

SUNDAY BY SUNDAY 2 / Choral Music for the Sunday Eucharist.

A transcript of the podcast in which David Ogden the compiler of SbS2, is in conversation with Stuart Robinson.

MUSIC: Christ is our cornerstone (David Ogden) >

DAVID: Choirs love to sing. And with the introduction of more congregational settings, the opportunity for choirs to sing is diminished. So I had this idea of putting together pieces that could be slotted into a Eucharist, without making the Eucharist over music-heavy, and without people saying, “There’s the choir going again.”

MUSIC: I will sing with the spirit (David Goodenough) >

DAVID I often think the ways you recruit people to choirs, is you give them opportunities to sing, because people will be attracted to a choir if it has a varied repertoire, if it sings interesting things, and it does a lot of singing and has a social side as well.

MUSIC: O Trinity of Blessed Light (Sam & Ally Barratt) >

STUART Some people listening might think you’re actually trying to break the mould of Eucharists because traditionally of course, the choir does their bit when the distribution of the bread and wine is happening. Now you’re breaking the rules – you’re adding extra things aren’t you; Gospel Acclamations, introits, what have you.

DAVID: Yes – although I think liturgy should be creative, and I think liturgy shouldn’t be the same every week. It gets boring if it’s the same every week. That’s not necessarily to say it should be different every week, but people will find in this book quite short pieces, that can be sung for instance, every week during Lent or during a season. And if the clergy and if the musicians are creative and can work together, then there can be organ music during the communion and the choirs could sing at another opportunity. So it’s a matter of being flexible and it’s a matter of being creative. But I mean, there’s also some Acclamations, which have hitherto been said like “Yours Lord is the greatness, the power, the splendour, the majesty,” and there’s a setting by Martin How in the book, which I think would be very effective.

MUSIC: Yours Lord is the greatness (Martin How) >

DAVID: There's some simple collect settings for the various seasons of the year. And there are some pieces in two parts, and in unison, and in four parts. And there's plenty also for choirs to get their teeth into if they're a more proficient choir.

MUSIC: O Voice of the Beloved (Grayston Ives) >

DAVID: There's some introits and some "extroits" – things to go out. There's a piece by me called "Go forth and Tell" – which is a real, you know, "sending-song."

MUSIC Go forth and tell (David Ogden) >

DAVID / over: At the end of a Eucharist, we are invited to go and proclaim the good news – we're invited to go forth in peace. And often the organ voluntary – people chat through, don't they! And this is something which people are encouraged to listen to, and be sent out, singing a good tune if you like.

MUSIC ending / Go forth and tell.

DAVID: More and more clergy, particularly with the introduction of Common Worship, and also with the new book The Times and Seasons, are looking at how they can make their services interesting. People will come to your church if your services have something about them. And by being creative – yes it does need people to sit round a table and bash through some ideas, and just think of ways in which they can draw people's attention, focus people's attention, and also because the job of music is to focus people's attention on the word of God, how we can illustrate the word of God through music.

STUART: But that's the fashion these days isn't it? Everything is very word-led, it's very congregational; you're going against the grain here?

DAVID. It is, but the congregational necessarily can participate; well people would say the congregation can participate by listening, but the thing is to make the congregation if you like - alive. People often ask me how can you make your music a bit more lively. What

they mean is how can they make it more alive. They don't necessarily mean they want drum kits and electric guitars. That's not lively. What's lively is that things happen.

MUSIC: Out of the stillness (Richard Shephard)

This podcast was produced for the RSCM by Stuart Robinson and is a 4sitesmedia production.

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