

7pm: Archive film screening with live musical accompaniment
[dur. 1 hr, £8.50 / £7.50]

Mackenzie - Murdoch

“Mossgiel” - a Grand Scottish Fantasia

The son of a Glasgow poet, the gifted violinist William Mackenzie Murdoch was born in 1870. Following in the footsteps of James Scott Skinner, he composed many virtuoso medleys of Scottish folk tunes for his own performances.

**“St. Kilda, Britain’s Loneliest Isle” Video with music by A.C. Mackenzie
and J.B. McEwan**

110 miles west of the mainland lie the St. Kilda Isles. This archive Scottish film, shot in 1923 and accompanied by music of the same period, is time travel in sight and sound. The video shows how the inhabitants worked, lived and survived on the island year after year until the late nineteenth century when tourists came, urged on by romantic tales of outer islands and simple folk. The St. Kildans began to rely on their largesse instead of working. They caught the visitors’ viruses. They lost their native vigour and worse, their young men and women started to leave for the exciting lands beyond their shores where tales of marvelous cities and wealth proved too much of a temptation. The numbers dwindled and by 1930 there were so few active islanders that they begged to be evacuated to the mainland.

“Da Makkin’ o’ a Keshie”

**Video with traditional Scottish reels
by Joe Murray**

Da Makkin’ O’ a Keshie, or peat carrier, filmed in 1932 illustrates a traditional rural craft that had continued unchanged for centuries but was soon to die out. It shows the use of local materials and high skill to produce a practical specialised product.

“Eriskay - A Poem of Remote Lives”

**Video with music by J.B. McEwan,
Hamish MacCunn, A.C. Mackenzie,
“Eriskay Love Lilt”, “Eriskay Lullaby”**

The extraordinary thing about the film “A Poem of Remote Isles” is not just that it is a magnificent record of life on Eriskay in 1934 but the life of the man who took it, Werner Kissling. Soldier, diplomat, Scholar, gentleman says his gravestone. Add to that, eminent ethnologist and German friend and supporter of the people of Eriskay.