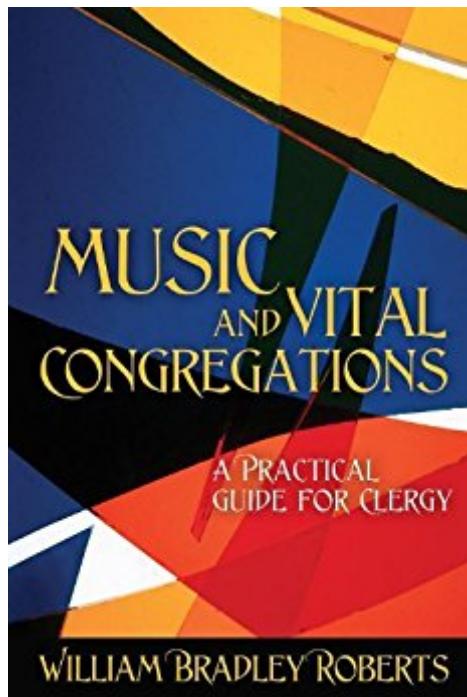


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# Music And Vital Congregations: A Practical Guide For Clergy



## **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: ¢ Developing a vision for music in your parish ¢ Locating a musician who is a partner in ministry ¢ How music comes and goes in the church™s repertoire ¢ Moving from musician as performer to musician as pastor

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

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.

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.

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.

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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