

Music Notes

Newsletter for the Columbus Chapter of NPM

Volume I No. 5

September/October 2003

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Ideas for a Columbus NPM Program?

Contact Liz Carle at 614-337-
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Music Notes Nov/Dec edition
Deadline: October 10, 2003

In this Edition of Music Notes . . .

The beginning of September brings with it a new season of NPM Columbus events. Be sure to check out the upcoming NPM and other musical offerings on pages one and two! Also, please take a moment to read the letter (page three) to the chapter from our director regarding our NPM events and our permanent status! A many thanks to those who shared their NPM convention muses, these can be found on pages four through six. If you have an event or idea you would like to share with NPM Columbus in the November/December *Music Notes*, please contact Michele Jorgensen before October 10, 2003.

Mark Your Calendars . . .

Columbus NPM offers . . .

*A mini retreat to begin the new season
of liturgical music*

*Keynote speaker will be Dr. Robert Padberg, PhD, DMin,
Pastoral Counselor. Event will conclude with the singer of Evening
Prayer (Vespers) using the setting "St. Francis Evening Prayer"
by Michael Joncas.*

Where: St Christopher Church
1420 Grandview Ave., Columbus

When: Sunday, September 7, 2003, 3:00PM.

For more information, call Pete McClernon (614)485-0420

For the 2003-2004 NPM Calendar, see page 2!

Has your e-mail address changed lately?

We would like to keep you on our e-mail list!
Contact Amanda Walker at awalker40@aol.com

2003 Dues are Due!

Your 2003 Columbus NPM dues are due! Your \$5.00 helps to cover the cost of programs and mailings, including this newsletter. Please forward your dues to Amanda Walker at: 40 E. Frankfort Street, Columbus, Ohio 43206.

NPM Calendar and Upcoming Events

Columbus NPM Calendar, November 2003 - May 2004

November 2, 2003, 2:30 p.m., Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Ave., Columbus
Choral Singing Workshop with Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt with an Advent theme, Music Fee: \$5.00

November, 2003, in celebration of St. Cecilia's Day, a dinner for music ministers and their pastors,
date, time and location TBD

January 4, 2004, location and time TBD: **Twelfth Night Handbell Choir Festival**

January 18, 2004, St. Joseph Cathedral, 2:30 p.m.: **Anton Armstrong workshop with Cathedral Choir**
(NPM Columbus has offered to coordinate the reception.)

March, 2004, date and time, TBD: **Daughters of God Concert**
Location 1: Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Rd., New Albany
Location 2: Portsmouth -- actual location TBD

May 16, 2004, location and time TBD: **Festival of Choirs**

Please note: As with much of life, all dates and programs are subject to change

Events around the Diocese

September 7, 3:00 p.m., Vern Riffe Center for the Arts, Shawnee State University, Portsmouth
Benefit Concert for Notre Dame Elementary School Scholarship Fund
Performed by the combined voices from all the Portsmouth area Roman Catholic Churches

October 19, 7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus
The House of God and the Gate of Heaven
In celebration of the cathedral's 125th anniversary, join the Cathedral Choir and Schola, Cathedral Brass and Bishop Griffin for Solemn Evening Prayer and a concert featuring Gabrieli's *In eccleslis*.

November 9, 7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus
Organ Concerto Concert
Organist Mark Herris joins members of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra in Handel's Concerto in F, Op. 4, along with more works by Mozart and other composers.

Out-of-Diocese Musical Adventures

September 19 and 20, 2003, Kordes Retreat Center, Ferdinand, Indiana (about 4.5 hours from Columbus)
Dan Schutte Concert and Here I Am, Lord: Ministry as Service of the Community Workshop
Dan Schutte will be giving a concert and a workshop September 19 and 20 at Kordes Retreat Center in Ferdinand, Indiana. The concert is Friday, September 19th at 7:30 p.m. CST and costs \$12 per person (\$10 per person for groups of 5 or more with advance purchase). The workshop, entitled "Ministry as Service of the Community", will be held on Saturday, September 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CST and costs \$85 per person (\$75 per person for groups of 5 or more with advance purchase). Overnight accommodations are available at the retreat center for \$47 double occupancy or \$37 single occupancy. Please contact Charlee Hathaway-Bevington at 614-443-2561 by Monday, September 8, 2003, if you are interested in attending so that we can coordinate the purchase of tickets and take advantage of the group rates. We will also try to arrange a car pool for travel to and from Ferdinand.

