inventiveness. The Aria derived from a Gervaise *Pavane d'Angleterre* was originally inspired by the courtly dance of the peacock. Chisholm's harmonies have their own fine logic that stays true to the fundamentals.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Four Elegies

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

Elegy No. 1

Elegy No. 2

Elegy No. 3

Elegy No. 4

DATE:

PAGES: 12

SCORE COST: £9.00

CD NUMBER: DRD0174,

DURATION OF PIECE: 6:33

NOTES

Béla Bartók was a friend of Chisholm and his influence can be directly heard in this superb suite of miniatures. Black, dour and lugubrious textures dominate in movements, which triumphantly fuse quintessentially Celtic motifs with highly individualistic harmonies.

One can well understand why Chisholm has been referred to as 'MacBartók'.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

From the True Edge of the Great World

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

No.1 Ossianic Lay

No. 2 Stravaiging

No.3 Sea Sorrow

No.4 The Hour of the Sluagh
(Harder Version)

The Hour of The Sluagh (Easier Version)

No.5 Sheiling Lullaby

No. 6 Spinning Song

No.7 Rudha Ban

No.8. Port-A-Beul

No.9 Song of the Mavis

No. 10 Sea Tangle

DATE: 1943

PAGES: 68

SCORE COST: £25.00

CD NUMBER: DDV24132

DURATION OF PIECE: 35:53

NOTES

The title refers to the Hebridean Islands which are thought by some to represent Ultima Thule, or The Edge of The World. Chisholm very probably got the idea for this whole group of preludes from Amy Murray, an American, from whose book *Father Allan's Island* he got all the tunes except for the prelude Rudha Ban.

Orchestrated versions of nine of the preludes were first performed by the BBC Scottish Orchestra in 1949, and conducted by Chisholm himself.

These are much more than simple settings of traditional melodies. As the term "Preludes" implies, they are more in the form of meditations or improvisations on some aspect of a melody which may only appear in full once in the whole piece.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Harris Dance

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

DATE:

PAGES: 8

SCORE COST: £7.00

CD NUMBER: Not yet released

DURATION OF PIECE: 3:36

NOTES

Harris Dance is an outstanding example of the depth of the composer's understanding of Scottish and, in particular, Highland Scottish traditional music. The variety of texture and rhythm is astonishing.

Extract from review by Calin Scott-Sutherland:-

"Here in the brief Harris Dance the accent is certainly on the more highland aspects of Gaelic melody, the clashing harmonies cloaking the melody with splashes of Peploe-like colour.

TITLE OF WORK

Highland Sketches (Six Small Piano Pieces)

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

1. I am disposed to mirth
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

DATE:

PAGES: 12

SCORE COST: £8.50

CD NUMBER: DDV24143

DURATION OF PIECE: 7:31

NOTES

Chisholm's *Highland Sketches* come in four books and it is from these that the present group is taken. They consist almost entirely of arrangements of melodies of Patrick MacDonald's *A Collection of Highland Vocal Airs*.

The six presented here make ready use of dissonance as a rhythmic device to emphasise the already powerful rhythmic identities of the originals. His harmonisation is not only rhythmical in its intention but occasionally teasing in its play with tonality.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Night Song of the Bards

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

First Bard

Second Bard

Third Bard

Fourth Bard

Fifth Bard

Sixth Bard: Finale (The Chief)

DATE: 1944 - 1951

PAGES: 43

SCORE COST: £19.00

CD NUMBER: OCD639

DURATION OF PIECE: 25:84

NOTES

This extended work takes its inspiration from an anonymous Gaelic poem. The First Bard is constructed from a tightly knit melodic cell first heard at the bottom of the keyboard. The Second Bard's opening melodic motif expands into a frightening tone poem. The Third Bard creates strikingly impressionistic effects within a filigree texture. The Fourth Bard is a bravura tone poem calling for much virtuosity and élan. In complete contrast the Fifth Bard makes a transition from stasis to serenity. The Sixth Bard has a striking chromatic motif moving towards a powerful climax. The work concludes with a peaceful epilogue in which the music disappears as though through the mist.

