



# Radio plays, etc., by E. Lucia Turnbull with music by Ianthe Dalway

Compiled by David Byers, January 2023

As with Lucia's publications, this listing is as comprehensive as possible – but do forgive me if something has escaped! I've also listed the four items by Barbara Euphan Todd which have music by Ianthe Dalway. A final paragraph or two details Havelock Nelson's association with Lucia.

BBC Regional – 5PY Plymouth, Monday, 6 August 1928

17.15: THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

The Baby's Opera

A Talk on Old Nursery Rhymes with musical illustrations by E. Lucia Turnbull (Narration)  
and Ianthe Dalway (Musical Arrangement)

An original story ('The Girl on the Saucy Maid'), told by Norman Edwards

BBC Regional – Western, Tuesday 28 April 1936

17.15: THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Nursery Nonsense with the Popplecocks', by Adam Wade-Brown

1 — 'Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat, where have you been?'

Songs by Hooper Bussell

'Walks and Talks with Towzer', by Peter Roberts

Nursery Rhymes by Ianthe Dalway

Pianoforte solos by Winifred Davey

BBC Home Service, Tuesday, 29 October 1946

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Pig Rafferty': a play by E. Lucia Turnbull, with special music by Ianthe Dalway.

Songs by George Beggs

5.40 'World Affairs': a talk by Stephen King-Hall

BBC Home Service, Monday, 17 March 1947

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'The Boy Patrick': a play specially written by E. Lucia Turnbull, with music arranged by Ianthe Dalway

The Cafolla Junior String Orchestra: conductor, O. P. F. Cafolla

The Fireside Singers, conducted by T. C. Kelly

BBC Home Service, Tuesday 6 May 1947

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Miss Robina', a fantasy by E. Lucia Turnbull.

Music by Ianthe Dalway.

Westcountry Studio Orchestra (strings) and the Westcountry Singers,  
conducted by Reginald Redman

[Source for this was *Torbay Express and South Devon Echo* - Friday 02 May 1947, p.4.

'... another fantasy by E. Lucia Turnbull, who wrote the very popular "Mr and Mrs Vinegar"  
and "Mollie Whuppie", which were broadcast recently. The music for this play has been  
specially written by Ianthe Dalway, ...']

BBC Home Service, Tuesday 27 May 1947

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Gobbin's Goose', a new fairy tale by E Lucia Turnbull with music by Ianthe Dalway

[Source: *Portadown News* - Saturday 24 May 1947, p.3]

BBC Home Service, Thursday, 13 November 1947

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'The Wedding of the Frog and the Mouse': a play written by E. Lucia Turnbull,  
with music arranged by Ianthe Dalway.

Produced by Cicely Mathews

5.40 ' Swallows and Amazons,' by Arthur Ransome. Told as a serial story by Derek  
McCulloch ('Uncle Mac').

BBC Home Service, Wednesday 7 January 1948

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Dick Whittington'. A play by Lucia Turnbull with music by Ianthe Dalway

Produced by May E. Jenkin

BBC Revue Orchestra

Conducted by Frank Cantell

BBC Home Service, Friday 31 December 1948

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Two Pairs of Wellington Boots,' by Rosemary Tonks, told by Derek McCulloch (Uncle Mac)

5.15 'Puss in Boots'. A new play based on the old fairy tale by Lucia Turnbull

Music by Ianthe Dalway

Production by May E. Jenkin

At the pianos: Ianthe Dalway and Frederick Stone

BBC Home Service, Tuesday 4 January 1949

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Riquet of the Turf'. A play for broadcasting based on an old French fairy tale.

Written by Lucia Turnbull

Music arranged by Ianthe Dalway

Orchestra conducted by Harold Gray

Production by Peggy Bacon

BBC Home Service, Wednesday, 30 March 1949

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'The Shepherd of Myddfai'.

The Llyn y Fan legend adapted for radio and dramatised by Lucia Turnbull.

Special music by Ianthe Dalway played by the BBC Welsh Orchestra

Conductor, Mansel Thomas with Esme Lewis (soprano)

5.50 Children's Hour prayers conducted by John G. Williams

The next three entries are clearly not by E. Lucia Turnbull! They have music by Ianthe Dalway, to words by Barbara Euphan Todd (1890-1976), the writer of the *Worzel Gummidge* books.

