

IRISH SYMPHONIC WIND ORCHESTRA



The Irish Symphonic Wind Orchestra (ISWO) was established in January 2014. Its founding members, Keith Kelly and Barbara Dowling had heard Johan de Meij's Symphony No.1 "The Lord of the Rings," and longed to play it with a group of high calibre players. They decided to call friends and fellow musicians to see if they could generate some interest, and within 24 hours of their idea going public, over 80 top musicians from all over Ireland and further afield had signed up to take part. It quickly became clear that musicians were very excited at the prospect of performing exceptional wind band music at a very high level, and so a full weekend workshop was organised. In January 2014, under the baton of Liam Daly, ISWO gave its first public performance. The Irish Symphonic Wind Orchestra had been born.

ISWO has already caught the eye and interest of international composers such as Philip Sparke and Johan de Meij. In September 2015, ISWO invited and, was honoured to welcome Philip Sparke to conduct a programme of his own music. The satisfaction of being the first group in the history of Ireland to perform full symphonic wind arrangements such as "Year of the Dragon" and "Dance Movements" has laid the foundations for musical excellence for our current musicians and future generations. There is now a real sense of purpose to excel and stimulate further interest and continue to play outstanding wind band music.

In September 2016, less than three years since the idea of playing "The Lord of the Rings" became a reality, ISWO invited Johan De Meij to Ireland to conduct some of his works including "The Hobbits" from Symphony No 1 which brought the whole concept full circle.

We are delighted and honoured that both composers have now joined forces with us as patrons and act as advisors and supporters.

The members of ISWO are over 25 years old and from all corners of the island of Ireland and beyond. Our musicians are from both amateur and professional organisations, families, friends and acquaintances who all mix together at our workshop weekends which creates a great sense of unity and camaraderie. We are also delighted to have been guided and supported over the last few years, by our ISWO President, Fergus O'Carroll.

The ISWO is always looking to the future for further projects and challenges. With the enthusiasm we've received from all our musicians, supporters and the wider community, we certainly have much to look forward to.

Liam Daly, Conductor

Born in Dublin, Liam Daly has been involved in music since the age of 9, when he joined the Artane Boys Band.

He studied French horn with Victor Marlirsh at the Royal Irish Academy and was also a member of the Irish Youth Orchestra, National Wind Ensemble and National Youth Choir.

After completing a Diploma in Advanced Music Studies, an LTCL Performance Diploma and a BA MUS, Liam took up a commission with the Irish Defence Forces in 1989, and served 14 years as Officer Commanding and Musical Director of both the Western and Southern brigades.

Another commission followed in 2004, this time with the Australian Defence Forces, where he was Second in Command/Deputy Music Director of the Australian Army Band Melbourne, Officer Commanding/Music Director of the Australian Army Bands Darwin and Perth. While in Darwin he was involved in teaching a youth orchestral music programme at Darwin University and directed the Darwin Symphony Orchestra.

Since returning to Ireland in 2008, Liam has been in demand with a number of varied and challenging roles, as a brass and theory teacher as well as working extensively with youth bands, wind ensembles, concert bands, brass bands, choral societies and orchestras.

After a two year tenure as the principal conductor of the ISWO from its establishment in 2014 to 2016, Liam is delighted return this year as a special guest conductor.