TITLE OF WORK

Peter Pan (A Little Piano Suite)

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

1. Peter

2. Wendy

3. The Crocodile

4. Tinkerbell

5. Captain Jas Hook

DATE:

PAGES: 15

SCORE COST: £9.00

CD NUMBER: Not yet released

DURATION OF PIECE: 11:45

NOTES

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Petite Suite (Air from the MacDonald Collection)

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

1. Harris Dance
2. Mermaid's Song
3. Skye Dance
4. Churning Croon
5. Love of My Youth
6. Och o ro u

DATE: rev 1951

PAGES: 10

SCORE COST: £9.00

CD NUMBER: DDV24132

DURATION OF PIECE: 7:15

NOTES

Chisholm projected various different presentations of his setting of *Airs from Patrick MacDonald's collection*. The *Isle of Harris* is in the Outer Hebrides; *Harris Dance* is at a steady tempo.

In the *Mermaid Song*, Chisholm has stretched the range of this tune and covered its gentle repetitions with trills and liquid charms.

The title of the last piece, *Och o ru u*, consists of meaningless vocals, though "och" is usually associated with an expression of sorrow.

TITLE OF WORK

Piano Concerto No. I Piano Score

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

- I Molto Moderato
- II Allegro scherzando
- III Adagio
- IV Allegro con brio

DATE: 1937

PAGES: 27

SCORE COST: £13.50

CD NUMBER: DRD0174

DURATION OF PIECE: 35:59

NOTES

His first piano concerto takes the *Piobaireachd*, the traditional music of the Highland bagpipes, as the basis for its themes. The work had its first performance in Edinburgh in 1938 conducted by Ian Whyte with the composer as a soloist. What strikes one most is the individuality of its soundworld (the orchestral realisation of bagpipe music is spellbinding, with extremely original scoring).

Rob Barnett writes in *MusicWeb* "It is a gorgeous work twisted from the silk and hemp of Bartók, Ravel and Szymanowski and the roughened cloth of the Scottish Highlands".

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Piano Concerto No.2 (Indian)

CATEGORY: PIANO SOLO

MOVEMENTS:

- 1 Moderato
- 2 Thema con Variazione
- 3 Allegretto

NOTES

The Piano Concerto No 2, first performed in Cape Town in 1949, was specially recorded by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra with conductor Clark Rundell, and was broadcast in part on BBC Radio Scotland, October 28, 2007.

John Purser writes 'The Concerto emerges as a major achievement in terms of over-all conception, technical innovation and brilliance and superb handling of the orchestra'

The soloist, Dutch pianist Ronald Brautigam, has this to say of his experience "It is a great privilege to be working on such a wonderful Concerto! I have completely fallen in love with the piece. The work is definitely challenging, but the wealth of musical ideas, the refinement of the slow movement, the humour and boisterousness of the finale make one forget that at times fingers need to be scraped off the keyboard'.

No commercial CD was made from this recording but a copy can be obtained on application to the Erik Chisholm Trust.

DATE: 1948 - 49

PAGES:

SCORE COST:

CD NUMBER:

DURATION OF PIECE: 34:00

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Piobaireachd for Solo Piano

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

- No. 1 The Salute for Clan Ranald
- No.2 The Duntroon Pibroch
- No. 3 The Desperate battle
- No. 4 The Chisholm Salute
- No. 5 'S Leam Fhein an Glenn- The glenn is Mine
- No. 6 Cumha Mhic Shimidh- Lord Lovet's lament
- No. 7 Failte thighearna Na Comaraich
- No. 8 Cas Air Amhaich, A thighearna Chola - Maclean of coll putting his foot on The Neck of His enemy
- No. 10 Failte nan Grogarach - The MacGregor's suite
- No. 11 Failte Comunn Gaidhealach Albainn - The highland Society of Scotland's Salute
- No. 12 Cumha Phadruig Oig Mhic Cruimrin - Patrick Og MacCrimmons Lament
- No. 13 Cumha Airson Triall Rìgh Seumas - Lament for King James
- No. 14
- No. 16
- No. 17
- No. 19
- No. 20
- No. 21
- No. 22
- No. 23

DATE:

PAGES: 71

SCORE COST: £26.00

CD NUMBER: DDV24134

DURATION OF PIECE: 14:17, 21:30, 24:29

NOTES

The whole work consists of twenty-three short pieces which have been recorded over 3 later *Music for Piano* series CDs only one of which has been released. It is devoted to Chisholm's setting of traditional Scottish Piobaireachd. The word simply means pipe music but has come to be applied to a specific form - a set of variations on a theme called *Ceol mor*, the "Big Music". Chisholm's approach to this remarkable genre is deeply informed by its technical idiosyncrasies.

