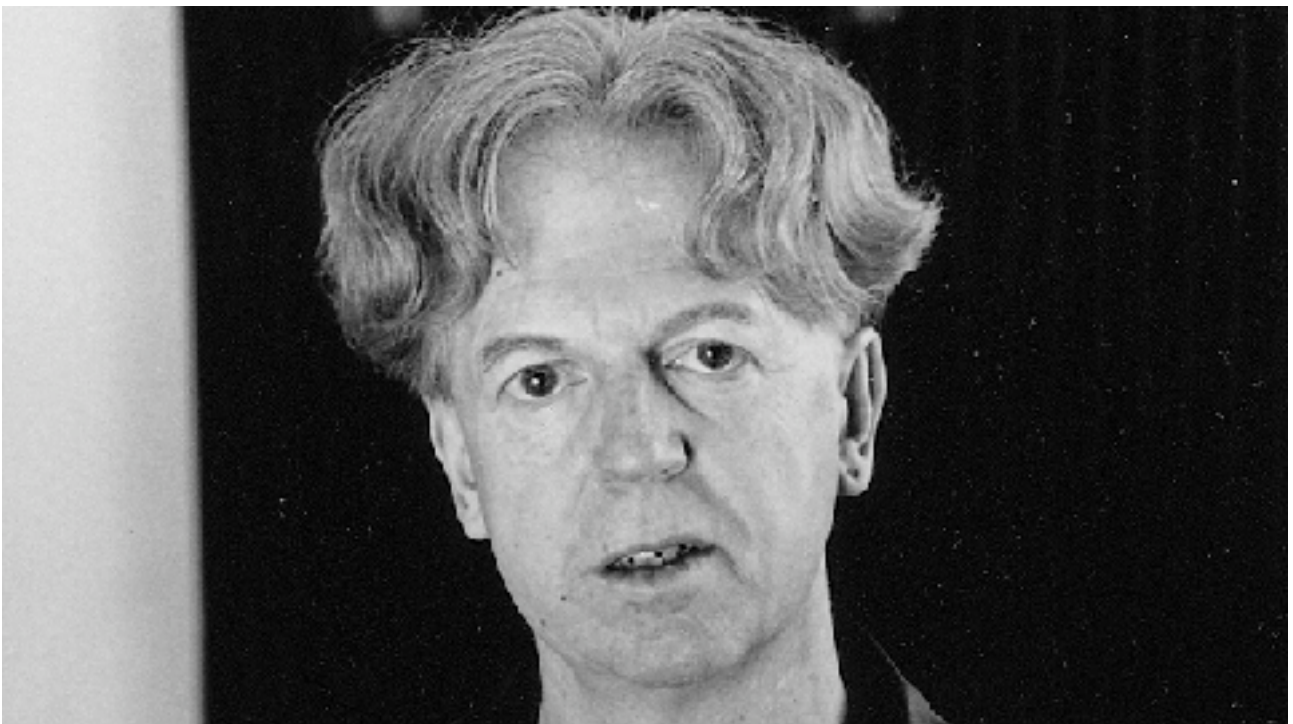




BLACK 47

LARRY KIRWAN

To tell you the truth, I get a little wary when I hear the word "*spiritual*". And yet it's undeniable that music can promote spirituality. As a child I took part in the mass choirs rendering "*playing chant*", as we called it, but which is more commonly known as Gregorian. One's little heart and soul swelled to this stirring music sung in Latin, and on many the occasion I felt united with God. As a performer and writer with Black 47 I would never dare use the word "*spiritual*", and yet I'm always seeking that moment when I become totally fused with the music – in particular on epic songs like James Connolly where, in essence, I have to become the man to get across his message of hope and revolution. Once I achieve that state I never have any doubts but that I am enabling the audience to transcend themselves too, although in what ways I'll never know. When I first read of Federico Garcia Lorca's idea of "*Duende*", I suppose the penny dropped. The idea that you can totally become one with the music you are performing to reach a heightened state. What writer and performer does not reach for such a goal. And on one last note, I write prose and plays and can usually just sit down and do so. With the composition of music and songs, I have no idea where that facility comes from and I'm often in terror that I'll never write another meaningful one. Perhaps, on those days I've lost my connection with the "*spiritual*". Rave on.



LARRY KIRWAN

GUITARIST AND VOCALIST IN BLACK 47