October 17 and 18, 2003, St. Mary Church, 613 Cherry St., Evansville, Indiana (about 5.5 hours from Columbus)
Jeanne Cotter Concert and The Empowered Singer and Retreat Workshop
Jeanne Cotter, liturgical musician, spiritual performer, and recording artist will present a concert the evening of the 17th and a workshop during the day on the 18th. The workshop will be tailored to the creative and musical needs of singers, focusing on vocal techniques and skills, music ministry and cantor technique, vocal health, and the spirituality of the singer. A free will offering will be taken at the concert and the workshop costs \$25 (\$20 for groups of five or more). St. Mary's would love to have people from the Columbus Diocese join them for this spiritual experience. For more information, contact Michele Jorgensen at kmfj@att.net or 614-901-0759

Letter from NPM Columbus Chapter Director

Dear all,

I want to publicly thank the presenters for the June reading session: Marilyn Bates, Fr. Tom O'Brien, Paul Thornock, and Thom Wyatt. The music was certainly an eclectic mix, and because the directors donated their "favorite" pieces, most of the fees paid at the door went directly to the treasury. We are now able to breathe a little easier with regard to our financial situation, and can look forward to financing more and better programming because of the generosity of the directors who presented the music, GIA, and OCP.

I apologize for not being able to attend the chapter dinner during the NPM convention in Cincinnati. We found out after we had chosen the time and date for our chapter dinner that I was to attend the chapter directors' dinner at the same time. I heard that we had a crowd of more than 50 people - an excellent showing!

Liz Carle, our programming chair, relayed some of the concerns of our members living beyond the greater Columbus area, and we will be trying to do more to get programming closer to you. I also heard that many of you were not aware of the effort to launch an NPM chapter in the Columbus diocese, though we took great pains to get an up-to-date list of members from the national office and mailed information to each parish. Please be assured that we want you to be part of the local chapter!

I also heard about the great enthusiasm from a few of you for hosting a national convention in Columbus. This is an exciting goal and something that we can achieve if we work together toward it. There are many steps along the way, and probably a few "practice milestones" like hosting one of the NPM school weeks or weekends that we may be asked to support.

At the end of this past May, we completed all the necessary work to register for a charter as a permanent chapter, and I was informed at the convention that we have indeed been granted permanent chapter status. I want to thank everyone who was involved over the past two years in recognizing this dream. I believe we are off to a fine start as a chapter, and look forward to what we will accomplish together in the years ahead.

Our next program is at St. Christopher church in Grandview on September 7 at 3 p.m. We will gather for an afternoon of reflection, rededication, and prayer. Please plan to join us and bring a friend who is not already a member!

One final note: by the time you read this, our chapter website should be available on the Internet. Please be sure to check <http://www.npm-columbus.org> for the latest information on our chapter.

May Christ's peace be with you!
Mark

As Mark mentioned above, nearly 50 people gathered Wednesday, July 16, 2003, at NPM Convention for a chapter dinner. The attendees enjoyed each other and the food. As special thanks goes out to the staff at *Margaritas*, who expected only about 20, and handled our very large crowd with speed and grace! If in the downtown Cincinnati area, please consider giving this restaurant your business! *Margaritas* can be found in the Carew Tower Plaza, 28 W. 4th Street, Cincinnati, 513-241-2313.

Convention Muses

I was very excited as I planned to attend my first NPM convention. I had heard positive things from others about past conventions, and I knew that it would be a great week. In spite of all of my high expectations, the week turned out to be much more than I realized it would be.

Because there were so many wonderful speakers and events packed into the convention, it is difficult to know where to start in describing it all. As friends asked me, "How was your vacation?" and I gave my all-too inadequate responses of "great", "wonderful", "amazing", etc., I realized that it would be hard for anyone who had never been to an event like this to truly understand it. I got a few puzzled responses after explaining exactly what it was I had attended. "Church music?...That's nice." in a smile and nod sort of fashion. I am sure that there are those who probably smiled through my story thinking that they would rather go to the beach than sit in a convention center listening to people talk about music in the liturgy.

So, wanting to share my enthusiasm with others, I would then talk about the exciting music of "Fiesta Latina" and "Daughters of God", and how inspirational Liam Lawton's music was, and how much I enjoyed Jeanne Cotter's session. *Blank stares.* OK...How about the Notre Dame Folk Choir's wonderful concert and Marty Haugen's new musical "Feast of Life". *Polite smiles.*

OK, then...one of the highlights of the week for me was attending Dan Schutte's presentation of "Glory in the Cross". I would explain to people how he said that as musicians, we are usually so busy during Holy Week that we miss out on a lot of the beauty of the Triduum as we focus on everything that we have to do. So his presentation was the opportunity to experience the Triduum without having to rush around worrying about our own responsibilities. As a choir sang selections from his "Glory in the Cross" collection and the participants joined in on the assembly's parts, a PowerPoint slide show was displayed showing pictures of how different parishes around the country celebrate Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil. It was a very moving experience for me, particularly when all the lights were turned off and "Holy Darkness" was played for Good Friday. *More polite smiles.*

Surely everyone would be excited to hear that I had won one of the drawings from World Library Press. Yes! I won! Of course, explaining to people that I won an original piece of music to be written for St. Thomas the Apostle parish by one of World Library's composers seemed to take some of the thrill out of it for them. "That's nice". Nice??? Well...it doesn't take any of the thrill out of it for me!

