CHAPTER 3

1914-1930 YEARS OF TRANSITION

The ordered world of post-Victorian society and manners was greatly changed with the advent of the Great War and the Irish Rebellion of Easter 1916. This is reflected in the annals of the Technical Education Committee of the City of Dublin where debate about munitions replaced the detailed records regarding music.

The period 1914-1930 covers the greatest change in societal background and school administration, but the strong tradition of music lived on. By 1930 a new Saorstát Vocational Education Act placed the School on a permanent footing in a new era.

Teaching Staff 1914-1919

In any school the teachers create morale and set the standards of excellence, and by 1914 the Municipal School's band of teachers had increased to 8, with enrolments at the highest number to date, 225. The following table of teachers shows the relative teaching load and hourly rates:-

	Weekly Hours	Rate per hour	
		S	d
Mrs H. Annesley	14	3	0
A. T. Cullen	6	3	0
Thomas Mitchell	12	3	6
W. H. Nesbitt	2	7	6
Mrs Bloom-Pollock	14	3	0
P. J. Griffith	14	3	0
Alex Burke	6	3	0
A. B. Cullen	8	3	0

In 1915-16 three new teachers were employed; Misses E. McGrane, J. Delaney, and Eileen Reidy, whose brother William later taught with her in the School.

In 1916-17 Mrs Annesley had retired, but Mrs E. Halligan, Mrs J. Brennan, and Miss Annie

Higgins had joined the staff. By 1917 Mr George Woodhead had taken over from Mr Thomas (retired), as teacher of band Mitchell instruments, at the rate of 3s-6d per hour.



President Seán T. O Ceallaigh

The following list of teachers for the session 1918-19 is signed by the Chairman of the Technical Education Committee, Mr Seán T. O'Kelly, later President of Ireland:-

	Weekly Hours	Rate per hour	
	nours	s	d
A.T. Cullen		5	u
Pianoforte (Boys)	12	3	0
W.H. Nesbitt			
Tonic Sol-Fa	2	7	6
Mrs Bloom-Pollock			
Violin (Girls)	16	3	0
P.J. Griffith			
Violin (Boys)	16	3	0
Alex Burke			
Cornet, Horn	6	3	0
A.B. Cullen			
Oboe, Clarinet, Violin	16	3	0
Mrs E. Halligan			
Pianoforte	6	3	0
Mrs J. Brennan			
Pianoforte	10	3	0
Miss E. Reidy	122		
Pianoforte	10	3	0
Miss A.G. Higgins	4.6		
Pianoforte	10	3	0
Joseph O'Keeffe			
Flute, Drum	12	3	0
Madame Lucy Donnell		0	0
Pianoforte	10	3	0



Madame Lucy Donnelly

A Plea for Premises

A report of December 1919 outlined the need for suitable premises once again, noting the success of the School to date:-

For the past twelve years the Municipal School of Music was conducted in the old Fire Brigade Station at Chatham Row, and we were thus saved expenditure on housing, light, heating, and cleaning in connection with that branch of our work. This year we had arranged that the classes would recommence on the 15th September. On the eve of opening we found that the Corporation Public Health Department were in occupation of the premises, and that our pianos and other valuable property were pushed aside. In these circumstances we have instructed our Secretary to endeavour to find some other suitable premises and make the best arrangements possible.

Five rooms in 51 South William Street were accordingly hired. In September last the Public Health Committee took over the whole building at Chatham Row for its operations, and we were obliged to seek other premises. Temporary and by no means suitable accommodation was eventually found at 51 South William Street. It is worthy of note that when the Royal Irish Academy of Music was administering the fund only about 50 students were taught, but during our present Session over 300 students have been in attendance at the School. It is also worthy of note that 77 of our students obtained honours in the examinations conducted by the Royal Irish Academy of Music; that many of our students have obtained certificates qualifying them to teach musical subjects. and that others are qualifying for teaching: further, many students have obtained appointments in theatres, cinematograph theatres, and orchestras.

A typical report of this time was noted in the Minutes of the Technical Education Committee, 11th November 1923, by which time Martin Walton had joined the staff as a violin teacher:

We were gratified at a report from Mr Arthur Darley, Examiner (Leinster School of Music), on the violin classes for boys in our Municipal School of Music. He commented in favourable terms on the high standard of playing and the efficacy of the teaching, and stated that "it was a great pleasure to hear such good playing and to know that our boys and young men are showing such enthusiasm for the musical art".

Teaching Staff 1924-1925

The list of teachers for 1924-25 also showed the comparative rates for teachers in other areas:-

R. Power (*Tonic Sol-Fa*); A. T. Cullen, Mrs J. D. Brennan, Madame Donnelly, Miss A.G. Higgins, Miss E. Reidy (*Pianoforte*); Mrs Bloom-Pollock, M. Walton (*Violin*); Alex Burke (*Wood-wind and Brass Instruments*); L. Rowsome (*Uilleann Pipes*); T. O'Donoghue (*Irish War-Pipes*); Jos. O'Keeffe (*Fifes and Drums*).

