Black Liturgical Music Workshop

As the St. Francis Room at St. Camillus Church began to fill up during the gathering for the Black Sacred Music workshop on February 4, it became apparent that we were in for a lively morning.

The first part of the workshop was held in the church for everyone where Lynné Gray and Valeria Foster began by exploring the origins of the genre. The music was from another time and place, but it’s amazing how it speaks to all of us today.

After a short break, Lynné stayed in church to work with pianists on skills that help them capture the special accompaniments associated with Black Sacred music. Valeria and the singers returned to the St. Francis Room for a rigorous rehearsal of music – some familiar, some new.

At the end of the day, it was apparent that there is much to be gained from incorporating Black Sacred Music into the repertoire of every parish.

Look through this edition for information about:

- an evening with Dr. John Walker (pg. 3)
- a Children's Choir workshop in April with Tom Shelton (pg. 4)
- chapter-group registration for the 40th Annual National Convention in Cincinnati (pg. 5)
Psalms of the Season

One of the great benefits of the Second Vatican Council was the inclusion of psalms into the Liturgy of the Word. Let’s be honest, prior to the Council, the average Catholic knew few psalms beyond the 23rd. Suddenly there were three years (cycles) of Sunday psalms. Some were used more than once, but even so, counting holydays, we might be singing all 150 of them!

Of course, that’s not the case, but we have taken to heart a good many of the psalms, especially the ones we call “common.” And in this season of Lent, Year A, we sing some of the most beloved of them. We don’t have to search around for a good setting of an obscure psalm because these six are included in most hymnals. The season gives us the opportunity to assure that our assemblies have a setting that will come to them any time they are exposed to the refrain.

Historians tell us that the people of Israel sang psalms by heart – all 150 of them. Research tells us that we remember music in a part of our brains that is different from spoken text, that music has a deeper meaning for us. It’s probably unrealistic for 21st century Catholics to learn to sing 150 psalms, but can we sing the refrains of the common ones by heart? Can we use them as brief mantras in our prayer? A friend told me of driving alone en route to face a serious, heartbreaking situation, and throughout the drive, the only prayer she could muster was Marty Haugen’s setting of Psalm 91 (Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble, be with me, Lord, I pray).

Consider the psalms of this year’s Lent. Do our assemblies “own” a musical setting for each of them?

Ps. 51 Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.
Ps. 33 Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.
Ps. 95 If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
Ps. 23 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Ps. 130 With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.
Ps. 22 My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

In the March issue of Celebration, David Heimann looks as the psalms of March as a journey. “Viewed together, the psalms of March both recall a journey of a growing relationship between God and humanity. ... At the center of this journey is an understanding of who Christians are and how God fostered the relationship toward maturity. The journey is worth recalling with a renewed voice so as to invoke a deepening of who we are before God.”

Charlene Dorrian
Chapter Director, NPM DC
An Evening with John Walker

Tuesday, March 14, 2017
7:30 PM
Cathedral of St. Thomas More

Come join Dr. John Walker, past president of the American Guild of Organists, for an evening of conversation and renewal as he discusses Alec Wyton’s three attributes of the church musician: PASTOR, EDUCATOR, and PERFORMER. Dr. Walker currently serves on the faculty at the Peabody Institute at John Hopkins University, and is Minister of Music emeritus at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. As Easter approaches, take the time to pause and reflect with him on the church musician’s role as educator for choir members, congregants, and community.

3901 Cathedral Lane
Arlington, VA 22203

Admission is free. Following the presentation, a light reception will be held in Burke Hall to meet Dr. Walker.

Co-sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the AGO and the Arlington NPM Chapter.

Questions? Contact us: arlingtonnpm@gmail.com or novaago@gmail.com.
A Look Around Our Chapters

When Saturday, April 1, 2017, 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Where Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church
9200 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, MD 20854

Who Mr. Tom T. Shelton, President of ACDA and professor at Westminster Choir College, facilitates a morning workshop for Children’s Choir directors focusing on vocal techniques, repertoire, teaching techniques, and more. To learn more about Mr. Shelton, see his website.

Fee $30 chapter member/student
$40 non-member
Fee includes lunch.

Schedule

9:00 AM Registration, coffee and pastries
9:30 AM Children’s Choir 101: teaching techniques, warm up process, introducing new repertoire, working with various age groups
11:00 AM Demonstration with a Lab Choir
12:00 noon Lunch (included in registration fee)
1:00 PM Music Reading session (free octavos from various music publishers)
2:00 PM Wrap Up/Q&A

Questions? Contact us at tlewicki@allsaintsva.org

Registration for Children’s Choir Workshop – April 1, 2017 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM
Please register by March 24. Further information: tlewicki@allsaintsva.org

Name ____________________________________________________________

Email (please print) ________________________________________________________

Phone Number ________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

Parish ________________________________________________________________

$30 / chapter member/student $40 / non-member **lunch included

If you wish to register for another person(s), please provide their name(s) and email addresses.
Mail this form with the appropriate fee (check payable to NPM Arlington) to:
NPM Arlington c/o Bob Malinowski, 7920 Lobelia Lane, Springfield, VA 22152

WWW.NPMDC.ORG
We hope to see many of you in Ohio this summer! For full convention details see the digital Convention Brochure. Details about the Chapter Dinner will be in the April Newsletter.

