



Newsletter

The monthly joint publication of the NPM Arlington and DC chapters
Fostering the art of musical liturgy

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St. Cecilia, pray for us!

NPM DC and Arlington Parishes find creative ways to have music during the Christmas Season



DIRECTOR'S CORNER



We are now a month into 2021 and it seems 2020 is still holding on. The pandemic continues (though some hope is here in form of the vaccines), our nation stands in division and chaos, we struggle with injustices; and yet, the Church calls us to prayer:

We hear those words from the prophet Joel each Ash Wednesday - "Even now." Even now, pray and sing. Even now, a year into a global pandemic, pray and sing. Even now, amid political turmoil, pray and sing. Even now, when others mock you or argue with you, pray and

sing. Even now with a new [USCCB music document](#) pray and sing. Even now, with changes at NPM, pray and sing. Even now, when you can't pray and sing with others, pray and sing. This annual call to prayer, fasting, and penance is an important part of our participation in Christ's Paschal Mystery, the dying and rising. For without it, we don't have Easter; we have nothing. Lent is a reflection of our baptism and a time to prepare others for Baptism, dying to sin and rising to new life in Christ. May this Lent be for all of us a death to doubts, hate, and division leading to a new (post-pandemic) life of faith, love, unity, and song. As St. Paul writes, "Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation." [2 Corinthians 6:2]

The boards of directors for the Arlington and DC chapters met recently to plan for future joint events and to discuss what has worked to connect with pastoral musicians across the (arch)dioceses in both chapters these last months. We had a very successful virtual event in November with Michael Ruzicki from Liturgy Training Publications. We plan on more soon. What could we organize that would be helpful to you? Cantor training? Liturgy discussions? Resources for the holy [Year of St. Joseph](#) Please let us know! Email me (tlewicki@allsaintsva.org) or any board member (see the last page of this newsletter) to let us know how we can help.

- Tim Lewicki, Arlington Chapter Director

P.S. Watch our Facebook pages ([@NPMARlington](#) and [@NPMDC](#)) for fun Mardi Gras content in early February!

*Even now, says the Lord,
return to me with your
whole heart,
with fasting, and weeping,
and mourning;*

*Blow the trumpet in Zion!
proclaim a fast,
call an assembly;
Gather the people,
notify the congregation;
Assemble the elders,
gather the children
and the infants at the
breast...*

- Joel 2:12, 15-16

Virtual Choirs across DC and VA display their Christmas Spirit!

We asked members to share links of online choir performances and received a dozen contributions representing both chapters. Thank you to all who participated! Watch for upcoming announcements asking for virtual choirs during Lent!



Carols on the Field: Anne Shingler, Good Shepherd, Alexandria, VA

<https://fb.watch/340OXqR3g7/>

It has been a blessing to at least have a cantor, accompanist, and occasionally string instruments. But we were so longing to sing together the Christmas Carols that proclaim our joy! So, on the night of December 20th after our final Mass for the 4th Sunday in Advent we gathered outside on our field, socially distanced and masks on in our small family groups and had a service of Carols on the Field. Electric candles held by the members of our Music Ministry added a lovely glow throughout those gathered. Following a welcome by our pastor, Father Tom Ferguson, we sang together songs that proclaim our Lord's birth, accompanied by violin and flute (with a special sleeve and mask!), and proclaimed the readings from the Christmas Night Mass. Father Tom offered a prayer and blessing to complete our evening in anticipation of the Christmas liturgies to come later that week.

Dona Nobis Pacem <https://youtu.be/2OngHnbuAgg>

The Lord of Glory https://youtu.be/AyOaKBiu_po

Silent Night <https://youtu.be/JZkYts0MpiE>

A convert to Virtual Choir: Remi Bauer, St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg, MD

We started with a small group in October to simply try it out singing Jesse Manibusan's *Hold On to Love*, and were overwhelmed by the emotional response we received from our parish. Having one under our belt, we created a second one for Advent, *On That Holy Mountain*, by Joe Mattingly. Our third video for Christmas combined *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *Joy to the World*. One of my choir members, Josh Derby, who edits the video for us, included pictures of our parish to give our people a sense of home. Aiden Teter, another member of our choir, spent hours mixing the sound for us. We are blessed to have these two skilled people for the audio and video and could not do these without them.

Over the summer when choirs started releasing virtual videos, I must confess that I did not see this as a sustainable or practical way to minister. However, having witnessed the sense of purpose and moments of grace among my choir members, and the deep gratitude from my parish, I am a convert. They take a lot of work and skill to produce a final product, but the rewards are many.

