

## 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.  
3<sup>rd</sup> CD "Turlough O'Carolan"
- 2008 new Teardrop Concert Lyre made by Murray Wright  
second tour of Japan and first to S. Korea
- 2009 4<sup>th</sup> CD "Pale Blue Rock"
- 2011 third tour of Japan and first to Taiwan
- 2012 two more CDs: "Serendipity" (solo lyre compositions) and "Gentilleses" a collaboration with flautist Elsa von Bodecker (compositions by John for lyre and recorder)
- 2013 new CD "Slievenamon": traditional Irish, original JB and traditional Asian.  
John has been touring extensively in China, teaching and performing (about three times per year since 2014). He continues to tour every two years in Japan and Australia and less frequently also in the USA and finds time to do some concerts in Europe (Germany and Switzerland).