

GEORGE McPHEE

George McPhee was born in Glasgow and was a student at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and at Edinburgh University. He studied organ with the late Herrick Bunney and, with the assistance of a Cross Trust Scholarship, with Fernando Germani in Italy. Prizes include the Sir Donald Francis Tovey Prize at Edinburgh University and, in gaining the FRCO, he was awarded the Limpus Prize as well as the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians.

He was Assistant organist of St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh for four years before his present appointment as Director of Music at Paisley Abbey in 1963. At that time he also joined the staff of the RSAMD. Here he became a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Academic Studies and Director of Choral Activities as well as having responsibilities for teaching organ.

George McPhee has been in frequent demand as an organ recitalist and has broadcast and recorded frequently both as solo organist and as conductor. He has made many records and compact discs, mostly with Paisley Abbey Choir and as solo organist. Since 1971 he has undertaken several recital tours of the United States and Canada, where he has also directed summer courses for choristers. He has also given concerts in many parts of Europe.

George McPhee has been conductor of the Scottish Chamber Choir and the Kilmarnock and District Choral Union. He has also trained the Strathclyde and the former Lothian Region Schools Choir and, for many years, was Choral Animateur for Highland Region Council.

As composer and arranger, he has many published works both sacred and secular. He is joint editor of the New Scottish Song Book and the Saltire Two-Part Song Book.

In 1991 he was made a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music in recognition of his services to church music in Scotland and in 1995 he was awarded MBE. In July 1997 he was awarded an honorary Doctorate by the University of Paisley.

In 2000, George McPhee was President of the Incorporated Society of Musicians and is currently Visiting Professor of Organ at St Andrews University. He is also a Vice President of the Royal College of Organists. He has recently been made an Honorary Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians.