

Ian Harrison

grew up in Newcastle upon Tyne in the North East of England, the last corner of that country to have retained its own type of bagpipe. He began his musical career as a Lay Clerk in the Choir of Canterbury Cathedral. He completed an MA in Music at the City University, London and went on to study at the Royal Conservatory, The Hague and at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis in Switzerland. He is founder-member of the ensemble for medieval and renaissance wind music Les haulz et les bas and of the ensemble for traditional music from historical sources The Early Folk Band. Combining traditional techniques, baroque virtuosity and an enormous knowledge of medieval music sources he has developed a new style, 'set new standards', and become one of Europe's leading improvisers on shawm, bagpipes and cornett. The international press has named him 'the Miles Davis of Early Music'. He is a composer in many historical and traditional styles, teaches mediaeval and renaissance wind music at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis and has given lectures and masterclasses throughout Europe and North America. His activities with his own ensembles and as guest soloist with many leading groups and orchestras including The Harp Consort, Ensemble Sarband, The New London Consort, the Prague Chamber Orchestra, the Bochum Symphony Orchestra and the Metropole Orchestra, Hilversum, have taken him round the world. His original, virtuosic and improvisational skills have earned him prizes at the Bruges Early Music Festival, the Rencontres des Maitres Sonneurs, St. Chartier and the German Pop and Rock Awards.