See also a further additional Todd entry for 23 December 1950 below.

BBC Home Service, Wednesday, 20 April 1949

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'The Sleeping Beauty'. A play by Barbara Euphan Todd based on the old fairy tale.

Music by Ianthe Dalway. Production by May E. Jenkin

At the pianos: Ianthe Dalway and Frederick Stone

A section of the BBC Singers

5.50 Children's Hour prayers conducted by John G. Williams

BBC Home Service, Tuesday, 16 August 1949

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Beauty and the Beast'. A play by Barbara Euphan Todd based on the old fairy-tale with music by Ianthe Dalway. Production by May E. Jenkin

'Everybody knows the lovely story of Beauty and the Beast, but just how it all happened is a matter of conjecture, or, in better words, a theme for poets and composers. The tragic jester is traditional, and perhaps Noah first thought of a Dove as a go-between, but this blend of the two with an oriental flavour makes an excellent cup of tea.'

Ianthe Dalway and Josephine Lee at two pianos

BBC Home Service, Tuesday, 15 November 1949

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Jack and the Beanstalk'. A play by Barbara Euphan Todd based on the old fairy tale with incidental music by Ianthe Dalway.

Production by May E. Jenkin.

The Three Beans sung by the Three Semis.

At two pianos: Ianthe Dalway and Frederick Stone

Harpist, Kate Wilson

BBC Home Service, Friday, 17 March 1950

17:00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'The Kings and the Cats'.

A play for St. Patrick's Day by E. Lucia Turnbull based on an old Irish legend.

Music specially composed by Ianthe Dalway.

Guards: Haydn Drennan and Derek Marsden.

Singers: Mary Johnston, George Beggs and Raymond Marshall.

Orchestra conducted by Havelock Nelson.

Produced by Cicely Mathews

BBC Home Service, Sunday, 3 September 1950

17:00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Sampo Lappellil'. A play by Lucia Turnbull based on a story by Topelius with music by Ianthe Dalway. Narrated by Michael Flanders. Production by May E. Jenkin

Songs by the Three Semis

At the pianos: Ianthe Dalway and Frederick Stone

BBC Home Service, Saturday, 23 December 1950

16.05: Saturday Matinee presents 'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST'

A play by Barbara Euphan Todd based on the old fairy tale with music by Ianthe Dalway

At two pianos: Ianthe Dalway and Josephine Lee

Production by May. E. Jenkin

BBC Home Service, Thursday, 01 February 1951

17:00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Cinderella' by Lucia Turnbull with music by Ianthe Dalway

At the pianos: Ianthe Dalway and Frederick Stone

Produced by May E. Jenkin

BBC Home Service, Saturday, 17 March 1951

17.00-17.55: CHILDREN'S HOUR

St. Patrick's Day

'Paudyeen and the Princess of France'

A play by E. Lucia Turnbull

Music written by Ianthe Dalway

Paddy Kelly.....Frank Reynolds

First child.....Fae Archibald

Second child.....Sheila Saunderson

Third child.....Doris Bingham

Paudyeen.....John McCavert

Father.....James Stewart

First fairy man.....J. Blaney

Second fairy man.....Derek Browne

Third fairy man.....Charles Owens

Prince.....Alfred Arnold

Princess.....Kathleen O'Donnell

Priest.....John F. Tyrone

Singers,

Mary Johnston and Raymond Marshall

Pianists,

Havelock Nelson and Tom Davidson

BBC Home Service, Saturday, 22 December 1951

17:00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Red Riding Hood'.

'Lucia Turnbull has based her play on an old version of the story, in which the Wolf was a comic character and the story, usually a horrific one, has a happy ending.'

'Mary [sic] Turnbull's daughter, Irene [sic] Dalway, has written the music for the play, and the production is by May Jenkin.'

