

JOHN BILLING - BIOGRAPHY

- 1952 born in England
 - 1967 begin to learn guitar
 - 1969 foundation year at Rochester College of Art and Design
 - 1974 first year of Textile Design at Winchester Art College
 - 1976 three year diploma in Special Education and first introduction to modern lyre in Camphill Thornbury Park, England
 - 1980 first year of Music Therapy in Berlin, Germany and begin serious work with lyre
 - 1982 school music teacher, Elmfield Rudolf Steiner School, Stourbridge, England
 - 1984 school music teacher for 4 years at Mt.Barker Waldorf School, Australia
 - 1985 compose 24 Preludes for Alto lyre - and thereafter much more
 - 1990 BA Mus at La Trobe University, Melbourne:theory, composition, performance
 - 1994 Peter Biffin designs and builds new lyre for me
 - 1995 begin solo performing on new "Biffin Concert Lyre" in Europe, Australia, USA, Japan
 - 1997 begin as music facilitator/teacher in social therapy, Camphill Communities Northern Ireland
 - 2001 begin direction of Celtic Lyre Orchestra
 - 2004 first concert and workshop tour in Japan
 - 2005 begin as composer/performer with Castalia Eurythmy
 - 2006 first CDs: "Stream" (solo lyre compositions) and "Joy" (Christmas tunes arranged for lyres and bells etc)
 - 2007 freelance musician based in Stroud, England.
3rd CD "Turlough O'Carolan"
 - 2008 new Teardrop Concert Lyre made by Murray Wright
second tour of Japan and first to S. Korea
 - 2009 4th CD "Pale Blue Rock"
 - 2011 third tour of Japan and first to Taiwan
 - 2012 two more CDs: "Serendipity" (solo lyre compositions) and "Gentilisses" a collaboration with flautist Elsa von Bodecker (compositions by John for lyre and recorder)
- John is based in Camphill Ballytobin, Kilkenny, Ireland