



## Alumni Profile

### Career Timeline

1991 – 2005:  
Teaching RE and Music  
in schools in Kerry,  
Kildare, and Cork

1998 – Present  
Lecturer in Education at  
the School of Education,  
University College Cork



### Significant Achievements

2010: PhD in Theology (University of Wales Lampeter – Biblical Studies)

2013: Publication of *The Sacrifice of Isaac: The Reception of a Biblical Story in Music*.

2016: International book Award – *The Bible in Music*.

2017: Best Book Award – *The Bible in Music*.

2018: Publication of *Reading the Sacred Scriptures* (with Dr Fiachra Long)

### What do you currently do?

I am currently working as a Lecturer in Education at the School of Education at University College Cork. I have a responsibility for Religious Education, Philosophy of Education, Music Education and the Collaborative Seminar as part of the Professional Master of Education. I also supervise dissertations at Masters and PhD levels. I write books, book chapters, encyclopaedia articles and peer-reviewed papers. In recognition of my work and awards, RTÉ devoted a one-hour radio program to my book, *The Bible in Music*, co-authored with Professor John F.A. Sawyer in 2018. My work has been acknowledged by scholars in the field, among them Professor Walter Brueggemann in the book: *Opening Heaven's Floodgates* (ed. Jason Silverman).

### How do you think a degree from SPCM prepared you for today's modern world?

It gave me a rigorous foundation for my work as an academic at Third level, as an Irish Theologian, Musicologist, and as an author of award-winning books, book chapters, encyclopaedia articles, and peer-reviewed papers. I have secured a contract for my fourth book on

**Dr Siobhán Dowling Long**

Currently at: University College  
Cork

Position: Lecturer in Education

Graduated: 1989 & 1994

Degree(s): BATH 1989  
MTh 1994



Music Iconology in Religious Paintings to be published in 2022. Internationally, I am regularly invited to present papers and to conduct seminars in Germany, Belgium, and the UK.

What do you remember most from your time at St Patrick's College, Maynooth?

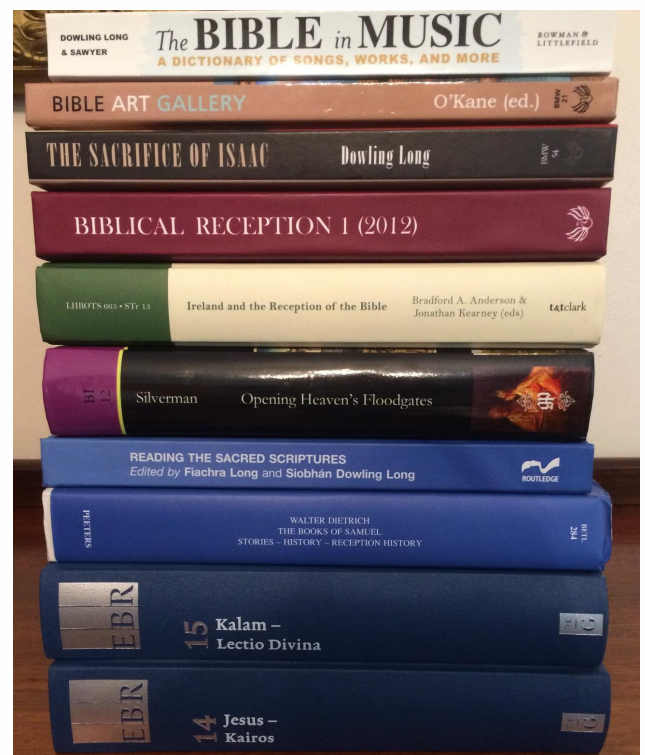
The study of Theology was rigorous, academic, and inclusive of religious experience. During my time there, I received excellent support from the Faculty of Theology. Coming from a disadvantaged background, I received financial support from the University by way of scholarships. In addition, I also received tremendous support from Fr Pat Hannon, Professor of Moral Theology, and from the late Fr Tom Marsh, Professor of Systematic Theology. I enjoyed extra-curricular activities such as the Choral Society directed by Professor Gerard Gillen, and I was a founding member of the Maynooth Chamber Choir directed by Dr John O'Keeffe and which won the Chamber Choir section of the Cork Choral Festival in 1988.

What advice would you give to someone who is considering a degree at SPCM?

You will definitely be going to the right place, especially if you want to make a positive contribution to the lives of other people. In my case, I wanted to make a difference to the lives of young people in an educational context, and the Joint Honours degree in Theology and Music certainly enabled me to fulfil my dream of becoming an Educator, a Theologian, and a Musicologist. Sometimes the path to achieving your dream might not be straightforward and may involve obstacles along the way. To those in such circumstances, I would say follow your dream and never give up. And remember this little rhyme: *Mirror Mirror on the Wall, I'll always get up after I fall. And whether I run, walk or crawl, I'll set my goals and achieve them all.*

And lastly, if you could describe your time at SPCM in a phrase or a few words, what would they be?

Rigorous and engaging academic content; Inspirational lecturers; Caring and supportive environment; Life-changing.



Above: Some of Siobhán's many books and book chapters

Below: Siobhán pictured at her book launch of Reading the Sacred Scriptures with co-editor Dr Fiachra Long

