



Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland Commissioning Statement

As a relatively new organisation established in 2017, 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.

Appendix A

Summary of CÉHI's Commissioned Works

Since 2017, Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland have commissioned a range of works for solo, trio and ensemble harp performances.

- In 2019, CÉHI commissioned a major work from harper-composer Anne-Marie O' Farrell for a 50- member harp ensemble which premiered at our gala concert.
- We commissioned harper Gráinne Hambly to arrange for harp trio as part of our *Harp North* initiative in 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 was subsequently performed at our Lá na Cruite | Harp Day Gala Concert in 2022, TU Dublin symposium in 2022 and Harps Alive Festival in 2023.
- In 2021/22 we commissioned 13 young harpers to create contemporary arrangements of 13 of the harp tunes performed at the 1792 Belfast Harpers' gathering as part of our Harps Alive | An Chruit Bheo | Harps Leevin inaugural festival.
- With assistance from the Arts Council 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.
- In partnership with Music for Wexford we supported the commission and performance of a contemporary work for three pedal harps in 2023.
- To celebrate the 250th anniversary of Edward Bunting's birth in 1773, we 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 reacaire.
- We have commissioned renowned harper composer Maeve Gilchrist to compose an ensemble piece for harpers all over Ireland which will be performed at our gala concert 2024.
- With support from The Arts Councils Commissions Award we have commissioned renowned sean nós singer Iarla Ó Lionaird, US harper Parker Ramsay and composer-arranger Connor Way to curate a song-cycle for voice and harp which reimagines the ancient performance practice of the harper, poet and reciter.