

MASTERS OF THE CELTIC HARP

Two Sides of Celtic by the Foremost Harpers of Ireland & Scotland



William Jackson

William Jackson of Glasgow 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 and bouzouki.

While working with Ossian, he also 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", 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 newest work "Scottish Fantasia" with the Asheville Symphony.

He has composed music in Scotland for the BBC and Scottish television and recently 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 *A Shot at Glory*, starring Robert Duval and Michael Keaton, which was filmed in Scotland.

"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. William Jackson will leave you asking for more."

Alastair Clark of the Scotsman

<http://www.wjharp.com>

2004 Recipient of Swannanoa's Master Music Maker award for Lifetime Achievement.

Recording Credits

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 their 2008/2009 Tour Schedule

Please Contact: Kathy DeAngelo, 856-795-7637, kathy@harpagency.com

www.harpagency.com
