

*The great appear great because we are on our knees. Let us rise.  
Ní uasal aon uasal ach sinne bheith íseal: éirimís!  
Les grands ne sont grands que parce que nous sommes à genoux: Levons-nous!*

**LARKIN MONUMENT**  
O'Connell Street, Dublin

*The statue of James Larkin by Oisín Kelly (1915-1981) was unveiled by  
the President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick J. Hillery, on June 15, 1979.*



# **Larkin Fiftieth Anniversary Commemoration Lecture**

## **JAMES LARKIN Labour Leader**

**Dr. Emmet Larkin**

*Professor of British and Irish History, University of Chicago*

*Connolly Auditorium, Liberty Hall, Dublin, January 30, 1997*

*Professor Emmet Larkin's major works include:*

- *James Larkin: Irish Labour Leader* (1965);
- *The Roman Catholic Church and the Creation of the Modern Irish State 1878-1885* (1975);
- *The Historical Dimension of Irish Catholicism* (1976);
- *The Roman Catholic Church and the Home Rule Movement in Ireland 1870-1874* (1990);
- *The Roman Catholic Church and the Emergence of the Modern Irish Political System 1874-1878* (1996).

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**SIPTU**

### **Larkin 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee**

*Chair: Jack Harte*

*Secretary: Tom Dunne*

*W. A. Attley, Francis Devine, Tom Geraghty, Des Mahon, Theresa Moriarty,  
Dónal Nevin, Manus O'Riordan, Jim Quinn, Séamas Sheils*


*Salute to Big Jim* was devised by Dónal Nevin and  
arranged by Tom Dunne, Dónal Nevin and Manus O'Riordan.

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# JAMES LARKIN

*And tyranny trampled them  
in Dublin's gutter  
Until Jim Larkin came along  
and cried  
The call of Freedom and the  
call of Pride  
And Slavery crept to its  
knees  
And Nineteen Thirteen  
cheered from out the  
utter  
Degradation of their  
miseries.*

**PATRICK KAVANAGH**

*...he talked to the workers,  
spoke as only Jim Larkin  
could speak, not for an  
assignation with peace, dark  
obedience, or placid resign-  
ation; but trumpet-tongued  
of resistance to wrong, dis-  
content with leering poverty,  
and defiance of any power  
strutting out to stand in the  
way of their march onward.*

**SEÁN O'CASEY**

*Mourn not the dead that in  
the cool earth lie -  
Dust unto dust  
The calm, sweet earth that  
mothers all who die,  
As all men must.*

*But rather mourn the  
apathetic throng -  
The cowed and meek  
Who see the world's great  
anguish and its wrong  
And dare not speak!*

**RALPH CHAPLIN**

**General Secretary, Irish Transport &  
General Workers' Union 1909-1924**

**General Secretary, Workers' Union  
of Ireland, 1924-1947**

**President, Irish Trade Union Congress, 1914**



**Giuseppe Verdi** (1813-1901)  
Song of the Hebrew Slaves  
From Act 3 of 'Nabucco' (1842)  
**Recorded by the German State Opera, Berlin**

**Eugene Pottier**  
L'Internationale  
Music by Pierre Degeyter. Original French version  
**Recorded by Marc Ogeret**

**James Larkin** (1874-1947)  
We are living in stirring times  
From editorial in Irish Worker, 12 August 1911  
**Read by Emmet Bergin**

**Seán O'Casey** (1880-1964)  
Through the streets he strode...  
From Drums under the Window (1945)  
**Read by Brendan Cauldwell**

**John Swift** (1896-1990)  
Then came Larkin...  
From the Presidential Address to 53rd Annual Meeting of  
the Irish Trade Union Congress, 29 July 1947  
**Read by Francis Devine**

**Donagh MacDonagh** (1912-1968)  
In Dublin City in 1913  
(Air: Preab san Ól).  
**Sung by Jimmy Kelly**

**James Larkin**  
Christ will not be crucified any longer in  
Dublin by these men  
From speech to the Askwith Court of Enquiry,  
Dublin Castle, 5 October 1913  
**Read by Emmet Bergin**

**'Macha'**  
Who Fears to Wear the Blood Red Badge?  
Published in Irish Worker, 11 October 1913  
**Sung by Jimmy Kelly**  
(The ITGWU badge in 1913 was the  
Red Hand of Ulster)

