

## STANLEY ROBERTSON 1940-2009

Friday 7th o August wus a day fur salutin Stanley, an fur sharin oor dowieness about heez daith. The funeral in Aiberdeen wus an inspirin occasion wi grand tributes, real waarmth an humour - fit fur the man hissel.

Oan the Lumphanan Road [a pliss whar Stanley held in heez hert, bein an auld traiveller campsite, an whar hae askit tae be beerit] fowk sang 'Yellae oan the broom' as Stanley askit, an at the Storytelling Centre fowk sang tae in the gairden whar Stanley helpit tae open the new buildin in 2006. Even ferr awa in Switzerland, at the time o Stanley's funeral, storytellers frae aw ower Europe raised a gless o whusky.

There is a sense o voices there, voices cairryin in the wund, an the maimrie an the sowl, roond the earth. Stanley wus a maister o thae voices an oo wull be hearin thaim wi heez souch an accent fur monie years, monie generations tae come.

Stanley wud aye hiv spoken first o heez ain faimlie, an forebeirs an fowk. It wus their tradeetions o music, sang an story that hae cairrit wi him oan heez passage throwe life an tae which hae wus sae true. Few hiv bin boarn intae sich a rich heirship an Stanley made the airt an culture o the Scottish Traivellers an honoured pairt o Scotland's culture.

But Stanley wus alsae an airtist o genius in heez ain richt. Hae hud heez ain veesion an imagination an craft, which hae practeesed baith as an oral airtist an throwe heez unique scribevin.

Hae baith honoured the tradeetion an addit tae it in monie weys. Whae appairt frae Stanley, cud hiv turnt the fish-gutters' tables intae a herthside o story an experiences shared bae aw? Whae cud touch the speeritual nerves lik him? Hae cawed this the mise [pronoonced my-zee] the prinkles doon the spine tell ye ye're in tune, at the hert o inspiration as an airtist. This is the mise.

The tradeetion beirer an the great airtist seemed rowed thegither tho, in oor maimries, wi Stanley the person. The waarmth, the insicht, the lovin wyceness, the humour - wickit at times! - the respeck an decency an thowt fur aw heez fellae craiteurs; an alangside heez realism, a ken o aw the teuch an hard things life can thraw. Yit humanity comes oot still oan tap. Jack, the unlikely hero o the story, wuns throwe at the feenish.

Stanley huz won throwe noo an oo are dowie but in some queer wey happy tae. Oo hiv loast him but oo are still listenin tae heez voices. Hae is in the Land o nae Daith.

Oor thowts an prayers are wi Johaan an aw o Stanley's bairns an granbairns.

This eulogy huz bin re-telt an raxed oot in Scots bae James Spence, frae the original bae

**Dr Donald Smith, Director**  
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