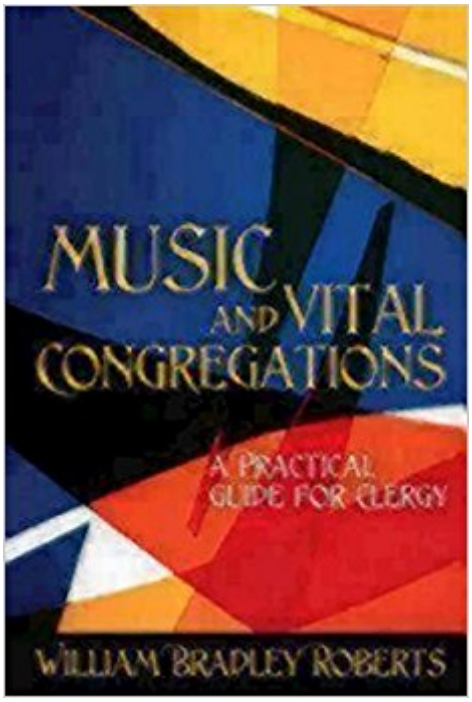
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Music And Vital Congregations: A Practical Guide For Clergy



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Synopsis

Congregations that are alive and vibrant have vital music programs. How did they get that way? There are sensible and practical steps to develop such a program which begins with a clear vision of the end product. This new book addresses the many interrelated issues of defining and embracing the leadership role in the church music program that is required of clergy in parish ministry and essential for a healthy congregation. Clergy and musicians work toward the same goals; however, clergy are trained differently from musicians. How does this fact impact their relationship, and how can they learn to work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect? The practical issues of employment can be addressed more effectively in this atmosphere. If one is looking for the right musician for the parish, what qualities does one seek? How does one find such a rare and gifted individual? A successful search complete, how does the clergyperson work harmoniously with the music leader? This book provides a blueprint for: Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Developing a vision for music in your parish Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Locating a musician who is a partner in ministry Ã¢â ¬Â¢ How music comes and goes in the churchÃ¢â ¬â„¢s repertoire Ã¢â ¬Â¢ Moving from musician as performer to musician as pastor

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Customer Reviews

"William Bradley Roberts has given clergy and congregations a gift in the form of Music and Vital Congregations: A Practical Guide for Clergy. In a few more than one hundred pages, this seasoned music minister and professor introduces the core issues clergy need to understand in order to lead

their congregations toward a healthy philosophy and ministry of music. His chapter on classical versus popular music sets the so-called `worship wars' in proper perspective. Every clergy, and many laity, should read this practical and thoughtful book." --Michael J. Clingenpeel, Pastor, River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, VA."William Bradley Roberts has written a wise and faithful book on church music, one that speaks not only to clergy but also to all leaders concerned about the vital ministry of music in the church. He speaks knowledgeably to a wide range of concerns, from the practicalities of establishing a music program to the vexing question of conflict over musical styles, and always with a balanced viewpoint and a steady hand. Every pastor and every church musician ought to read this book and then talk together about the issues it raises." --Thomas G. Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia"Crafting a handbook of lasting value is no easy task, requiring the skill to weave detailed practical guidance with invitations to explore the spiritual depths of music in worship and enlarge our vision of mature Christian community. Clergy and congregational leaders who use Bill Roberts' book together will enjoy the company of a vastly experienced and genial guide whose insights may help them open up a new era for their communities." --The Rev. Martin L. Smith, Sr. Associate Rector, St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C.Endorsements of Music and Vital Congregations: A Practical Guide for Clergy William Bradley Roberts has written a wise and faithful book on church music, one that speaks not only to clergy but also to all leaders concerned about the vital ministry of music in the church. He speaks knowledgeably to a wide range of concerns, from the practicalities of establishing a music program to the vexing question of conflict over musical styles, and always with a balanced viewpoint and a steady hand. Every pastor and every church musician ought to read this book and then talk together about the issues it raises.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â •Thomas G. Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia Written by an ordained and supremely gifted musician and teacher, this book provides a clear blueprint for everyone engaged in the worship of the church. Bill Roberts writes with an open and generous spirit of musical diversity, healthy working relationships and mutual support. He gives practical ideas for dealing with music for weddings and funerals, ways to involve children, and a variety of topics facing every church. "Music and Vital Congregations" is filled with wonderful stories and most of all, a wise and compassionate perspective. It is deeply inspiring. Ã¢â ¬â •Dr. Marilyn Keiser, Chancellor's Professor Emeritus of Music, Indiana University, and Music Director, Trinity Episcopal Church, Bloomington, Ind. William Bradley Roberts has given clergy and congregations a gift in the form of Music and Vital Congregations: A Practical Guide for Clergy. In a few more than one hundred pages, this seasoned music minister and professor introduces the core issues clergy need to

