

A CELEBRATION OF

KATHLEEN FERRIER

Her life, letters and music



'There was silence. The pause that every Festival Director wants – that moment of quiet at the end of a performance when the audience has been so moved that it has to gather itself together before bursting into applause.'

Pauline Johnson, Artistic Director, 2013 Guildford International Music Festival

Building upon the critical acclaim and overwhelming audience response to the show during the Centenary year of Ferrier's birth in 2012, **A Celebration of Kathleen Ferrier** is now being launched to a wider audience.

Ferrier's was a voice of a generation, a voice that entered the national consciousness and was heard on radios and records in almost every household in the country. Her tragic death in 1953 almost overshadowed the Queen's Coronation. Many people know Kathleen Ferrier's voice without knowing the tragic but uplifting and courageous story that lies behind one of the greatest British singers of all time. This is a moving tribute to an extraordinary artist.

"Kathleen Ferrier's glorious voice and her remarkable life story have always been a source of fascination for me; so when Diana Moore (one of my absolutely favourite singers!) asked me to be involved in her delightful evening of music and anecdote, I jumped at the opportunity. Diana's voice has such a glorious quality, with a depth and beauty of the same kind that made Ferrier so irresistibly special. The story of Kathleen's life which she has put together, together with so many of the songs which Ferrier made very much her own, creates an evening of sheer delight and pure nostalgia, affectionately reminding us of one of the world's greatest singers."

Brian Kay, BBC Presenter

Alongside music and theatre, the performance is illustrated throughout with a Powerpoint presentation of rare photos, supplied by the Kathleen Ferrier Society archive, giving a further visual insight into the 'person behind the voice.' The Society highly recommend the show and also offer to supply an exhibition to venues, tailored to the region performed in, with further archive material which can be viewed by the audience before and after the show, and during the interval.

The show's creator, Diana Moore, enjoys a highly acclaimed international career of her own. Recent reviews have praised her for her **'emotional depth'** *The Guardian*, **'thrilling technical bravura'** *Gramophone*, and **'rich,**

evocative sound' *San Francisco Chronicle*.

A Celebration of Kathleen Ferrier intimately tells the story of her life through her own words and those of the people closest to her. It is a multi-media show, which weaves extracts from letters and diaries, reminiscences and anecdotes with wit, warmth and genuine audience engagement. The narration is punctuated by performances of the music most associated with one of the world's most remarkable voices and the choice reflects Ferrier's versatility - from folk to opera and from oratorio to song.

The show can be tailored to either a 2 or 3 person format, and can be adapted to almost any venue. In the 2 person show, the narration is split between Diana and her accompanist - this has included renowned pianists John Reid, Christopher Glynn & Peter Wilkinson. In the 3 person format, the pair are joined by celebrated BBC broadcaster and founder member of the Kings Singers, Brian Kay, with whom Diana has collaborated to develop the script.

"I attended last night's concert at The SAGE with a little trepidation. I love Kathleen Ferrier's voice and doubted that anyone could do the pieces that she was well-known for justice. Crikey I was wrong!! A wonderful, memorable evening. Thank you."

Audience member, The SAGE Gateshead, 2012

ABOUT THE SHOW

'One of the most moving and captivating evenings I've spent ... tastefully produced and impeccably performed ... the life – and voice – of a truly great Briton was rightly and royally celebrated.'

Garry Fraser, Scots Magazine

'Klever Kaff' they called her, the girl from Blackburn whose unique talent propelled her in the space of ten years from housewife to household name.

2012 marked the centenary of Kathleen Ferrier's birth and in recognition, Diana has performed her personally devised show to critical acclaim at venues including sell out performances at Perth International Festival of the Arts, Bridgewater Hall, Manchester and The SAGE Gateshead.

Highly recommended by the Kathleen Ferrier Society, Diana has drawn on her own research of the Ferrier archives, literature and interviews, to illuminate the celebrated contralto's personal and musical life. The culmination of the year's Centenary events saw Diana invited by the Kathleen Ferrier Society to perform the final concert at their Centenary Weekend in Kathleen's home town of Blackburn.

