

# *Tan Tawl a Gernow*

**“The Dark Fire of Cornwall” with Penzance Guizers –  
a film by Alban Roinard & Morag Robertson,  
French & Scott Media Production**



Penzance Guizers were honoured to be part of a Penlee House Gallery & Museum exhibition “Image and Imagination 2016” - a selection of artworks by artist, poet and novelist Ithell Colquhoun and “*Tan Tawl a Gernow* –The Dark Fire of Cornwall” was created for performance at the launch of the exhibition.

Ithell Colquhoun is an intriguing artist whose life and work travelled many pathways and Penzance Guizers took this as the core of their performance.

The musicians and dancers embraced the themes of entrapment and progression; mirrored and interpreted her various art styles; considered the passage and emotions within her life; reflected her colours in the clothes they wore for the performance and emulated the shapes she portrayed in the paintings.

Traditional dances were interspersed with improvisation while the music, played on traditional and contemporary instruments, reflected quietude and thoughtfulness alongside a spirited celebration of the local Cornish landscape to create contrast and texture.

The original music – *Gwandryas* (Wanderer), *Fordh Anwastas* (Bumpy Road), *Ton Tarosvanus* (Haunting Tune), *Kerdhesyas Apposyans* (Examinations Step) and *Jyg Sowennyans* (Success Jig) was written by *Gorsedh Kernow* Cornish language bard Delia Brotherton (*Myrghwyn Melynor*), Dave Brotherton and David Higginbotham and was performed by the composers, with Chris Nixon on percussion.

The traditional and contemporary Cornish dances, including *Maylya ha Magli* (Wrap and Entrap) with *Pibgorn Helygan* (Heligan Hornpipe), *Stampys Sten* (Tin Stamps) with *Maghtethyon Men* (Stone Maidens) and *Sevyans Galosek* (Potent Poses) with *Tremadheves* (Travelling Sheep\*), were selected and choreographed by Helen Musser.

The dancers were Barbara Armstrong, Anne Coralie, bard of *Gorsedh Kernow* Mark Dungey (*Donsyor Lanust*), Joceline Rennie, Caroline Ridley, Jackie Stanton, Maureen Worledge and Helen Musser.

The art works from “Image and Imagination 2016” that influenced the choreography and music of Penzance Guizers’ performance were

Dance of The Nine Maidens - Three images	1940
Landscape with Winding Stream	undated
Landscape with Antiquities	1955
Potentate II	1963
Dark Fire	1980

Footage was filmed live by Alban Roinard at rehearsals and at the performance in Penlee House Gallery & Museum and edited by Alban and Morag Robertson of French & Scott Media Production, based in Cornwall.

\*A speculative English translation suggested by Robert Morton Nance, or the dance may be descended from the *carole*, or ancient medieval circular singing dance.