Hold On to Love https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_wVraRCSTA

On That Holy Mountain <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-Jq9Zaxt3Y>

O Come All Ye Faithful/Joy to the World https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHopX_4Q0D8

O Come All Ye Faithful: David Mathers, St. Bernadette, Springfield VA

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Combined Adult Choirs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EGabS7YXS0>

Original Music for Epiphany: Paul Hanover, St. John Neumann, Reston, VA

I direct the Contemporary Ensemble for St. John Neumann in Reston. This year we have made a few different videos, but our most recent was for Christmas. It is an original song called *Behold the Star* that the choir had to learn completely online. Sadly, we only got about two-thirds of the group to participate, but that's kind of how it's been with our "virtual" projects. I am also making this music available free of charge to all joint Chapter Members. I'm eager to see what everyone else is doing!

Behold the Star <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvqYSgS0h4g>

Link to original sheet music, free for Chapter Members:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XMaTUpyDWnP0Y3bkcalv2-x0EP_xJGsH/view?usp=sharing

Epiphany within the Choir: Cathy Drummond, All Saints, Manassas, VA

The All Saints Contemporary Choir has a tradition of singing "We Three Kings" as an a cappella quartet for the Feast of the Epiphany. This year since we could not do that in person, we created a virtual quartet, which is linked below.

During this time of distancing because of the pandemic, we can relate to the Wise Men who went in search of Jesus, and take the opportunity to find new ways to bring our gifts to Him who was sent to save us. Epiphany celebrates the revelation that Jesus was the Son of God, who can be found in the most unexpected places.

We Three Kings A Cappella <https://youtu.be/UVV2NFTBx3k>

Improving Musicianship through Virtual Choirs: Jayne T. Rose, Our Lady of Mercy, Potomac MD

Most of my choir members found the first video extremely difficult to do both technologically and vocally. Many had never heard themselves sing all by themselves. What I found was that the videos kept getting better and better. Making these videos has been a great means of improving the musicianship and vocal ability of my choristers!

Mass of Remembrance in November

[Come Ye Disconsolate](#)

Christmas Choral Prelude

[Our Lady of Mercy Christmas Choral Prelude](#)

Christmas Carols with Children and Adults: Katie Evans, Jesus the Good Shepherd, Owings, MD

Joy to the World, Adult and Children's Choir

<https://youtu.be/07dYJFmRRWA>

Mary Did you Know? Quartet

https://youtu.be/2AuORPQi_5M

Joy to the World! Alice Eelman, St. Joseph, Herndon, VA

 [SJ Choir 2020 final\(2\).mp4](#)

Article submissions:

Do you have an event or virtual choir performance coming up in your parish? Do you have an idea to share with other Chapter Members? Please submit all articles and inquiries by the 15th of the month to: Katie Evans at music@ccjgs.org. All submissions subject to review. Thank you.

AN ANNIVERSARY TO REMEMBER

Former Chapter Director reflects on the 50th Anniversary of his Senior Organ Recital



I casually flipped the wall calendar to February last month. My mind exploded and my gut knotted up when my roving eyes settled on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021. Fifty years ago, Sunday, Feb. 14, 1971, was a day destined for potential devastating disappointment.

I awakened early that fateful February Sunday morning in my college dorm room with one question in mind: Had electricity been restored to campus concert hall? Without it, no Feb. 14 organ recital.

I had spent countless hours of grueling practice for this event on the 50-plus-rank Möller instrument in Ogden Hall, which had served many decades as venue for campus and community concerts at Hampton University (formerly Hampton Institute).

I remembered being introduced to that magnificent pipe organ as a summer pre-college student stopping by one day to check out somebody playing. I wasn't the only person - several people surrounded the student and console - turns out they were all upper-class music majors. He was excellent. I conjured up the courage to ask to try it out; he said yes. It was awesome! Afterwards, they asked me what I planned to major in in the fall; I told them French. They looked at me in disbelief; I shrugged. A week later the music department chairman somehow found and summoned me to his office; I entered my freshman year as an organ major.

Over four years, I accompanied our college and concert choirs on that organ for several performances. And I recall *acquiring* a key to the building, so I could practice overnight, sometimes while my then-girlfriend Cora (now spouse) studied close-by using organ console lighting in the darkened hall. Campus security guards knew me by name - and sound.

