



NEWSLETTER

The monthly joint publication of the NPM Arlington and NPM DC Chapters.

Fostering the art of musical liturgy.

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Bilingual Music for the Rites



*Dr. Ricardo Soto addresses the morning workshop on Saturday, November 17.
See page three for more!*



*St. Cecilia,
pray for us!*



*Your local chapters wish you a
Merry Christmas and a Happy and
Blessed New Year!*



*We hope to see you at our events
in the New Year!*

Director's Corner

How is it possible that another liturgical year has come to end? In the span of one week, we go from celebrating the triumphant power of Christ the King to anticipating and preparing for the mystery of the Incarnation. As pastoral musicians we are deeply tied to the rhythm of the liturgical year. In my experience, the start of Advent brings more hope, joy, and promise than the secular celebration of January 1st. The new liturgical year is the perfect time to re-center our lives, take stock of our spiritual growth over the last year and look forward to the story of Christ retold again.



(If you are not familiar with this hymn, take a listen [here](#)) She did not let fear of the unknown, fear of the angel in front of her or fear of the gigantic, history-changing task before her deter her yes!

As we embark into this new liturgical year, may we find new places to say yes to Christ in our lives. May we be open to growth in our music ministries and to those in need around us. May we not be scared by all of the difficult news in the church we love. Let us, like Mary, continue to say yes in the face of the unknown. For in the end, Christ is King

And this beginning again is not possible without acknowledging the yes, the fiat of Mary, at the Annunciation. One of my favorite hymns for Advent is "The Angel Gabriel", an old Basque tune with a moving text. Verse three is the one that embodies this miraculous yes that started all of salvation history.

and it all began with the Holy Yes of Mary and the cry of tiny child so many years ago.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.
Veni per Mariam.

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':
most highly favored lady. Gloria!"*

Amy Massey,
NPM DC Chapter Director



Thanks to All Who Paid Their Chapter Dues This Year!

*Your membership keeps our chapters alive and helps fund our many events each season! **Invite someone new to join our local chapters!** See our websites (NPMArlington.org or NPMDC.org) for the membership forms. If you have questions, please contact a member of either the DC or Arlington Boards (details on the back page of the newsletter and on the websites).*



Bilingual Music for the Rites

By TIM LEWICKI

Our November joint event, held at St. Luke's Church in McLean, VA, attempted to meet the need of most pastoral musicians in our (arch)dioceses - that of the predominantly English-speaking music ministers serving multicultural communities, specifically in sacramental situations (funerals, weddings, etc.) and during Holy Week when the various communities come together.

Dr. Ricardo Soto, Associate Director of Music at Christ Cathedral (Orange, CA) addressed a crowd of 20 musicians (choir directors, music directors, and choir members) about this important pastoral situation. Before delving into specific examples, he shared some of his principles of Bilingual or Multicultural liturgy. These principles are crucial to a successful merging of communities in a parish. Among these are:

- Build a multi-lingual repertoire for your parish
- Plan years in advance
- Only the best repertoire
- Repertoire that stands the test of time
- Every liturgy is a multi-cultural liturgy

One thing he repeated was "Don't do junk!" Now, the task of defining junk is ours as pastoral musicians in our

parishes. Using the three judgments outlined in *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* (2007) is a good start: Musical, Pastoral, Liturgical. Some questions might be:

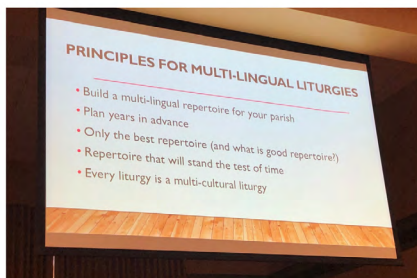
- What is the text - what voice is it in ("I, me, my" or "we, our, ours")?
- Is the music well written (will it stand the test of time)?

Through examples of his work at Christ Cathedral, Dr. Soto gave tips and suggestions on how to implement different languages and musical styles authentically in our parish liturgies. Some published resources were also shared, especially for bilingual psalmody.

This presentation was just the tip of the iceberg in terms of theoretical questions and practical advice. There is no one answer to "how do I do multicultural liturgy?" Dr. Soto laid some foundations for our own work.

Those who attended greatly benefited from Dr. Soto's passion and knowledge and left with encouragement to continue their work.

If you were unable to attend this workshop and would be interested in attending something similar in the future, please let us know.