**AE (George Russell)** (1867-1935)  
Humanity, long dumb, has found a voice  
From speech in Albert Hall, London, 1 November 1913  
**Read by Paul Bennett**



**Ruairí Dall Ó Catháin**  
Tabhair dom do lámh (Give me your hand)  
**Harp solo by Brenda Ní Ríordáin**

**James Connolly** (1868-1916)  
Glorious Dublin  
From articles in Forward (Glasgow), 4 October 1913  
and Irish Worker, 18 November 1914  
**Read by Francis Devine**

**James Larkin**  
Though dead in flesh, he liveth among us  
From Address at the Memorial Service for Joe Hill,  
West Side Auditorium, Chicago, 25 November 1915  
**Read by Emmet Bergin**



# O BIG JIM



*prose, music and song*

## **Alfred Hayes**

I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night

*Music by Earl Robinson*

**Recorded by Paul Robeson**

## **James Larkin**

And then I had occasion to go out in the world and found there was no fatherhood of God, and there was no brotherhood of man

*From court transcript of speech to the jury at his trial before the Supreme Court of New York, 23 April 1920*

**Read by Emmet Bergin**

## **Lola Ridge (1871-1941)**

To Jim Larkin

**Read by Mary Maher**

## **Frank O'Connor (1903-1966)**

Homage to Jim Larkin

*First published in The Irish Times, 9 December 1944*

**Set to music and sung by Manus O'Riordan**

## **Seán O'Casey**

The Lion will Roar no More

*From The Irish Times, 31 January and 1 February 1947*

**Read by Brendan Cauldwell**

## **Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738)**

Farewell to Music

**Harp solo by Brenda Ní Ríordáin**

## **Patrick Kavanagh (1905-1967)**

Jim Larkin

*First published in The Bell, March 1947*

**Read by MacDara Woods**

## **Liam MacGabhann**

Big Jim Crosses the City

*From article in The Irish Press, 5 February 1947*

**Read by Kevin O'Connor**

## **Anonymous**

Jim Larkin R.I.P.

**Sung by Manus O'Riordan**

*(This street ballad was sold in Dublin on the day of Larkin's funeral)*

## **Breandán Ó Beacháin (Brendan Behan)**

(1923-1964)

Jim Larkin

*First published in Comhar, March 1947*

**Read with English translation  
by Manus O'Riordan**

## **Jim Connell (1852-1929)**

The Red Flag

*(Air: Tannenbaum).*

**Recorded by Kathleen Behan  
– aged 92 – in 1981**

## **James Connolly**

The Watchword of Labour

*Music by J. J. Hughes*

*First published in Irish Worker, 6 December 1913*

**Performed by the SIPTU Band**

## **Peadar Kearney**

Amhrán na bhFiann – The National Anthem

**Performed by the SIPTU Band**



# Homage to Jim Larkin

*Frank O'Connor*

Roll away the stone, Lord, roll away the stone  
As you did when last I died in the attic room;  
Then there was no fire as well, and I died of  
cold  
While Jim Larkin walked the streets before he  
grew old.

Larkin was a young man then, all skin and  
bone;  
Larkin had a madman's eyes, I saw them  
through the stone;  
Larkin had a madman's voice, I don't know  
what he said,  
I just heard screeches ringing in my head.

Something screeched within my head as in  
an empty room'  
I felt the lightning of the pain run through  
every bone;  
I couldn't even scream, Lord, I just sobbed  
with pain;  
I didn't want to live, Lord, and turned to sleep  
again.

But with the screeches in my head I couldn't  
settle right,  
At last I scrambled to my knees and turned to  
the light;  
Then I heard the words he spoke, and down  
crashed the stone  
There was I with blind man's eyes, gaping at  
the sun.

Things are much the same again, damn the  
thing to eat;  
Not a bloody fag since noon and such a price  
for meat;  
Not a bit of fire at home all the livelong day -  
Roll the stone away, Lord, roll the stone away!

*First published in the Irish Times, December 9, 1944,  
this poem was recited by Harry Craig, Assistant  
Editor of The Bell, at the first Larkin Memorial  
Meeting and Concert which was held in the  
Olympia Theatre, Dublin on February 1, 1948.*

# The Watchword of Labour

*James Connolly*

Oh! hear ye the Watchword of Labour  
The slogan of they who'd be free,  
That no more to any enslaver  
Must labour bend suppliant knee,  
That we, on whose shoulders are borne  
The pomp and the pride of the great,  
Whose toil they repay with their scorn,  
Must challenge and master our fate.