"Have just got home from your Kathleen Ferrier programme and wanted to say how much we enjoyed it. So nice to see a different approach to a song recital."

Audience member, London

HOW THE SHOW CAME ABOUT **by the show's creator, Diana Moore**

"Ferrier's singing voice is the first I remember being able to distinguish on the radio or on record. I first heard it at quite a young age, at the house of a family friend, who played me her records. She spoke with such reverence about occasions where she had sung in the Bach Choir when Kathleen was singing solo, occasions over half a century previous. It was clear that this was a personality and voice who had had a profound effect upon those who heard her. Her voice had a very 'human' quality and a natural honesty that I found impossible not to respond to. She is certainly an artist who has inspired and influenced me as a performer, despite the fact she died 20 years before I was born and I've only heard her voice on recordings!

I was inspired to write the show after going to an evening devised by Prunella Scales about the life and letters of Queen Victoria. The performance seemed to be such a fitting tribute to a figure that she so obviously respected and was intrigued by, and I was very moved. I was slightly apprehensive about putting this together because to capture Ferrier in the same way that Prunella Scales captured Victoria wouldn't work, for a variety of reasons. To capture that voice and personality in one would be simply impossible - recordings and living memory thankfully exist to do that job. And the idea of some kind of 'tribute act' seemed complete anathema to me! Moreover, music performance styles have changed dramatically since her day, particularly with the advent of the Early Music revolution and developments within music history.

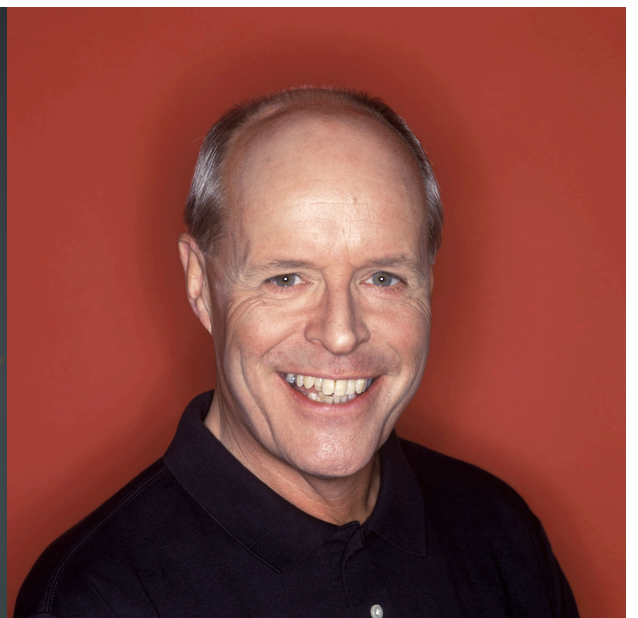
So, what I have aimed for is to put together a show celebrating her life through her letters, diaries and the personal accounts of those who knew her well, mixed with performances of some of the music that was associated with her, and illustrated with rare photos from the Kathleen Ferrier Society archive, as my personal tribute."

In Pictures

L - R

Diana Moore

Brian Kay



Responses from our Audiences

"I have never had such a moving evening. Thank you very much."

North Wales Music Clubs 2012

"I attended last night's concert at The SAGE with a little trepidation. I love Kathleen Ferrier's voice and doubted that anyone could do the pieces that she was well-known for justice. Crikey I was wrong!! A wonderful, memorable evening. Thank you."

The SAGE 2012

"I found your concert to be one of the most moving musical events I have ever attended ... a performance that was wonderful in every way."

Perth Festival of the Arts 2012

"What a great night. I confess the paper tissues were out at the end. I find it difficult to watch most female singers - usually I shut my eyes and just listen but you engaged my attention throughout the evening. I won't rabbit on - you were simply the best. Well done and thank you for coming to Perth."

