

Arlington Board

David Mathers, Director
89mathers@cua.edu
703-393-2146

Richard Gibala, Diocesan
Music Coordinator
rickgibala@comcast.net
703-524-2815

Bob Malinowski, Treasurer
bob.malinowski@verizon.net
703-569-4092

Trudy Maher, Membership
trudychoirdir@aol.com
703-435-7544

Cindy Cummins, At Large
musicmin.stfrancis
@comcast.net
540-338-6381

Ann Carney, At Large
anncarney@aol.com
703-941-3814

Susan Trainor, Secretary
strainor@saintjn.org
703-860-1236

DC Board

Mary Beaudoin, Director
beaudoinm@stpetersolney.org
301-570-4952

MaryLu Hartsell, Planning
mlh827@comcast.net
301-330-7565

Ronald Stolk, Planning, &
Organist Liaison
rstolk@saintpatrickdc.org
202-347-2713

Tom Stehle, Koinonia
tvs@tidalwave.net
301-365-8311

Jeannette Oliver,
Secretary/Treasurer
jlo@umd.edu
301-405-5565

Asst. Directors/Recruitment:
Henry Bauer, Montgomery Co.
Hbauermus@aol.com
301-530-1550

Carol Connolly, Southern MD
juluka@mindspring.com
301-994-3959

Bill Culverhouse, D.C.
bculverhouse@
stmatthewscathedral.org
202-347-3215 x519

Joan Laskey, Pr. Georges Co.
laskeyjm@att.net
301-474-3921

Charlene Dorrian, Newsletter
mcdorrian@yahoo.com
301-384-5796

Michael White, Newsletter
whitem@sjeeparish.org
301-681-7663

Arlington Washington D.C. Newsletter



VOL. 12 NO. 4

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2007

PSALM OF AN ADVENT EAR

With prayerful pleas and Advent songs of longing,
I await the birth of God's Anointed One.
Come, O Gift of heaven's harmony, and attune my third ear,
the ear of my heart, so that I may hear,
just as Mary, faithful woman of Israel, heard.

O God, the time is short, these days are too few
as I prepare for the feast of the birth of Mary's son.
Busy days, crowded to the brim, with long lists of gifts to buy
and things that must be done.

Show to me, also your highly favored child,
how to guard my heart from noise and hurry's whirl,
so that I might hear your voice calling my heart to create an empty space
that might be pregnant with heaven's fire.

Quiet me within, clothe my body in peacefulness,
that your Word once again may take flesh -
this time, within me - as once it did in holy Mary, long Advent days ago.



ADVENT

from Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim by Edward Hays

CANTOR WORKSHOPS AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW

Level I - Saturday, January 12 - 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Level II - Sunday, January 13 - 1:30-3:30 p.m.

One session: \$10 member, \$15 non-member

Two sessions: \$15 member, \$20 non-member

** Accompanists can attend on Sunday at no charge.

To register: Send name, contact information (including e-mail) and payment to:
NPM/DC, 14727 Wexhall Terrace, Burtonsville, MD 20866

Registration is due January 4.

Door fee (additional \$5) will be charged for late registrations.

For further information please contact Bill Culverhouse at

bculverhouse@stmatthewscathedral.org.

Mission Statement: *The National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) fosters the art of musical liturgy. The members of NPM serve the Catholic Church in the United States as musicians, clergy, liturgists, and other leaders of prayer.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PEW

Another in a series of articles – for those who are new to Pastoral Music Ministry – focusing on the music used at Mass – no matter how large or small the assembly. Included in the series: An Introduction ... Who Makes Decisions & Parish Repertoire ... Mass Settings ... Psalms ... Hymns & Songs ... Triduum & the Parish ... Using Worship Aids Well ... Some Final Thoughts

Part 5 - Hymns & Songs

If we have already tackled the Mass Settings and Psalms that are to be core to the parish repertoire, looking at hymns and songs should be easy. Well, maybe that's an overstatement. One's person's favorite sends another into orbit. It's not just musical taste; we're dealing with a person's history, the warm fuzzies of childhood, important moments in a person's life, etc. This task requires us to be humble, to trust in the editors of hymnals, and to work toward consensus.

