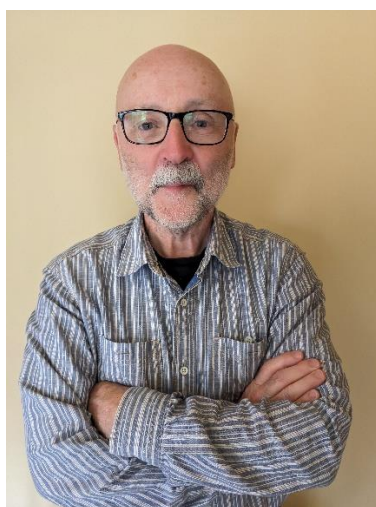


INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC:

Donal McCricken MBE, MA, BMus, MTD, LTCL, AdvCert Ed.



Donal McCricken is a Belfast-based musician with many years experience as a pianist, accompanist, conductor, examiner and adjudicator. He holds a BMus degree from Queen's University, Belfast and a Masters in Music Theory and Analysis from University of Ulster.

From 1999 - 2021 Donal was conductor of Cappella Caeciliana, one of Ireland's most exciting chamber choirs. Under his direction Cappella gave concerts and sung liturgies all over Northern Ireland, in Dublin, Germany, Austria and Italy. The choir recorded five highly successful CDs and has broadcast frequently on BBC Radio 3, Radio 4, Radio Ulster and RTE. In April 2011 Cappella toured the USA giving highly successful concerts in Philadelphia and singing a choral evensong at the National Cathedral in Washington DC.

Donal has studied singing with Russell Smythe and Kathryn Harries, two of Britain's leading vocal teachers. He has organised and delivered vocal workshops in Belfast and elsewhere, working with children, adults in the workplace and, most recently in conjunction with his wife Helena, coaching adult language students in France. He has worked with Northern Ireland Opera as répétiteur, accompanist and workshop facilitator and teaches classes in performance in the music department of Queen's University Belfast. Donal was for six years, 2005 – 2011, head of music in St Malachy's College, Belfast - Northern Ireland's first specialist music school, whose students he led in concert tours to Washington DC, Philadelphia, England and Rome.

A qualified British and International Federation of Festivals adjudicator, Donal has adjudicated festivals throughout Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and the UK. In 2004 he visited Hungary to study at the renowned Kodaly School in Nyiregyaza under the tutelage of Denes Szabo.

Donal founded the Cavehill Community Choir in February 2013, a non-audition choir which currently numbers 150. CCC is in great demand locally to sing at concerts and featured in the 2013 Belfast Festival at Queens and has broadcast on Radio Ulster. Donal was the choral director and répétiteur for the exciting Belfast Opera project which culminated in performances in June 2016. For his work with this project he was awarded the Classic FM/ Musicians Union Inspiration Award and the whole project was nominated for the best Classical Music Education Initiative Award. He was awarded an MBE for services to music, education and community relations in the Queens Birthday Honours, 2020.

SINGING, SCHOOL and ADULT CHOIRS:

BRYAN HUSBAND, GRSM, ADWCMD, FISM.



Bryan studied singing and piano accompaniment at the Royal College of Music, London, and singing and acting at the Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff. Having performed for some years in continental and UK opera houses, concert halls, and music theatre, he now divides his time between homes in St Albans and Malvern Wells (Worcestershire, near Wales).

After spending some years as Head of Singing at Guildford School of Acting, Bryan lectured on the MT BA at Trinity Laban, London for 17 years, and now runs a private teaching practice, gives workshops and masterclasses, performs, adjudicates, is an examiner for a music and drama examining board, and has also worked as a ski instructor! Performances include tv and radio broadcasts, opera, oratorio and recital.

In 2005, Bryan was selected as a BIFF (British and International Federation of Festivals) Adjudicator in choral and vocal music, later as a Generalist. Adjudication has taken him all over the world, including Hong Kong, Gibraltar, and Trinidad & Tobago, and all around the UK and Ireland. In 2025 Bryan adjudicated all around the UK, from Cornwall to Yorkshire. In 2012, Bryan was invited to become a music examiner in Classical & Jazz, and Rock & Pop: his most recent examining work was in Malaysia and India, and around the UK. Recent concerts include recitals in Bergen, London, Worcester and Malvern. His hobbies include all theatre, gardening, skiing and walking. Bryan is delighted to be at the Feis in Cork again, especially as he lived in a tiny hamlet near Bantry for some years.