

THE SHORTEST HISTORY OF MUSIC

12:45PM

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 2024

ST PATRICK'S HALL



Andrew Ford *Speaker and Author*

Monica Curro *Speaker*

Rhodri Clarke *Piano*

Andrew FORD

Irish Tunes (2020–24)

(World Premiere)

1. *The Star of the County Down*
2. *She Moved Through the Fair*
3. *Merrily Kiss the Quaker's Wife*

Andrew Ford OAM is a composer, writer and broadcaster who has won awards in each of those capacities, including the Paul Lowin Prize for his song cycle *Learning to Howl*, a Green Room Award for his opera *Rembrandt's Wife* and the Albert H Maggs Prize for his large ensemble piece, *Rauha*. He has been composer-in-residence for the Australian Chamber Orchestra, the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM) and the Australian Festival of Chamber Music. In 2014 he was Poynter Fellow and visiting composer at Yale University, in 2015 visiting lecturer at Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and in 2018 HC Coombs Creative Arts Fellow at the Australian National University. Ford has written widely on all manner of music and published eleven books, most recently *The Shortest History of Music* (Black Inc., July 2024). He has written, presented and co-produced five radio series for the ABC and, since 1995, presented *The Music Show* each weekend on Radio National. He was awarded an OAM in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours.

Of *Irish Tunes*, the composer writes:

These three pieces take famous Irish tunes, pull them apart and then (almost) put them back together. The first is dedicated to the memory of my maternal grandmother, Esther Mary Evans (née Gamble), whose family came from Banbridge, Co. Down. © Andrew Ford, 2024