

Maria Grenfell

Program Note

Ceol na Fidhle (1999)

Ceol na Fidhle (pronounced 'kee-OL na fiddle'), for violin and percussion, is based on Celtic bagpipe and fiddle tunes. The Gaelic title means "tunes for highland fiddle." Some of the tunes are obvious while others are almost hidden. *Prologue* starts with a bang, and is followed by *Hornpipe* where a familiar tune dances and then scurries away beneath a disguise of accompanying notes and rhythmic displacement. *The Boatman* slows the pace and melodic decoration suggests the sound of bagpipes playing this rather wistful song. Finally, *Reel* returns to the highly-charged drive of the *Prologue* with a frantic and virtuosic ending. *Ceol na Fidhle* was written in 1999 for Tasmanian musicians Rachel Bremner and Tom O'Kelly.