Perth Festival of the Arts 2012

"Yes, the show at Perth was a sell out and I was fortunately lucky enough to be in the audience. What can I say? A wonderful performance. I loved every moment. Diana Moore has a fabulous voice and was well supported by Christopher Glynn and Brian Kay. It was a privilege to be at the Concert Hall last night."

Perth Festival of the Arts 2012

"I just had to write to say a big thank you for the wonderful Kathleen Ferrier tribute at The SAGE Gateshead last night. Your performance and vocal quality was outstanding and there were tears in the eyes for many of the renditions. As a young budding baritone my music teacher was also under Dr Hutchinson and I had heard so many of the stories you related from her - it was like going back to my youth. A fantastic night and experience for me. Thank you again"

The SAGE 2012

"Thank you so much for a wonderful recital yesterday. I so enjoyed hearing you sing and I think your voice is opulent, vibrant and altogether beautiful!"

Bridgewater Hall 2012

"We enjoyed the Kathleen Ferrier recital enormously and want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to hear this wonderful artiste Diana Moore. We thought she was superb. She has a simplicity, an engaging personality and extreme professionalism - all entirely appropriate for the programme of Kathleen Ferrier's favourite performance pieces - and her voice ... that was a joy!"

Godalming Music Club 2011

"Wonderful concert! I was delighted with the choice of songs, and particularly moved by Diana's performance which was expressive and (to my ear) faultless. A great delight, so thank you: a very memorable occasion"

Newcastle 2010

And from our reviewers...

"Whattanight! Diana's rich mezzo voice, coupled with her own warmth and personality, enthralled the audience. It was a wonderful evening. Not to be missed ***."**

Kathleen Ferrier Society

" ... an evening I'll not forget in a hurry"

Garry Fraser, Perth Courier

"If you do get the opportunity I urge you to see it. It is done with great sincerity, humour and love; unmissable!"

Paul Campion, author of 'Ferrier - A Career Recorded'

ABOUT THE SHOW'S CREATOR, DIANA MOORE



Born in Lowestoft, Diana Moore pursued her musical studies at the University of Birmingham and the Royal Academy of Music, where she was awarded an Honorary Associateship in 2002.

Diana is an imaginative and lauded vocal recitalist, particularly recognised for the intellectual integrity of her characterisation, the emotional depth she brings to performances and for her rich sonority. A versatile artist, Diana has performed repertoire ranging from major operatic roles, lieder and recitals, to her own devised programmes. Her ability to engage an audience from the moment she steps onto the concert platform results in an intense rapport and extremely satisfied concert-goers around the world. As well as gathering international acclaim in reviews and wonderful receptions from audiences, Diana has also won awards for her recorded work; her recording of *Parnasso in Festa* with Matthew Halls and The King's Consort was awarded the Stanley Sadie International Handel Recording Prize.

The programmes Diana has devised are ideal for Festivals, concert societies, single events or as part of a concert series; they can be adapted to almost any concert venue. Her own curiosity and delight in the music she sings immediately translates to audiences who appreciate the warmth and sincerity of her performances and the insight and knowledge that she imparts.

The sincerity which with Diana has approached **A Celebration of Kathleen Ferrier** and *Feminine Charms* – her programme of songs by English female composers, which premiered at the Buxton Festival – are evident. Both shows have been intelligently put together with wit and warmth to emphasise the thrilling musicality and accomplishments of the extraordinary women they celebrate.

As an accomplished exponent of English Song, Diana is in increasing demand. A regular performer at the *Weekend of English Song* at Ludlow, she has appeared there both in recital and as a giver of lecture-recitals; she has contributed to *Celebrating English Song at Tardebigge*; and she has represented England in the International Young Artists Series at Opera de Lille.

Current and recent engagements include the role of *Holofernes* (Vivaldi's *Juditha Triumphans*) in San Francisco with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the Royal Albert Hall and collaborations with the Oxford Philomusica.

Further information about the programme and it's creator is available on Diana's website,

www.dianamooremezzo.com