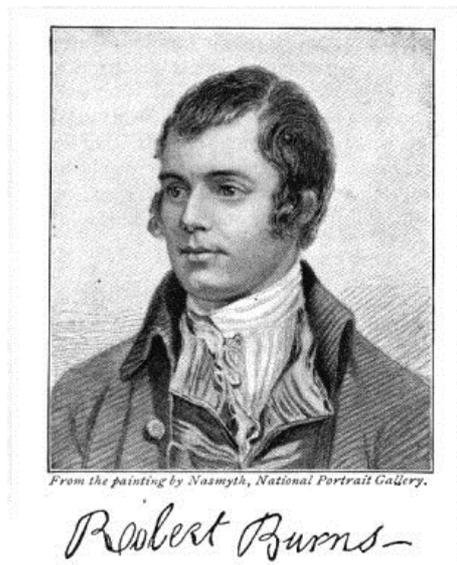




Talamh

**“TONIGHT THE POET BRAIDS THE AIR FOR
YOU”**

A Celebration of the life and works of Robert Burns
(Mallorca, January 24 to 26, 2013)



THE SHOW

A celebration in Celtic music and poetry of the life and work of Robert Burns, Scotland's greatest National Poet and Songwriter. The Show will feature the well known and loved Majorcan band **Talamh** in concert with Scottish singer, composer and multi-instrumentalist Michael Toye. The Quartet will perform Traditional and New Musical Arrangements of some of Burns' most loved Songs and Poems. Profound and Dramatic lyrics dealing critically with Scotland's loss of independence from England will feature strongly in this specially written tribute. The show

will intersperse the songs with the traditional spirited dance music of Scotland, very typical of the world Burns moved in, played by Talamh and Michael on Fiddle, Pipes, Guitar, Bodhran and Whistles.

THE PERFORMERS

Talamh

The group was originally founded in 2007 and we play since spring 2011 about 40 concerts in Majorca.

We share the same interest and affection for Celtic Folk and play mainly traditional tunes and songs from Ireland, Scotland, and Northern Spain. Our repertoire includes mainly.

When naming the group, we chose a Gaelic one as a sign of respect for this language and its representing culture. We also looked for a name, which represents the common base of all cultures.

The word Talamh means Earth, Land, or Ground in Gaelic and thus represents:

- The land where we live, which we love, which we cultivate, but which also forms us.
- The land of everyone, everything, and every living species.
- The name of our planet, which we need overall and which we consider ours although it do not need us.
- The only place in the universe, which we have to dwell.
- A marvelous place, which we shall preserve.



The members and the instruments:

- **Fran Reig:** Whistles and pipes
- **Michael Toye:** Guitar, bodhran, voice and arrangements
- **Lluc Mas:** Bodhran and recorders
- **Julián Ferragut:** Fiddle

MICHAEL TOYE

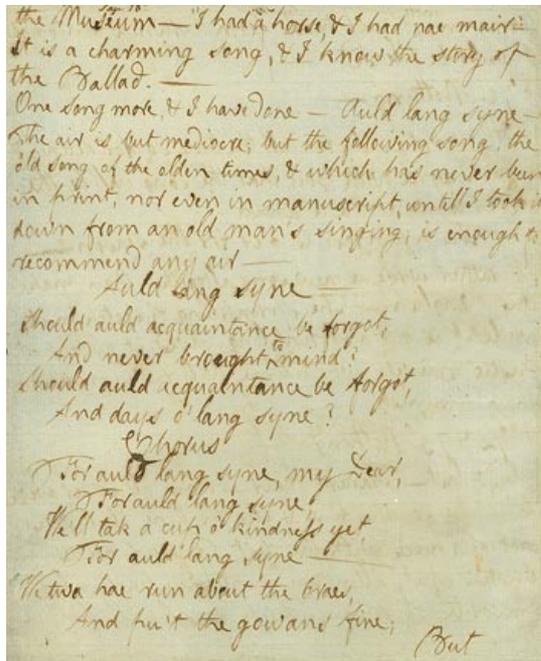
Is a Scottish Musician and Music Educator currently based in Geneva. He has written and performed Robert Burns shows to critical acclaim in Scotland, Ireland, and South Africa, over many years. He is an experienced Traditional singer, a trained Jazz guitarist and a gifted Percussionist. This Show presents the opportunity to combine his performance skills with the accomplished Talamh trio in an Original Show celebrating Burn's work.



HISTORICAL and BIOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

Robert Burns is today revered as Scotland's Greatest Poet and Songwriter. In A short life of constant hardship and financial difficulties, Burns wrote hundreds of Poems and Songs, a great many of which still resonate strongly in Scotland and around the world. Some of Burns most powerful lyrics concern the losses of independence and identity in Scotland after the 1707 Act of Union brought

the Nation into the United Kingdom, with disastrous results for life in the communities of the North, leading to enforced and widespread emigration. The poets subtle insights into the National Psyche in this period are without peer in the epoch and still carry full weight today as Scotland prepares for another decisive moment in its long struggle to return to Self-Determination.



verse are also rooted in an unfailing conviction that poetic work is best carried out directly, honestly and forcefully, with humor whenever possible. In Burns we find none of the hypocrisy and self-righteousness so typical of the cultural life of the period and against which he constantly revolted in great style in his own life.

