

William Jackson

Scottish Harp. Composer. Music Therapist

18/1/15

John Pentland MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear John,

I read with interest the recent articles in the press on Jan 14th regarding the possibility of an official Scottish Anthem. I just wanted to inform you that in fact The Herald and Scottish media group launched a competition called "A New Song for Scotland" on St Andrew's day 1998 and the winner was announced on Burns day 1999.

There were 249 entries from all over the world and the panel of judges including Michael Tumelty and Phil Cunningham unanimously chose "Land of Light" by Scottish composer William Jackson. That's me !

I received my award in Glasgow from Sir Cameron Mackintosh and was honored when "Land of Light" was performed during the Queen Mother's birthday celebrations in Edinburgh, and also featured at the Edinburgh military tattoo in 2000, sung by Mairi MacInnes.

It continues to be performed at Highland games in the USA and Canada. I also performed "Land of Light" for HRH Prince Charles at the palace of Holyrood.

While I agree that there are many fine traditional songs that would make good anthems, I am taken aback by the suggestion that someone might compose a new anthem. I thought that this had been addressed.

I enclose 2 copies of the demo CD for your interest and would be happy to supply any further information.

Yours Sincerely
William Jackson