

Music Notes

Newsletter for the Columbus Chapter of NPM

Volume II No. 4

September/October 2004

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Columbus Chapter is on the web!
www.npm-columbus.org

Have an idea for a Columbus NPM Program?

Contact Liz Carle at 614-337-1442
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Music Notes Nov/Dec edition
Deadline: October 8, 2004

Mark Your Calendars --

Join us for Prayer, Pizza, and Planning

Help us determine the future direction of NPM Columbus!

Have your say in the future of NPM Columbus! Agenda includes program ideas for 2005, meeting times, potential travel plans for convention 2005 (Milwaukee), dues structure, general chapter operations and officer elections. Bring your energy and your ideas to the table!

When: Tuesday, September 21, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

Where: St. Thomas the Apostle

2692 Fifth Avenue, Columbus 43219

Note: The address above is for the rectory. The church is around the corner on Cassady Avenue and can be entered from the side door facing the rectory.

Food and Beverage will be provided!



NPM Officer Elections

The arrival of September also brings the biennial officer elections for our chapter. The current officers have all agreed to run. (Their names can be found to the left of this article.) There will be room for write-in candidates and elections will occur at the September meeting. Unable to attend the September meeting? You can vote electronically at www.npm-columbus.org or by obtaining a mail-in ballot by contacting Michele Jorgensen at 614-901-0759. All votes must be received by September 21.

Columbus NPM Calendar, September - December 2004

October 2, 2004, Saturday, St. Thomas the Apostle, Columbus, 9:00 a.m., **Core Committee**

November 7, 2004, Sunday, date tentative, location to be determined, **Diocesan Choir Festival**

Sponsored jointly by NPM Columbus and the Diocesan Office of Liturgy.

Registration for participants begins at 2:00 p.m., Concert at 7:00 p.m.

Open to choirs and individuals.

Preregistration will be available through the Office of Liturgy shortly.

December 4, 2004, Saturday, St. Thomas the Apostle, Columbus, 9:00 a.m., **Core Committee**

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

Other Diocesan Events, September - December 2004

October 10, 2004, Sunday, 7:30 p.m. **With Pipes and Voice!**

Cathedral Director of Music, Paul Thornock, will be joined by Robin Rice, Professor of Voice at The Ohio State University, in a program of works for organ and baritone. Mr. Thornock will also perform organ works by Mendelssohn and Reger.

October 31, 2004, Sunday, 4:00 p.m. **Three Choirs Festival at First Congregational Church**

The choirs of St. Joseph Cathedral, First Congregational Church and Broad Street Presbyterian Church join together for a program of English and American choral music to celebrate the restoration of First Congregational's Kimball organ. Along with the performance, there will be an opportunity to sing hymns with the 150 voice choir.

December 12, 2004, Sunday, 7:30 p.m. **Candlelight Lessons and Carols**

The Cathedral Choir, Schola, brass ensemble and the Cathedral's three organists present the popular annual celebration of Advent Lessons and Carols. Charles Stanford's double-choir setting of the Magnificat will be on the program as well as opportunities to participate in carols with the choir and brass. Suggested donation: \$10.00.

Do you have an upcoming event at your parish that you would like published in Music Notes?

Contact Michele Jorgensen by October 8, 2004.

Do you play piano, organ or other instrument?

We are in the process of developing an instrumentalist list that would be available to members seeking substitutes or additional instrumentalists for special occasions. Interested in being on this list? Contact Marilyn Bates at marilyn Bates@att.net/614-898-9502 or Liz Carle at rcarle4430@aol.com/614-337-4772.

Help us keep our e-mail list updated!

If your e-mail address has changed or you would like to be added to or deleted from our e-mail list, contact Amanda Walker at awalker40@aol.com



Members and friends of the Columbus Chapter of NPM,

When I last wrote in January, I talked about a number of activities that we had planned for the year, and we have indeed been busy bringing that work to fruition. The Anton Armstrong presentation in January and the Daughters of God concerts in March were relatively well attended, and I thank those of you who took time from your busy schedules to take part in one or both of these activities. Our diocesan choir festival originally scheduled for May is now scheduled for November. Information on that festival will be mailed to parish music directors in early September. Due to the change in schedule, we held a choral reading session in May. I know that there was some confusion with the place and time for this, and I hope that this did not cause an inconvenience for any of you.

