

**ELIZABETH SHANE (Gertrude Elizabeth Heron Hind) (1877 - 1951):
Poet, Musician and Dramatist**

Gertrude Hind was born in 21 College Street, Belfast on 5 February 1877. She was a poet, musician and dramatist. She wrote under the pseudonym Elizabeth Shane. One of her plays, *The Warming Pan*, a comedy, was performed in Belfast in 1933. She was first violinist in the Belfast Philharmonic Orchestra, playing until her death and judged original poems by young people at Larne Music Festival. Her three published volumes of poems, mostly on themes of the countryside and the lives of ordinary people, *Tales of the Donegal Coast and Islands; By Bog and Sea in Donegal* and *Piper's Tunes and Later poems* were very popular. Some of her poems were set to music.

Wee Hughie

He's gone to school, Wee Hughie,
An' him not four.
Sure I saw the fright was in him
When he left the door.

But he took a hand o' Denny
An' a hand o' Dan,
Wi' Joe's owld coat upon him -
Och, the poor wee man!

He cut the quarest figure,
More stout nor thin;
An' trottin' right an' steady
Wi his toes turned in.

I watched him to the corner
O' the big turf stack,
An' the more his feet went forrit,
Still his head turned back.

He was lookin',
would I call him -
Och me heart was woe-
Sure it's lost I am without him,
But he be to go.

I followed to the turnin'
When they passed it by,
God help him, he was cryin',
An', maybe, so was I.

Gertrude Hind died in Glassdrummond, Annalong, County Down on 19 March 1951

Patrick Devlin