Liturgy Day, Part I

BY EUGENE HARPER

"We do things as musicians because we've always done them," Gerard Hall told gathered members from the Arlington and DC NPM chapters on Oct. 20. "We need to sometimes step back and say, 'Why do we do this?'"

Hall, Director of Liturgy and Music at Our Lady of Good Counsel parish in Vienna, VA, was lead-off presenter for 2018 Fall Liturgy Day, a co-sponsored event by both chapters at Arlington's Cathedral of St. Thomas More. Dr. James Starke, Director of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Arlington, was the other featured speaker.

Hall pulled from his personal experiences as musician and liturgist across the United States. He started as church organist at age 7 in New Mexico, and journeyed in adulthood to positions in Texas, South Dakota, Maine and Connecticut. Before arrival at Good Counsel, he was Director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Raleigh, NC.

"We look at what we can be doing, try to be faithful to what we should be doing, but still trying to make music relevant. And in this day and age, it's difficult to do.

For help in moving forward, Hall urged NPM attendees to look back at documents such as *Musicam Sacram* (1967) and *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* (2007) again and again.

For starters, he pointed out a passage from the *Musicam Sacram* preface: "It is to be hoped that pastors of souls, musicians and the faithful will gladly accept these norms and put them into practice, uniting their efforts to attain the true purpose of sacred music, which is the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful."

"This document goes on and says, liturgical worship is given

the more noble form when music is present," Hall noted. "Music has this incredible power.

"Singing is the primary way the faithful participates in the liturgy. And it's that more noble form of our participation."

One way to encourage that singing is to give the assembly good music. He also talked about progressive solemnity, a phrase used in both documents. He said not every Mass should musically look the same, and everything isn't a big Mass. "There's got to be some progression. Advent should look different from the previous Sunday of Christ the King. ... Progressive solemnity maintains that everyone should not get the whole shebang every Sunday."



Hall discussed *Sing to the Lord's* three judgments – liturgical, pastoral and musical – in selecting music. He advised attendees to always go to

the entrance and communion antiphon text to help choose music. Ensure the music fits the celebration and is singable. Keep personal bias out of selecting music.

He concluded that all should focus on *Musicam Sacram's* line: "which is the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful."

"We're all here for the same purpose: To support, to lead, to make a joyful noise to the Lord, to remind us of why we do what we do. Not about us, about the prayer of the community gathered, of our parishes, of our dioceses," he said.

"That's the joy of having NPM in our diocese, something that holds us to the fire."

Next month: Liturgy Day, Part II, Dr. James Starke.

2018 - 2019 CALENDAR of EVENTS



January 26, 2019 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Annual Southern MD Gathering

Ann Duchesne's Home on Breton Bay

March 2, 2019

DC Annual Retreat

Fr. Paul Colloton,

St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg, MD

March 5, 2019 12:00 PM

Arlington Shrove Tuesday Luncheon

Brion's Grille, Fairfax, VA

March 30, 2019

Joint Arlington/DC Event

Mr. Charles Thatcher, *presenter*

Location, TBD

July 16-19, 2019

NPM National Convention (#NPM42)

Raleigh, NC

A Call for Photos

As we enter into a new church year, ensembles, cantors, and other musicians are busy preparing for Christmas! Would you share your celebrations with us?

An ongoing feature in these newsletters is *A Look Around Our Chapters*. Please consider taking a few photos of your ministry, parish, and sanctuary and sharing them with us.

Share JPEG or TIFF files with the newsletter editor, tlewicki@allsaintsva.org.



15th Annual Gathering of the Musicians of Southern Maryland

Saturday, January 26, 2019

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Ann Duchesne's home on Breton Bay



TOPIC: *What Are We Singing in Southern Maryland Churches?*
Lunch is included & there is no fee.

REGISTRATION: There is no official registration for this gathering, but please call 301-475-6915 by January 18 for directions and your call tells us how many are coming.

If you can, borrow a copy of your parish's hymnal or other worship aid for the afternoon.

Silent Night, Holy Night

200 Years of a Beloved Christmas Hymn

By TIM LEWICKI

For many, there are carols and songs that define the Christmas season. For some, it may be the David Wilcocks arrangement of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (what a fantastic descant!); for others it might be Nat King Cole's singing of "The Christmas Song" or a choir singing "For Unto Us a Child is Born" from Handel's *Messiah*. But if you stop to think about iconic Christmas hymns and carols, "Silent Night" is at the top of the list.