He had the knowledge and pianism for this but he respects the tradition of pace and embellishment, though treating the drone element with inventive harmonic freedom.

Amongst all the remarkable pieces number four is worthy of special mention *Faillt' an t-Siosalaich*, The Chisholm Salute. The composer was naturally conscious of the traditions associated with his father's clan, writing in 1945 that "The Chisholm Salute" for example is only to be played when the chief is in residence at Beaulieu Castle, at the birth of an heir, or on some important occasion in the life of that particular clan".

There is no question that this setting is a proud one with its bold note clusters and the gathering power of its octave doublings in the second variation.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Piobaireachd Lament No.1

CATEGORY: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

DATE:

PAGES: 7

SCORE COST: £7.00

CD NUMBER: DDV24133

DURATION OF PIECE: 5:35

NOTES

Lament Number 1 is based upon *Cumha Dhomhnuill Bhain Mhic Cruimein*.

Donald Ban was one of the famous MacCrimmon piping family and was the only person killed at the Rout of May in 1746.

Chisholm announces the “riar” with moving simplicity, but the darkness gradually invades the texture and the complex impressionistic treatment of the variations adds a kind of mystery to this haunting music.

TITLE OF WORK

Piobaireachd Lament No.2

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

DATE:

PAGES: 19

SCORE COST: £11.00

CD NUMBER: DDV24133

DURATION OF PIECE: 8:09

NOTES

The Ceol Mor piece on which the second lament is based is yet to be identified. There are four variations, becoming increasingly ornate and developing imaginative textures sometimes mysterious, other times tranquil. The urlar returns with cold slow-flowing demi-semi-quavers, as though the lament was gradually turning to ice.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

“Portraits” Six Pieces for Piano

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

Epitaphe
Melodie Chiaroscuro
Porgy and the Repent-ye-
Saith-the-Lorders on Parade
Agnes and the Maultasch
Suss communes with Malmi
Four Spectres in Dance
A Portrait of a Fashionable Gentlewoman

DATE: 1924 - 1929

PAGES: 42

SCORE COST: £18.00

CD NUMBER: DDV24134

DURATION OF PIECE: 26:49

NOTES

In the original score, Portraits subtitled “*Six Pieces for Piano*” has as its sixth piece Four Spectres in Dance which continues the tragic and haunting story of the fifth piece, in which Suss, condemned to death, speaks to his daughter Malmi. However on the CD recording, a *Fashionable Gentlewoman* has been substituted in error; this will be added in a later recording.

TITLE OF WORK

Scenes from Browning’s Pippa Passes

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

No. 1 Morning
No. 2 Noon

DATE:

PAGES: 28

SCORE COST: £13.00

CD NUMBER: Not yet released

DURATION OF PIECE: Not recorded

NOTES

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Scottish Airs

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

1

2 Andante Cantabile

3 Tempo e Rubato

4

5 Allegro Moderato

6 Pomposo

7 Poco scherzando

8 Lento

9 Allegro con spirito

DATE:

PAGES: 14

SCORE COST: £9.00

CD NUMBER: OCD639

DURATION OF PIECE: 11:25

NOTES

Murray McLachlan suggests in his programme notes that this collection of Scottish Airs can be considered as Chisholm's response to Bartók's *Improvisations on nine Hungarian Peasant Songs*. Each movement is strongly characterised by material, which is obviously Scottish in spirit.

The nine Airs strike different moods: playful (scherzando in the third Air), humorous (seventh Air), grandiose (Airs one and six), to wistful (Airs two, five and eight).

They are all a delight to play and to hear.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Scottish Airs for the Children (Easy Pieces)

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

I Rondo

II

III

IV

V Harris Dance

VI Ground

VII

VIII

IX

X

XI The Snap

XII Reel

XIII

XIV Pastoral

XV

XVI Canon

XVII Menuet

XVII Reel

XIX Reel

XX

XXI

XXII March

DATE:

PAGES: 38

SCORE COST: £16.00

CD NUMBER: DDV24131

DURATION OF PIECE: 33:31

NOTES

All of these Airs were drawn from Patrick MacDonald's *A Collection of Highland Vocal Airs*, published in 1784. Chisholm wrote on the title page an alternative title "Scottish Airs: easy pieces", with the further intention of publishing them in three graded volumes, for which he had drawn up lists. The manuscript is undated, but the Airs were probably composed in the 1940's when he was still in Scotland.