Perhaps the most amazing part of the week was the Mass itself. Just imagine...over three thousand musicians at one Mass...no one just sitting there through the music...no one too timid to sing out...the entire assembly singing in harmony...with a tenor in my left ear, a bass in my right ear, and alto coming from behind me, I was a soprano surrounded by harmony and it was just awesome! "It sounds like you really enjoyed it". I guess you had to be there.

Charlee Hathaway-Bevinton
St. Thomas the Apostle, Columbus

I think the lesson I learned at this convention is that prayer truly has a language of the heart, and that language isn't just English. As a convert, I've never really been fond of singing in Latin, especially when there was no translation of the piece to tell me what I was singing. I approved of using Latin to maintain tradition, but while I enjoyed the ancient sounds, it was usually not like prayer to me. How could I pray if I didn't know what I was saying? The first time I heard Spanish used at a convention, I was just bored. Yes, the Hispanic population should be addressed, but why did I have to listen to it? Why should I sing in Spanish—I couldn't even pronounce most of it, although I took Spanish in highschool. But somehow over the years, the Latin and Spanish have taken up residence somewhere in me. Singing Spanish responses at Morning Prayer this time seemed not only prayerful, but more reverent and sacred, somehow, as I spoke with God in a language that was not my own, that I only partially understood. It somehow brought home to me very personally that all over the world people are using the same words to talk to God, that even though the words sound different in different places, those people are the same as me, and we are all joined in praising one God who hears what our hearts say and not so much what words our lips speak. St. Paul tells us that we don't know how to pray as we should, but that the Spirit speaks for us in deep groanings. Maybe when we abandon our intellectual language, the prayer that we send forth becomes the prayer of the heart, something the Spirit can use.

Renee Storey
St. Mary of the Annunciation, Portsmouth

Theresa Schlosser, from St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Portsmouth, submitted the following excerpt from paper written to receive graduate credit for convention participation. This portion of the paper encompasses an excerpt of her reflections on the final convention speaker as well as some of her thoughts relating to her convention experience. She welcomes your comments and hopes this will stimulate many fruitful discussions.

The final major presentation of the 2003 NPM National Convention was given by Rev. Edward Foley, Capuchin. Fr. Foley discussed the transformation of a people into the Body of Christ. Focused around the Word of God, he spoke first of the problems people have in listening and hearing what is spoken. The "rhetoric of commerce and the double-speak of politics" are only some of the ways we have been taught to tune out the message, replying in automatic format to suit the situation.

A striking image Fr. Foley described was seeing the Liturgy of the Word as Pentecost. Reading and preaching reconceived as Spirit work, where the community is ruffled by a presence, which will not condone our daydreaming, and Sunday "etiquette." We must venture to overcome the inoculations, which have made us immune and barricaded us from God's Word. We must open our hearts to listen. Fr. Foley described it as developing "an ear in our heart." Our prayers then become true utterances of faith, where we believe in God's answer of mercy, and we genuinely hear God saying, "Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time" (MT 28:20).

Fr. Foley's mystagogical oration was definitely the high point of the convention week, an appropriate way to send participants forth, back into what many designate as "the real world." As with the other four volumes in his series, *The Eucharist as Mystagogy*, he presented a flood of images to use as the springboard for work in the local parish. I know that I must begin by sharing these audio CDs (already purchased) with the various ministry heads of my parish. I can try to explain, highlighting particular areas of Fr. Foley's presentation, but the potency of his talk is slighted when only one person has heard the music and the words fortifying each other. When all of us can experience the presentation, then we have a basis for beginning our own discussion for incorporating mystagogy in our parish.

These five speakers were only part of the week of work and play the convention attendees experienced. There were marvelous musical events and numerous speakers in smaller meetings. For myself, I continued the opening discussion by Dr. Nathan Mitchell with a series of talks about the impact of the CSL on various areas of church life (sacraments, catechesis, ecclesiology, inculturation, and music). Each of these discussions continued to reinforce that there is so much more to what has been written in the CSL [*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*] than I or the Church has uncovered. My musical events ranged from music of Jesus' time, through an enactment of the Gospel of Luke, into a celebration of the connectivity of music around the world, and the present and beyond.

