

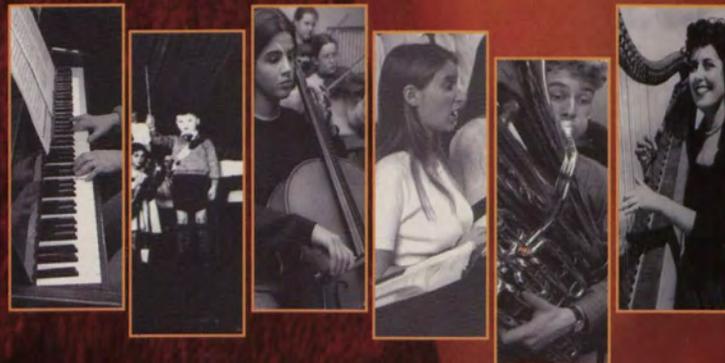
COLAÏSTE AN CHEOIL
COLLEGE OF MUSIC

A MUSICAL JOURNEY

1890 - 1993



FROM MUNICIPAL SCHOOL OF MUSIC
TO
DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



JIM COOKE

COLÁISTE AN CHEOIL
COLLEGE OF MUSIC

A MUSICAL JOURNEY
1890–1993

FROM
MUNICIPAL SCHOOL OF MUSIC
To
DUBLIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

JIM COOKE

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>		<i>Page</i>
Foreword	v		
Acknowledgements/Buiochas	vi		
CHAPTER 1 – 1890-1904		CHAPTER 5 – 1939-1945	
A Municipal School	1	The Emergency	28
The City Musicians	1	The Black-out	28
Artizans' Exhibition – 1885	2	Organ in Chapel Royal, Dublin Castle	28
The Coulson Bequest	2	Teaching Staff – 1940-1941	29
Foundation of the Municipal School of Music	3	New Developments	30
A Municipal Band	5	Orchestras, Choirs and Bands	31
String Classes	6	Scholarships – 1941	32
Premises	6	Examinations – 1942	32
		Juvenile Symphony Orchestra	34
		Examinations – 1944	34
		Re-organisation: Lord Mayor's Report	34
CHAPTER 2 – 1904-1914		Addition to Re-organisation Report	38
Transfer to the City of Dublin Technical		Appointments – 1945-1946	39
Education Committee	8	Premises	40
Pianoforte Classes	9		
Prize-winners – 1906	9	CHAPTER 6 – 1945-1954	
Teaching Staff – 1907-1911	10	The Post-War Years	41
Prize-winners – 1911-1912	11	Premises	41
		Appointments – 1946	41
CHAPTER 3 – 1914-1930		Sub-Committee Meeting – 1946	42
Years of Transition	13	Library	42
Teaching Staff – 1914-1919	13	Enrolments – 1945-1949	43
A Plea for Premises	14	St. Joseph's School for the Blind	43
Teaching Staff – 1924-1925	15	Memorial Scholarships	44
Suspension of Dublin Corporation	15	Sub-Committee Meeting – 1949	45
Arthur Warren Darley – First Director	15	Scholarships Abroad	45
John F. Larchet – Director	16	Teaching Staff – 1952	46
Technical Instruction Commission		Fees and Classes	47
1925-1926	17	Prize-winners – 1952	48
		Michael McNamara – Principal	48
CHAPTER 4 1930-1939		Summer Schools of Music	49
Vocational Education Act:		Broadcasts and Concerts	49
The Early Years	19	Choirs and Bands	50
Maud Davin – Director	19	Organ classes	50
Teaching Staff – 1932-1934	21		
Joseph S. O'Brien – Director	22	CHAPTER 7 – 1954-1968	
Board of Studies 1936 Report	24	Work in Progress	52
Teaching Staff – 1936-1938	24	Expansion of String School	52
Feis Prize-winners – 1937	25	Drama	52
Scholarship Scheme	26	Sub-Committee Meeting – 1956	53
Concerts	27		

CHAPTER 7 – 1954-1968 (Contd.)**Work in Progress**

Prize-winners – 1956	53
Sub-Committee Meeting 1957	54
Teaching Staff – 1959, 1967	55
National Conservatoire	56
Premises	57
Scholarships – 1960-1965	57

CHAPTER 8 – 1968-1978**New College Structures**

Dr J.J. O'Reilly – Principal	60
Premises	61
Prize-winners – 1970-1971	61
Advisory Board Meetings – 1970	62
Teaching Staff – 1969-1970	63
Regional Schools	63
Development Plan:	
Jeremiah Sheehan CEO	64
Frank Heneghan – Principal	65
Chief Executive Officer's Report	66
Premises	67
Advisory Board Meetings – 1974-1975	67
Strike Action	68
Scholarships – 1975	69
Principal's Business	70
Advisory Board Meetings – 1976	71
Premises	72

CHAPTER 9 – 1978-1993

by FRANK HENEGHAN

The Dublin Institute of Technology	
– A New Image	73

APPENDIX 1

Musical Memories	85
-------------------------	----

APPENDIX 2

A Register of Teachers – 1890-1973	109
---	-----

APPENDIX 3

Teaching Staff – 1993-1994	115
-----------------------------------	-----

APPENDIX 4

Sources – Chapters 1-8	116
-------------------------------	-----

Published Dublin: May 1994

Cover Design: Marketgraphics

Photography: Jimmie Robinson, Daniel de Chenu, Tom Connolly

Typesetting: Computertype Ltd.

