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Frank Martin (1890 – 1974) Trio on Popular Irish Folk Tunes (1925)

Allegro moderato

Adagio

Gigue

Frank Martin was born in Geneva, the tenth child of a Calvinist, Huguenot pastor; this Christian background particularly influenced his large-scale theatrical and choral works. Much of his chamber music was written in the 1920s and 30s during which time he was heavily involved in the Geneva Chamber Music Society that he had founded. Today's Trio comes from early in this period. His most individual music, however, started to emerge in the mid-1930s when he developed his own more tonal and rhythmically energetic variety of Schoenberg's 12-tone system.

The toe-tapping rhythmic liveliness of the outer two movements of this Trio may not be entirely due to its Irish sources. In the 1920s Martin worked closely with Émile Jaques-Dalcroze. "Dalcroze Eurhythmics" emphasised the importance of bodily movement in music education, and was taken up later by "Music & Movement" in the UK and the Orff approach in the US.