Is an NPM Convention for you?
Yes! If you are a pastoral musician: director of music ministries - psalmist - cantor - bishop - priest - deacon - seminarian - choir director - ensemble leader - organist - keyboardist - guitarist - player of another instrument - youth pastoral musician - music educator - or anyone seeking time away in a retreat environment filled with prayer, filled with music, filled with the support of other ministers.

Is there a local Chapter member discount?
Yes! Before you send in that registration form, we hope you will consider registering through the local chapters (Arlington & DC are considered as one). The Chapter Discount is the best available, even better than the $295 early bird fee:
- $293 - for 10-19 members
- $276 - for 20-29 members
- $259 - for 30+ members

Please note:
1. Again this year there is a $20 discount if you choose an Electronic Program Book
2. Registrant must be a parish/individual member of both National AND the local chapter (Arlington/DC).
3. Only one discount per registrant (e.g. cannot be combined with Clergy/Musician Duo)
4. Chapter discount is not available on Youth, Daily, Companion, or Child registrations

Here's what to do:
1. Complete a registration form.
2. Make a check payable to NPM/Arlington ($293* - plus any extras you've chosen)
3. Mail both to Anne Shingler, 3146 Woodland Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309 by Friday, May 15.

*If 20 or more sign up with us, you will receive a refund in the mail.

Questions, including how to join your local chapter?
Please email arlingtonnmp@gmail.com (Arlington) or mcdorrian@yahoo.com (DC)
Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 19, 2017  7:00 PM
A Service of the Seven Last Words of Christ
Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church
46833 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling, VA 20164
703-430-0811 • https://ctrcc.org

All are invited to come join Christ the Redeemer’s Adult Choir for their third annual musical reflection on the Seven Last Words of Christ. Enter more deeply into the blessed season of Lent with this free concert of hymns, readings, and choral works. Contact Claire Schwepepe, Music Director, for more information at clmcaruso@gmail.com or 703-430-0811, ext. 123.

Saturday, March 18, 2017  3:00 PM
The Living Last Supper
St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
1029 Monroe Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017
202-526-8822 • www.stanthonyofpaduadc.org


Sunday, March 12, 2017  4:30 PM
The City Choir of Washington
Robert Shafer: Artistic Director
Music in McLean at Saint Luke’s Catholic Church
7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101

The poetry of Walt Whitman and the liturgical prayer “Dona Nobis Pacem” (Grant us Peace) are beautifully set to music in Dona Nobis Pacem by Ralph Vaughan Williams. This moving cantata written in 1936 cries out for reconciliation in that anxious time between the first and second world wars and speaks to us today. This concert will feature promising singer soloists selected through The City Choir of Washington’s “Young American Artists” program. This concert will also feature a partnership with another outstanding area high school group: the James Madison High School Madrigals (Ms. Claire Rowan, Director), the very same school where Maestro Shafer launched his teaching career in 1968.

Tickets: Adults $35 • Students $25
571 206 8525 - www.thecitychoirofwashington.org
2016 - 2017 Calendar of Events

March 4, 2017
DC Annual Retreat
"Lord, teach us to pray."
Saint Anselm Abbey, Washington, DC

March 14, 2017
An Evening with John C. Walker,
past president of AGO (Co-Sponsored by NPM Arlington and NOVA AGO)
Saint Thomas More Cathedral,
Arlington, VA

April 1, 2017
Children's Choir Event with Mr. Tom Shelton, President of ACDA and professor at Westminster Choir College. (Joint Arlington/DC)
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Potomac, MD

July 10-14, 2017
NPM National Convention
Cincinnati, Ohio

Southern Maryland Gathering

Seven parishes were represented at the 13th Annual Gathering of the Musicians of Southern Maryland on January 28 at Ann Duchesne’s home on Breton Bay. It began with lunch, giving everyone time to reconnect with old friends and welcome new ones.

The first topic addressed was the new Order of Celebrating Matrimony and the challenges of implementing it in our parishes. The discussion benefitted from the presence of Fr. David Beaubien of St. Aloysius Church in Leonardtown. He shared the ways he incorporated the new Order into a celebration at his church, and spoke of the questions we can anticipate in dealing with couples who come to the sacrament with a fixed idea of how it should go.

The discussion then moved on to the variety of ways music is incorporated into the Communion Rite at weekend Masses, and concluded with a survey of service music currently being used in the parishes.
Hats Off!
The following choirs have provided music for the TV Mass for Shut-ins 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.

St. Peter Parish School Choir, Olney, MD
St. John the Evangelist Parish Choir, Silver Spring, MD
Our Lady of Vietnam Youth Choir, Silver Spring, MD

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.