In June 2019, I got the chance to travel with the College of Charleston on a study abroad to Dublin. There I saw the unique cultural tradition of showing Irish history and stories through song and throughout time.

**Irish Tradition and Culture Through Music**

By Abby Stahl

**The Rising of the Moon**

Along with the idea of portraying the idea of Irish identity, Irish music also plays an important part in portraying the trialing events of Irish political history. *The Rising of the Moon* which tells the story of the Irish Rebellion of 1798. From the lyrics to the tone the song portrays the spirit and the patriotism that existed behind the Rebellion. The song also helped boost the morale of the Irish people in the years to come with other Rebellion such as the 1916 Easter Rising which was built off of the motivation of the people with the use of the heroism and patriotism of remembering the 1798 Rebellion.

**Four Green Fields**

This reflects the entire history of the British colonization of the Irish and the loss of both life and the fact that Northern Ireland is still not a part of Ireland but under the rule of the United Kingdom. This song was written by Tommy Makem and performed during the 1990's in Northern Ireland during “The Free Derry Flock” Music Festival. Here, the audience truly connected to the song and felt the message of both hurt and hope that the song conveyed.

**Sunday, Bloody Sunday**

U2 not only address the long legacy of bloody conflicts that have happened to Ireland on Sundays throughout the conflict over British control but mainly that of the one that happened in Northern Ireland in 1972 when the British opened fire into the crowd of a peaceful protest march happening in Derry Prior to the “Good Friday Agreements” a new lyric was added to address the turning tide for peace shifting the idea that had previously held in Irish music where the most patriotic thing a man could do was die for his country and was turning it to bringing peace to his country.

**The Pogues**

The Pogues sing about the hardships of trying to make their way in the 1980's New York after leaving Ireland with all their hopes and promises of a better life after an economic crash. It mainly focuses on a couple, alone and far from home on Christmas.

**Fairytale of New York**

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