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## Abstract

English Abstract:

On the eve of St Patrick's Day 2014, the RISM Central Office in Frankfurt, in cooperation with RISM Ireland and the Research Foundation for Music in Ireland, presented a concert that featured a performance of the first symphony composed in Ireland, the *Grand Symphony* by Paul Alday (ca. 1763–1835), and other Irish works that are rarely found on concert programs. Rediscovered in 2012 by members of RISM Ireland, Alday's symphony received its first modern performance in Dublin the following year and was given what was likely its first performance outside of Ireland in 2014. This article will talk about RISM bringing together institutions, musicologists, and performers for the concert in Frankfurt.

French Abstract:

Veille de la St Patrick 2014, l'office central du RISM à Francfort, en collaboration avec le RISM Irlande et la fondation Research Foundation for Music in Ireland, ont présenté un concert dans lequel fut donné une version de la 1ère symphonie composée en Irlande: *Grand Symphony* de Paul Alday (ca. 1763–1835), ainsi que d'autres œuvres irlandaises rarement programmées. Redécouverte en 2012 par des membres du RISM Irlande, la symphonie d'Alday a bénéficié de la première création moderne à Dublin l'année suivante et fut vraisemblablement donnée en concert en dehors de l'Irlande en 2014. Cet article aborde la manière dont RISM a rassemblé des institutions, des musicologues et des interprètes au concert donné à Francfort.

German Abstract:

Am Vorabend des *St. Patrick's Day* 2014 präsentierte die RISM-Zentralredaktion in Frankfurt in Zusammenarbeit mit RISM Irland und der *Research Foundation for Music in Ireland* ein Konzert mit der ersten jemals in Irland entstandenen Sinfonie, der *Grand Symphony* von Paul Alday (ca. 1763–1835), sowie weiteren irischen Werken, die selten gespielt werden. Nach ihrer Wiederentdeckung im Jahr 2012 durch Mitarbeiter von RISM Irland wurde die Sinfonie im folgenden Jahr erstmals in Dublin wiederaufgeführt. Die Aufführung 2014 war wahrscheinlich die erste außerhalb Irlands. Dieser Artikel behandelt die Zusammenarbeit zwischen RISM und Institutionen, Musikern und Musikwissenschaftlern für das Konzert in Frankfurt.

# AN EVENING OF IRISH MUSIC: THE EMERALD ISLE COMES TO GERMANY

**Jennifer A. Ward and Axel Klein**

The Emerald Isle came to Germany on the eve of St Patrick's Day 2014. With a concert programme of little-heard music, the Central Office of the Répertoire International des Sources Musicales (RISM) in Frankfurt collaborated with its colleagues in Ireland and local musicians to highlight rediscovered music and bring musical sources to light[1]. RISM, an international project that seeks to document musical sources from around the world, tapped into its network to locate sources, transcribe them and make them available, and organise the concert. RISM has long considered its main users to include librarians, musicians, and musicologists, and colleagues from these groups all contributed to an evening of Irish music. The concert's rarities allowed a glimpse into the musical life of Ireland through the centuries.

For most people, there is not much that comes to mind when thinking about classical music from Ireland. True, as an island on the western rim of Europe, Ireland did not benefit from the geographic and infrastructural advantages of the Continental mainland. As a rather rural nation with but few urban centres there were further disadvantages, such as comparatively few performance opportunities. In the face of such difficulties, many talented composers left the country early in their careers, like the pianist–composer and Chopin predecessor John Field (1782–1837), the opera composers Michael William Balfe (1808–1870) and Vincent Wallace (1812–1865), and many others. Yet, there have always been concert halls, theatres, educational institutions, and more. It should also be pointed out that the emigrants in Irish music have always been somewhat balanced out by European immigrants, and indeed, most of the pieces heard in the concert were by foreign composers who adopted Ireland as their homeland.

One of these European immigrants to Ireland was Paul Alday (ca. 1763–1835), a French-born composer whose rediscovered music served as an impetus for this concert. Alday came from Perpignan in the south of France via Paris (1783) and Oxford (1793) to Dublin (1804). He had already written symphonies and concertos while still in France and composed two symphonies during his time in Dublin. In Ireland he was, among other things, concert master of the orchestra of the Anacreontic Society between 1819 and 1828, and his first Irish symphony was performed at one of their early concerts.

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1. RISM Zentralredaktion, "An Evening of Irish Music", 24 February 2014, http://www.rism.info/en/home/newsdetails/article/64/an-evening-of-irish-music.html (accessed 16 September 2016). A review of the concert appeared in Kerstin Janitzek, "Klassische Musik aus Irland: Die grüne Insel als Zeichen der fruchtbaren Zusammenarbeit zwischen RISM und den Jungen Sinfonikern Frankfurt", *Forum Musikbibliothek* 35, no. 3 (2014): 34–36.



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