

LIVE Music on Sundays
in Dunfermline

Season 2022–23: Concert 5

Savourna Stevenson & Steve Kettley



7.30pm

19 February 2023

Viewfield Baptist Church



This concert is promoted by Dunfermline Arts Guild in partnership with Scotland on Tour (<https://scotlandontour.com/>), a fund set up by the Scottish Government that helps to create new concerts and bring world-class music to towns and villages across Scotland.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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For tonight's concert, composer and clarsach virtuoso Savourna Stevenson – described as “a national treasure” by *The Herald* – joins forces with old friend and saxophonist Steve Kettle. Most of the music they will be playing is taken from their recently-released collaborative harp and saxophone album ‘Wine of Life’. This takes in elements of classical genres, folk, world and jazz to create a unique blend of haunting melodies, pulsating rhythms and stirring improvisations – music rooted in history and heritage, but given a contemporary twist.

Savourna Stevenson began playing the piano and composing from the age of 5 with her father, the composer Ronald Stevenson, and made her concert debut with the harp at the age of 15 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London.

Savourna is known for breaking stylistic barriers while maintaining her Scottish roots. She has collaborated with musicians such as Aly Bain, Eddi Reader and Toumani Diabate and is acclaimed for recent orchestral and choral works.

Savourna's Harp String Quintet featured in the American TV series ‘Sex and the City’ and ‘Ugly Betty’.

Savourna was recently honoured to have some of her music, a choral version of Psalm 121 and apparently a favourite of the late monarch, performed at the Thanksgiving Service for the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh.

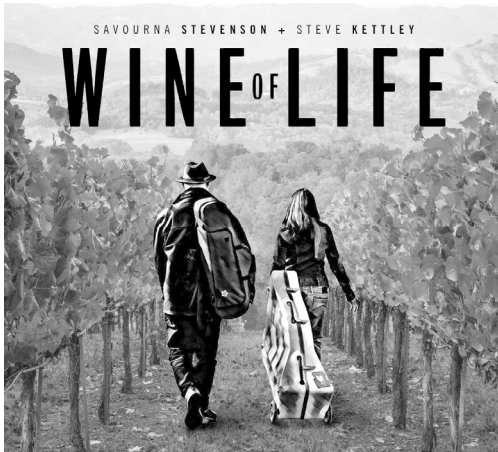
Steve Kettle leads several groups playing his original music, plus Orange Claw Hammer, interpreting the music of avant-rock legend Captain Beefheart. He is well known as a founder member of the international touring and recording group Salsa Celtica (1995–2013). The saxophonist also performs regularly with poet and former Scottish Makar Liz Lochhead.

Savourna said, “Steve performed and recorded on my albums back in the 90s and we always promised to do more in the way of a collaboration. I guess we went off to do our own things, me with my orchestral and choral writing and Steve with Salsa Celtica and his avant-garde bands, and we both had families then”. Steve added, “In 2017, Savourna called me for an availability check for a harp festival booking. It all grew from the success of that gig, and we decided to make an album. Then lockdown hit.” This provided them with an impetus of sorts though, as Savourna says, “We thought that this was a creative opportunity, and that we should spend time arranging and recording our album. We decided to adopt a ‘glass half-full’ approach to the CD, hence the title, ‘Wine of Life’.

Savourna and Steve's first performance together was at Harp on Wight in October 2017. Recent concerts include the Spanish ‘Noia Harp Festival’, Edinburgh Harp Festival, and the Edinburgh Fringe, and there will be more concerts such as this one in support of their new album.

Tonight's music

During the evening you can expect to hear all the tracks from Savourna and Steve's latest album, "Wine of Life"



Book Worm
Tango Mafioso
Gamelan
Road of the Loving Heart
Silverado Squatters
La Solitude
Fording the Tweed
Cutting the Chord
Molokai
Blue Orchid
Maybe Then I'll Be a Rose

All these are Savourna's compositions, apart from Tango Mafioso, contributed by Steve.

Other tunes in their informal programme may include

From Clyde to Sandyhook
Tickled Pink
Mexican Monterey

At some stage there will be an interval between the two sets ...

15-minute INTERVAL

During the interval coffee/tea will be served
from the counter in the foyer

You will find toilets at the top of the entrance staircase
(disabled and ladies) and the bottom of the staircase (men)

Copies of the album will be available for purchase in the foyer
both at the interval and at the end of the concert

Grateful thanks to tonight's sound engineer, Jock Brown