

DAVID SMITH at INVERGOWRIE PARISH CHURCH

for

ORGAN MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING

03 JULY 2019

Nothing David Smith does is done without great thought and planning. This was again noticeable in his choice of works for what he titled, "A Tale with Two Endings."

Having spoken to him a day or two before, he had assured me that there was to be a lot of 'nonsense' to the evening. Well, that may be so and was evident in the first piece, "A Nonsensical Arrangement of Many Happy Returns" by Anon. Anon was in the audience to hear his work performed and this set the light-hearted ambience for the evening.

Most of the works performed were from the pen of the late Noel Rawsthorne via his "Miniatures for the Organ." Each chosen short piece depicted settings that showed the variety of registrations achievable on this relatively compact Wadsworth organ -especially so in the "Trumpet Tune" where the solo 'trumpet' on one side of the organ casing was matched by the soft accompaniment from the other side.

Before the start of the Rawsthorne sets, we were delighted to hear Andrew Fletcher's "A Frolic for Organ" which indeed David proved it to be.

Audience participation is becoming part of David's repertoire these days, and a further Rawsthorne venture was his "Gospel Fanfare" and "Alleluias" with a Gospel reading and the audience singing the words of "All creatures of our God and King." David energetically conducted from the console.

Pietro A. Yon's "Humoresque" returned the music to the frolic theme and then the point of the evening's title came in an offering of two contrasting 'final' pieces. The brilliantly registered St. Anne Fugue by Bach and the hilarious Rawsthorne "Hornpipe Humoresque." Contrasting works that surely satisfied any divergent opinion on an end to a recital. We were also blessed by an encore, namely "Happy Birthday Herr Bach," thus returning the evening to the opening piece. Truly a circle of music.

The Oxford English Dictionary will need to come up with more superlatives to properly describe David's enthusiasm, expertise at the console, his humour, his ability to take his audience with him as well as being a very entertaining person. Roll on next year – yes. I know, I said that last year, but I mean it.

JMcK July 2019.