The summer convention season is now over, and we are probably one of the few chapters to have had chapter representation at each of the three regional conventions. (You can read accounts from those who attended both the Chicago and Philadelphia conventions in this newsletter.) I was refreshed in body and spirit by taking time to attend the convention in Chicago. My favorite talk was the plenum address by Richard Fragomeni, who addressed assessment of our competency as liturgical musicians. Richard suggested that competency should be viewed in the light of being *competentes*, or companions, in the same sense that RCIA sponsors journey together with catechumens. He went on to suggest that the evaluation of our competency take into account the Christian virtues of faith, hope, and love, expounding on each of these: "Faith is more than beliefs; Hope is more than hopes; and Love is more than 'luv'." The full text of his talk will likely be part of a future issue of *Pastoral Music*; I highly recommend that you take some time to savor his words when your copy arrives.

In July, we hosted a Cantor Express weekend at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus. I was happy that many of you took the time to participate or to send cantors from your parish. We received excellent evaluations from the nearly 40 participants, who came from New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, and Indiana as well as Ohio. Our facilitators for the weekend, Melanie Coddington and Mary Clare McAlee, both have a passion for what they do as cantors that came across very clearly. One highlight of the weekend for me was getting to celebrate the Eucharist together with the people of St. Thomas parish, where as strangers we were welcomed as brothers and sisters in the Lord, where the homily reinforced exactly what we were talking about earlier in the day, and where we were clearly a people singing the liturgy, not just singing at the liturgy. You just knew that the Holy Spirit had been working overtime! Having the large group of music ministers together at Mass also reminded me that, as liturgical musicians, we are first and foremost members of the assembly. I think that as musical leaders we can easily get caught up in "doing it right" to the detriment of our own spiritual journey; therefore, it might be good for us to try get together more often as a group of musicians in the diocese just to sing the Mass together as part of the assembly, especially at a Saturday or Sunday evening Mass (after most of us have completed our normal weekend ministry). I'd like your feedback on this idea.

Looking forward, our September meeting this year will be at St. Thomas church at 7 p.m. on Tuesday September 21, a break with our usual Sunday afternoon meeting time. Our theme will be "Prayer, Pizza, and Planning" and we'll focus on setting our programming for the remainder of the year. This night is also chapter election night - you may vote in person at the meeting or in advance either by accessing the elections page at the chapter web site or by contacting Michele Jorgensen for an absentee ballot. By whatever method, please make sure you vote on or by September 21.

May Christ's peace be with you!
Mark

Summer Reflections

For pastoral musicians, summer is often a time for renewal. Over the course of this past summer, a number of NPM members have attended various conventions and workshops. The following are their reflections on these events.

June 2004

Notre Dame Center for Pastoral Liturgy
Pete McClemon

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Motu Proprio of Pope Pius X ("*Trale Sollicitudini*") and the 40th anniversary of the monumental Vatican II document on the liturgy "*Sacrosanctum Concilium*," the Notre Dame Center for Pastoral Liturgy gathered liturgists and musicians from all over the country - including a fair representation from our diocese. Building on years of excellence, this conference offered attendees thought-provoking presentations and very practical clinics on a variety of subjects. Topics ranged from a sweeping history of the Liturgical Movement to the development of intergenerational music programs. The unmistakable subtext of the conference was a sense of regret at the apparent disintegration of the vision of the seers of the Second Vatican Council. Where, indeed, have all the flowers gone? Who will be the keepers of the dream? Whence will continue to come the energy needed to insure "full, conscious, and active" participation of the People of God in common prayer? "All glory, laud and honor" to the various departments of Notre Dame University for their important contribution year after year.

NPM Region II Conference, Spirit, Shape Our Song
Amanda Walker

Chicago, My Kind of Town

Chicago was the venue of the Central Regional Convention, 2004 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare. I was born and raised in Chicago, and it was so much fun to be able to come home.

A group of us took time to go downtown and do some sightseeing at "A Taste of Chicago", the premier event of the summer. It is a food festival featuring the famous and the strange. We ate different types of food, including alligator. Before the closing Liturgy at the Cathedral, we again went downtown to the Magnificent Mile and the Columbus group ate dinner at Eli's the Place for Steak.

