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# EVERGREEN ENSEMBLE



## Project Proposals 2016

Founded in Australia by the violinist, Shane Lestideau, the Evergreen Ensemble offers a program of works which give a very complete view to music-making in the baroque period; not only focusing on the sacred and court music of the era, but also looking at what was being played in manor houses, public houses, and even out in country farmhouses. Works of composers such as Bach, Vivaldi, Handel and Purcell brush shoulders with 18thC traditional dance music, European modal music and memorable moments born of passionate improvisation!

The 2016 project proposals are centred around the Scottish baroque repertoire, both instrumental and vocal. The core ensemble will present a colourful array of Scottish and Italian sonatas, then take a more narrative role in bringing to life a fiery and tragic Albion love story sung by the scotswoman, Vivienne Hamilton, and Jacob Lawrence. The guests for the third program are Hannah Lane on baroque harp and Matthew Manchester on small pipes and low whistle, with a full array of folk-influenced baroque repertoire from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Our fourth proposition uses the traditional violin/cello duo to introduce a selection of the strange and beautiful “96 Airs for the Seasons” written by James Oswald in 1747.

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# CALEDONIAN SONATAS

The Scotch Snap meets the Italian Trillo! A joyful program of Scottish and Italian Sonatas sharing more musical common-ground than you might expect.

The Evergreen Ensemble is preparing to enliven the Australian early music scene this season with a dashing presentation of the little-known Scottish Baroque repertoire. This body of 18thC compositions is perfectly suited to the nimble bow of the violinist, Shane Lestideau, who is back in Australia after a decade of baroque performance and celtic fiddling in Brittany, France. Completing the quartet is one of Australia's best-loved baroque cellists, Rosanne Hunt (MSO, OV, Brandenburg Ensemble, ACO), the talented Anna Webb (Quartz & Kegelstatt Ensembles, Zephyr Quartet) playing both baroque violin and viola, and Miranda Hill on double bass (3 Shades Black, MSO, OBO, Brandenburg Ensemble).

*How Scottish and Italian sonatas came to influence one another during the 18th Century:*

*Edinburgh in the mid-baroque era was full of music-loving aristocracy, and the establishment of the Edinburgh Musical Society in 1728 encouraged professionalism amongst a growing circle of musicians, composers and teachers who came from both Scotland and continental Europe. Music publishing began in 1729 with a set of Italianate sonatas by William McGibbon, inspiring foreigners such as Francesco Barsanti to come to Scotland to perform Italian music for eager new audiences. Many of them stayed, falling under the charm of the Scottish folk music tradition from which they found airs for new sonatas, variation sonatas, minuets, and vocal works.*

## PERFORMERS:

Shane Lestideau: Baroque Violin, Violin d'Amore

Anna Webb: Baroque Violin and Viola

Rosanne Hunt: Baroque Cello

Miranda Hill: Double Bass



## **PROGRAM - “Caledonian Sonatas”:**

**James Oswald**

**A Trio Sonata of Scots Tunes - D Major (1740)**

**Francesco Geminiani -**

**A Trio Sonata on Scots Tunes - F Major (1749)**

**William McGibbon**

**Sonata in G (“In Imitation of Corelli”) (1734)**

**Arcangelo Corelli**

**Op. 5 Sonata II for violin and basso continuo (1700)**

**Earl of Kellie - Thomas Alexander Erskine**

**Trio Sonata in F (1765)**

**Francesco Barsanti**

**Trio Sonata (made out of Geminianis Solos) (1730)**

**James Oswald**

**Roslin Castle - Air, Variations and Jig (1741)**

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# *THE FOUR SEASONS OF THE DULE TREE: SCOTTISH SONGS OF LOVE AND LAMENTATION*



The Evergreen Ensemble is joined by the Scotswoman, Vivienne Hamilton (Soprano), and the fiery-haired Jacob Lawrence (Tenor) to recount a story of passionate love, infidelity and revenge. The tale, which is said to have taken place in the Scottish lowlands during the mid-1500s, involves the notorious Johnnie Faa, named “King of the Gypsies” by King James IV, and the Countess of Cassillis, who was smitten by love for this eccentric character. Fate does not smile upon the eloping couple...

A pasticcio of 18thC Scottish songs of blossoming or unrequited love are interwoven with the story of Johnnie Faa and instrumental excerpts from the 96 unusual “Airs for the Seasons” by James Oswald - short compositions bearing names such as; Snow Drop, Crocus, Night Shade or Heart’s Ease.