These are settings of great beauty, and sensitivities enhanced, rather than diminished, by the directness and simplicity of treatment required for children. The writing for the left hand is particularly good, developing different kinds of independent motion without compromising the melodies, whose quality and variety is unsurpassed.

They are absolute classics of their kind and their neglect is incomprehensible.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Sonata in A A Rhiobain Dearg

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

Molto moderato

Scherzo; Allegretto con moto

Lament; HMS Thetis

Allegro Moderato

DATE: 1939

PAGES:

SCORE COST: Cost Apply to ECT

CD NUMBER: DRD0219 DDV24131

DURATION OF PIECE: 39:14, 33:31

NOTES

This long lost Piano Sonata was performed by McLachlan at the Wigmore Hall in 2004 in celebration of the composer's centenary, and subsequently recorded twice on CD.

Purser writes "Nothing like this extraordinary adventure in pianism has been penned before or since, Chisholm himself excepted. Not even the extravagances of a Sorabji or the bravura textures of a Busoni can account for the pianistic colour of this work derived almost entirely from Scottish sources."

TITLE OF WORK

Sonatina in G

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

i The Forest Pool

ii

iii

DATE:

PAGES: 33

SCORE COST: £16.00

CD NUMBER: DRD0174

DURATION OF PIECE: 17:40

NOTES

The Sonatina shows sensitivity for colour, a joy of impressionistic textures, and a mischievous streak in places. Chisholm delights in carefree expansion, leading to many a surprising offshoot, episode and tailpiece. Formally the piece is straightforward (Sonata form 1st movement, ternary 2nd movement and text book rondo form for the 3rd.)

Perhaps the most beautiful moment comes at the very opening, though even in the busiest passages, there is always pianistic mastery and tactile pleasure for the performer to enjoy.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Sonatine Ecosaise

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

- i Allegro - Meno Mosso - Tempo I
- ii Lament
- iii March-Strathspey-Reel

DATE:

PAGES: 19

SCORE COST: £11.00

CD NUMBER: OCD639

DURATION OF PIECE: 10:51

NOTES

This is an immediately appealing work in which energy, humour and lyricism appear in equal measure. The rhythmic opening of the first movement harnesses some harsh dissonances and contrasts well with the slow florid central section where the influence of Pibroch can be detected. The slow Lament is followed by the last movement which evokes all the excitement and rhythms of a fiddler's rally.

The styles are emphatically Scottish, yet the originality and craftsmanship of the writing remains unique.

TITLE OF WORK

Star point

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

PAGES: 9

SCORE COST: £9.00

CD NUMBER: DRD0714

DURATION OF PIECE: 5:28

NOTES

This is one of a large and superbly crafted group of early works for piano by Chisholm, most of which were written when he was a teenager in Glasgow. His understanding of pianism, sensitivity for colour and his technical mastery—admittedly within rather conventional limitations, can be heard at once in this highly effective quasi-orchestral piece.

Chisholm was fascinated by astronomy, and there are some celestial splashes of luminous sonority which are especially impressive.

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Straloch Suite for Piano Solo

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

- i
- ii
- iii
- iv
- v

DATE: 1933

PAGES: 36

SCORE COST: £16.00

CD NUMBER: DDV24131

DURATION OF PIECE: 15:59

NOTES

The *Straloch Suite* was completed in 1933 in arrangements for both orchestra and string orchestra (an archival recording of this is available) as well as piano. The printed suite here has five movements; other scores have three movements as does the recorded version, but all are based upon tunes from the *Robert Gordon of Straloch* lute book of 1627, which is now lost.