[Source: *Marylebone Mercury* - Friday 14 December 1951, p.6. Also *Paddington Mercury* - Friday 14 December 1951, p.6]

BBC Home Service, Monday 17 March 1952

17:00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'The Brown Bear of Norway'

A play by E. Lucia Turnbull with music by Ianthe Dalway

Paddy Kelly.....Frank Reynolds

First child.....Helen Moran

Second child.....Gemma McCartan

Third child.....Patricia Ringland

King of Ireland.....Peter Goodman

Fiona, as a child.....Helen Carter

Fiona, as an adult.....Kathleen O'Donnell

Grania.....Norma Vogan

Norah.....Ann Greene

Brigid.....Nita Hardie

Prince of Norway.....John McCavert

Musical Bird.....Mary Johnston

Egg Wife.....Mina Dornan

Old Grey Lad.....Henry Hinds

Forester.....H. J. Blaney

His wife.....Mary Morrison

Witch Queen.....Eileen Kennedy

Her daughter.....Barbara Adair

Lady-in-Waiting.....Ann Maguire

Singers:

Helen Carter, Raymond Marshall,

Henry Hinds, Mary Johnston

Pianists:

Havelock Nelson, May Turtle

Produced by Gethyn Stoodley Thomas

This story tells how Fiona youngest and prettiest daughter of the High King of Ireland, released the Brown Bear of Norway from a witch's spell and restored him to his handsome princely shape. Because of an insult to the witch the prince was transformed into a bear, condemned to wander the earth until (which seemed highly improbable) there arrived a lady pitiful enough to marry him of her own free will and to endure five years of hardship with him as the spell wore out. The witch, however, had reckoned without the kind heart of the High King's youngest daughter. ...

[Helen Carter, 13 year old Methodist College girl, plays the part of Fiona as a child. Source: *Portadown Times* - Friday 14 March 1952, p.3]



BBC Home Service, Saturday, 31 May 1952

17:00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'The Windmill'

The story of Conrad and Lysse based on an old Dutch tale.

Written as a radio play by Lucia Turnbull.

Music arranged by Ianthe Dalway

with Reginald Gibbs and an orchestra conducted by Harold Gray

Produced by Peggy Bacon

*Lisburn Herald, and Antrim and Down Advertiser*, Saturday, 14 March 1953, p.4

In *Children's Hour* on 17th March there will be another of E. Lucia Turnbull's popular musical plays, this one called 'The Dream of Saint Patrick', and as usual the songs and music for harp and celeste are written by her daughter, Ianthe Dalway. The play is a romantic reconstruction of the ancient legend in which Patrick meets and argues with the pagan heroes. The cast includes six children, aged from 11 to 14, who won their places in the *Children's Hour* dramatic competitions, 'I Want to be an actor'. John McCavert will be Saint Patrick, and the play will be produced by Cicely Mathews.

BBC Home Service, Tuesday, 17 March 1953

17.00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Nursery Sing-Song'

17.15 -17.55:

'The Dream of St. Patrick'

A play by E. Lucia Turnbull with music by Ianthe Dalway

Paddy Kelly.....Frank Reynolds

First child.....Gemma McCartan

Second child.....Sandra Nimmons

Third child.....Ann Roberts

St. Patrick.....John McCavert

Child.....Maura Kavanagh

Ossian.....James Boyce

Niamh.....Patricia Calderwood

Girl.....Doris Bingham

Boy.....Jeffrey Sack

First peasant.....Jack Gavin

Second peasant.....Denis Hawthorne

Third peasant.....J. G. Devlin

Sighle Larchet (harp)

Singers: Helen Carter,

Raymond Marshall, Donald Cairns

Havelock Nelson (celeste)

Produced by Cicely Mathews

who writes ...

### A Play about St. Patrick

I expect you know that Tuesday, the 17th of March is St Patrick's Day and that David has asked me to invite you all to listen to the Northern Ireland Children's Hour after *Nursery Sing-Song*. Needless to say, you will be more than welcome if you do join us.

Every year we have a special St Patrick's Day programme of some kind, and this year we present another of E. Lucia Turnbull's plays. This is the third play she has written for us about the life of our patron saint, and I think you will enjoy hearing the story which our old friend Paddy Kelly tells to the children who meet him on his way home one March night.

As you probably know, Paddy Kelly is the storyteller in all Lucia Turnbull's Irish plays. This time he tells how a little girl, who was only half mortal, waited one day to lead Patrick on yet another journey. When he came up to her 'she was shading her eyes, and her black hair was like a cloud about her, and she was wearing a rag of a dress, crimson red in colour.' Then she led him over the Bog of Stars to ancient Ireland, where he met Ossian, one of the most famous of the heroes of old. Ossian was the son of Finn, the Captain of the Fianna, and he had left his father to go and live for ever in The Land of Youth with Niamh of the Golden Hair. But it would spoil everything if I told you any more of the legend, so I shall just tell you some more of the facts about the play.





