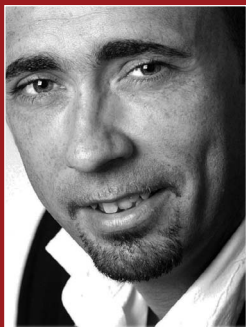


A NOTE FROM BRYAN FLYNN (Writer, Composer, Director)



The journey to create **MICHAEL COLLINS – A Musical Drama** stretches back to 2002, and indeed, is on-going. Some people were sceptical of the idea of turning his life into a musical drama, but my research convinced me that his story is perfect for the medium of a sung-through, operatically

structured musical. Simply put, key moments in his short and turbulent life are the stuff great drama is made of -- as Hollywood filmmakers have already discovered.

I spent two years reading everything I could find on the Easter Rising, the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War, and engrossing myself in Michael Collins' life story. In 2004 I set myself the task of putting his story on stage, and in the four years since, I have been privileged to be part of the exciting, on-going creative development of the show. In 2005, Gerry Barnes and Cork Opera House kindly commissioned the project and have since been the driving force in the constant refinement and progression of the production; allowing the work to slowly find its feet.

When a skeletal Act One existed, the journey continued with a week-long music workshop help under the musical director Dave O'Connor. This exciting week ended

with a one-off concert performance at the Half Moon Theatre, attended by a small audience which included the late, great Pat Murray.

With encouragement garnered from this experiment, and continuing financial support from Cork Opera House, we embarked on Act Two. Having completed twenty more musical sequences, in early 2006 I handed it over to musical producer, Trevor Knight. Musical arrangements were produced for the entire show and in April a cast of 18 performers presented three concerts of the music from the show, all of which were enthusiastically received.

The time had arrived to present the work, in its present form, in a fully-staged production. In October 2007, Bryan Flynn Theatrical Ltd. presented **MICHAEL COLLINS – A Musical Drama** at the Theatre Royal in Waterford for nine performances. The terrific cast received standing ovations and tumultuous applause every evening which proved to all involved that with this musical drama we have a story worth telling and a show worth developing even further. The Collins story continues to strike a chord with people from all walks of life and with continued creative development by the artistes involved along with sufficient funding, **MICHAEL COLLINS – A Musical Drama** will hopefully continue to resonate with audiences for some time.

Bryan Flynn