The rates of remuneration per hour, previously reported and sanctioned are:-Introductory, 4s 6d; Trade Teachers, 5s (Assistants 4s. 6d); Commerce, Languages, 6s; Science, Mathematics and Engineering, 6s. (Assistants, 5s.); Domestic Economy, 4s. (Assistants, 3s); Art, 5s. Chief Teachers of special or advanced subjects are paid at the higher rates, viz; Art, 12s; Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, 10s; Accountancy, 7s; Commercial Law, 14s; Chemistry, 15s. The Teachers in the School of Music are paid generally at the rate of 3s per hour, except in the case of the Teacher of Tonic Sol-fa and Irish Pipes, who receive 7s 6d and 5s per hour, respectively.

Suspension of Dublin Corporation

Dublin Corporation was suspended from 1924 until 1930 and was replaced by three Commissioners during that time, with Mr P.J. Hernon dealing with Technical Education. This period, 1925, shows community involvement as well as co-operation with other technical schools including the Bolton Street School:-.

Mr O'Carroll intimated that he had made arrangements for the Technical Education Section of the Corporation to take a prominent part in the activities of Civic Week. The main features would be (i) an exhibition of students' work at Bolton Street Institute, the exhibition to be opened at 3.30 on Monday, the 19th September by Mr. Hernon, the orchestra of the School of Music to perform during the afternoon; (ii) a

display in the Industrial Pageant which is to be held on the Wednesday of Civic Week, for this purpose six lorries have been kindly lent by a number of prominent firms.

During 1928 the Chatham Row premises was still being used as a music school, but also as the City Laboratory and as a centre for St. Patrick's Baby Club.

Arthur Warren Darley First Director Municipal School of Music



Arthur Warren Darley

From its early beginnings Arthur Warren Darley had taken an interest in the Municipal School. He became part-time Director from 1928-29, and as a leading musician gave encouragement and status to the school.

A report by P.J. Hernon, City Commissioner, in May 1928, included a submission from Mr Arthur Darley, who had been asked to give his views on the organisation and development of the Municipal School of Music:- I recently visited the Municipal School of Music, Chatham Row, and inspected the various classrooms with a view to the extension of the very useful work carried on by the Technical Education Committee.

The existing classes appear to be conducted on individual lines, or rather, as private classes of the teachers, without any cohesion. To overcome this, it would appear desirable to secure the services of a Director (not necessarily a whole-time appointment) whose duty would be to supervise the work of the several teachers, interview students, allocate them to their classes, and conduct the orchestral practices.

At present instruction is given in Pianoforte, Tonic Sol-fa, Violin, Fife & Drums, Uilleann Pipes, Irish War-Pipes, Wood-wind and Brass Instruments. The latter class needs development and it might be necessary to appoint an assistant teacher. The formation of classes for the Violin and the Violoncello is of extreme importance, particularly when the development of a Municipal Orchestra is being considered. Teachers would be required to teach these instruments.

Voice production and Singing should be introduced to the School, as hitherto the people of Dublin have not had the opportunity of acquiring a musical education at a popular fee. Classes in these subjects should prove very attractive and would lead to the formation of a Choral Society to be run in conjunction with the Orchestra.

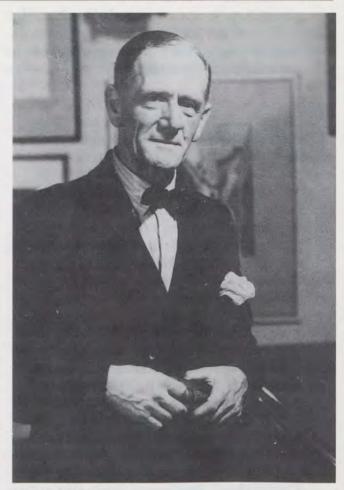
The Orchestra should be recruited from the students of the various classes, and it would be one of the duties of the Director to take complete charge of this section.

(Signed) Arthur Darley

John F. Larchet Director

When Arthur Darley died in 1929, John F. Larchet was appointed Director. He relinquished the post shortly afterwards on his appointment as Director of Music in the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. However he had carried on the School's work successfully, and maintained a strong support for the School thereafter.

In 1929 the Director's report gave details of Feis successes gained by unnamed students of



Dr John F. Larchet

three teachers (including the young Michael McNamara, who was to become Principal twenty-four years later).