On Monday evening we heard the Black Catholic Festival of Music, which was full of great gospel music. I heard some of the singers wonder, "Will the NPM singers sing with us?" ...oh, did we sing!!! After the gospel-fest, we had Fiesta Latina! Even more music for us to sing and dance to with a Latin flavor. It was a great, fun evening.

During the rest of the week between sessions, ensembles provided traveling music. Some of the styles of music included a youth handbell choir, a steel drum with marimba and other percussion instruments, and a jazz combo who played traditional songs with a jazz feeling; but my favorite was a choir of abused women, who during their time in the shelter rebuild their self-esteem by singing in the choir.

Tuesday evening we went to a church in the nearby suburbs and heard a showcase of *Bells and Whistles*. This included a concert of an all flute choir, handbells, and a final concert that included bells, the flute choir. Everyone who had brought their flute was invited to play the Grand Finale. We were then bused to another church where we heard the Notre Dame Folk Choir and the Newman Singers. Since they have different styles, it was a delight to see both choirs combined.

The running theme of all of the prayer services was to be inclusive by being bilingual. Even at the liturgy at Holy Name Cathedral, the first Reading was read in Spanish, and we were provided with the English written translation. The Cathedral has a new organ, they also had brass, and the choir loft was full of singers. With us singing the music was so full, I think I saw the Cardinal's hats that were hanging from the ceiling sway with the energy. The music was traditional, but filled with the spirit.

I feel that the convention was life changing because the workshops, the music, and the prayers concentrated on being inclusive. It respected the diversity of the people that were there all for one reason, to have the Spirit, Shape our Song.

July 2004

NPM Region I Conference, Sing the Gospel to Life, Philadelphia, PA
Charlee Hathaway

This was my second trip to an NPM Convention (first time to a regional) and after the wonderful experience of last year's convention, I was ready and excited to attend another one to learn more new information, hear new music, and have the complete "convention experience".

The drive from Columbus to Philadelphia was very, very long. You never realize how big Pennsylvania really is until you have to drive across the whole state. Bad directions from MapQuest didn't help since we (Michele Jorgensen and I) missed our exit and unintentionally wound up in New Jersey. When we eventually found our way to the hotel, it was after 9:00 p.m., but we were glad to have finally arrived.

Since the convention didn't really start until 2:00 p.m. the next day, we had the opportunity to see some of the sites in Philadelphia. The Liberty Bell, Town Hall, Independence Hall, the first Supreme Court building, and Ben Franklin's underground museum were all within walking distance of the hotel. It was a good opportunity to refresh our memories on early American history, learn some new things, and play tourist.

When we returned, the opening plenum address was by Msgr. Raymond East, Executive Director for the Office of Black Catholics, Vicar for Evangelization of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and overall amazing individual. Msgr. East's presentation was one of the high points of the convention. He stressed the importance of singing, that music is not an afterthought to the liturgy; that it is an integral part in how we proclaim the Gospel to ourselves and to the world. One of his quotes, which keeps coming to my mind with all the discussion about GIRM matters, is that we spend too much time focusing on things that don't matter and thus "make majors out of the minors". He asked us to think about the things that people get so worked up over in the Liturgy and then ask ourselves if any of it matters to Christ. He asked, "When Jesus comes, will he care about whether we knelt or stood during Communion? When Jesus comes, will he care whether or not we held hands when we prayed? Or will he want to know how we treated each other, and what we did to make the world a better place and spread his message?" His points are so valid in a Church that has become so concerned about minor matters that it sometimes misses the major point. Are we all so focused on the little candle with its tiny flame that we can't see the giant forest fire right beside us?

Another high point of the convention for me was the two sessions on multicultural liturgy presented by Pedro Rubaclava. He had some wonderful insights into what multi-culturalism really is, and things that we should avoid when trying to plan multicultural liturgies. He explained that singing a song or two in another language doesn't make it a multicultural liturgy; there is more to it than that, and it encompasses the entire liturgy, not just the music. He gave a long list of resources on multiculturalism including numerous books, music sources, and Mass settings. (If anyone is interested, I'd be happy to share my list with you.)

The evening concerts were wonderful. It was a treat to be able to attend another "Fiesta Latina" concert, and the African-American Revival was amazing. Marty Haugen also presented selections from his new collection, "Lament" in a program called, "Turn My Heart: A Sacred Journey from Brokenness to Healing", which was excellent. We also had the opportunity to attend a concert of the Philadelphia Organ Quartet. How often do you get to hear quartet of organs? They played beautifully, and had a great sense of humor, injecting their performances with comedic moments, and astonishing everyone by playing a version of "The Entertainer" solely on pedals!! It was quite remarkable.