*Chorus*

Then send it aloft on the breeze, boys,  
The slogan the grandest we've known,  
That Labour must rise from its knees,  
boys,  
And claim the broad earth as its own.

Oh, we who've oft won by our valour,  
Empires for our rulers and lords,  
Yet kneel in abasement and squalor  
To the thing we've made by our swords.  
Now valour with worth will be blending,  
When answering labour's command,  
We arise from our knees and ascending  
To manhood for freedom take stand.

*Chorus*

Then out from the field and the factories,  
From workshop, from mill and from mine,  
Despising their wrath and their pity,  
We workers are moving in line,  
To answer the Watchword and token,  
That Labour gives forth as its own,  
Nor pause till our fetters we've broken  
And conquered the spoiler and drone.

*Chorus*





## To Larkin

LOLA RIDGE

Is it you I see go by the window,  
Jim Larkin - you not looking  
at me or anyone,  
And your shadow swaying from  
East to West?  
Strange that you should be  
walking free - you shut down  
without light,  
And your legs tied up with a  
knot of iron.

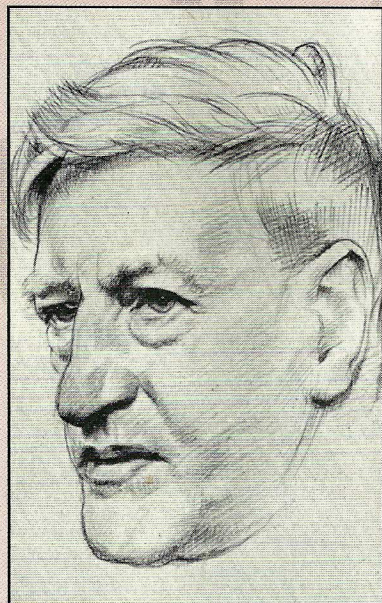
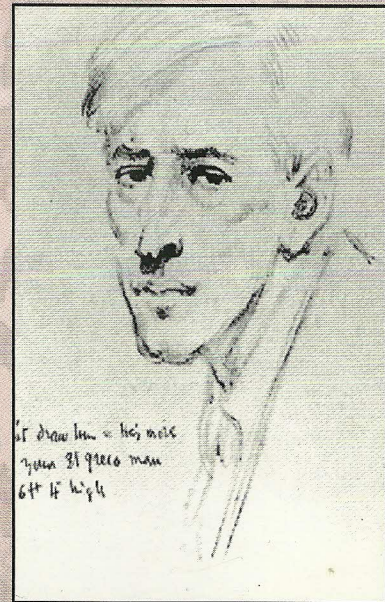
One hundred million men and  
women go inevitably about  
their affairs,  
In the somnolent way  
Of men before a great drunken-  
ness...  
They do not see you go by their  
windows, Jim Larkin,  
With your eyes bloody as the  
sunset  
And your shadow gaunt upon the  
sky...  
You, and the like of you, that life  
Is crushing for their frantic wines.

*Lola Ridge was born in Dublin in 1871 and went to America from Australia in 1907. Her first volume of poems, The Ghetto, was published in 1918. The consistent theme of her poetry was the martyrdom of the downtrodden.*

*In an editorial on Larkin's deportation in April 1923, The National (New York), quoted lines from Lola Ridge's poem and said of Larkin:*

*"There is a genuine bigness of soul behind his bigness of body. He is one of those rare things - a born leader of men, with a sense of the pain of life. Lola Ridge understood the man."*





.....Top left: Head of Jim Larkin by American artist, Mina Carney (Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin).

Above: Drawings of Larkin in Liberty Hall, Dublin, in 1913 by William Orpen from 'Stories of Old Ireland and Myself' by Sir William Orpen (1924), and from William Orpen Centenary Exhibition Catalogue, National Gallery of Ireland (1978).

Left: Drawing of Larkin by Seán Keating RHA, 1946. (Liberty Hall, Dublin).

Far left: Drawing of Larkin by Seán O'Sullivan RHA, 1942. (National Gallery of Ireland).