

## Archbishop of Dublin's Certificate in Church Music

### Reading List:

**Training Your Choir** (previously Giving Voice) by David Hill. Published by Kevin Mayhew  
ISBN 978-0-86209-688-5

Includes warm-ups and vocal exercises, the physiology of singing, conducting technique, group dynamics and rehearsal preparation. 80 pages, very readable.

**Kick-Start Your Choir**, Mike Brewer, Publ. Faber Music, 1997 ISBN 0-571-52071-5

The author of this small 32-page booklet is a long-experienced choral conductor and presenter of conducting workshops. It contains very useful and practical advice and suggestions on topics such as Starting a Choir, Getting Young People to Sing, Preparation and Rehearsal, Basis Vocal Technique and Troubleshooting. Well worth having.

**The Singing Thing too** - ISBN 978-1-905010-32-5 by John Bell – Wild Goose Publications

John Bell's first book in this series, *The Singing Thing*, explores the reasons why people sing, or indeed don't sing. In this second volume his concerns are learning and teaching. How do people pick up new music? How do you encourage a congregation to learn a new song? How can you breathe new life into good old hymns which have gone stale?

The subtitle of the book is 'Enabling congregations to sing' and in his engaging and readable style, John Bell tells how. He discusses the differences between choirs and congregations (the choir thinks it can sing and the congregation knows it can't); teaching new hymns (never tell people the number); ways to overcome resistance to new music; the importance of being really prepared.

He explains how to match words to a suitable instrument, not always the organ, and has some interesting suggestions for variations on old favourites. Bell's advice is at once entertaining and full of common sense.

**The Singing Thing** ISBN 978-1-901557-28-2

**Making Music on the Organ** Peter Hurford.

A household name in organist circles. This book covers the organ and its repertoire in a readable and practical style. Particularly good on Bach, for which Hurford is world famous.

**The History of the English Organ** Stephen Bicknell Cambridge University Press ISBN 0-521-65409-2 In depth and up to date, authoritative survey.

**The Cambridge Companion to the Organ** ed. Nicholas Thistlethwaite and Geoffrey Webber – Cambridge University Press ISBN 0-521-57584-2 A useful reference book, covering the organ – instruments, repertoire, history, performance and design in the main countries/schools. Each chapter is written by an acknowledged expert in the field.

**Irish Cathedral Music** W.H. Grindle Compelling historical and musical survey. A good book to dip into. ISBN 0-85389-331-4

**Everything Else An Organist Should Know** Robert Leach and Barry Williams

ISBN 0-95507-49-0-8 Organist Publications Ltd.

This book is intended to be a complete reference book for church musicians. It deals with all

the areas, apart from the actual music, which are encompassed by the organist's work. It is a witty book with plenty of anecdotal material to amuse the reader.

**Music in the Mission of the Church** Andrew Maries, John L. Bell, Michael Joncas - Decani Books ISBN 1-900-31401-0

This is a series of papers presented at the Sing our God Together conference, Birmingham held in 1996. It deals with the use of music to enhance worship. 65 pages long and not expensive.

**Common Worship Today – An Illustrated Guide** ed. Mark Earey and Gilly Myers (Harper Collins, 2001) ISBN 0-00-599381-4

This book may be out of print but is readily available through Amazon. The Church Music Committee has a few copies for sale.

**Keeping Your Nerve!** Kate Jones – Faber Music ISBN 0-571-51922-9

This is the book to read to prepare for exams or a performance. Short, practical and very good value. Contains valuable tips from professional musicians. Available from music shops.