## **PERFORMERS:**

Vivienne Hamilton: Soprano Voice

Jacob Lawrence: Tenor Voice

Shane Lestideau: Baroque Violin, Violin d’Amore

Anna Webb: Baroque Violin and Viola

Rosanne Hunt: Baroque Cello

Miranda Hill: Double Bass

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## **PROGRAM - “The Fours Seasons of the Dule Tree”:**

### **SPRING: Courtship**

*[The story of Johnnie Faa in brief]*

Mr Broderip - “The Rural Invitation” (J Lawrence)

\* Oswald - “The Crocus” - Instrumental

Oswald/Thomson - “The Invitation” (J Lawrence)

\* Oswald - “The Lilac” - Instrumental

Oswald/Smollett - “The Adieu” (J Lawrence)

### **SUMMER: Love**

Oswald - “The Borrowed Kiss” (V Hamilton)

\* Oswald - “The Virgin’s Bower” - Instrumental

Oswald - “Jean” (V Hamilton)

\* Oswald - “The Thistle” - Instrumental

Oswald/Gay - “A Cantata” (J Lawrence/V Hamilton)

### **AUTUMN: Elopement**

Anon- “Duo - Truth Waits Upon Love” (J Lawrence/V Hamilton)

\* Oswald - “The Amaranthus” - Instrumental

Mr Brown - “Autumn” (J Lawrence)

\* Oswald - “The Candy Tuft” - Instrumental

Ravenscroft - “Foolish Women Fly”(J Lawrence/ V Hamilton)

### **WINTER: Imprisonment**

Mr Carey - “The Desperate Lover” (V Hamilton)

Roberts/Hayden - “The Wanton Snow” (J Lawrence)

\* Oswald - “The Snowdrop” - Instrumental

\* Oswald - “The Periwinkle” - Instrumental

Trad. arr. Barsanti - “Johnnie Faa” (V Hamilton)

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# *ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, WALES...*

## *INSIDE, OUTSIDE, INSIDE, SCALES!*

The renowned Melbourne harpist, Hannah Lane, and the Sydney multi-instrumentalist, Matthew Manchester, lend their beautiful timbres to the Evergreen string ensemble for a program dedicated entirely to the baroque and folk music of the British Isles. The ensemble's violinist has enjoyed a double-career as both a baroque player and an irish and scottish fiddler, and will be illustrating the many cross-roads where these different styles meet. The cellist, Rosy Hunt, with innumerable concerts and recordings behind her covering all aspects of historically informed performance, assures the musical common-ground from one country to the next. Anna Webb (violin and viola), and Miranda Hill on the double bass, both have an incredible talent for adapting their bows to many diverse styles of music, and this repertoire will see them playing everything from baroque concertos to haunting airs and fiery modal reels.



### **PERFORMERS:**

Hannah Lane: Harp

Matthew Manchester: Small Pipes, Low Whistle

Shane Lestideau: Baroque Violin, Violin d'Amore, Voice

Anna Webb: Baroque Violin and Viola

Rosanne Hunt: Baroque Cello

Miranda Hill: Double Bass

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**EVERGREEN ENSEMBLE - PROPOSAL 3**

- 1) MACKINTOSH/McLEAN - Sonata on Pinkie House**
  - 2) PLAYFORD - Dance Suite**
  - 3) O'CAROLAN - Carolan's Concerto**
  - 4) TRAD. - Irish Cry**
  - 5) TRAD. - Mackintosh's Lament**
  - 6) McLEAN - 'Twas Within A Furlong of Edinburg Town**
  - 7) TRAD./FARONELL - Puirt a Beul & La Folia**
  - 8) TRAD. - Cruel Mother**
  - 9) PURCELL - Strike the Viol (Instrumental arr.)**
  - 10) TRAD. - Blackbird & The Hen, Blackbird & The Thrush, Baltighoran**
  - 11) OSWALD - Hawthorn Sonata**
  - 12) TRAD. - Welsh/Breton Dance Suite**
  - 13) McGIBBON - There's Three Good Fellow's Down Yon Glen**
- Bis) TRAD./McGIBBON/CAROLAN - Níl sé'n lá & When She Cam Ben  
She Bobbit**
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# *AIRS FOR THE SEASONS*



## Performers:

Shane Lesideau: Baroque Violin  
Rosanne Hunt: Baroque Cello



The Scottish Composer, James Oswald, wrote a series of 96 miniature works for violin and cello in 1747, each bearing the name of a flower or plant. These he grouped into four parts, representing the Four Seasons of the year. Pheasant Eye, Catch-Fly, or Rocket for Spring, Honey-Suckle, Fox Glove, Virgin's Bower or Thistle for Summer, Monk's Hood and Night Shade for Autumn, Periwinkle or Ivy for Winter. There are even some edibles such as Almond, Capsicum or Bay! Each work shares Oswald's unique gift for combining traditional Scottish airs with an elegant continental baroque harmonisation.

Time: 1hour





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## EVERGREEN ENSEMBLE - PROPOSAL 4

### SPRING

Pheasant Eye

Crocus

Lilac

### SUMMER

Myrtle

Virgin's Bower

Thistle

### AUTUMN

Starwort

Amaranthus

Candy Tuft

### WINTER

Periwinkle

Heart's Ease

Snowdrop

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