

Music @ Heriot-Watt

Inchcolm New Music Ensemble

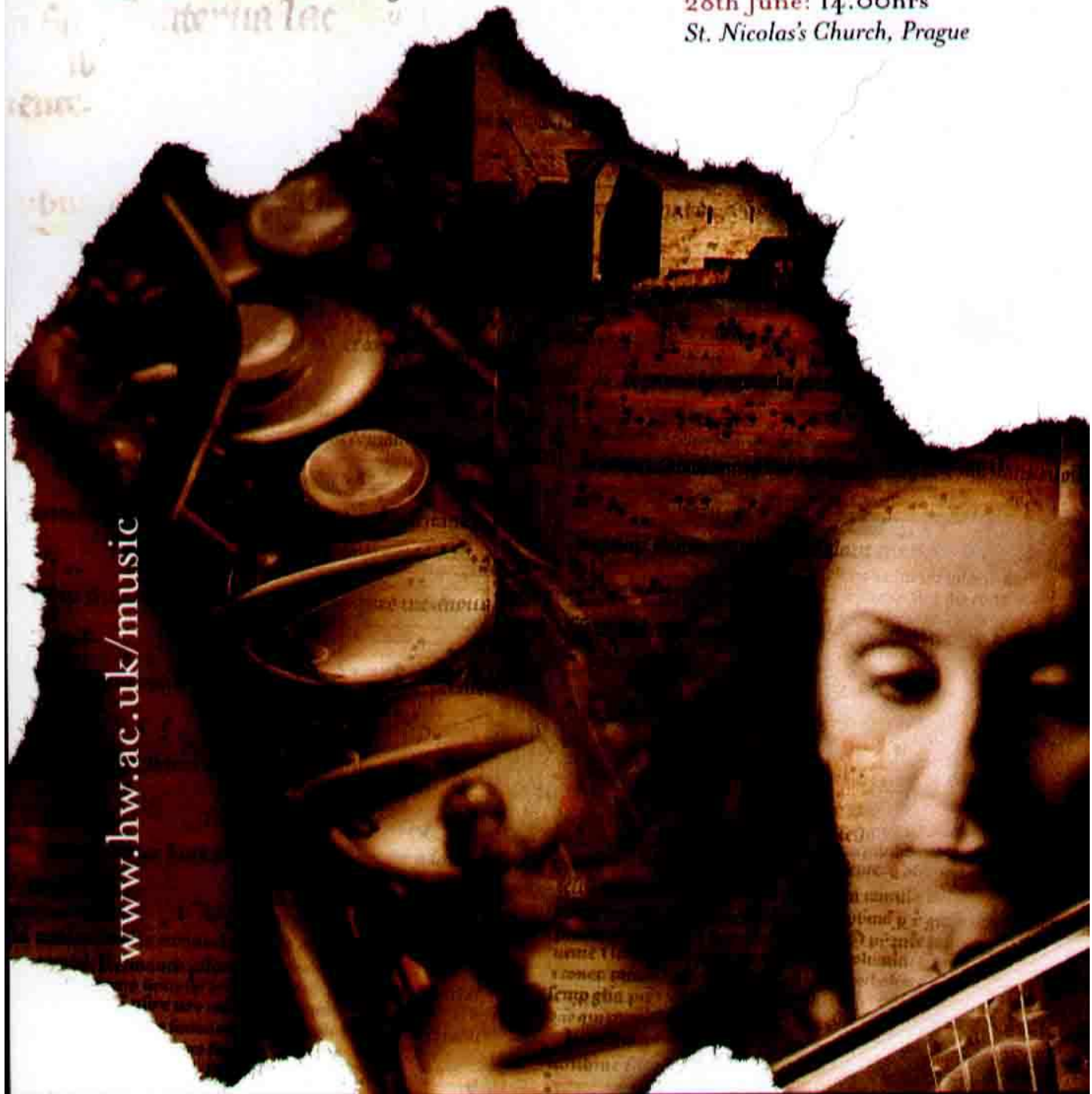
Perform music by Hearne, King,
MacLeod, Burnell, and the
Monks of Inchcolm Abbey.

The Contemporary Music Group
Heriot-Watt University
Music Director: Steve King

24th June: 19.30hrs
Comenius Church, Brno

25th June: 15.00hrs
'Forfest', in St. John the Baptist
Church, Kromeriz

28th June: 14.00hrs
St. Nicolas's Church, Prague





Inchcolm New Music Ensemble

→ A concert of new music inspired by old music from Scotland →

Our setting is a little island near Edinburgh, where there are the ruins of a monastery dedicated to St. Columba. The Celtic monks here on 'Inchcolm' wrote what is one of the most important and neglected manuscripts in the history of plainchant. These manuscripts are called the Inchcolm Antiphonies.

Nobody knows how the plainchant was really sung. There are no clear indications of durations of notes - we guess that they were all much the same length.

Do these unique chants belong to the missing corpus of Celtic Chant? The answer is lost in the mists of time.

It will always remain a mystery to me, even as a composer, how no two people react to a stimulus in the same manner. The Inchcolm plainchant has been an inspiration to all of our commissioned composers in totally different ways - just as I wanted!

In Edinburgh where the Heriot-Watt University campus is, we have the river Forth. In the middle of this river between Edinburgh and Fife there is a very beautiful island called Inchcolm - meaning Columba's Island. One thousand years ago monks lived on this island,

worshipping in the Abbey of Inchcolm. There they composed and sang plainchant in celebration of God through the conduit of St. Columba, who supposedly visited the island. This plainchant is some of the finest Celtic plainchant in existence in Scotland. This wonderful material was the inspiration behind this project and the music you are about to hear.

We are the 'Inchcolm New Music Ensemble' from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland. Our programme, which runs without a break, consists of the following new pieces, and will be punctuated at intervals by the original plainchant, the inclusion of which, binds the whole project together.

Plainchant
John Hearne
Paul Burnell

Hazel Macleod
Steve King
Plainchant

'O Columba'
Echoes of Inchcolm
A Sense of a Place Will
Remain
Diluculo in Inchcolm
Illuminating St. Columba
'Pater Columba'

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