

LUNCHBREAK CONCERT

In association with: SOUND 2011

SCOTTISH FLUTE TRIO and SEAN SHIBE, Guitar

ABERDEEN ART GALLERY

Saturday, 22 October 2011

Saturday's Lunchbreak concert held in association with the sound festival was possibly from the less "challenging" extreme of the contemporary music repertoire and it certainly delighted the capacity Lunchbreak audience who will surely be encouraged to return to later concerts in the series.

The Scottish Flute Trio along with master guitarist Sean Shibe began their concert with *Western Light* by Eddie McGuire. Most of the pieces in this concert were in some way pictorial, narrative or atmospheric; all of them with a distinct Scottish inspiration with Eddie McGuire's *Western Light* the most overtly atmospheric and descriptive. It began and ended with realistic "seuch" of the penetrating Scottish wind. Both guitar and soon the flutes had a firm melodic flavour that suggested the Kennedy Fraser Songs of the Hebrides. Sparkling sunlight and panoramic seascapes were strongly suggested in this delightfully attractive music.

St. Kilda's Parliament by Kenneth Dempster was inspired by the history of the people of St. Kilda, their lives and society and the final demise of the population forced to leave their beloved island. Features of the piece were explained by one of the members of the Trio and this music being more abstract was referential rather than descriptive so this was a welcome idea. The chattering women on busy upper flute notes and the sad psalms suggesting the interference of mainland ministers sent to "civilise" the natives and their final exile fell nicely into place. Several guitar solos stood out in this performance, the central one providing a sort of cadenza.

The Painters in my Garden by Nigel Osborne was inspired by a series of paintings by the "Glasgow Boys". There was no guitar in this piece which was premiered by the Trio in June this year and is their newest commission. Disguised folk tunes were not readily identifiable but gave the music a powerful and attractive flavour. "Whiffles" and flutter tonguing provided nice spicing in this music rather than the main dishes they become in compositions by more avant garde composers like Sciarrino for instance.

This bright and delightful concert concluded with three dances by Eddie McGuire, decidedly Scottish in inspiration they were also thoroughly original and for this concert he had composed an extra introduction to the work.