There are, of course, the basic judgments we all know from *Music in Catholic Worship*, the musical, liturgical and pastoral. There may be a piece that you'd love to hear at Mass, but if it doesn't measure up to those criteria, it should be reserved for other occasions – so long as it's not promoting heresy.

The major publishers do a good job of assigning hymns and songs to specific seasons. We should trust them. If we sing three or four pieces on fifty-two Sundays a year, we're singing 156-208 pieces a year, not counting holydays. There's ample opportunity to enrich the repertoire.

Do we plan according to the liturgical seasons? Can we identify the basic, golden oldies and ascertain if they are being sung at all the Masses so that our assemblies can come together for special occasions and know all the music? Are there holes in the parish repertoire? What hymns or songs best fill the void? What is being used at some Masses that should be used at all Masses? And finally, how can we set up a plan by which new music is selected, tested, and added to the repertoire?

It's good to note that so much of beloved Christian hymnody is based on folk tunes, some centuries old. That realization helps traditional musicians sing folk songs and folk musicians sing hymns. A good tune is a good tune – no matter its origin!

Some may fear that we're trying to make all the Masses sound the same, and many parishes cherish a diversity of worship styles. First, considering the various talents we bring to our liturgies, there's little danger of us all sounding alike. Second, establishing a parish repertoire doesn't mean that all the hymns & songs are the same at all the Masses. There will be variety; we're only guaranteeing that there is a core repertoire for the parish.



ADVENT—THE LONELY SEASON?

Musicians often sing the praises of Advent music with its wonderful texts and haunting melodies. They lament that we have but four weeks to enjoy it. Not only that, the season is usually lost to the “big” feast it precedes. In fact, if people didn't go to church on the four Sundays in Advent, they'd never even hear of the season.

As we celebrate this Advent of '07, please take a few minutes to let us know how you make Advent special in your parish?

Just a few questions to answer:

1. What Advent hymns and songs have become a tradition in your parish?
2. How is your church decorated for the season?
3. Are there events celebrating Advent outside of weekend Masses?

Please send your answers to mcdorrian@yahoo.com or call 301-384-5796.

CANTOR EXPRESS, WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?

I've been a Cantor for years, what could I possibly have to learn? Why should I budget money to send my music ministers to a Cantor Express Institute? Free time is limited, why should I go on a Cantor Express Weekend?

These are the questions I was asked when I registered for an NPM Cantor Express Institute Weekend at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

I have been a Cantor for more than a decade; I attend local workshops, NPM Conventions, read up on my craft and ministry, and consider myself one who strives for excellence in liturgy. Some may consider me a liturgical geek, although, I prefer the term "career cantor." I have been formed and groomed by well-educated liturgist/ music directors and a pastor who valued and expected educated ministers. Having gone through the process of earning my Basic Cantor Certificate (BCC), I wondered what I might learn from Cantor Express. I decided to go, realizing that if I truly believe in giving my communities the best I have to offer, then I owe it to my ministry to find out what Cantor Express has to offer. And, the results are in.

No matter what your education, experience, or time in ministry, Cantor Express has something for you.

For you considering that leap of faith, and for you "doubting Thomas" types, here is a breakdown of the events I experienced. I will base my feedback on this particular experience as facilitators and facilities vary by location.

Who goes to Cantor Express? There were new cantors looking for solid foundation, cantors returning to the institute for another great experience, cantors of a decade or more, and music directors looking to better support the musicians of their parish. Each day included a voice lesson with helpful information for those

with limited voice training, and opportunities for others to add new exercises to their warm-up regimens and remember the importance of those extra 10 minutes before Mass.

We attended lectures on the historical origins of the cantor ministry, psalm study and preparation, church documents and the role of cantor, and how to best use our role as leaders of prayer to affect an assembly at a challenging level.

