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# AYE: AN AFFIRMATION OF MARTYN BENNETT

Featuring Mr McFall's Chamber,  
Tom Bancroft, Fraser Fifield  
and James Mackintosh



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**The brave new music of a maverick musician and composer is celebrated by one of Europe's most fearlessly outward-looking chamber ensembles when Mr McFall's Chamber tour Aye: An Affirmation of Martyn Bennett for the Scottish Arts Council's Tune Up series in March.**

Bennett, who died at the tragically early age of thirty-three in January 2005, was a piper and fiddle player who combined classical and jazz elements with Scottish traditional music and the beats of the 90s rave scene to create powerful contemporary grooves. It was the revered folklorist Hamish Henderson who remarked upon hearing Bennett's final masterpiece, Grit, "what brave new music."

Mr McFall's Chamber had enjoyed a compatible relationship with Bennett dating back to the ensemble's formation in the mid 1990s. A chamber music ensemble like no other chamber music ensemble, the band comprises mostly classical players for whom the lure of other musical styles has proved irresistible. They are well known for their eclectic mix of musical genres, programming classical and contemporary composers alongside rock, tango, klezmer, cartoon music and jazz.

King Crimson, Little Feat and Frank Zappa are just three of the rock repertoires they have visited alongside Argentinean tango master Astor Piazzolla, Italian film composer Ennio Morricone and leading contemporary composers James MacMillan, Gavin Bryars and Dave Heath, whose An Everyday Occurrence marked the McFalls' first adventure into opera.

The band features a core string quartet from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra with piano, bass and drums/percussion. Frequent guest vocalists have included Michael Marra, Valentina Montoya-Martinez and Taylor Wilson. Based in Scotland, they have toured the major Scottish cities regularly and have toured the UK widely as well as appearing at major music festivals, including Vamos, and on radio and television.

They have released three CDs, Like The Milk, Upstart Jugglers and Revolucionario, and one DVD - Live at the Queens Hall - and have commissioned and premiered a number of new works. This programme includes pieces written for the group by two other composers with a background in Scottish traditional music - Edward McGuire and Fraser Fifield.