DUNBLANE CATHEDRAL SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Saturday 14h OCTOBER 2017 at 2.30PM

DUNBLANE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

MUSIC OF THE REFORMATION

Henry PURCELL 1659-1695	O Sing unto the Lord *Solo parts sung by choir members*
Johann SCHEIN 1586-1630	Zion spricht *Zion speaks*
Johann Sebastian BACH 1685-1750	Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 582 *Kevin Duggan, organ*
Dieterich BUXTEHUDE 1637-1707	Der Herr ist mit mir *The Lord is with me*

IMPROVISATION ON LUTHERAN CHORALE MELODIES
with Hannah Buckland, oboe

Luther is credited with the words "Why should the Devil have all the best tunes", and many different musical forms were used in post-reformation Services. These varied from adaptions of plainchant to dance forms and newly composed melodies, of which Luther's own "Ein Feste Burg" is perhaps the best-known example.

Today's concert of baroque music demonstrates a variety of musical styles, commencing with a mature work by Henry Purcell, in which an athletic bass part is contrasted with a wealth of choral textures, ranging from the poignant harmonies in "O worship the Lord" to effervescent counterpoint.

The remainder of the programme is from German-speaking lands. Johann Shein's "Zion spricht" is from a set of sacred madrigals dedicated to the Leipzig city government. It is remarkably Italianate in style, with strong echoes of Monteverdi. JS Bach's Passacaglia in C minor for organ comprises 20 variations on a repeated bass melody and an exquisite double fugue, It is an architectural masterpiece, imbued with a remorseless musical energy. Buxtehude's "Der Herr ist mit mir" is a setting of part of Psalm 118, and like the Purcell was originally scored for choir and strings. There are three sections, concluding with an infectious, almost jazzy Passacaglia – a dance of joy to the Lord indeed!

The audience is invited to stand and sing "Now thank we all our God" at the end of the improvisation.