

William Jackson

Celtic Harp, Composer, Music Therapist



"He's got the best ear of anyone I've ever come across, and he has total command of the Scottish traditional idiom." (Sounding Strings)

--Iain MacInnes, BBC's 'Pipeline' program

"... the great thing about Jackson - the skill and artistry of the man - lies in his lightness of touch."

--Alastair Clark of the Scotsman

"...sensitive and evocative ...original and inspiring..."

-- Alex Monaghan, The Living Tradition

"The best of the best."

--Celtic Beat on Duan Albanach

2004: Swannanoa's Master Music Maker Award for Lifetime Achievement

William Jackson has been at the forefront of Scottish traditional music for nearly 30 years. In addition to his stature as one of the leading harpers and multi-instrumentalists in Scotland, William has gained an international reputation as a composer. His "Land of Light" won the international competition in 1999 as the new song for Scotland, announced on the eve of that Parliament convening for the first time in 300 years.

William was a founding member and creative tour de force of Ossian in 1976, which became one of Scotland's best-loved traditional bands. The band, whose music influenced a generation of musicians, extensively toured the U.S. and Europe. Besides harp, he also plays tinwhistle bouzouki and piano.

While working with Ossian, William established himself as a composer and he has steadily knit together Celtic influences with classical instrumentation in a style uniquely his own. He has an impressive list of commissioned works and subsequent recordings, including "The Wellpark Suite," "St. Mungo," and "Inchcolm". A 1996 commission from the Scottish Chamber Orchestra resulted in "A Scottish Island", and also used traditional and classical music together. His commission, "Duan Albanach", was created for the 2002 opening of the Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow. In 2007 he performed his work "Fantasia on Scottish Themes" with the Asheville Symphony, in North Carolina. In December 2008 William was a featured performer with The Cape Cod Symphony with his composition "Columcille" and a new commission for the occasion "Christmas Day", his orchestration of some traditional Scottish melodies.

He has composed music in Scotland for the BBC and Scottish television and directed and performed the music for "The Battle of the Clans" for the History Channel.

William's performance on harp, whistle and bodhran is featured on the soundtrack of the movie "A Shot at Glory", starring Robert Duval and Michael Keaton, which was filmed in Scotland. William is also a trained Music Therapist since 1993 and has worked with children with Autism and Cerebral Palsy, as well as in a psychiatric setting, in hospitals and schools in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, Scotland, and also in Asheville, North Carolina.

In addition to his performances on Celtic Harp, William teaches and gives workshops on Harp, and Music Therapy.

Recording Credits

<http://www.wjharp.com>

The New Harp (2008), Land of Light, Duan Albanach, A Scottish Island, The Celtic Suites, Inchcolm, The Ancient Harp of Scotland, Celtic Experience Vol. 1-3, Notes from a Hebridean Island

With Ossian: The Carrying Stream, Light on a Distant Shore, Borders, Seal Song, Dove Across the Water, The Best of Ossian, Ossian, St. Kilda Wedding

With Others: Billy Jackson & Billy Ross: The Misty Mountain

Booking Now for 2009/2010 Tour Schedule

Please contact: wjharp@earthlink.net