In small groups, we each had 20 minutes to receive individual feedback regarding our presentation. Beginners received well-worded feedback on being comfortable in front of an assembly, vocal production, diction and gestures. Experienced cantors received objective feedback on bad habits all of us pick up over time and new insights on current thinking and technique. We were coached on how to break down walls that may be keeping us from truly engaging with an assembly and connecting more deeply with our text. We dealt with honing our natural skills for effective ministry. Break out sessions included interactive learning opportunities in sight singing and a chance to practice a language foreign to post-Vatican II babies: chant.

Breaks and meal times encouraged questions and story sharing; night prayer settled us after a busy day. After hours conversations gave opportunity for more in depth discussions about practical issues we face as pastoral musicians and impromptu goal setting.

Refreshed and motivated, I returned with a deeper, fuller understanding of my role as cantor. I have been validated that I am more than a singer, and that I have an awesome opportunity and responsibility to embrace my role as catechist, minister of hospitality, minister of the word, and leader of prayer. I am proud to say, "For more information on Cantor Express or the BCC, feel free to contact me, Catherine Benskin, Career Cantor, Liturgical Geek" – catherine@catherinebenskin.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

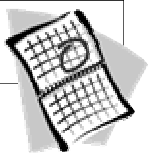
Saturday/Sunday, January 12/13 - **Cantor Workshops** at St. Matthew's Cathedral – Details on page 1.

Saturday, January 26, 12 - 3 p.m. - **Southern Maryland Neighborhood Meeting** on Breton Bay

Tuesday, February 5 - **Shrove Tuesday Lunch** - hosted by the Arlington Chapter

Saturday, February 9 - **Lenten Retreat** with Sr. Sheila Brown R.S.M. at Our Lady of Mattaponi Retreat Center in Upper Marlboro, MD

Friday/Saturday, April 11/12 - **Charles Callahan Organ Recital and Pastoral Musicians Workshop** at St. Thomas More Cathedral in Arlington, VA



NPM/DC
14727 WEXHALL TERRACE
BURTONSVILLE, MD 20866

- * Saturday, December 8 at 1 p.m. – **SONGS AND IMAGES OF THE VIRGIN** – Join Dr. Claudia Rousseau, art historian, and the Cathedral Schola Cantorum for a lecture-performance exploring images of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Renaissance painting and choral music – North Conference Room immediately after the noon Mass in the Cathedral – Presider: Archbishop Wuerl. Open to the public; voluntary donation. St. Matthew's Cathedral, 1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036. (202) 347-3215. Metro: Dupont Circle or Farragut North (Red Line) or Farragut West (Blue and Orange Lines).
- * Friday, December 14 at 7 p.m. - **A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS** will be presented at St. John Neumann Parish in Gaithersburg.
- * Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 pm - **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** featuring the Folk Group, the Adult Choir, and the Bells of Blessed Sacrament. Prepare for the Christmas season with an evening of musical favorites, including carols for all. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, 1427 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302 - 703 998-6100 ext. 13
- * Sunday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. – **LESSONS AND CAROLS** – Join the St. Matthew's Festival Singers for this beloved annual service of Scripture readings, seasonal carols, and favorite hymns. This year's program features additional reflections by the Church Fathers drawn from the Liturgy of the Hours. St. Matthew's Cathedral, 1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036.
 - * Monday, December 24 at 5 p.m. – **The Cathedral Contemporary Choir** will sing prelude music at 5:00pm before the 5:30 Contemporary Christmas Eve Mass
 - * Monday, December 24 at 11 p.m. – **The Cathedral Schola Cantorum**, an hour of seasonal music before the Midnight Mass for Christmas.
- * Friday, January 11 at 8 p.m. - **AN EVENING OF CHAMBER MUSIC** - Pianist John McCrary will be joined by violinist Sonya Hayes, cellist Charles Powers, and horn player Rick Lee. The concert will feature piano trios by Beethoven and Dvorak and the Horn Trio by Brahms. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, 1427 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302 - 703 998-6100 ext. 13.

Need to Update Your E-mail Address?

Please send the change to Jeannette Oliver - jlo@umd.edu.