understand in order to lead their congregations toward a healthy philosophy and ministry of music. His chapter on classical versus popular music sets the so-called Ã¢â ¬Ëœworship warsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ in proper perspective. Every clergy, and many laity, should read this practical and thoughtful book. Ã¢â ¬â •Michael J. Clingenpeel, Pastor, River Road Church, Baptist, Richmond, VA. . . . An important document that needs to be read by clergy and musicians all over the country. I just wish I could say, must be read, and provide the means by which it would happen! Ã¢â ¬â •Raymond Glover, Editor, the Hymnal 1982, emeritus professor of church music, Virginia Theological Seminary Roberts shares with his readers a wealth of knowledge and experience gained through his 35 years as a parish musician working with 13 clergy. Roberts conveys his experience gained in a variety of denominational and liturgical settings, in an accessible and humorous style. . . . Despite this bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s clergy-centric subtitle, clergy and parish musicians should consider reading it together and discussing each chapter. Roberts has produced a sincere and sensible book that deserves to be read by all involved in the ChurchÃ¢â ¬â„¢s worship. Richard Haigh, Cape Town, South Africa From a review in The Living Church

William Bradley Roberts is an ordained minister and an associate professor of church music at Virginia Theological Seminary. He is in demand as a composer, speaker, and workshop leader. He has served in parishes in Washington, DC, Arizona, and California. He was a founding member of the Leadership Program for Musicians and a curriculum writer for this multi-denominational organization.

Tired of the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“offering or performanceÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• false dichotomy? Weary of the stereotype of clergy and church musicians as sheep ranchers vs. cattle farmers? Wish you could explain to skeptics that an excellent music program can be one of the best avenues to both evangelism and spiritual formation in a vital parish?RobertsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ book offers examples and vocabulary for real engagement and cooperation. As a lay leader and choir member in an Episcopal Church, I see this book as a useful adjunct to our stewardship program in making others aware of the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“return on investmentÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• of a music program that nourishes oneÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s soul and senses. I just ordered several for a discussion group on how an excellent music program can be considered essential but not taken for granted.

This is a fantastic book, filled with good theology and reasoning and good practical knowledge as well. It has helped me as a church musician explain what is important about hymns in terms which

make sense to the congregation and clergy. William Bradley Roberts is an excellent writer and it is an easy read.

This book was recommended to me by my spiritual director because I'm not a big fan of church music. The fact that the author is a church musician didn't help my "reality check." But I must say that I learned a bit about the other side of the music dilemma and have loaned the book to my rector. What I must keep in mind is that I am not the "normal or average" church attendee; so my opinions must be tempered with that in mind.

I read this book as a church musician. I recommend it for both clergy and musicians. Lots of practical information as well as inspirational. Well written with a nice flow.

Roberts covers all the bases for encouraging a vital music ministry in your church. Written with the clergy in mind, he addresses the day to day activities that your parish musician encounters, outlines how to budget, how to craft a search for a new parish musician, and how to form a collegial relationship.

As a clergy person that treasures church music, I found this book to be terrible.It is poorly written in a fashion where it matches the way one would speak it. This makes it hard to read and hard to take seriously. The content of this book is simply not worth it. This is not a "practical guide", it is merely common sense for dealing with people in the church music context. It seems as if this work was originally just an essay that was put into a book.Roberts takes an obviously slant towards musicians over clergy in the clergy-musician relationships. He also makes radical leaps in the examples used in the book. "The state of clergy-musician relationships in today's churches is often abysmally bad, making us want to echo Rodney King's plaintive question after the horrendous LA uprising of 1992, "Can't we all just get along?"". Roberts book is offensive to clergy and musicians alike for its lack of truth telling.The book is simply not worth it.

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