
Music made by one of Catholicism's biggest rebels is being celebrated in Dublin

500 years after he first wrote his 95 theses – which led to the Protestant Reformation – Martin Luther's contribution to religious music is being celebrated in Dublin.

The festival, Mighty Fortress, will take place from Tuesday 20 to Sunday 25 June in the capital, with virtuoso organists and choral ensembles taking part – and a special event where the audience will be encouraged to sing along.

Luther was a professor of moral theology at Germany's University of Wittenberg when he wrote the theses, after becoming upset with the idea of indulgences, and purgatory and repentance in Catholicism. He was excommunicated in 1521, but his impact on religion was major, as it paved the way for his beliefs that, for example, priests should marry,

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Music artists Sebastian Adams, Yseult Cooper Stockdale and composer Tom Lane who feature in Pipeworks 2017 Organ Festival Mighty Fortress.

Luther also had a deep love for music. He wrote chorale works and believed that the

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congregation at church should perform music – it shouldn't just be for the priest or choir. And that's where the inspiration for Mighty Fortress comes from.

“We thought it would be a good opportunity to explore what that bequeaths us musically,” said the festival's artistic director Mark Duley.

“Luther was himself a great musician and he really responded to the power of music. We knew he thought [music]t was next to the Bible itself, it was closest to God – that God could speak through music. That was his big thing. He listened to music, he performed himself, and he could also compose music.”

Duley said that the Reformation “was couched in music”.

So music and these chorales, that was the most important way he got the message across, it was a way for people being able to participate. He wrote these chorales so people could sing in the services.

Of course, the words of these songs were important. They were, said Duley, “teaching [people] things as well – not just that they could

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participate but they could learn something about their religion and theology through singing”.

“He saw that the part of people was paramount,” said Duley of Luther’s vision of a new church.

“He was trying to get away from the idea of priests being all powerful and mediators of things in heaven and things in earth.”

Luther adapted old plainsong melodies and turned them into hymn tunes that everyone could sing, said Duley. He also used familiar older songs that “bridged the gap between sacred and secular”, and folk songs that would have been familiar to his congregation.

“For all of them we can see he had a real sense of how people could pick something up quickly,” said Duley. “The rise and fall structure of them was memorable, people were able to learn them very quickly.”

The festival is named after Luther’s well-known 16th century hymn Ein feste Burg ist unser God, or A Mighty Fortress is Our God.

Influences

Lutheran chorale didn’t just stand on its own – it also influenced composers like Liszt,

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Mendelssohn, and Bach, and this will also be explored during the event. The young contemporary composer Tom Lane will also take a fresh look at some of the music from this time.

Duley said that the chorales are notable today “because they are so timeless and they have lasted so long – they have been the inspiration for many composers over those years”.

“In some cases, [there are pieces that] people might know well or have heard in concert hall and not realise they are based on a chorale,” said Duley.

“He was a very interesting character,” added Duley of Luther. “He was an ordained priest in the Roman Catholic church so he was taking it from that position. Once he was excommunicated he got married – we know he was quite a vivacious character and liked a good party. He thought everyone should be married – clergy, the lot – and thought marriage was a natural state.

“He didn’t see any real divide between the sacred and the secular. For him it was part of one great continuum so he thought of good music in church as essential.”

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Overall, Duley indicates the festival is a way of appreciating good art and how it can intersect with religion – but the festival is not just for the religious.

“[Luther believed] if we can appreciate good art in our lives, we should do that in church as well,” said Duley. “The Lutherans still appreciate that very much – they would be very much attuned to great art.” Report courtesy The Journal.ie

To book tickets, visit the ticket selling site pipeworksfestival.eventbrite.com

Christian MP wants Grenfell Tower fire records seized

Christian and Labour MP, David Lammy has asked the Prime Minister and Metropolitan Police for all documents relevant to the Grenfell Tower fire to be seized immediately.

Lammy, who represents Tottenham, met with residents in Kensington and suggested locals have suspicion of a cover-up rising.

He said: "People have lost their homes and I have a lost a friend. We believe it's a crime what has happened. We have other major events in

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this country and you get a rolling commentary of what the Met are up to. What are they up to in this case?”

