

## William McElwee Biography

**William McElwee** is in demand as a choral conductor and vocal coach, praised for his ability to get outstanding vocalism from choirs and to stretch them musically. He is Director of Music at St. Mary of the Angels Church, Wellington, where he leads the St Mary of the Angels Choir and Schola Cantorum Youth Choir. He has recently returned to Wellington from the United Kingdom, where he was Musical Director of the Collegium Singers (Taunton) and the Yeovil Chamber Choir, Assistant Musical Director of Budleigh Salterton Male Voice Choir, Organist at Holy Family Church Honiton, Deputy Choral Scholar at Exeter Cathedral and Buckfast Abbey, and Singing Teacher at The Gryphon School in Sherborne, while maintaining a private teaching studio. He has previously been Acting Musical Director and Assistant MD of St James Church Choir in Lower Hutt, Acting Musical Director of St Peter's Church Choir in Wellington, and Accompanist and Assistant Musical Director of Northern Chorale. William trained as an operatic soloist at the New Zealand School of Music and New Zealand Opera School. Recent highlights of his performing repertoire are the bass solos in Haydn's *Creation*, Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *St Matthew Passion* and the title role in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Alongside his PGDip in Performance Voice, he holds a BSc in Mathematics and a BA in English and Latin with Honours in English Language.