

A Burns Sequence

John Gardner

Prayer under the pressure of violent anguish

My luv is like a red, red rose Tenor solo- Roger Trueman

Will ye go to the Indies, my Mary?

O whistle and I'll come to you

McPherson's Farewell

Paraphrase of the First Psalm

This work was commissioned by the British Federation of Young Choirs and first performed in Glasgow in 1995. Born in 1917 into a medical family, Gardner studied at Oxford University where he was the Sir Hubert Parry organ scholar. He has written a vast amount of music, but it is somewhat neglected today in spite of its undoubted quality. The poems were chosen to reflect the different activities which made up the varied life of Robert Burns. Particularly memorable is the haunting setting of the beautiful 15th century poem "Of a Rose, a lovely Rose"

Magnificat

John Rutter

Magnificat anima mea
Of a Rose, a lovely Rose
Quia fecit mihi magna
Et misericordia
Fecit potentiam
Esurientes
Gloria Patri

The Magnificat is the traditional canticle of the Virgin Mary and has been set to music more times than any other part of liturgy apart from the mass itself. Rutter's stated intention is to write a Magnificat redolent of Mediterranean sunshine and celebration, evoking the spirit of the many festivals held throughout Europe in honour of the Virgin Mary.

This work is full of energetic, syncopated rhythms and strong melodies, with more than a hint of the musical theatre from time to time.

Alison Bishop (soprano)

Since 1992 Alison has been performing solos in some of the UK's most prestigious venues, including King's College in Cambridge and St John's in Smith Square (London). Her performances have included Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* at the Royal Academy of Music and Vaughn Williams' *Serenade to Music* at St John's, Smith Square, both in London, *Second Lady* in Mozart's *'The Magic Flute'* in Edinburgh's Churchill Theatre. Over the past few years Alison has been selected to sing in masterclasses with Sir Thomas Allan, Malcolm Martineau, Ian Burnside and Rosalind Plowright. Alison is a member of the Scottish Chamber Choir and the Biggar Singers, regularly performing solos with both groups. She has a Licentiate Diploma in Performance from Trinity College, London, and studies singing with Irene Drummond in Edinburgh.