



Bill Whelan

Bill Whelan has composed music for theatre, film and the concert stage. His musical settings of the literary works of Irish writers have been performed widely at home and abroad and include the poetry of Paul Muldoon, Derek Mahon, Tom McIntyre, Frank McGuinness, Eavan Boland, Michael Hartnett, Paul Durcan and now of course, Arthur Riordan.

As a producer in the studio he has worked with U2, Van Morrison, Kate Bush, Richard Harris, The Dubliners, Planxty, Andy Irvine, Davy Spillane and Bulgarian/Irish band, East Wind. His film work includes music scores for "Dancing At Lughansa" starring Meryl Streep, "Some Mother's Son" featuring Helen Mirren and "Lamb" with Liam Neeson. His orchestral work, The Seville Suite was specially commissioned for Expo '92. The Spirit Of Mayo, was first performed in 1993 by an 85-piece orchestra and choir in Dublin's National Concert Hall.

The Connemara Suite, a trilogy of pieces composed for chamber orchestra premiered in Carnegie Hall by the Irish Chamber Orchestra in March 2005. He was commissioned by RTE Lyric FM to write a concerto for flute for Sir James Galway. Titled "Linen & Lace" to mark the Limerick National City of Culture it was performed by the NSO and subsequently by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. His 1997 Grammy winning music for Riverdance continues to be performed around the world and the show is about to embark on an anniversary tour of the United States, China and the United Kingdom.

He was the composer to the WB Yeats International Theatre Festival at Dublin's Abbey Theatre from 1989 to 1993, during which he wrote original music for 15 Yeats plays. His adaptation of HMS Pinafore received a Laurence Olivier Award nomination. Bill serves on the boards of Berklee School of Music in Boston, the University of Limerick Foundation, and Music Generation. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Music and holds two honorary doctorates.