

Vocal Selections from *What Goes Around*

What Goes Around was a collaboration with the Aberdeen-based playwright and librettist Mike Gibb. Mike has written the words for a number of musicals which have seen successful productions at various venues across Scotland. The best-known of these are *A Land Fit for Heroes*, about the rise of socialism in post- First World War Glasgow, and *Mother of all the Peoples*, concerning the life of the Dundee-born missionary Mary Slessor.

Mike approached me in 2003, asking me to set the lyrics of a new musical play. The result of this collaboration is the present volume of songs, arranged for piano and voices.

What Goes Around is essentially a generational comedy of the “kitchen sink” variety. To quote Mike: “...[it] is a one act [musical] play, a bittersweet comedy set in a retirement home where an elderly woman, sound in mind but frail in body, has been dumped by her less than caring family”.

The story is told by Jessica, the said elderly woman. Her younger relations are introduced by means of flashback.

The additional characters which appear in the present vocal selection are as follows:

Ronald (Jessica’s 50 year-old son)
Miranda (his wife)
Anthony (their 25 year-old son)
Amanda (his girlfriend)
George (Jessica’s estranged husband)
Charlotte (Jessica’s daughter – late 40’s)
Giles (her husband).

The songs may be performed successfully as stand-alone numbers by one male and one female voice, accompanied by piano, as is the case with the recording which accompanies this volume.

At the time of writing there have been no public performances of the musical, nor of the individual musical numbers. The present recording was made in early 2004 in Mick McGarr’s studio in Edinburgh. The pianist was Grant Bolton, and I was joined on vocals by Sheena Walinck, an undergraduate music student at Edinburgh University.