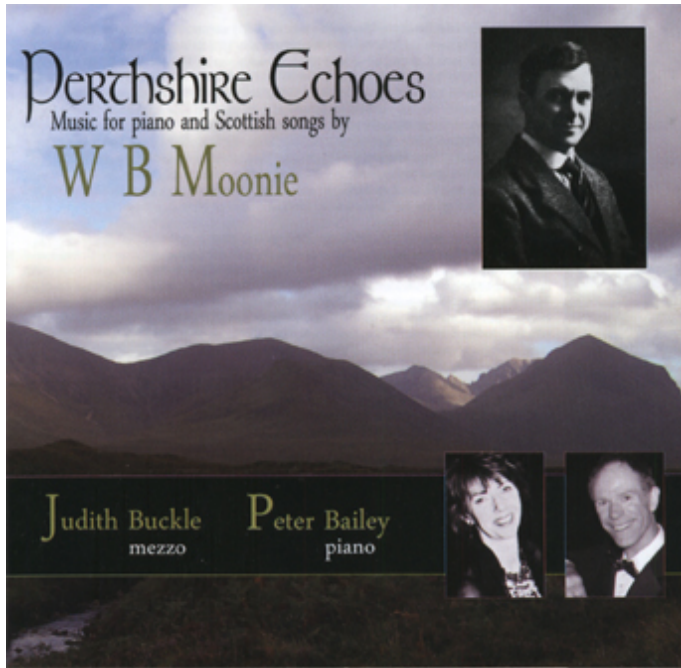


## CD REVIEW 16

### PERTSHIRE ECHOES



Music for piano and songs by W B Moonie  
Judith Buckle (mezzo) and Peter Bailey (piano)  
WRIGHT MUSIC 102 (approx 45 minutes)

A gypsy man  
O Come with me  
\* Oh, why I left my hame  
\* Jock O'Hazeldean  
Perthshire Echoes, six pieces for piano  
Proud Maisie  
Sing, oh my heart  
\* When the kye comes hame  
\* I heard a wee bird singing  
Kind gallows of Crieff for piano  
Gypsy Girl  
Bonnie Lesley

Items with \* are arrangements of Scottish songs. The other songs are original compositions.

This is the second CD organised and sponsored by the Isle of Wight composer Dr David Wright who saved many of these items from oblivion, reconstructed the works from faded manuscripts and had them typeset by Nymet Music in Crediton who publish some of them. As with the first CD, the mezzo is the excellent Judith Buckle with a very experienced pianist, Peter Bailey. This first CD, *Discovered Songs*, was of 17 premiere recordings mainly of British songs and a very important CD which had laudatory reviews, although some complained that the texts of the songs were not available not realising that Dr Wright was working on a limited budget, as he was here.

William Walter Beaton Moonie was born in Scotland in 1883 and studied in Edinburgh and Frankfurt. On his return to Scotland in 1908, he had some lessons with Tovey and took over his own father's choir with performances of many choral works. Moonie also taught in many schools in Scotland, was awarded a DMus and was a well sought-after organist. He composed three operas, a piano concerto, a symphony, an organ sonata and chamber music. He wrote many original songs and made arrangements of some traditional songs, some of which were only known as a vocal line.

He died in 1961.

His existing family are delighted with this CD as should everyone else be, Scottish or not.

Judith Buckle has a superb voice. Her low notes are as rich as any contralto and her high notes are clear and secure. Her intonation is excellent. And she has a measured sense of drama as in the dramatic song *Proud Maisie* to words by Walter Scott. Perhaps the piano is a little too forward at times but these two make an excellent duo. The gypsy songs are first rate and to think that these gems could have been lost for ever is hardly worth thinking about.

The so-called traditional songs have that engaging feel about them as testified by some Scottish musicians who have heard and enjoyed this disc. But do not go away with the idea that this CD will only appeal to Scots. The Scottish flavour is there but always discreetly. Although Moonie was a Scot, he never wore Scottish costume or dress regarding himself as a man to serve all peoples with music. He could have taken prominent music or teaching posts almost anywhere which would have been lucrative and made his name but he was a humble man, as are all great men, and choose, first and foremost, to service his fellow countrymen.

He was loved by all his students in the classroom and in the street.

The Perthshire Echoes is Moonie's most well-known piano work but, even so, it is not well-known. The other piano work, The Kind Gallows of Crieff may have a strange title but it was the common place to hang offenders so that they did not cause any further trouble in this Scottish town. The gallows were kind to ordinary decent people. Again we have to thank Dr Wright for saving this piece as well.

If you want to hear new works and discover a composer now saved from complete neglect this CD is for you. We need more people to follow the generous example of this sponsor. It is one thing to write about music and use verbal means to promote it. It is another thing to actually do it.

A delightful disc!

This CD is available from [Nymet Music](#), 4 Pitt Court, Nymet Rowland, Crediton Devon EX17 6AN at £9.99 plus post and packing of £1.50.

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