The Patron Saint of Ballyvourney

John Mock

1 Full Score

8 Violin

8 Violin 2

5 Viola

Cello

Bass

Extra Part - P3036221

WINGERT JONES

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## **Program Notes**

This composition was born out of the composer's love for Ireland. Once, while visiting the island of Inisheer (County Galway), he heard the story of St. Ghobnait, also known as the Patron Saint of Ballyvourney. A beekeeper by trade, she spent her time in West Clare before fleeing from enemies (apparently from a family feud) to the island of Inishere. She eventually settled in Ballyvourney, County Cork. The escape route she followed was one she had seen in a vision. Back in the sixth century, bees and honey were considered a sacred part of healing, and St. Ghobnait was well known for healing the sick with the honey she harvested. In composing this piece, the composer began by turning on a tape recorder (this was the 1980s) and just started improvising phrases. These were then woven together throughout a four-part texture, filling out the composition. The up-tempo section of the composition is representative of her flight, with calm years of rest on either side.

## About the Composer

John Mock is an artist, and the ocean and its coasts are his muse. From his native New England to the shores of Ireland and Scotland, John captures in music and story the heritage of the sea.

Whether appearing solo or with a symphony orchestra. John shares this heritage through his captivating concert presentations which include original instrumental compositions performed on guitar, concertinal mandatin, and tin whistle. Audiences are charmed not only by John's music, but also by his navation and storytelling, which bring to life the characters and places upon which the music is based. A multimedia version of the concert is also available in which John's own photography is projected, providing a beautiful backdrop for the music.

Widely sought after as a composer arranger, and multi-instrumentalist, John has worked with such notable artists as the Dixie Chicks, James Taylor, Dolly Parton, Nanci Griffith, Maura O'Connell Sylvia, Kathy Mattea, and Mark O'Connor. John's credits as composer and featured soloistinclude performances with the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, the Nexus Chamber Orchestra, the Nashville Philharmonic, the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, and the National Orchestra of Ireland. He has also worked extensively across the country as a solo performer.

## The Patron Saint of Ballyvourney

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