The music reading sessions are always a fun time: they give you the opportunity to read music that you probably haven't heard before, and the publishers always give samples of books, octavos, etc. to take back with you. World Library Publications gave the best reading session of the three major publishers. They picked a wide variety of music, almost all of which was assembly-friendly. GIA's session was also very good. Strangely enough, OCP's session was a disappointment. The music that they picked was mostly choir pieces (not typical for the assembly to sing) and much of it had a real "high brow" feel to it. To me, the music that we read from OCP seemed more like choir concert material, not liturgical music.

(See Hathaway, page 6)

(Hathaway, continued from page 5)

Perhaps the biggest (and strangest) disappointment for me was the convention liturgy. Last year, the liturgy was a wonderful, uplifting, holy experience. This year, the liturgy was cold, with music chosen for it that was mostly stuffy and blah. You know it's sad when "Gift of Finest Wheat" is the musical high point of the liturgy! Perhaps the music was chosen in anticipation of celebrating Mass in the Basilica and having a Cardinal present, but to me, thinking like that undermines what music at Mass is supposed to do.

But more than that, what really affected the tone of the liturgy was the lack of unity of the participants. Whereas last year's liturgy was truly a celebration, this year, people were so concerned with what was "correct" that everything was disjointed. Some people knelt during Communion, some remained standing (so much for "unity of posture"!). During the Lord's Prayer, I saw people extend their hands to their neighbors only to be coldly rebuffed. I realize that some dioceses have implemented the new GIRM and some haven't, and even amongst those who have implemented it, the interpretations are not all the same. However, since the program indicated whether we were to kneel, stand, or sit, I really think that people should have honored that as a matter of unity and consideration for others. When we are traveling, should we not respect the local customs and traditions? Should we not be more concerned with the gifts of the Spirit and our communal prayer than with mechanics? If the person next to me extends his or her hand during the Lord's Prayer, which is more important for me to consider in my response: Hospitality and Community or presumption over what is "correct or incorrect" in a Diocese far from home?

On a brighter note, the closing plenum address by Robert J. McCarty D.Min was quite inspiring. He spoke about how, as musicians, we are called to be both prophets and poets. As prophets, we are called to proclaim Christ's message, and as poets, we are called to pray and to listen to what God is telling us and then use that message in our work as prophets. He said that prophets often must take an unpopular and even dangerous stand and explained that Jesus wasn't crucified because he spoke of love and forgiveness; Jesus was crucified because he threatened the establishment. As prophets, we are sometimes called to do the same.

Overall, it was a very good convention. I would strongly encourage anyone who hasn't attended an NPM convention to go to the national convention in Milwaukee next year. It is definitely worthwhile and you will be amazed, inspired, and renewed from the experience.

NPM Cantor Workshop, Ohio Dominican University, Columbus, OH
Becky Rammel

My Weekend At Cantor School

I have always wanted to go to a Cantor Express weekend so when it was offered at Ohio Dominican University I jumped at the chance. It was a very enjoyable and enlightening experience. I enjoyed working with the two clinicians, Mary Clare McAlee and Melanie Coddington. I have been to several of Melanie Coddington's workshops at NPM conventions so I knew this was going to be a worthwhile weekend.

I really did not know what to expect. I figured that we would be singing but I was not sure what else. We did sing but most of the time was spent on the history of The Psalms, discussing the scriptures and why cantors are important to the Sunday liturgy. I found out things I never knew like the cantor is supposed to write and read the intercessions and that there should be no announcements before mass such as introduction of priests. Of course that started a lively discussion. They were happy to answer any questions.

On Saturday night we signed up for either Mary Clare or Melanie to participate in a voice lab. It was optional but very helpful. They had us pick a psalm that we were comfortable with and after singing it we were given suggestions on how to improve. It was a very relaxed atmosphere. I received many helpful hints that I will use the next time I sing.

The last day we spent going over some new repertoire. They gave us their favorites and we got an idea of what is out there.

I truly enjoyed the weekend and highly recommend it to everyone from the beginner to the most advanced cantor. There was something there for everyone.
