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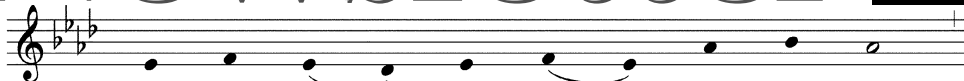
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Arlington Washington D.C. Newsletter



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VOL. 12 NO. 9 CHAPTER NEWSLETTER MAY 2008

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE SUMMER CONVENTIONS!

Don't Miss the Chapter Discount Deadline!

Your completed registration form and fee must be sent to the coordinator before May 15.
(All the forms with one check will be sent to the national office on May 20.)

Mary Beaudoin
10114 Portland Place
Silver Spring MD 20901-2116

The details ...

1. You must be a member of NPM (national) as well as one of the local chapters (NPM/DC or NPM Arlington). Either or both of these can be parish memberships.
2. You may choose any one of the regional conventions.
3. The registration fee for members is \$230 (plus any add-ons you have chosen).
4. Checks are made payable to NPM/DC. (For Arlington folks too – the DC treasurer handles this money.)

- Please look for details about the Joint Chapter Dinner during the New Brunswick Convention.
- To further inquire about chapter reservations, send an e-mail to: beaudoinm@stpetersolney.org.
- If you have not received a registration form or for more information, contact the NPM National Office at www.npm.org.



JUNE 30–JULY 3
East Brunswick, New Jersey
In the Midst of Change . . .
“Jesus Christ, the Same:
Yesterday, Today, and Forever” (Heb 13:8)



JULY 8–11
Cleveland, Ohio
“Do Not Let Your Hearts Be
Troubled or Afraid!”
(John 14:27b)



AUGUST 5–8
Los Angeles, California
“One Body, One Spirit in Christ”
(Eucharistic Prayer III)

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.*

DIRECTOR'S CORNER *from DC*

Caught Up in Your Beauty

In the spring as I see flowers pouring from trees and “busting out” from bushes, my mind turns to musing on beauty. As musicians we are doubly blessed with awareness of beauty as sound complements the sights in nature. And fortunately, the beauty of music seldom comes with allergic reactions.

Recently I have been reading Alice Parker's book *The Anatomy of Melody: Exploring the Single Line of Song*. Parker writes, “We are living in a culture that doesn't value melody, one that seems to have lost touch with this primal means of expression. We are surrounded by sounds so insistent, so varied in intent and clangor, that we've forgotten how to listen to a single line.”

Melody – the coming together of text, rhythm, and pitch to form a tune – has in itself plenty of beauty to hold our attention. And, for most of us, hearing a single beautiful line of music is a welcome relief from the cacophony and competing voices that surround us in our daily lives. I think it is similar to the still, small voice – the voice of God – that Elijah hears (1 Kings 19:12) after the mighty wind, the earthquake, and the fire have passed.

I am often reminded of the power of a beautiful melody when working with the children's choir I direct. After struggling for weeks to master singing in harmony, the children join forces into a lovely unison sound, expressing the text simply and from their hearts. The harmony becomes a fitting foil to expose the beauty of the unadorned tune. Text, rhythm, and pitch are all we need to hear, because through them the beauty's truth finds a direct route to a deep place in our hearts.

The season of Easter is almost over. Ordinary Time begins on May 12 and lasts for six months and 17 days! I think I will use this time to concentrate on the simple, profound, unadorned melody, in itself and as a building block for all music. This is not a small task. Think of how difficult it is for a choir to sing chant well. Inaccurate pitch, uneven vowel sounds, imperfect rhythm, and unpleasant tone cannot be hidden. And, without the right stress, dynamics, phrasing, legato, and articulation the chant does not live. Of course, this is true of any melody and of any music.

Saint Augustine makes it clear that God is the beauty we seek: “Late have I loved you, O Beauty ever ancient, ever new, late have I loved you!” Through the power and simplicity of a perfect melody, God reaches out to us, and we are caught up in the beauty of God.