Name any recording artist or well-known choir and you can probably find their recording of *Silent Night*. From **Bing Crosby** to the **American Boychoir**, from **Josh Groban** to the **Mormon Tabernacle Choir**, it speaks to people across generations, denominations, and cultures. This might be for a variety of reasons: the simple melody, the theologically strong text, or the memories from Christmases past.

On Christmas Eve 1818, Fr. Joseph Mohr was the priest at Saint Nicholas church in Oberndorf, Austria, not far from Salzburg. The organ at the chapel was in such disrepair that it was unplayable. Fr. Joseph wanted a hymn to be sung at the Midnight Mass. He traveled into town to meet with his friend, Franz Joseph Gruber, an organist and music teacher. Mohr gave Gruber a poem, *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht*, he had written two years prior. Within a few hours, Gruber wrote the simple melody with guitar accompaniment. It was performed for the first time that night. In 1869, Episcopal priest John Freeman Young, who was assigned to Trinity Church in New York City, translated *Stille Nacht* into English, which is the translation we sing today. Since its composition, *Stille Nacht* has been translated into 300 languages and dialects.¹

What makes this hymn a staple at Christmas time? First, a definition of a hymn is a song of praise to God. *Silent Night* recalls the nativity story, but it also turns our attention upward by directly addressing Jesus, particularly in the third verse:

*Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*



The Silent Night Chapel, Oberndorf, Austria, where Stille Nacht was sung for the first time, Christmas 1818.

Hymns and spiritual songs are important catechetical tools. By singing the text many times, people learn the text and little morsels of theology. This carol speaks of Jesus as light of the world, Jesus as our redeemer, Jesus as divine, and Mary as virgin mother. While these principles may be obvious to those who regularly practice their faith, for those who come to church once or twice a year, they are reminded of some basic Church teachings.

This year, as we sing the words, "all is calm, all is bright," may we recall the humble birth of our Lord. While all may not be calm and bright in our world today, the commemoration of Christ's birth is

a reminder that through "love's pure light," Christ, we may experience peace and live in hope.

Tim Lewicki is the Director of Music and Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, VA and serves as the Newsletter Editor on the Arlington NPM Board.

¹ See <https://www.stillenacht.com/en/>.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 9, 2018 7:30 PM

Lessons and Carols

St. Thomas More Cathedral

3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, VA 22203

www.cathedralstm.org • 703-524-2815

The beauty of this traditional service is in its simplicity. The service holds its beginnings at Kings College Chapel, Cambridge, and has been celebrated throughout the world. The service contains seasonal scripture readings followed by choral and handbell carols retelling the story of salvation from the fall of Adam to the birth of the Christ Child. Come and join the Bishop of Arlington, Cathedral clergy, lay readers, and combined Cathedral Choirs, in this cherished and prayerful Cathedral tradition. Admission is free.



Come, Lord Jesus!

Saint Veronica Catholic Church and All Saints Church Church
present

Advent Lessons and Carols

Monday, December 10, 2018

7:00 PM



Saint Veronica Church
3460 Centreville Road
Chantilly, VA 20151

WWW.STVERONICA.NET

*Free admission.
A free-will offering will be taken.*



The Saint Veronica Adult Choir, Saint Veronica Youth Orchestra, and the All Saints Parish Choir, unite to present an evening of Scripture lessons and beloved Advent carols, hymns, and motets to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Featuring music by Jacob Handl, Michael Praetorius, Paul Manz, Claude Gouidmel, Timothy Lewicki, Emily Mason, and others. The service, based on the Lessons and Carols made famous at King's College, Cambridge, will last about an hour. All are welcome and a light reception will follow.

**Hats Off!**

The following choirs have provided music for the Sunday TV Mass recently. Mass is celebrated in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, and broadcast on WDCW-TV (DCW50) each Sunday at 10:30 AM. Check your local cable or satellite provider's listings. Click the image of the Shrine's dome to view recordings of these masses.

Church of the Resurrection Adult Choir, Burtonsville, MD

+

**KEEP
CALM
AND
LET US
PRAY**

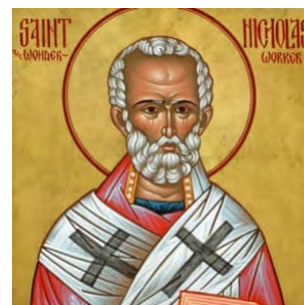


good holy Nicholas,
you who brought joy to children,
put in my heart the spirit of childhood
about which the Gospel speaks.

Teach me how to sow
happiness around me.

Amen.

- The Feast of St. Nicholas is December 6
From "[Catholic Greetings](#)"

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