Printing: Tom Griffin Print

FOREWORD

In March 1994, and in 'coming of age' as Director of the College of Music, I look back over an eventful stewardship with feelings of pride which beget humility, but above all with affection and gratitude; for who could fail to be thankful for the opportunity to serve the cause of music education in our capital city, and how could such service be performed without love, both for its subject and for its people. Who could ever have predicted that from a Dublin Corporation decision, more than a century ago, to vote the sum of £300 to provide "musical instruction at moderate charges, in a Municipal School of Music", an artistic edifice of truly national significance would evolve?

In the pages that follow, individual and collective effort is painstakingly sketched in a patchwork of fact mixed with anecdote and humour in a way which should fascinate any reader with an interest in the history of music education in Ireland. In a way mirroring the process of musical composition itself, the College has grown from a tiny seed of concern for the inculcation of musical skills, to a full spectrum of provision, developed and constantly recapitulated through five generations. Above all the College's concern to promote applied skills, and to find the perfect balance between performing and academic pursuits in music, has produced a new generation of musicians who can contribute to the artistic life of the nation over the entire gamut of experience. It is not inappropriate to single out College achievement in obtaining for practical musicians a recognition, at degree level, of their profession; the close collaboration with Trinity College in this respect is a valued enrichment. Cultural collaboration with the Academic College of the Moscow Tchaikowsky State Conservatory is a feature of international activity which will find the College Choral Society performing in the Russian capital and in its prestigious halls in coming weeks. Yes, a century of effort in the provision of music education has had dramatic fruits which would have been unthinkable even two decades ago. For sixty-two of those years the unfailing support of the City of Dublin Vocational

Education Committee was the mainstay of College enterprise and should be acknowledged with gratitude.

The absorption of the College of Music in the giant Dublin Institute of Technology has been grasped as an opportunity, not only to benefit from cross-fertilisation by artistic and technological activity within the Institute, but, in return, to enhance its involvement in the humanities, without which its potential and its 25,000 students would be seriously impoverished. The most significant development from DIT, and one that may yet prove epochal in its impact on the artistic life of the Irish people, is the recent announcement that the Institute is to sponsor a long overdue major National Debate on the future of music education in the state. The words of the late Victor Zuckerkandl catch the current mood of expectancy in the College with exquisite intensity and prophetic challenge:

... music is a miracle What miracle wants of us is not that we, as thinking beings, shall capitulate to it, but rather that we shall do justice to it in our thinking it is our duty to think about it. The purpose is not a rationalisation, a setting aside of the miraculous. Thought that is true to its subject does not annul miracles. It penetrates the fog around them; it brings them out of the darkness into the light.

In thanking all those whose names are associated with the story of the College here sketched, and in particular Jim Cooke and Dr Ita Beausang whose tireless efforts cannot be too highly praised, let us hope that the sequel will bring us into ever closer intimacy with the musical aspirations of our people and allow the miracle of music to reenact itself constantly to their benefit.

Frank Heneghan
Director
DIT College of Music

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BUÍOCHAS



Frank Heneghan



Jim Cooke

This history began as a project for the Centenary of the Municipal School of Music (College of Music, Dublin), 1890–1990, to celebrate a hundred years of music. In the last chapter Mr Frank Heneghan, Director of DIT College of Music, brings the story right up to date.

In the interviews with many people who were either teachers or pupils I found a great pride and fond memories of their associations with the College. I wish to thank the numerous people who assisted me in my research by lending me photographs, old and new prospectuses, and concert programmes.

Mr Lindsay Armstrong, of the Royal Irish Academy of Music, assisted me with the early records of the Municipal School of Music, while it was under the aegis of the RIAM. The descendants of many teachers and public figures provided me with records and memorabilia from the early years. Luckily the Minutes of the City of Dublin Technical Schools and later of the City of Dublin Vocational Committee are complete; these were my main sources of information.

Mr Frank Heneghan encouraged me and enabled the work of the history to proceed.

Dr Ita Beausang was a constant source of support and assistance, and facilitated the completion of the project over a number of years. Very many of the past and present teachers – and here I may especially mention Miss Nancy Calthorpe in her 80th year – gave me every assistance and co-operation.

Particular thanks are also due to Mr Jimmie Robinson for processing many photographs from the archives, and to Mr Kevin Roche for reading the manuscript and for his helpful comments. Finally I wish to thank Mr Tom O'Connor, Curator of the Dublin Civic Museum, the staff of Head Office CDVEC, and the members of the College clerical staff who worked on the typescript at different stages of the work.

The history will, I hope, serve as a proud record of the College and can be added to in years to come. From very humble beginnings the College has grown to its present stature, and the years of effort for the cause of music deserve to be celebrated.

Jim Cooke
March 1994.