One week after these marvelous insights and experiences, I sit and ponder where I go now. As informed as I thought I was before this event, and as uninformed as I feel at this moment, these are easy to change. With each new book, with the next discussion, with the latest articles, with the practical side of putting thoughts and knowledge into action, I learn and grow. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council provided so much inspiration and information, and the Church has continued to build on their work. My foundation of information is expanding all the time. When I am afraid of what I hear and see locally, nationally, and globally, it may help to remind myself, and those with whom I work, about the core issues that drive all of us. I believe Joyce Zimmerman, CPPS, stated it well, "Liturgy is not a focus on us, but a place of transformation and unification of the Body of Christ." Conversion is awkward and disagreeable. Conversion is what the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, and each of these speakers and musical events were calling us towards. As Dr. Paul Westermeyer concluded, "Vatican II announced the explosive potency of the faith, and that will not be throttled." Whether I am able to work in small steps, large steps, or must step back, the faith of the people and the activity of God will not die.

Theresa Schlosser
St. Mary of the Annunciation, Portsmouth
TeriCantor@aol.com

Convention Muses

The OCP showcase was full of material I plan to put into our repertoire. Also, I thought the music from the Mass was especially well chosen and will start to appear in our liturgies!

Pete McClernon
St. Christopher, Columbus

Several weeks ago the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) held their 26th annual convention in Cincinnati. I made a last minute decision to attend. I was looking for a personal get-away and got caught up in Charlee's [Hathaway-Bevington] excitement about this upcoming event so I registered. I did not know exactly what I had just signed up for but I was willing to find out. I knew I loved music and the prospect of spending some time with Charlee, and our choir directors, Liz Carle and Michele Jorgensen, suited me fine. But would I be able to tolerate four full-days immersed in Church music? I had some trepidation about being surrounded by so many choir directors, writers and publishers of sacred music. I have been an on-again, off-again choir member for several years and have limited experience with Church music. As it turned out the convention was a stimulating adventure. I am sure making my first NPM convention will impact how I view my role as a member of the music ministry at St. Thomas Church.

Upon arrival I soon began to realize the enormity of this gathering and the idea of finding a familiar face would be serendipitous. Approximately 4,000 attendees took over the downtown hotels. The main area in the convention center could accommodate all of us. This space is where daily Morning Prayer was held followed by an opening address. The afternoon started off with sight-readings that allowed the music industry to showcase their new music and provide us with copies. Interspersed throughout the day were breakout sessions dealing with every possible aspect of Church music; these sessions were led by composers and experienced professionals. Also included in our program were various concerts and presentations staged in near-by churches. The beautiful liturgical art that decorated these churches and the splendor of the architecture provided the perfect backdrop for these presentations. The highlight of this convention was a group Mass celebrated on Wednesday evening where our songs and prayers must have reached heaven. It was an uplifting experience to participate in such a Mass and I felt like I would have been transported out of this world if it had not been for the freezing cold air that kept me grounded to planet earth.

The theme of the convention was Making Christ Present When The Church Prays and Sings. We were asked to find ways to go beyond language and cultural barriers. How could we broaden our prayer and adapt to the people we serve? Can we change our music; sing old songs in new ways? Sing music that speaks to the heart and speaks to the Church. The breakout sessions demonstrated a variety of ways to realize this theme. Paul French showed how to develop our voices using specific rehearsal techniques. Father Liam Lawton shared his Celtic spirituality by singing music and verse based on biblical themes. The simplicity of his words and music still remain in my heart. Sister Kathleen Harmon gave a thought-provoking session on the role of cantors in preparing the community for an encounter with Christ in the Gospel. High School students gave a lively presentation on the parables using song, drama and dance. I witnessed "The Clown of God" being performed in the sanctuary of St. William's Church. It is the old French legend about Giovanni, a poor orphan who became a famous juggler. The people he meets in his journey through life come alive through the use of mime, simple settings, costumes, orchestra and chorus. The message for me is that we all have been given special talents that we can bring to worship that unite us in our prayer to God.

When I offered to write a summary of my experience at NPM, Liz informed me that I had missed the best speaker. But she had him on CD. Listening to Father Edward Foley was challenging and rewarding. I learned my catechism prior to Vatican II when Holy Communion was considered more important than Scriptural Readings. The teaching then was that one fulfilled the Mass obligation if present at the beginning of the Offertory. Intellectually that old tape was operating until I listened to Father Foley who in his eloquence explained the similarities between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Both are essential, just different ways of encountering God and experiencing His presence. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God.... so goes the opening of St. John's gospel. Speech was God's way of communicating with us in the Old Testament. It was the Word that triggered the incarnation and brought about Christ's human presence among us.

Through this experience I will value more the special honor that is mine to be able to participate in the Music Liturgy at St. Thomas.

Kathleen Connolly Fisher
St. Thomas the Apostle, Columbus