Mary Beaudoin

NPM/DC Chapter Director

REMINDERS

- * Newsletter deadline - 15th of the month. Please send items to beaudoinm@stpetersolney.org
- * If you would rather receive the newsletter electronically, please e-mail your request to: jlo@umd.edu.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

National Pastoral Musicians exists to serve us – the pastoral musicians on whom sung worship depends. It serves best when the needs and interests of its members are known and addressed

So – what's on your mind? What program(s) would you like to see your local chapter or the combined chapters of Arlington and DC schedule for the 2008-2009 season

(September -May)?

Any of the Board Members listed on page one will be glad to receive an e-mail with your comments and suggestions.

SPEAKING OF THE BOARDS ... It's safe to assume no pastoral musician has the free time to take on something new. BUT, as the old saying goes: “If you want to get something done, ask a busy person to do it.”

So – busy people – is it time for you to consider serving on the Board of the Arlington or DC Chapter? Maybe you just might be interested if you knew more about what's involved. Please let someone know. It's OK to call, in case you don't want anything in writing that might be construed as a commitment.

BY THE WAY ...

Busy musicians didn't flood us with ideas on celebrating the Triduum. It's not too late.

Something you do or music your assembly sings may be just the missing link in another parish's celebration. Please e-mail your ideas to mcdorrian@yahoo.com ... jot them down and mail them to NPM Newsletter, 15300 Graaf Place, Silver Spring, MD 20905 ... or call 301-384-5796 and tell us about them.

We did learn that a parish using “Litany of the Saints/*Stand Firm*” during the Sprinkling Rite throughout the Easter season is being very well received. It is arranged by John L. Bell & Marty Haugen, in the collection *Up From the Waters*, and published by GIA Publications.

APRIL CONCERT & WORKSHOP REVIEW

DR. CHARLES CALLAHAN COMES TO TOWN



Many of us know Dr. Charles Callahan through the contribution he has made in his musical compositions for organ, choir, and instruments. He has collaborated with many of this country's leading conductors as both composer and organist, and has worked with noted stage and screen personalities in both theater and the concert hall. Orchestras, choirs, and soloists all over the world have performed compositions by Dr. Callahan.

Dr. Callahan is known for his unique ability to use music as "color." That was so evident in the recital he played at St. Thomas More Cathedral on Friday, April 11. He used the vast array of organ stops to "color" pieces of music ranging from Bach's "Passacaglia and Fugue" to several of his own compositions, including a delightful piece called: "Fanfares and Riffs."

In attendance at the recital on April 11 was an 9 year old student from a parish school in the Arlington Diocese. This young man is studying piano, and aspires to play the organ as soon as he can reach the pedals! He came to the recital with his Mom to meet Dr. Callahan, who wrote a unison setting of "A Prayer of St. Paul," a favorite piece of his, which he learned in his parish youth choir. This young man couldn't wait to go back to tell the other choristers in his choir that he met Dr. Callahan! There is hope for the future of church music!

Rick Gibala



THE SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

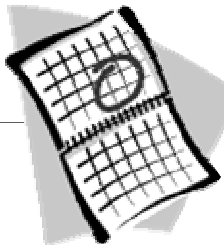
1. Charles Callahan spoke on Saturday, April 12 to an attentive and appreciative group of organists gathered in the music loft of St. Thomas More Cathedral. Dr. Callahan's presentation was informal, good-humored, and helpful. He offered observations and suggestions from his own experience as a working organist, choir director and composer, alternating his remarks with performances of several short compositions. While many of these selections were technically simple, they were melodically and harmonically interesting and appealing. Dr. Callahan explained that his intent is to provide parish organists with literature that is attractive, appropriate for liturgical use, and easy to prepare. Copies of Dr. Callahan's solo organ pieces and collections were available to purchase at the end of the workshop, and attendees acted on this opportunity to take home music they had heard and enjoyed that morning.

