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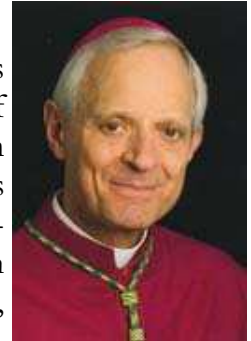
CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007

EVENING PRAYER WITH ARCHBISHOP WUERL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 7:30 p.m.

Each November, pastoral musicians across the United States gather to sing, pray, and socialize in honor of St. Cecilia, patron of musicians. This year we will gather at Immaculate Conception Church, a jewel of 19th-century architecture with fine acoustics and its original 1879 organ. Archbishop Donald Wuerl is scheduled to preside at Evening Prayer. A social will follow in the parish hall and will feature treats from NPM Cookbook: With Lyre, Harp, and Spatula. Bring your clergy, choir members, and parishioners!



For more info: Mary Beaudoin, beaudoinm@stpetersolney.org.

The Church is located at 8th and N Streets, NW. **Some** street parking available.
Metro: GREEN/YELLOW — Mount Vernon Square/7th Street Convention Center.



There are no tickets or charges for this event, so we have no way of knowing how many of you will join us. An r.s.v.p. (301-384-5796 or mcdorrian@yahoo.com) would be a great help! Many thanks.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- * **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 Workshop at St. Thomas More Cathedral in Arlington, VA

Please watch future newsletters for details.

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.*

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER ... FROM DC

The Pastoral Musician as Communicator

The action of communicating within the liturgy is not something added on to the sacred ritual. Rather, our words, music, speaking, and singing are part of the sacred mystery. Music and texts function as effective symbols and are integral to the celebration of liturgy.

As bodily beings made in God's image, we acknowledge and celebrate God's graciousness and love by expressive communication. Our bodies with their senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste make it possible for us to give and receive information in the form of thoughts and emotions. Pastoral musicians have the important role of directing the musical communication within the liturgy. And so, it is vitally important that pastoral musicians be good communicators.

Perhaps you have had the pleasure of meeting Mary and Bill Graham, whose organization, the Word of God Institute, trains lectors in the art of proclaiming Scriptural texts to the assembly. One of the important points the Grahams make in their workshops is the difference between being expressive and being a good communicator.

A musician or artist caught up in his/her own experience might be very expressive, but might not be communicating well. It only takes one person to be expressive, but communication can only happen when

there is connection between two or more people. Our expressive singing, conducting, and playing may or may not be effective communication. We can always learn to become better communicators.

Borrowing from the Grahams, I have come up with a list to help me as I select and prepare music for liturgy:

1. Put into words the reasons you are using this piece of music (hymn, song, anthem, instrumental solo, improvisation, etc.)
2. Determine what you want to communicate to the assembly through this piece of music.
3. Practice for musical accuracy and effective expressiveness.
4. At the moment you play, sing, or conduct the piece, concentrate on sharing the thought, idea, and emotion you want to communicate. If you spend most of your time remembering how you did it in practice you are not communicating -- you are practicing in public..
5. Afterwards, don't simply ask, "Did I have it?" but also, "Did they get it?"

Of course, communication also involves speaking the same language, knowing those with whom you want to communicate, and learning from one another. Good communication takes hard work and hard prayer.

Mary Beaudoin
NPM/DC Chapter Director

THE ART OF LITURGICAL IMPROVISATION

On Monday evening, October 1, twenty-seven organists and friends came together in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The evening began with time for getting acquainted and then sharing a brief evening prayer.

Following prayer, Dr. Peter Latona, the basilica's music director, guided the group in a presentation of "The Art of Liturgical Organ Improvisation." He began by making the point that improvisation is an integral part of being a musician. By using the tools of melody, harmony, textures ("movement"), simple forms, and progression techniques, anyone can learn the art of improvisation. As one organist said, "Peter's presentation made improvisation seem very approachable and not at all scary."