He said Theresa May and investigators must ensure all pertinent documents are protected.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister faced much backlash from locals for her response to the fire.

Reverend Mark O'Donoghue, the area dean of Kensington, oversaw the meeting at Downing Street on Saturday where the PM met with survivors of the deadly blaze.

He said: “There was real anger expressed. The residents and survivors perceived a lack of communication on the ground, a lack of communication very little reassurance.”

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O'Donoghue also said Theresa May was emotional.

He added: “I saw the Prime Minister welling up. Somebody began to sob beside her and she just held her hand for the next 20 minutes, which isn't the character that most of us have of the Prime Minister.”

Theresa May has promising to oversee a public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire in which at least 58 people died.

The Prime Minister's admitted the government's response wasn't good enough following the deadly blaze and has ordered more boots on the ground.

Eight Bells in Memory of Sam Maguire the legendary sportsman

A truly unusual and historic community project is under way in Dunmanway, County Cork, based at the Church of Ireland parish church – Saint Mary's – and started by the local rector, the Reverend Cliff Jeffers. Eight bells, to be known as 'The Sam Maguire Community Bells', are to be installed in the church in memory of one of the famous parishioners – Sam Maguire – whose

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The eight bells of 'The Sam Maguire Community Bells' laid out in the aisle of St Mary's Church, Dunmanway, Co. Cork ready for the naming and dedication on Saturday,

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17th June. Top left is the movable ring of bells on which people from the community have been learning how to ring bells.

name is given to the cup awarded each year to the winners of the All-Ireland Football Championship. Also known as 'Sam' or 'the Sam', the cup, modelled on the Ardagh Chalice, was first presented in 1928.

The bells, two of them brand new and inscribed with Sam Maguire's name, have now arrived at the church and, on Saturday, 17th June, at an Ecumenical Service, they were named and dedicated by the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, the Right Reverend Dr Paul Colton. It had been hoped that he would be joined by the Most Reverend Dr John Buckley, Bishop of Cork and Ross, but other duties in the diocese made this impossible.

This naming and dedication was the first and preparatory part of the celebrations. The bells will now be raised to the tower and installed there during the summer. On Saturday, 9th September the CEO and President of the Gaelic Athletic Association, together with sponsors and local guests, will join local clergy and Bishop Colton once more, for a Service of Thanksgiving.

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In 2016, following centenary celebrations of the 1916 Rising, St. Mary's Church of Ireland began to look at ways to commemorate Sam Maguire; the legendary sportsman and patriot who is buried in the parish churchyard in Dunmanway.

Having explored the possibilities, the parish decided that *The Sam Maguire Community Bells* would be installed in the tower of St. Mary's Church. Each bell will be given a theme, through which the story of Sam Maguire and the history of the town are told.

The themes selected with the help of Dunmanway Historical Association and local people are :

- Sport.
- Wars and Revolution.
- Agriculture.
- People of Dunmanway.
- Migration.
- Religious Traditions.
- Education and Arts.
- Industry and Commerce.

These themes will be developed into story boards (posters) in part of the church telling Sam's story and the history of Dunmanway town. One of the main aims of this project is to

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provide an amenity that can be used by all of the people of Dunmanway. Already, groups of parishioners have been learning the art of bell-ringing (campanology) on a temporary and moveable ring of bells set up in the church.

Bishop Colton said - As we approach another sequence of centenary years of commemorations (1918-1923) it is, I believe, vital that we acknowledge the intervening 100 years: what we are now, what we have become, and how things have changed, as well as remembering the history of events and times themselves. Our focus here in this Diocese will be forward-looking with special attention to reconciliation (not least reconciling memories) and fostering relationships for today and the times ahead. Events and projects that nurture opportunities for reconciliation and community-building in the Ireland of today will be important. This very imaginative community project which reaches out beyond the Church of Ireland parish to other churches, community groups, and national bodies – the idea of the local rector, the Reverend Cliff Jeffers – does exactly these things, in my view.