Burns work is known and celebrated yearly in Russia, in cultural circles in Europe and in the work of American writers from Steinbeck and to Bob Dylan. this is because as writing he also collected, improved and published a



Salinger
Partly
as well
verse,

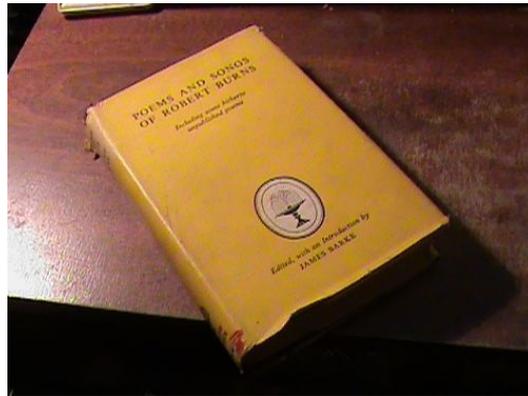
great many popular folk songs of the time. In this way he not only strengthened his own understandings but contributed significantly to the true grass-roots cultural life of his times and up to the present.

Robert Burns is a towering figure in Scotland and around the world and This Show of ours, TONIGHT THE POET BRAIDS THE AIR FOR YOU seeks to celebrate and share his genius on the occasion of the 254th anniversary of his Birth.

THE SONGS

1. MC PHERSONS LAMENT.

This dramatic traditional song tells the story of James Mc Person, a well-known highwayman, robber and fiddler who was eventually caught and hanged in the North of Scotland in the early 18th Century. The song recounts Mc Person's last words from the scaffold



before he died, particularly the fate of his fiddle which he then breaks over a stone so that ..."No other hand shall play on thee when I am dead and gone". Burns would have heard this song on his travels in the region when he was working as an Excise man.

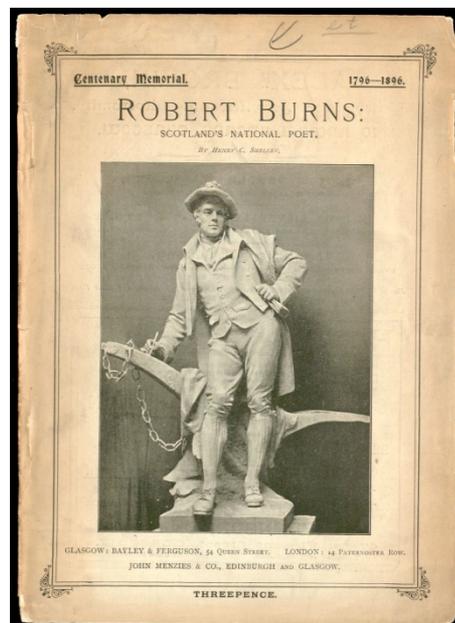
2. **My LOVE'S LIKE A RED RED ROSE.**

This song, cited by Dylan as having a huge effect on his ambitions, has been recorded hundreds of times all over the world. As the original tune is so well used, we are setting the song to another - the traditional Irish melody "The Generous Lover".

tune

3. **A MAN'S A MAN FOR A 'THAT**

This song, written some 130 years before the Russian Revolution, has long been celebrated in Russia for its egalitarian and nascent Socialist ideas. One of the known Burns songs.



best

4. **JOCK OF BREDISLEE**

This traditional song dates from long before Burns birth, an especially bloody epoch in the Borders country

between Scotland and in which criminality flourished and order nominally kept by gangs of robbers who "...prosecuted their affairs with ruthless persecution of offenders of their codes." It is included here to show the depth and power of song making in Scotland - the standards of cultural world Burns came to dominate.

5. NOW WESTLIN WINDS

Cherfully

O, how shall I, an - skil - ful, try The
po - ets oc - cu - pa - tion! The time - in
pours, in hap - py hours That while per - is - ept -
ra - tions; Even they man dare an ef - fort make Than
ought they ev - er gave us, Ere they re - lease in
e - qual verse The charms o' love - ly De - vies.
Each eye, it chases, when she ap - pears, Like Phoebus
in the morn - ing, When past the shower, and eve - ry
flower The gar - den in a show - ing! As the

Now Westlin Winds will forever be associated in the present with the great Scottish singer Dick Gaughan. Gaughan's resurrection of this passionate lyric and his flowing melodic arrangement have helped the record on which it appears "HANDFUL OF EARTH", (from 1984) to achieve classic status. Written when Burns was only 16, this beautiful song opens with a richly detailed panorama of the

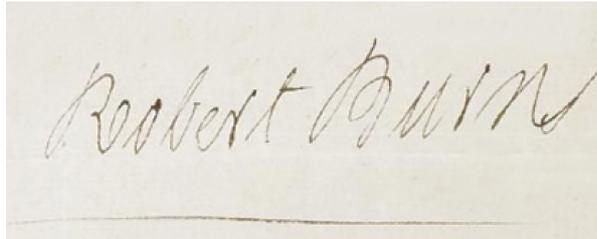
interweaving lives of different birds in the hills and mountains of Scotland. These are then compared to the human condition and contrasted to the cruelty of the hunter, before concluding with 2 verses presenting the poet and his lover walking out among the same life and death.

6. PARCEL O ROGUES

Parcel O Rogues is one of the centerpieces of Burns' work. It starkly presents the tragedy of the treacherous "SALE" of Scotland to the English Government in 1707 which directly produced the UNITED KINGDOM. It reflects that this "SALE" gave to England what centuries of swords and bravery could not. And yet there is not a sense of blame being apportioned to one side, an understanding that all were demeaned by the moment of the transaction. The song subtly shows both the sellers and buyers in the same light.

7. **AULD LANG SYNE**

The show ends with this well-known parting song. The world sings this song to end important meetings, social events and gatherings and often participants do not realize its origins. Surely one of Robert Burns most sung songs.



CONTACT:

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