



Teacher's Biography – Ronan Doherty

Ronan Doherty has worked as a primary school teacher for seventeen years. In that time he has taught throughout the entire range of ages in the primary school (four years to eleven years). Currently he is employed as a music teacher with Ebrington Primary School in Londonderry / Derry, Northern Ireland where he has worked for the past six years.

Ronan's interest in music developed from the tender age of nine years old when he began to attend Piano lessons. Unfortunately the family did not have a piano at this time and he did not continue at this stage. Later on at thirteen years old the family did get a piano and Ronan was able to continue. Ronan cites as the biggest influence on his career a Primary School Teacher (Johnny Doherty, no relation) who introduced him to music, singing and piano playing.

Ronan began playing the Tenor Trombone at the age of twelve and by the age of seventeen had obtained a Grade VIII distinction on the instrument. The trombone led him to playing in Youth orchestras as well as a local Brass Band; Strabane Concert Brass. The latter group has represented Ireland at the European Brass Band Championships on four occasions and thus far Ronan has had the opportunity to perform at the Royal Albert Hall, the Barbican (both in London) Montreux (Switzerland) and Falkirk (Scotland).

Ronan's interest in music technology began at the age of eighteen when he bought a modest four track music cassette system. By this stage however he has assembled a much more sophisticated array of digital recording equipment which he uses to write music and songs. Ronan is continually trying to expand his studio.

Ronan has written musicals for children ("The Children of Lir" published by Golden Apple), television (Theme music for " Lesser Spotted Ulster " produced by Westway Film Production Co.). He has also been successful in winning several song writing competitions. Most recently Ronan co wrote with the children of Ebrington Primary School a song entitled " Trust can build a dream " which featured on a National Schools CD sponsored by the Voices of Promise / MillenniumExperience Company. The song was recorded at Air Studios in London (owner Sir George Martin of the Beatles fame) and led to appearances and performances on BBC Television (Blue Peter) as well as at the Millennium Dome in London.

Ronan cites as his favourite classical music "The Planets Suite" by Gustav Holst, "The Firebird" by Igor Stravinsky, the Music of American Composers Aaron Copland " Rodeo" , " Billy the Kid " and Leonard Bernstein "West Side Story".

Most recently, Ronan was very pleased to fulfil a major ambition when he wrote an original musical based on an event which was a major feature of local history in times gone by; 'The Hiring Fair'. The original musical " When our roads meet again " was performed to full houses in Donegal and Tyrone in June 2000. Ronan is currently rewriting the script in advance of a reworking of the project.