

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Irish Reel

FOR ORCHESTRA

(1936)

FABER *ff* MUSIC

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Duration: c. 3 minutes

ORCHESTRA

Flute (doubling Piccolo)

Oboe

Clarinet in B \flat (or A)

Bassoon

Horn in F

Timpani

Harp

Strings

Orchestral parts available
on hire from the publishers

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Britten's *Irish Reel* was composed in 1936 as title music for *Around the Village Green*, a documentary film made by Marion Grierson and Evelyn Spice for the Travel and Industrial Development Association which explores the changes to rural life in East Anglia after the increased mechanization of agriculture. In his incidental music, Britten incorporates a riotous medley of folk songs and other traditional tunes (including 'Early One Morning', 'The Vicar of Bray', and Shield's 'The Plough Boy'), many of which were suggested to him by the Norfolk-based composer E.J. Moeran.

The *Irish Reel* – an odd choice for an East Anglian-based film – makes use of the tune 'The Bottom of the Punch Bowl'. Although it was recorded for Decca in 1938 by Charles Brill and his Orchestra, the score was withdrawn by the composer and not heard again until 17 June 1995, when it was performed as an encore by the City of London Sinfonia conducted by Richard Hickox, as part of the Gala Celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of *Peter Grimes* during the 48th Aldeburgh Festival.

This publication has been prepared by Colin Matthews from the autograph full score and copyist's set of parts in the Britten-Pears Library, Aldeburgh. Only one editorial change has been made: whereas the manuscript full score has Clarinet in A, the published edition has Clarinet in B flat. Parts are available for both Clarinets in B flat and A.

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IRISH REEL

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

(1913 – 1976)

Allegro molto

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes the Flute (doubling Piccolo), Oboe, Clarinet in B \flat , Bassoon, Horn in F, and Timpani. The second system includes the Harp, Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2. The tempo is marked 'Allegro molto'. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The woodwinds and strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, while the timpani and harp provide a steady accompaniment.

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