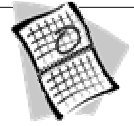
Following the presentation, Peter led attendees on a tour of the Shrine organs. It was fascinating to see the organs up close and to learn about the work done on them. It was also interesting to learn about the acoustical issues presented by the size of the Upper Church building and the placement of the organs. Hearing the instruments at close range was quite exciting.

A particularly lively group finished the evening with a late night dinner at Ellis Island in the Brookland area of the District near the Basilica.

Thanks go to Peter Latona for his fine presentation and playing, and to Ronald Stolk for coordinating this event.



THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER



- ... Friday, November 2, 7 p.m. — St. John Neumann's choir will sing "**Requiem**" by **Gabriel Faure** at a Mass celebrated in memory of all the parishioners who died during the past year. Members of the families of the deceased will light a candle for each of them. The church is located at 9000 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD.
- ... Friday, November 2, 7:30 p.m. — **Service of Remembrance.** The deceased of our parish community will be remembered in prayer and music at our All Souls Day service. The Blessed Sacrament Adult Choir and Festival Orchestra will present the Requiem by John Rutter. The Bells of Blessed Sacrament will also be featured. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community is located at 1427 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA. 703 998-6100 x 13
- ... Sunday, November 4 at 3 p.m. — The Annual **Concert of Remembrance** will be presented at Our Lady of Mercy Church, 9200 Kentsdale Rd, Pottomac, MD. OLOM Combined Choirs and Schola and String Orchestra will feature John Tavener's Funeral Ikos, Samuel Barber's Adagio for Strings, John Bell's O Christ You Wept, Maurice Ravel's Pavanne pour une infante defunte, and Anthems by Rutter, Clemmens, Schalk and Joncas. Admission: Free. Duration: 55 minutes For more information: tstehle@olom.org
- ... Thursday, November 8 at 6:15 p.m., immediately following the 5:30 Mass - the **Schola Cantorum of St. Matthew's Cathedral will present Maurice Durflé's Requiem.** The Cathedral is located at 1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW, Washington, DC and is conveniently located near the Dupont Circle, Farragut North, and Farragut West Metro stations. There is also a public parking garage across the street from the Cathedral. The concert is open to the public, and a voluntary collection will be taken up to support the Cathedral's music ministry.
- ... Saturday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. - **Catholic University Chamber Chorus & Orchestra**, Dr. Leo Nestor, Conductor, will present a concert as part of the 2007-2008 Music Series at St. Ann's Church, 4001 Yuma Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016 - www.stanndc.org. St. Ann's Church is one block south of the Tenleytown/AU Metro Red Line
- ... Saturday, November 17 & Sunday, November 18 are this year's dates for the **Fifth Annual Combined Choir Weekend.** The Adult Mixed Choir and Contemporary Choir from St. John the Evangelist in Warrenton VA will join with the All Saints Contemporary Choir from Manassas VA for Mass Saturday 5:30 p.m. They will then celebrate Mass in Warrenton on Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.
- ... Sunday, November 18 at 7 p.m. **An annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Concert** will be held at St. John Neumann, Gaithersburg with choirs from Covenant United Methodist Church, Kehilat Shalom, Church of Jesus Christ of Later-Day Saints, and St. John Neumann Catholic Church.

LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER

Friday, December 14: A Festival of Carols will be presented at St. John Neumann Parish in Gaithersburg.

Saturday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m. - The annual **Christmas Concert** at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community in Alexandria.

"THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER ..."

... "the happier we'll be!" goes the old song. This is especially true for pastoral musicians, and we don't have to wait for big chapter events. For instance ...

1. Twenty-two musicians from Our Lady's at Medley's Neck and St. Aloysius Parishes in Leonardtown, MD gathered at Ann Duchesne's home on September 29 for a Choir Members Workshop facilitated by Susan England, Abby Sweeney and Georgia Harvey. They focused on techniques for beginners as well as experienced singers.