E. Lucia Turnbull loves writing these plays with Irish settings, and she asked me to tell you that she owes much of her atmosphere and inspiration to James Stephens, Fiona Macleod, and Walter de la Mare. I am sure you all know and love some of the poems written by these three poets.

As always, there is music specially written for the occasion by Ianthe Dalway — songs, and little tunes for the harp and celeste, and we think you will agree that this music does a lot in the way of ‘setting the scene’.

There is a saying in Ireland that St. Patrick ‘turns up the warm side of the stone’ on the 17th of March. Even if he does, and we have our first really ‘summery’ day of the year, we hope you will remember to come in at five o’clock for *Nursery Sing-Song* and our play, which is called *The Dream of St. Patrick*.

And we hope you will enjoy it.

CICELY MATHEWS

Note: this article by Cicely Mathews was on page 39 of the *Radio Times*.

BBC Home Service, Saturday, 19 September 1953

17.00: CHILDREN’S HOUR

For Children of Most Ages

‘Cap o’ Rushes’, An East-Anglian fairy tale.

Adapted for broadcasting by Lucia Turnbull with music by Ianthe Dalway.

At the pianos: Ianthe Dalway and Frederick Stone

Production by David Davis

There was once a very rich gentleman, and he had three daughters, and he thought to see how

fond they were of ham. So he says to the first: 'How much do you love me, my dear?' 'Why,' says she, 'as I love life.' 'That's good,' says he. So he says to the second, How much do you love me, my dear? 'Why,' says she, 'better nor all the world.' 'That's good,' says he. So he says to the third, 'How much do you love me, my dear?' 'Why, I love you as fresh meat loves salt,' says she. Well, he was that angry. 'You don't love me at all,' says he, 'and in my house you stay no more ... '

BBC Home Service, Sunday, 31 August 1958,

17:00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

'Little John Barrow'

A play based on the early life of Sir John Barrow - explorer, author, and servant of the Empire by E. Lucia Turnbull.

The Pace-Egging Song sung by some of the boys of Chetham's Hospital School, Manchester.

Trumpet calls composed by Ianthe Dalway.

Played by Rita Cook.

Production: Trevor Hill.

BBC Home Service, Tuesday, 23 December 1958,

17:00: CHILDREN'S HOUR

For Younger Listeners: Mollie Whuppie and the Giant

A traditional tale of the North made into a play for radio by E. Lucia Turnbull.

Trumpet played by Rita Cook

Music composed by: Ianthe Dalway

BBC Home Service, Tuesday, 29 March 1960,

17:15: CHILDREN'S HOUR

The Songs They Sing

Folk songs from home and abroad collected by Ianthe Dalway and sung by William Coombes

5.30 For Older Children

Something About London, a monthly notebook introduced by John Ellison

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Lucia's words – but music by Havelock Nelson

This extract is from Havelock Nelson's catalogue at Queen's University Belfast (MS 51 Havelock Nelson Manuscripts):

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/InformationServices/TheLibrary/SpecialCollections/FileStore/Filetoupload,1037103,en.pdf>

MS 51/13 *Lisina and the Cats* [autograph, autographed part, manuscript parts, radio play scripts] Date of composition 1953. Autograph flr *Lisina and the Cats* || by || E. Lucia Turnbull || Music by Havelock Nelson || (for sop., child, baritone, children's chorus, || 2 pianos and celeste... 12 fol 0 278:369 18 syst.

Footnote 21: The 1952 script (which contains annotations relating to the music) is contained within an envelope addressed to the playwright Mrs. Dalway-Turnbull: MRS DALWAY-TURNBULL, M.B.E. || GRANGE MEAD, || LIBERTY LANE, || ADDLESTONE || SURREY... The 1953 script is signed by the singer Mary Johnston, who sang the prologue.

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In 1963 *Stay, little blackbird*, a unison song for juniors, words by Lucia Turnbull, music by Havelock Nelson, was published in London by Lengnick. It was dedicated to Mary Johnston, the Belfast soprano. The work had been published in Toronto the previous year by G. V. Thompson Ltd.