

St. Michael's at SIX
SUNDAY 22ND APRIL 2007

'THE CAST'

Mairi Campbell (voice, fiddle, viola)

&

Dave Francis (guitar)

Scotland is a nation with a rich tapestry of music, old and new. In this delightfully relaxed and informal recital Mairi and Dave performed a selection of Scots songs, both traditional and contemporary, drawing from sources and stories from the great Scottish traditions.

A touching arrangement of Ye Banks and Braes (always a tune to harmonise in a myriad of beautiful harmony) where Mairi's light vocal gesturing glowed alongside Dave's original guitar chords. So often Mairi enchanted this fixed audience by switching so deftly from singing to fiddle, to viola, changing key and back to vocalise.

A description of a lady called Deirdre, from Morningside made the listener smile, and then one might break into description of Mairi's dulcet vocal tones - shades of the gorgeous Astrid Gilberto - oh how Mairi might have looked along side the great sax player Stan Getz on this evening! One wanted Deirdre to be there in the company.

Charming Scottish colours throughout with enchanting hints of jazz on guitar - ever so delicate in balance. Always subtle!

The legendary and late Martyn Bennett was given grace in a story about happy times around Burnham, Dunkeld and one could not fail to be completely moved at the rendition of Jo Anderson my Jo - superbly arranged for all instruments and voice to match. This was profoundly meaningful.

I closed mine eyes and felt the waves of my Hebridean holiday in North Uist last summer. The awesome landscape at mid-day, the wild sunsets by mid-night along the headlands, the machair blowin' in the gentle breeze. If you haven't been there then go. If you want to feel it for yourself then buy Mairi and Dave's cd's. Scotland is wealthy, we have so much we can be proud of in art and music. These two showed our country off at its best in this concert. More so, their warmth and delightful personality shone like the beautiful sunset to be seen nightly over Lismore.

Stuart Montgomery

23/04/07

