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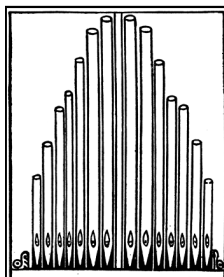
VOL. 12 NO. 2

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

THE FALL SEASON WITH NPM

OCTOBER 1, 7 p.m. — *The Art of Liturgical Organ Improvisation*



Join us for an exciting evening at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. In the Crypt Church, Peter Latona, the Basilica's Director of Music, will lead a workshop on improvisation in the liturgy, using the beautiful Schudi organ, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. A tour of the Shrine organs will follow. For more info, contact Ronald Stolk, rstolk@saintpatrickdc.org. The Shrine is located at Michigan Avenue and Fourth Streets, NE. Ample parking available. Metro: RED — Brookland/CUA.

NOVEMBER 30, 7:30 p.m. — *Vespers with Archbishop Wuerl*

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.

ARLINGTON DEANERY MEETINGS

The Arlington Diocese is divided geographically into six deaneries. Over the coming weeks, Chapter Board members will be contacting parish music directors with a view towards making the chapter more responsive to the needs of all of our pastoral musicians, members and potential future members. Members of each deanery will be invited 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>.

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 ARLINGTON

"Has the Church always been like this?"

On occasion I will be using this column to explore unexpected ways the Church has adapted her mode of being in the world, of being incarnated, to the circumstances of the society in which she finds herself. For example, the way the Eucharist is celebrated has regularly been adapted to the needs and customs of those who make up the Church of a particular place.

In the first centuries of the Church, the Eucharist was usually celebrated in homes. The model was, of course, the Last Supper, which took place in the spare room of a house in Jerusalem as part of a Jewish festive meal. Around the year 42, St. Paul depicts the Church of Corinth as gathering in their homes to celebrate the Eucharist (1 Corinthians, 10 and 12).

In the 1930's archeologists discovered the remains of a house near the ancient town of Dura-Europos in what is now Iraq. They found evidence which indicated that the

house was used by a Christian community for its liturgical assemblies beginning around the year 200. The building had a raised area at one end of a large room, an adult-size baptismal font and Christian wall paintings.

In Rome, wealthy Church members donated their houses to be converted into churches. These are the famous titular churches of Rome. Though founded before the year 200, many are still functioning parishes.

Change came when Christianity became an accepted religion of the Roman Empire in the 320's and huge numbers of converts dramatically increased the size of local Christian communities. The Church adjusted to the new political and social situation: the era of home churches came to an end as the government, as well as wealthy citizens, encouraged and provided funds for the building of large public basilicas.

David Mathers

NPM/Arlington Chapter Director

INDIANAPOLIS 2007: "THAT ALL MAY BE ONE"

It's always interesting to learn what other NPM chapters around the country (and the world?) are doing. Here are some notes from the July Convention.

Chapter Directors' Chew & Chat

Chapter directors gather for lunch during NPM conventions to meet and greet, to encourage each other, and to share ideas on what works (and sometimes what doesn't work) in their chapters. Among the projects mentioned in Indianapolis were:

— Sessions on:

- * reading new music
- * how to read music. (There were two tracks, and they met once a week for four weeks.)

— Workshops on:

- * the basics of singing.
- * skills for ministry
- * working toward certification
- * using the FINALE computer program

— Events included:

- * a blessing of musicians (around St. Cecilia's Day)
- * "munchin' luncheons" for fellowship
- * a Taize monthly prayer for peace
- * clergy-musician dinners
- * a yearly day of Skill & Spirituality
- * awards night for Youth – 8-12th grade
- * using criteria for choosing music
- * choir camp (beginning of choir year)

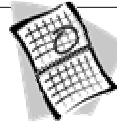
— Importance was given to:

- * contacting parish priests about NPM activities-using outside resources
- * of using e-mails to keep everyone up-to-date
- * looking for sources to sponsor scholarships, especially for youth

NPM Chapters exist to serve you. If any of the above appeals to you, please contact one of the Board members listed on page one to express your interest.