Now in mid-February 1971, the door to my penultimate performance to fulfill requirements toward my BA degree was blocked because of a building power failure two days before the recital. Work status updates were unreliable then: no cell phones, personal computers or social media. Luckily, I had gotten to practice the Handel concerto with the string quartet the day before the power outage. At least now I didn't have to anguish over squeezing in that last bit of practice before concert day. Still, the wait for word on power restoration weighed heavily.

But thanks be to God, sometime Sunday morning electrical service returned, and the recital could go forward! My mother arrived early that afternoon; my father had to work that day, but I recall running out to hug him as he entered the hall 20 minutes before the concert. I remember the concert start with a Bach choral prelude and the resounding end to Dupré's *Cortege et Litanie*. There was applause; I don't remember my encore. Everything in-between was a blur - I was either in the zone or totally clueless.

My organ professor hosted a reception at her campus residence afterwards. And for a nightcap, Cora and I celebrated Valentine's Day at an Aretha Franklin concert.

The equipment to listen to my reel-to-reel tape recital recording has been long obsolete. But a trusted audio engineer advises me that it can be transferred safely to a modern media device. So maybe by the time you read this, I will have relived concert day - beyond memory.

I'll never ever approach the level of technical facility I achieved half a century ago. But even with meager skills I've retained, I still admire the "King of Instruments." It's *Swell* and *Great!*

- Eugene Harper, Arlington Chapter Past Director



Ministry Monday #138: The Best of 2020: Our Baptismal Call to Social Justice (with Fr. Joseph A. Brown)

Today we are pleased to bring "The Best of 2020", the episode that was listened to the most, viewed the most on our website, and voted for by you, our listeners.

For the Podcast, [click here](#).

To subscribe, [click here](#).

To learn more, [click here](#).

Lunchtime Concert Series:



Every week, NPM holds Lunchtime Concert Series on YouTube to showcase concerts, liturgical music and virtual choirs. Here are the latest and greatest in case you missed it! The videos are also archived and can be viewed [here](#).

- [Lunchtime Concert Series: Advent/Christmas Virtual Choirs](#)
- [Lunchtime Concert Series: Handbells for Choirs of all sizes.](#)
- [Lunchtime Concert Series: Prayer, Song and Spirit \(by Anna Betancourt and Friends\)](#)
- [Lunchtime Concert Series: We Will Praise You In This Storm \(by Sarah Kroger\)](#)



MEMBERSHIP, COLLOQUIUM AND CONVENTION:

New Membership Structure for Local and National NPM Members



Historically, national and local chapter memberships of NPM have been separate. People could be members of one without joining the other. This often led to confusion because many assumed that they were automatically enrolled in both.



As of January, this has changed. In keeping with procedures of most professional organizations, registration for the national level now automatically enrolls members in the local chapter that they indicate when signing up.

There are 3 levels of membership: basic, standard, and premium. By going to the NPM website, you can see the benefits of each. The first page details the basic benefits received by all members. The next page, after choosing “get started,” lists additional benefits for standard and premium members.

Which one is best for you?

BASIC

Are you a cantor or choir member who likes to keep up to date with what is going on, receive newsletters and reflections, and perhaps attend local offerings? Maybe you are just interested in the basics of music ministry without necessarily being part of the ministry at your church. The \$39 BASIC membership should be perfect for you. This is also a good option for those who feel philanthropic about our organization and want to continue supporting us.

STANDARD

The standard membership is for those who are more invested in planning liturgies, more interested in professional growth opportunities, enjoy receiving *Pastoral Music* magazine, and are likely to want a discount on attending conferences. The STANDARD membership is \$119.

PREMIUM

The premium membership is geared toward those who hold professional music and liturgy positions, and encompasses benefits covered by the former Directors of Music Ministries Division (DMMD). They receive all the above-mentioned benefits, as well as access to more premium content and the colloquium, among other professional events. Cost for the PREMIUM membership is \$169.

We realize there will be a transition time as the new system replaces the old. You might ask how we will handle the cross over. Some local members are still up to date on their dues. Have no fear. Your local chapters will continue to honor those memberships until they expire, at which time we encourage you to log on to NPM.org to register. *It is vital that you choose your local chapter in order for us to be notified of your registration and receive a portion of your dues to support local events.*

We will send out more information and reminders, but encourage you to take the leap and register for your national membership at www.npm.org/membership.

NPM Colloquium 2021:

A Virtual Opportunity for Formation and Friendship

TOPIC: Liturgy, Life, and Discipleship

Sessions take place on Mondays from 8:00-9:30pm EST.