The rector, the Reverend Cliff Jeffers, explains - Sam Maguire was laid to rest in St. Mary's churchyard (Church of Ireland) 90 years ago, and

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after the centenary celebrations last year we realised that we had done little to remember him. We chose to install the Sam Maguire Community Bells as a way of remembering Sam Maguire, of telling his story, and the story of Dunmanway town through eight different themes. As the people of Dunmanway learn to ring these bells together we hope that it will strengthen our sense of community and working together for the good of the home town of Sam Maguire.

Schola Cantorum end of year recital

St Peter's Cathedral Schola Cantorum, Belfast, warmly invite everyone to attend their End of Year Recital - an excellent showcase of the hardwork and talent that goes into making Schola the fantastic choir that it is. The recital will feature solo performances as well as pieces by schola as a whole. An event not to be missed! June 23, 6.30 pm. St Peter's Cathedral. Admission Free (Retiring collection by Friends of Schola Cantorum in aid of Schola's continuing work) Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall after the Recital.

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Long-serving respected Rector involved in education

Rev Canon William Reginald (Reggie) Twaddell MBE served as a Church of Ireland minister for over 50 years, with more than half of his career in the North Armagh area - 14 years at Milltown, Birches, and 17 years at St Mark's, Portadown.

He and his wife, Mrs Eveline Twaddell, loved the area so much that they settled in Milltown after he retired 16 years ago. They enjoyed life as parishioners in the lively, rural church, which he had served so diligently as Rector.

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Canon Twaddell (83) passed away peacefully at Lurgan Hospital. The family members wish to place on record their grateful thanks for the wonderful, compassionate care he received from the staff.

As well as Mrs Twaddell, he is survived by sons Stephen and Mark, daughters-in-law Pauline and Jo, grandchildren Niall, Sarah, Helen and Teddy. He was predeceased by brothers Bertie and Eric.

Reggie Twaddell came originally from Belfast. One of his favourite stories was that – in keeping with his chosen career - he was born in Jerusalem Street in the city's 'Holy Land'! His 'home' church was All Saints Church of Ireland in the city.

He was educated at Botanic Primary School in South Belfast, and went from there to Belfast High School. His first ambition was to enter the teaching profession, and he qualified through Stranmillis College, gaining a post at Carr's Glen where he remained for five years.

He was married at that stage – the wedding was at First Keady Presbyterian Church – when he answered The Call to the Church of Ireland ministry.

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After training through Trinity College, Dublin, he was ordained as Curate at Whiterock, Belfast, after which he was appointed Rector of Loughgilly, County Armagh, the county where he spent the remainder of his ministry. He was appointed to the status of Canon during his time in Portadown.

In his retirement, he helped in various parishes in the Kilmore Diocese where his wisdom and experience were greatly treasured.

The Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Canon Reggie Twaddell was held at Milltown Parish Church, where the current Rector, Rev Matthew Milliken, told the packed congregation, “You could come to Canon Reggie about anything, any problem or situation, and you knew he would give you the best of advice.

“He was a wonderful Christian man, minister of the Gospel, devoted husband, loving father, grandfather, true friend in the Lord to many, and he is now with Jesus.

“Canon Reggie came across many difficult situations, too, especially during his pastoral ministry, extending over 50 years, when he helped many at their greatest hour of need.

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“Especially in his time as Rector at St Mark’s, at the height of the Troubles, he encountered many people whose lives were turned upside-down by tragedy. But as a faithful Christian minister of the Gospel, he was well equipped to always help when needed the most - by pointing us to God, the God who has suffered himself, and who suffered himself for us.”

Outside church and family, Canon Twaddell served the education sector with distinction – for which he received the MBE. He was a member of the Southern Education and Library Board and a school governor at Clounagh JHS, Millington and Ballyoran Primary Schools. His teaching and educational skills also meant that his various curates over the years were well grounded for the career that lay ahead of them.

His main relaxation was in the canine world. He bred Golden Retrievers and Cocker Spaniels, was a member of the Irish Canine Club and acted as judge at various shows over the years. As in his main career, his views and expertise were eagerly sought.

Rev Matthew Milliken conducted the funeral service, with the deceased’s grandson Niall Twaddell reading the Bible passage. Hymns were ‘Great Is Thy Faithfulness’ and ‘To God Be

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The glory'. Committal was in the adjoining Churchyard. Report courtesy The `Portadown Times.