

# edinburgh people's festival

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## HAMISH HENDERSON MEMORIAL LECTURE

Last year the Edinburgh People's Festival initiated the Hamish Henderson Memorial lecture. Hamish Henderson [1919-2002] was a remarkable figure in Scottish culture, celebrated in so many different ways. He was a poet, songwriter and scholar who wrote the wonderful *Elegies for the Dead in Cyrenaica* about his experiences as a soldier in North Africa during World War 2. As the father of the Scottish folk music revival in post war Scotland he left us the wonderful anthem *Freedom Come All Ye*. He took the Italian surrender in World War 2 and translated the work of the celebrated Italian writer and thinker Antonio Gramsci into English. He established the ground breaking School of Scottish Studies at Edinburgh University and was also the founder of the Edinburgh People's Festival in 1951. He even found time to turn down an OBE.

In last years inaugural lecture Hamish Henderson's biographer and close friend Mr Timothy Neat delivered a thoroughly engrossing talk about the man to a highly appreciative sell out crowd.

The Edinburgh People's Festival is absolutely delighted to announce that this years lecture will be delivered by Dr Fred Freeman himself an acknowledged and celebrated authority on Hamish Henderson from the School of Scottish Studies at Edinburgh University. Fred recently presented an acclaimed hour long special on Hamish's life and legacy on BBC Radio Four.

The lecture takes place on Wednesday 12th August at the Nelson Hall in St Leonards [7.30pm], which is not far from where Hamish Henderson lived. It is widely expected to be another sell out crowd so get there early if you want a good seat.

Colin Fox, Chairman, Edinburgh People's Festival