Audrey Fenner

2. "The Voice Alive: A Vocal Workshop on Holistic Musicianship" was presented by Tim Reno, Director of Music at Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville, MD. As singers, we all know that our entire body is our musical instrument, and Tim encouraged us to "sing from our toes to our head." He gave us some background on the Dalcroze philosophy that one needs to experience the music in order to express it. Tim illustrated this for us through a series of breathing, posture and vocal exercises that incorporated small and large muscle movement. We learned that by warming up our entire bodies with stretching and gentle movement, we are actually warming up our voices simply by getting our blood flowing to our vocal folds. Additionally, our bodies are preparing to sing by becoming fully engaged, yet relaxed. These warm-ups will become part of our "muscle memory" and they will become part of our singing, resulting in a richer, more relaxed and fuller tone. We had an opportunity to practice this with Tim. Concentrating on fluid, pendulum-like movement, we sang and moved (danced?!) around the floor. The difference in sound was immediately audible.

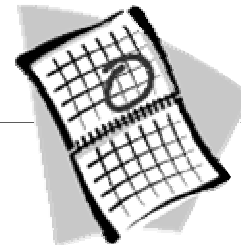
Holistic Musicianship includes our bodies, senses, brains and souls. With these we experience, express and communicate our music. Tim gave us some wonderful tools to help us grow in our ministry as liturgical singers, who communicate the Word of God and pray through song.

Trudy Maher



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for these upcoming events ...



TWO UPCOMING CONCERTS AT **ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL**

9601 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda MD 20814.

A free-will offering is taken up during the concert and a reception follows.

Sunday May 18, 2 p.m. — **The Psalter: Our Common Prayer Book.**

Sunday, June 1, 2 p.m. — **Julliard Reunion Concert;** Artists of Today and Tomorrow.

Saturday, May 3, 7:30 p.m. - **Organ Dedication Recital at Holy Redeemer.** Four organ performance majors from Catholic University, Olivia Buthod, Leon Griesbach, Jonathan Hellerman, and Anthony Nardino, all graduating seniors, will present a varied and exciting program. The recital celebrates the long awaited dedication of the installation of the new organ at Holy Redeemer - 9705 Summit Avenue, Kensington, MD.

Friday, May 9, 8 p.m. - **Pentecost Concert** - Celebrate with joyful music at this concert featuring the Blessed Sacrament Choir and Festival Orchestra and the Bells of Blessed Sacrament. The program will include *Magnificat* by John Rutter and *Veni Creator Spiritus* by Carl Johengen. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, 1427W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA. For information call 703 998-6100 ext. 13.

Sunday, May 10, 7:30 p.m. - **Mother's Day Concert** by the Westminster concert Bell Choir, directed by Kathleen Ebling-Thorne, at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More, 3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, VA.

Friday, May 16, 7:30 p.m. — **"Rise Up And Sing"** presented by St. Francis de Sales Music Ministry (Purcellville, VA). The evening will feature the Schubert "Mass in G" in a concert of music performed a combined choir of singers from local parishes. The concert will be directed by noted composer Christopher Walker. Admission is free! Goodwill offering at the door. Please call Cindy Cummins (540-338-6381) for more info.

Saturday, May 31 — **Organ Recital** by Michael Burkhardt at St. John Neumann in Gaithersburg.

CANTOR WORKSHOP CONDUCTED BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

Saturday, May 17 - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. John Neumann Church, 11900 Lawyers Rd., Reston, VA
Registration Fee: \$10 (lunch provided). Mail form & check (payable to St. John Neumann)
to the above address - attention: Pat Gilbertson. For further details, please call Pat (703-860-6150).

Name _____ E-Mail Address _____

Phone _____ Parish _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Arlington Washington D.C.
Newsletter



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<http://www.npmdc.org>

