



# *The Living Air*

Celebrating 100 years  
of the BBC in Northern Ireland



## The Living Air

*'Turn it up, turn it up, little bit higher, radio  
Turn it up, that's enough, so you know it's got soul...'*  
Van Morrison, from Caravan

**Friday 13 September, 2024**  
BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle and BBC Sounds

**Ulster Orchestra** conducted by **James Burton**  
**Codetta Choir** – Artistic Director, **Dónal Doherty**  
**Jack Wilson** – Organist and Master of Music, Belfast Cathedral  
with  
**John Toal, Tara Mills, Declan Harvey**

Welcome and introduction – John Toal

**Fanfare for a Dignified Occasion – Arthur Bliss**

A Blackbird – Paul Muldoon  
from Praise Song for the Day – Elizabeth Alexander

**Nation Shall Speak Peace Unto Nation – Barry Rose (arr. G. Stewart)**

from Broadcast Over Britain (1924) & Into the Wind – John Reith

**Summon the Heroes – John Williams**

Speeches given in 1924 at the official opening of 2BE/BBC Northern Ireland

**Traditional Inflections: A Medley**  
The Yell Heifer and Sporting Kate – **Norman Hay**  
The Rambling Suiler – **Howard Ferguson**

from The Living Air – Ciaran Carson  
Meet in the Middle – Paul Connolly

**This is the Day – John Rutter**  
Codetta Choir

Waves – Gillian Clarke  
from Poets & Writers – Michael Longley

**Planetarium** from **La La Land – Justin Hurwitz (arr. Victor Visuerte)**

from The Living Air – Sam McLaughtry  
First Date – Wendy Cope

**The Maid of Mullaghmore – Joan Trimble**

from BBC NI 50th birthday broadcast (1974) – Rev. David Lapsley  
Notes on Using the Studio – Seán Street

**Fantasia on Ulster Airs – Paul Campbell**

Listen! – Wendell Berry  
The Lake Isle of Innisfree – William Butler Yeats

**Suite of Irish Airs: The Sunbeam – Frederick May**

from The Living Air – Christina Reid  
Prayer – Carol Ann Duffy

**The Call of Wisdom – Will Todd**  
Codetta Choir

from This New Noise – Charlotte Higgins  
from Crediting Poetry (Nobel Lecture) – Seamus Heaney

**Undae Per Mundum (a BBC NI Centenary Commission) – Neil Martin**

from If I was us, I wouldn't start from here – Damian Gorman  
from Fanfare for the Makers – Louis MacNeice

**A Candle Which Will Not Be Put Out – Public Service Broadcasting (arr. JF Abraham)**

'Since when' he asked,  
'Are the first and last line of any poem  
Where the poem begins and ends?'

*from Fragment – Seamus Heaney*

'...And all the music ever heard,  
Each silver note, each lambent word  
Still rings though not a soul is near;  
Still hums, electric, in your ear.'

*from The Concert Hall Late at Night – David Bramhall*



*Illustrations – Jonathan McHugh*