

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING

INVERGOWRIE PARISH CHURCH

18 JULY 2018

“DANGER – ORGANIST AT WORK”

DAVID J SMITH

Appropriately, David Smith was the opening celebrity for this year’s series of concerts that have become a fixture in Tayside musical life. Well known in the area, David always attracts a large audience, having previously presided at the console in Invergowrie. Tonight was no exception. The “Danger” theme was concerning until the organist entered clad in high vis jacket and hard hat, carrying a spirit level! Having assured himself (and us?) that it was safe to proceed, he delighted with the opening number, Lane’s “A Flourish.”

David’s recitals are methodically constructed, have a theme to them and are played with his precise technique and registration on the Wadsworth instrument. His spirit level was probably a lead to the main theme as there is never ‘danger’ when David plays. Reset the spirit level to a spiritual level and we found the theme to be music from Advent, Christmas and Easter with a minor diversion for Atkinson’s “Interludes on Scottish Tunes” and Whitlock’s “Folk Tune” in place of Epiphany. Each item is always given a succinct introduction.

Audience participation in Oldroyd’s “Liturgical Improvisation” and Peace’s music for the hymn “O Love that wilt not let me go” was a new factor this year. The latter tying up the connection with Peace and Matheson who wrote the words of the hymn, before playing Peace’s “Allegro Alla Marcia.”

All of us have favourite pieces to bring away from a recital. Mine would be Archer’s “Easter Hymn Prelude” and Guilmant’s “March on a Theme of Händel.” But to everyone the whole repertoire was a musical delight, enhanced with the ‘encore’ of Grieg’s “Gavotte.”

Thank you, David, for such a thought provoking evening.

JMcK July 2018