Father Mathew Feis

Senior Violin Competition
1st Place (93 marks)
2nd Place (92 marks)
Very Highly
Commended (86 marks)
Junior Violin Competition
1st Place (92 marks)

Pupils of Mrs F. Bloom-Pollock Mr M. McNamara

Mrs F. Bloom-Pollock

Feis Ceoil

Ladies Vocal Trio Mixed Choir

Bass Solo Tenor Solo Baritone Solo Mezzo Soprano Solo

Male Quartette

All pupils of M. Jean Bertin

1st Prize
1st Prize and £10 to
Conductor
Silver Medal
Bronze Medal
Bronze Medal
Very Highly
Commended
Bronze Medal

As Director Dr Larchet supported his teachers in the very uncertain livelihood of part-time teaching, as this Minute of the Technical Education Committee shows:-

It was decided to increase to 4/- per hour the rate of remuneration to teachers in the Municipal School of Music who had formerly been paid at the rate of 3/- per hour, plus temporary additional remuneration. It was noted that all appointments during recent years in the School of Music had been at the rate of 5/- per hour, the opinion being that the previous scale was extremely low. This recommendation was made by both the late Mr Arthur Darley and Dr J. F. Larchet during their terms of office in the School of Music.

In connection with the choral and orchestral classes the need of a professional accompanist has been felt. It was, therefore, decided to appoint Madame Lucy Donnelly, one of the teachers of pianoforte, to act as accompanist in such classes as her services may be required, at the remuneration of 4/per hour.

Technical Instruction Commission 1925-1926



John Ingram, Chairman, Technical Instruction Commission.

Parallel with the ordinary events of the school during the last five years an important government commission was sitting to consider the future of technical education in Ireland. As part of the submission to the 1925-26 Technical Instruction Commission made by Commissioner P.J. Hernon, on behalf of the Technical Education Committee of the County Borough of Dublin, a review of the School of Music was presented, which is recorded in the Minutes of the Commission, held by the Department of Education:

At Chatham Row and South William St. are conducted the activities of the Municipal School of Music. Instruction is given in the violin, pianoforte, brass and reed wind instruments, Irish pipes, etc. The intention of the Corporation when founding the School of Music was to evolve an interest and training in instrumental music which would result in the formation of a Municipal Band or Orchestra.

The classes are badly accommodated and as yet there is no specialist in general control who could supervise and co-ordinate the work. Yet the number of students enrolled each term (two terms in the session) is usually about 340. Many students obtain employment in theatres, etc., and many successes are achieved each year in Feis and other public competitions.

A full report of the School's background with proposals to the Commission was also included. A review of the history of the School from its takeover in 1904 by the Technical Education Committee was given, showing the extent of the increase to 380 students in 1922-23 with a greatly expanded curriculum, which included Irish Uilleann Pipes, Irish War-Pipes, and Pianoforte.

It is to be noted that the nett expenditure increases with the greater enrolment of students; for instruction in music must be largely of an individual nature. Only a limited number of students can be taken in an hour; in addition, the fees are arranged on as low a scale as possible so as to be attractive to the working classes. For many years the School of Music was housed at the old Fire Brigade Station at Chatham Row, and not alone was this accommodation rent free but no charge was made for light, fuel, attendance or cleaning. Some three years ago that building

was taken over by the late Sir Charles Cameron for the activities of the Public Health Committee and for his work as Analyst. The result was that the School of Music had to be housed in extremely unsuitable quarters in South William Street, and was hampered by an additional expenditure of £100 per year for rent and £155 for cleaner and caretaker.

During the period in which the School of Music has been controlled by the Technical Education Committee it has furthered a most useful purpose; many students have won success and distinction in music, and a very considerable number have gained employment in theatres, picture-houses, etc. The success of the School makes us confident that with better accommodation and adequate financial support it would become a striking feature of the municipality, and would achieve a most useful purpose. It is our wish to broaden the programme, to give more time to the individual students (now less than hour per week), to co-ordinate the work as far as possible and eventually to create a Municipal Band and Orchestra, such as exist in other cities of much less size and importance. An

Endowment from the Corporation of a farthing in the pound (approximately £1,100) for musical instruction enables us to carry out our projects in full, including the encouragement of vocal music in Primary Schools and the revival of the Annual Competitions of Choirs.

We, therefore, recommend that the Municipal Council be requested to aid the efforts of the Technical Education Committee towards the development of musical training, and to make provision in the Estimates to the amount suggested in the last paragraph.

J.V.Lawless Chairman 19th January 1923

In the examination of witnesses, on 3rd November 1926, the Chairman, Mr John Good, T.D., a former long-time serving member of the Technical Education Committee of the City of Dublin, called on Commissioner J.T. Hernon to put forward the case for the Dublin Schools. A General Report on Technical Education was issued by this Commission which directly led to the 1930 Vocational Education Act.