Abstract:

William Butler Yeats was a writer confined, inspired, and obsessed by Ireland throughout his life. His powerful connection with Ireland directly effected his poetry and plays. He drew his materials from familiar and mysterious Irish landscape and folklore as well as the Irish Nationalist movement and revival. It is, however, the folklore and traditional music found within that folklore that played a special role in Yeats’ works. The traditional rhythms and themes of the music resound in his lyrical poetry and cultural plays. Though critics have not given this topic the attention it deserves, a case may be made that Yeats relied on traditional Irish music for inspiration, and that musical rhythms eventually became the backbone for the cultural and political statements made in his works.