



Jonathan Dove

Music for a Lovelorn Lenanshee

A 'Lenanshee' is a fairy mistress. I found this one in the traditional Irish song, "My Lagan Love":

Where Lagan stream sings lullaby
There blows a lily fair;
The twilight gleam is in her eye,
The night is on her hair.
And, like a lovesick Lenanshee
She hath my heart in thrall
Nor life I owe, nor liberty
For Love is lord of all

I have used the melody of this song as the basis for the whole piece. It is presented fairly explicitly at the beginning and the end; in the middle, it is spun into a kind of jig, and then into another dance. The second verse of the song includes the lines 'There on the cricket's singing stone/ She spares the bogwood fire', and that is where I imagine the music being played.

This work was commissioned by the Park Lane Group with funds provided by the London Arts Board. The first performance was given on January 9th 1994 by Jonathan Kelly (oboe) and Alison Procter (piano) in the PLG Young Artists concerts, New Year Series at the Purcell Room, South Bank.