Dates: February 1, February 8, February 15, February 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, and March 22

[Registration Brochure](#)

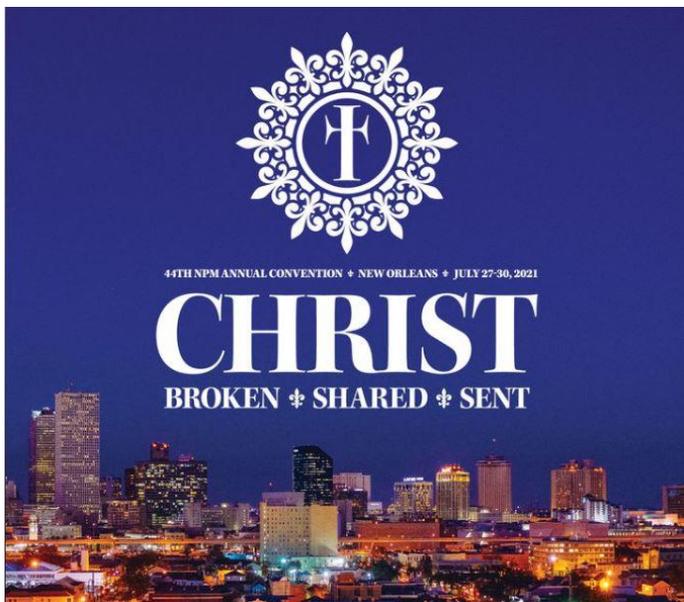
[Registration](#)



44th NPM Annual Convention

New Orleans

July 27-30, 2021



The Annual Convention is planned to be a hybrid experience. Whether you join in person in New Orleans, or virtually, the NPM Convention has something for all members!

[Registration Link is here.](#)

[Online brochure click here.](#)

EVENTS CALENDAR:

Shrove Tuesday Virtual Supper and Social Hour



February, 2021: While we cannot gather for our annual Shrove Tuesday meal, we do have some exciting videos to share from both sides of the river for a culinary and social event! It's the Rick and Remi Cooking Show! Stay tuned and join us online for comments, discussions, and sharing via Facebook! Please "like" our pages and sign up for notifications here:

<https://www.facebook.com/NPMDC> <https://www.facebook.com/NPMARlington>

Lenten Prayer Service at St. Matthew's Cathedral

Tuesday March 2, 2021. Tentatively 7:00pm
(Virtual and limited live participation.)

We are about to enter a Lenten season like no other in recent times. With so much uncertainty, fear and mistrust in our world today, our faith compels us to call out in the words of the psalmist "Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord." And yet we also know in

the depths of our being that "with the Lord there is mercy and fulness of redemption." Join us as we sing and proclaim prayers of lament, but also ones of faith, hope and love. This Taizé style service, with themes from Pope Francis' writings, is jointly sponsored by NPMDC and the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle. Watch for links and more information as the plans are finalized.



February, Anytime, Anywhere: Take a virtual tour of St. Matthew's Cathedral: Have you ever been to St. Matthew's? COVID has you homebound? Take a virtual tour of the cathedral, along with an interactive map, 3-D camera, and beautiful singing, right from your home!

<https://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/tour/index.html>

The Sacred Music Institute of America continues its commitment to fostering quality sacred music in every parish through online education for music directors, organists, cantors, and clergy with our Spring 2021 courses. Classes include:

History of Sacred Music 10-week course taught by Emily Lapisardi (Catholic Chapel, United States Military Academy). No educational prerequisites necessary!

Chant II 10-week course taught by Dr. William Mahrt (Stanford University). Some prior knowledge of Gregorian chant needed.

Music Theory II 10-week course taught by Emily Lapisardi (Catholic Chapel, United States Military Academy). Basic knowledge of musical notation and theoretical concepts required.

Private lessons in organ, voice, and conducting

Vocal coaching and seminars for clergy



www.sacredmusicinstitute.org

614-395-7783



Inauguration Day Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral

Tom Stehle (2020 NPM Pastoral Musician of the Year) gives a summation of the music and readings selected for the private Mass on January 20, 2021 at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

Published by National Catholic Reporter. To read the full article,

[click here.](#)



(CNS/Reuters/Tom Brenner)

Reflection for Lent

"Grant, we pray, almighty God, that no tempests may disturb us, for you have set us fast on the rock of the Apostle Peter's confession of faith. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever." - Closing Prayer, Evening Prayer Feast of the Chair of St. Peter (February 22)

National Association of Pastoral Musicians

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