



The Diocesan Church Music Association held a Mass settings workshop at St. Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle.

The evening was facilitated by Chairperson Alison Purvis and committee member Paul Berry (Musical Directors at St. Cuthbert's, Durham and St. Mary's, Hexham respectively).

The evening was a huge success, with over 30 participants, who were all eager to learn new Mass settings, for their schools and parishes. The idea behind the workshop was that there was 'something for everyone', with accessible music catering for all parishes and musical abilities, be it organ or music groups.

During the evening, four different Mass settings and styles were explored, beginning with the 'Psallite Gloria' by The Colledgeville Composers' Group. Alison Purvis provided information sheets for all participants and each Mass setting was rehearsed to enable those attending the evening to hear its impact. The impromptu four-part choir who were able to sight-sing with ease, really allowed participants to hear each Mass in its best possible light. The DCMA were hugely impressed with the thirst for new music amongst the participants.

The Bakhita Acclamations by Nicky Baty (a musician and liturgical composer from Everton), were presented by the group as an accessible Mass setting for guitar, instruments and organ, with walking pace rhythm and flowing melody: it is an easy setting, which can be easily accompanied by the most reluctant of pianists/organists! <http://www.conceptmusiconline.com/Service%20Music/styled-3/>

Bernadette's Farrell, Mass of Hope, was a huge success and could easily be sung in unison, or parts. Farrell's music is all covered under the Calamus licence scheme and is available to download from <https://www.ocp.org/en-us/songs/1488>.

The Dominican Mass by Sir Philip Ledger costs £2.60 and each melody edition costs £1.25. The Mass can be purchased via: <https://www.rscmshop.com/c0870.html> and was written at the request of a church in Baltimore, who wanted an approachable and sing-able congregational setting of the new translation of the Roman Missal. The setting has a strong melodic content, with optional descant parts choir and instruments – ideal for congregations who like to sing simple and accessible music.

Philip Jakob was previously Director of Music at the Cathedral Church of St. Marie, Sheffield, and now resides in Florida, in the USA, where he is Director of Music-Elect at St. Lawrence's, Tampa. He composed the 'New Wine Mass' which includes Penitential Rites to Communion songs. This uplifting and joyful Mass costs £15 although this also includes permission for copying the assembly edition for your congregation. Should you require a copy then please contact Alison Purvis or Paul Berry.

The evening session concluded with a cursory glance at Advent! Alison presented the Comfort and Joy Acclamations by Martin Foster (who currently holds the role of Director of the Liturgy Office of England and Wales as well as being Director of Music at St. Mary's University Chapel, Twickenham). Martin's acclamations are available to download from his website, <http://www.bearmusic.info>. Additionally, Martin's website includes many psalms and music for antiphons, which are freely available to download, provided that you acknowledge them, as directed on the website.

The evening was a wonderful opportunity for musicians and liturgists to come together to celebrate new music and meet like-minded individuals. Watch this space for a date with the world-renowned Harrison and Harrison organ builders and more repertoire evenings...

Should you require additional help in the following areas: core repertoire; Mass settings; deanery days of reflection; school repertoire; liturgical advice; composition or copyright, then please get in touch with Alison Purvis (chair) by tel: 0191 371 9184, or alisonpurvis1@hotmail.com.