A FULL FALL CALENDAR



- ... Friday, October 5 - 8 p.m. — **The Gospel Choir of St. Augustine Catholic Church**, Washington D.C., will give a concert at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church, 9701 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD, as part of the church's Music Ministry Scholarship Fundraiser. A free-will offering will be taken at the door. Proceeds from the concert will assist in providing scholarships to the volunteer and professional music ministers of parish for their continuing education. For more information contact Janice Lent at 202-586-6623 (days) or jlent0322@aol.com.
- ... Friday, October 5 - 8 p.m. — **An Evening of Piano Duets.** Director of Music John McCrary will be joined by pianists Michelle Kunz and Janet Maalouf in a concert of piano duets. The concert, including Debussy's Petit Suite, Ibert's Histoires, and national dances by Brahms, Dvorak & Grieg, will be presented at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, 1427 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA - 703 998-6100 x 13
- ... Wednesday, October 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m. — **GIA Choral Reading Workshop** - Choir Directors: mark your calendars for a special event for you and the members of your choir! The workshop will take place at The Cathedral of St. Thomas More, 3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, Virginia 22203. For more information, please call GIA at 800- 442-1358.
- ... Sunday, October 14, 7 p.m. - The **Choir from Limburger Cathedral** will sing a concert at St. John Neumann Church, 9000 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD. Choir members - 50 boys and young men between 10 and 19 years of age - will spend the weekend in the homes of parishioners. The Limburger Dom or Cathedral of Limburg, also known as "Georgsdom" after its dedication to Saint George, is located above the old town of Limburg in Hesse, Germany. The Choir is well-known for their recordings of the vocal works of Mendelssohn, Rheinburger, Mozart, etc.
- ... Friday, October 19, 7:30 p.m. - **Organ Recital** by Jennifer Pascual, Director of Music and organist at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in New York City. Dr. Pascual was appointed to St. Patrick's in 2003, the first woman to hold this position, one of the most prestigious sacred music appointments in the United States. The recital will be presented at St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA, 703-356-0670, www.musicinmclean.org. A free-will offering will be taken.
- ... 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

MORE UPCOMING 2007 - 2008 EVENTS

- ... 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, APRIL 11 — Charles Callahan Organ Recital at St. Thomas More Cathedral
- ... SATURDAY, APRIL 12 — Music Ministry Workshop at St. Thomas More Cathedral

SPEAKING OF GOD

Musicians have an important responsibility when choosing texts, because the texts we sing shape our ideas about God. Our Judeo-Christian tradition is full of diverse images of God, but every attempt we make to describe God falls short. So, for instance, when the Scriptures speak about God as our rock (Psalms 18 and 62) or as our shepherd (Psalm 23), it is an attempt to describe some qualities of God. But God is more unlike a shepherd or a rock than God is like either.

While it has been our tradition to speak of God as "He" in our liturgical services, somehow we must not fall into the trap of thinking that God is male. God is Spirit, neither male nor female. To make any one image of God the "correct" one would be to create an idol. To refer to God as "She" may sound strange to us, but it is no more wrong or incomplete than referring to God as "He." Humans are either male or female, but God is not limited as we are.

Jesus used metaphors when he was teaching about God. For instance, he often used the metaphor of "Father." In the Gospel for September 16 we heard Jesus use three other metaphors: God is a shepherd who searches out the lost sheep; God is a woman who sweeps her house to find the precious lost ones; God is a father who welcomes back the child who has strayed.

In the September issue of the NPM/DC and NPM Arlington Newsletter, the Director's Corner spoke about the action of the Holy Spirit in our work as pastoral musicians. Following on a quote from the conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus, there was a reference to God the Spirit using the feminine pronoun. In the passage, Jesus had said that "no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus said to him, *"How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot re-enter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?"* Jesus answered, *"Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."* (John 3:4-8)

In this conversation Jesus is using a maternal metaphor for God, God who gives birth to us. In order to enter the kingdom of God, we must be born again of God. Jesus' reference to water and birth remind us of the first chapter of Genesis when God is creating the world. It is the Spirit of God that moves over the waters when God gives birth to the world and it is this same Holy Spirit who moves wherever she wills in our lives today.

The images we use to describe God are always incomplete. We need many metaphors because the reality of God is mystery beyond all our imagining. And, our ideas about God need to be shattered over and over again lest we begin to believe we know fully who God is.

Mary Beaudoin
NPM/DC Chapter Director

WHAT EVERY MUSICIAN NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT THE BODY

The knee bone's connected to the thigh bone . . . or is it? And does it make a difference? In this course you will discover that we all move according to the way we think our bodies are constructed, even if our mental "body map" conflicts with reality, and that mismapping has implications for the movements involved in music making and in everyday life. Correcting our body maps enables us to play and sing more beautifully, more easily, and without pain or injury.

In this six hour course, Andover Educator John McCrary will introduce specific, clear information about the body, including the structures and movements of breathing, with an emphasis on integrating that information into one's

body map as it relates to making music.

The \$75 fee includes a copy of Barbara Conable's book, *What Every Musician Needs to Know About the Body*.

Saturday, October 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community music room, 1427 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA.

For more information or to register, please contact John McCrary (703-998-6100 ext. 13, or jmccrary@blessedsacramentcc.org).

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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.

REMINDERS:

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.

AN INVITATION TO MUSICIANS

On Saturday, October 13, Southern Maryland will mark the 90th Anniversary of Our Lady's appearance to shepherd children at Fatima in Portugal with a day of prayer and fellowship at the House of Grace, 38358 Point Breeze Road, Colton Point, MD. Southern Maryland parish or school music groups are invited to participate in this event.

- 10 a.m. — Opening with the story of Fatima and music by Maureen Hayes.
- 11 a.m. — the bells of Fatima will ring, and all gather for a living rosary. After the rosary, there's about 20 minutes for music. This cycle repeats through 4 rosaries.

For further details please contact Chris & Anne Powers: cpowersr2@md.metrocast.net; 301-481-7208 (cell); 888-819-7533 (fax). Additional information on the House of Grace is available at www.breadoflifecenter.org

ACCOMPANIST NEEDED

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