2. Board members of the Arlington Chapter are contacting parish musicians inviting them to come together to meet and discuss issues of mutual concern. Contact persons for the deaneries are: 1-Rick Gibala, 2-Bob Malinowski, 3-Cindy Cummins, 4-Susan Trainor, 5-David Mathers, 6-Trudy Maher. You can learn what deanery your parish is in by looking in the diocesan directory. It's downloadable from the diocesan website at <http://www.arlingtondiocese.org>.

3. Our need for support from other pastoral musicians is a prime reason for joining, not only the local chapters, but the National Association, as well. NPM helps you keep up-to-date on your ministry. It offers practical advice. It brings you new ideas and offers the support of other professionals involved in the ministry of music.

NPM is a comprehensive organization. It's for Musicians - *For those Responsible for Music Ministry, Clergy, Choir Directors, Music Educators, Campus Ministers, Military Musicians, Organists, Ministers Serving African American Communities, Hispanic Musicians, Cantors, Seminary Music Educators, Youth Ministers and Ensemble Musicians.*

Visit the website (www.NPM.org) to learn the many types of memberships available, and view the great photos from the convention in Indianapolis.

JOINING YOUR LOCAL NPM CHAPTER

Perhaps it's slipped your mind that it's time to bring your membership up to date. The cost is minimal.

- * Individual for one year: \$15 (\$10 for students)
- * Individual for three years: \$40
- * Parish for one year: \$55 (up to 5 newsletters - \$8 each additional member)
- * Parish for three years: \$145 (up to 5 newsletters - \$20 each additional member)

Forms for the DC Chapter may be downloaded from website: www.npmdc.org.

Arlington musicians may contact Trudy Maher at trudychoirdir@aol.com.

REMINDER

1. Be sure to check out NPM/DC at www.npmdc.org.
2. Some folks choose to receive this newsletter via e-mail (and it is on-line at the NPM/DC website). If you would rather not receive a hard copy in the mail (saving paper and postage), simply let us know (301-384-5796 or mcdorrian@yahoo.com), and we'll comply with your wishes.
3. Are we finding you in cyberspace? If you are not receiving NPM notices via our global e-mails, perhaps we don't have your current e-mail address. We frequently have some returned. If your e-mail address has changed, if you've just joined the e-mailing world, or if you've never chosen to hear from us via the computer but have changed your mind, please send your address to jlo@umd.edu.

BURTONSVILLE, MD 20866
14727 WEXHALL TERRACE
NPM/DC

ATTENTION DMMD MEMBERS

... and all those responsible for the music in a church. Join us for luncheons once a month where we meet to discuss topics pertinent to our ministry and to socialize. We either meet at a member's church or home where they provide the meal and everyone contributes to the cost of the meal or we go to a restaurant. If you have not been receiving e-mail, please e-mail Henry Bauer at Hbauermus@aol.com to be added to the list. Also if you have any topics that you would like for us to discuss, please send them to Henry Bauer.

ACCOMPANISTS NEEDED

- * **St. Jane Frances de Chantal Catholic Church** (1900 families), 9701 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814. Salary: \$16,000 (plus additional weddings and funerals to share with Director of Music). 2 Masses (extra Christmas/Holy Week/Feast Days) - 1 Rehearsal Sept.-May (Adult Choir 40-45, 4 paid section leaders), 8-10 hrs/wk., continuing education fund; 2 wks vacation. 2 manual Rodgers electronic organ, 7ft Baldwin Grand Piano, excellent sight-reading ability, improvising, familiarity with Catholic liturgy and classical and non-classical styles of music. **(Available Immediately)**
Contact: Henry Bauer, Director of Liturgy and Music, 301-530-1550,
henry.bauer@stjanedechantal.org.
- * **Our Lady's Catholic Church** in Medley's Neck, Leonardtown, MD. For more information and to schedule an interview please call Susan England at 301-475-9637
- * **St. Andrew by the Bay, Annapolis**, to accompany a Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8 a.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m. Mass on piano, beginning November 3-4. If you could cover one or more of these Masses, please contact Kathleen DeJardin at 410-974-4366 extension 109 or at kdejardin@gmail.com.