



## Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland Commissioning Statement

As we are a relatively new organisation established in 2016, Cruit Éireann, Harp Ireland is taking a step-by-step approach to commissioning new work.

Our overall aim is to encourage current harpers to compose and arrange for solo harpers and for ensembles.

A key objective is to broaden our reach, encourage diversity of approach and to commission work from non-harpers so that a more diverse repertoire may begin to emerge, while remaining true to the harp's unique identity and sound by:

- Providing commissioning opportunities to as many Irish harpers and composers as possible.
- Engaging with composers with a proven track record, who have ideally composed previous works for harp and whose compositional style is sympathetic to that of the proposed forces and concert programme.
- Encouraging younger and emerging composers to compose and arrange for harp.
- Discussing the choice of composer with the artist(s) in order to maximise the potential for the work to be developed in line with their technical ability and adopted into their core repertoire.
- Providing added promotional support to featured composers through high quality filming and recording of their work, funding permitting.
- Facilitating deeper audience engagement through a 'Meet the Composer' opportunity, either online or prior to concert performances.
- Maximising the number of performances of CÉHI commissions by engaging with harp festivals and venues to encourage potential performance slots in their traditional arts programmes.
- Employing an equal opportunity policy in line with Arts Council expectations.
- Ensuring that the principles of the Arts Council 'Pay the Artist' are observed at all times.

To date, we have commissioned a major work from harper-composer Anne-Marie O' Farrell for a 50-member harp ensemble, which was premiered at our gala concert in 2019.

We commissioned harper Gráinne Hambly to arrange for harp trio for Harp North 2020. This was performed by 3 northern based harpers at our online Harp North day, received its first public performance at the Harps Alive Festival in Belfast in 2022 and will receive a third performance at our Lá na Cruite Gala Concert in 2022 and at our TU Dublin symposium in 2022.

In 2021/2022 we commissioned 13 young harpers to make contemporary arrangements of 13 of the harp tunes performed at the 1792 Belfast Harpers' gathering. We propose to repeat this concert in Dublin for a Bunting commemorative concert in Nov 2023 in the Pepper Cannister Church where Bunting had been organist during his years in Dublin.

With assistance from the DEIS funding scheme, we commissioned harper-composer, Janet Harbison to produce a book of ensemble music from the Belfast Harp Orchestra repertoire as an aid for young harp ensembles. This will be launched at our 2022 symposium.

We have commissioned renowned harper composer Maeve Gilchrist to compose an ensemble piece for young harpers all over Ireland and lead the performance for our gala concert 2023.

In partnership with Music in Wexford we are proposing to put out a call for a contemporary work for three pedal harps to be performed in Wexford and Birr in 2023.

To celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Edward Bunting's birth in 1773, we have commissioned poet and Aos Dána member Moya Cannon to write a poem in his honour and to work with harper, Aisling Lyons to set it to music in a contemporary recreation of the file and the reaire.