

Monday 27 May 2019

To whom it may concern:

Christine Hanson and 'The Cremation of Sam McGee'

SEALL - Skye Events for All - is used to receiving interesting and high-quality traditional music events. As we approach our 2,000th event it is difficult to pull out an answer to the frequent question - 'what are the best gigs you have had?'. But on Saturday 11 May 2019, coincidentally exactly 28 years after SEALL's very first event, one such night of music arrived that certainly has a place in the top-ten of our programming.

Christine Hanson's 'The Cremation of Sam McGee' brought together an astonishing array of musicians and poet/narrator Gerry Cambridge. Prior to the main event, the evening opened with a concert set, featuring each individual musician. This gave the audience the chance to understand each player's talents and how it fitted into the wonderfully tight ensemble playing in 'Sam'. It is always interesting to watch the interaction of individual musicians in such a group, and it was obvious that each one played to their strengths, developing a remarkable group cohesion.

The music was exceptional, performed at a high standard, and interesting counterbalance to the spoken word. The highly colourful artistry of Ted Harrison's work projected onto the screen behind the ensemble certainly added to the excitement of the event.

A great night of musicianship and risk-taking, well received by a very appreciative audience.

Duncan MacInnes

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"SEALL has established a strong reputation both in Scotland and internationally for its innovative approach to cultural programming" *Creative Scotland*