TITLE OF WORK

Suite No. I for Piano

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

- No. 1 Caprice
- No. 2 Feuillet D'Album
- No. 3 Scherzo
- No. 4 Waltz
- No. 5 Moto Perpetuo

DATE: 1923

PAGES: 33

SCORE COST: £16.00

CD NUMBER: Not yet released

DURATION OF PIECE: 18:21

NOTES

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

Suite No. 2 for Piano

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

No. 1 Prelude

No. 2 Caprice

No. 3 Chopsticks

No. 4 Intermezzo

No. 5 Finale

DATE: 1923

PAGES: 41

SCORE COST: £18.00

CD NUMBER: Not yet released

DURATION OF PIECE: 23:20

NOTES

TITLE OF WORK

Suite No. 3 for Piano

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

No.1 Ballet

DATE: 1923

PAGES: 11

SCORE COST: £9.00

CD NUMBER: Not yet released

DURATION OF PIECE: 6:07

NOTES

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK	NOTES
<p data-bbox="83 172 224 220">Tango</p> <p data-bbox="83 293 353 358">CATALOGUE: PIANO MOVEMENTS:</p> <p data-bbox="83 594 448 797">DATE: PAGES: 3 SCORE COST: £6.00 CD NUMBER: Not yet released DURATION OF PIECE: 3:04</p>	<p data-bbox="618 188 1071 342">Chisholm was nothing if not versatile and his <i>Tango</i>, fulfills all the usual ballroom expectations of its day, with 'pulsating rhythm' and a yielding, yet urgent melodic line.</p>

TITLE OF WORK	NOTES
<p data-bbox="83 880 401 928">Three Studies</p> <p data-bbox="83 937 442 1066">CATALOGUE: PIANO MOVEMENTS: Study 1 Moderato é cantabile Study 2 Moderato é espressivo</p> <p data-bbox="83 1302 489 1505">DATE: 1923 PAGES: SCORE COST: Cost Apply to ECT CD NUMBER: Not yet released DURATION OF PIECE:</p>	

CHISHOLM CATALOGUE

TITLE OF WORK

The Wisdom Book

CATALOGUE: PIANO

MOVEMENTS:

1. He comes in with his 5 eggs and 4 of them rottin...
2. Better ane bird in ye hand than two in the bushe.
3. None so deaf as he who will not hear
4. Let him that's cauld blow at the cole
5. As the old coke crawls, the young coke learns
6. Better bairnes greet than beardit men
7. Weapons bode peace
8. The tortoise and the hare
9. He who permits?
10. Quha can sing sa merrie a not as he-yt hes not woth a groate?
11. Set a beggar on horsbak and he will run his hors out of breth
12. None so deaf (alternative version)
13. Better bunnies greet than bearded men

DATE:

PAGES: 8

SCORE COST: £7.00

CD NUMBER: Not yet released

DURATION OF PIECE: 2:73

NOTES

Erik Chisholm 1904 – 1965

Brief Biography.

4.1.1904	Born in Glasgow, Scotland.
1920s	Studied piano with Leff Pouishnoff.
1926/28	Spell in Nova Scotia as concert pianist/lecturer/organist.
1929	Founded the Active Society for Contemporary Music:
1931/34	B.Mus., D.Mus. Edinburgh University.
1935/39	Conductor of Glasgow Grand Opera Society.
1938	Musical Director of the Celtic Ballet, Glasgow.
1939/45	With ENSA conducting in Europe, India and Singapore.
1946/1965	Prof. & Dean, Faculty of Music, University of Cape Town.
1957/58	Music Festival tour of U.K. with UCT students.
1958	Czech medalist/judge at Janáček Festival in Brno.
1959	Carnegie Travel Grant; lecture tour to N.America.
1965	Completed <i>The Operas of Leoš Janáček</i> , published 1971.
8.6.1965	Died of a heart attack, in Cape Town.



Erik Chisholm is best known today for his piano music, largely due to Murray McLachlan's 'Music for Piano' CD series. Chisholm composed orchestral music including 4 concertos and 2 symphonies; also chamber, ballet, choral and vocal music. His book *Celtic Folk Songs* was published in 1965. He wrote 11 operas, 3 based on Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* and a trilogy, *Murder in Three Keys*, which had a successful run in New York.

The complete catalogue of his works can be seen on www.erikchisholm.com.
John Purser's biography of Erik Chisholm will be published in 2009.



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Copyright Erik Chisholm Trust © 2001
Published by the Erik Chisholm Trust,
Seagulls, Church Road, Binstead, Isle of Wight PO33 3SY
www.erikchisholm.com

Printed by Island Printers
11, East Street, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 1JP
Layout Design by Eve Designs Limited
www.evedesignsltd.co.uk