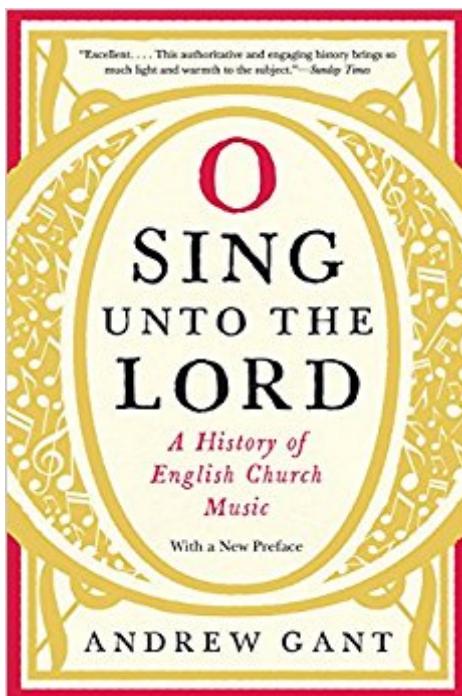


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# O Sing Unto The Lord: A History Of English Church Music



## Synopsis

For as long as people have worshipped together, music has played a key role in church life. With *O Sing unto the Lord*, Andrew Gant offers a fascinating history of English church music, from the Latin chant of late antiquity to the great proliferation of styles seen in contemporary repertoires. The ornate complexity of pre-Reformation Catholic liturgies revealed the exclusive nature of this form of worship. By contrast, simple English psalms, set to well-known folk songs, summed up the aims of the Reformation with its music for everyone. The Enlightenment brought hymns, the Methodists and Victorians a new delight in the beauty and emotion of worship. Today, church music mirrors our multifaceted worldview, embracing the sounds of pop and jazz along with the more traditional music of choir and organ. And reflecting its truly global reach, the influence of English church music can be found in everything from masses sung in Korean to American Sacred Harp singing. From medieval chorales to “Amazing Grace,” West Gallery music to Christmas carols, English church music has broken through the boundaries of time, place, and denomination to remain familiar and cherished everywhere. Expansive and sure to appeal to all music lovers, *O Sing unto the Lord* is the biography of a tradition, a book about people, and a celebration of one of the most important sides to our cultural heritage.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The whole time I was reading *O Sing Unto the Lord*, I was making copious notes to go and rediscover some forgotten anthem. Time after time, passing references to pieces I'd never sung

and loved brought me sharp pangs of nostalgia, followed by a sense of gratitude that this tradition has been such an important part of my musical world." (Nico Muhly, New York Times)"Gant's approach to church history via music works. With hindsight, it becomes easy to see how developments in monastic plainsong gave way to the spark of the Reformation, or to imagine how adding flourishes to cathedral choirs led to further exploration in religious art. The beauty of relating Christian history this way is that it broadens the focus to include the listening laity, not just the clergy or the church establishment." (Foreword Reviews)"What, fundamentally, is the function of church music, and why have clerical authorities often been suspicious of how much attention music receives? Gant engages these questions in intelligent, energetic prose....Because he focuses on representative composers and works, Gant's work feels more intimate than broad. It's a book about people and the songs that many of us don't even know that we know." (Publishers Weekly)

Andrew Gant is a lecturer at St Peter's College at the University of Oxford. A church musician, author, and composer, he was the organist, choirmaster, and composer at Her Majesty's Chapel Royal from 2000 to 2013. He is the author of *Christmas Carols: From Village Green to Church Choir*.

The book came so swiftly from the UK and is in pristine condition. I think anyone with an interest in Anglican Church Music would benefit from this reading; it was recommended by a young, living composer in a recent NYT article on choral music. That's high praise and was the reason I bought the book; that, and the fact that I do sing choral music and see it as something vibrant, alive and worthy of being shared.

An excellent study of the extraordinary body of English church music approachable for layman or musician alike. Recommended

Very interesting if a bit dense....not the easiest read but a wealth of information....recommended!!

This too was a gift and he loved it. Very informative.

A really fascinating book for those Anglophiles who are interested in the tradition of English church music.

Great musical book.

Excellent easy to read in particular the changeover of the religious troubled times and impact of secular music

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