



The Parish Musician

www.npmphg.org

Diocese of Pittsburgh

The Parish Musician
Office for Worship

March 2009

National Association of Pastoral Musicians, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205-4227

“Sing to the Lord” with Bob Batastini

The next Meeting of the Pittsburgh Chapter NPM will be Tuesday, May 5, at St. Margaret Mary Church in Moon Township. Our host will be Brenden Griffey. For Google and Mapquest purposes the address of the church is 1 Parish Place, Coraopolis PA 15108.

Robert J. Batastini is the retired vice president and senior editor for GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago. Though retired from management, he maintains an active role at GIA. Bob has over fifty years of service in pastoral music ministry, having served several parishes in the Archdiocese of Chicago and one in the Diocese of Joliet. He is now director of music emeritus for St. Joseph Parish in Downers Grove, Illinois. He served as executive editor and project director for the Worship hymnals (three editions), Gather hymnals (three editions), Catholic Community Hymnal, and as executive editor of RitualSong.



In 1993 he became the first recipient of the Father Lawrence Heimann Citation for lifetime contribution to church music and liturgy in the U.S., awarded by St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana, and was named "Pastoral Musician of the Year-2000" by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM). At its 2006 conference, he was named a Fellow of the Hymn society in the United States and Canada.

Bob is a thirty year member of the North American Academy of Liturgy, past-president of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, served as a member of the Council for the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, and currently is a member of the Music Advisory Committee of the Bishops Committee on the Liturgy.

Bob will discuss how this latest document of the USCCB on music and the liturgy affects parish musician and Sunday worship.

Schedule for the evening:

- 5:30 to 6:30—cocktail hour
- 6:30 to 7:30—dinner
- 7:30 to 9:00—Bob Batastini
- 9:00 to 9:20—Night Prayer

Dinner will be catered by Cindy Bowen, who did such a fantastic job at February's meeting. The menu will be announced in May's newsletter. The cost for dinner will be \$18.00 per person. A reservation form appears on the back page.

Though sending a check to the Music Office is the preferred method of reservation, you may make reservations with me at nasard@aol.com, and pay Doris that night at the door. **However, if you cancel your reservation after 5:00 PM, May 1, or you make a reservation and do not show for the dinner, you will be responsible for the full \$18.00.** After the above mentioned time the chapter is charged for the number of reservations regardless of whether the dinner is consumed.

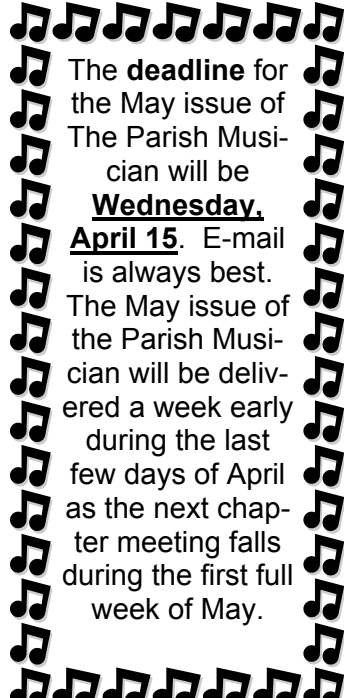
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Herbert A. Dillahunt
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 The **deadline** for the May issue of The Parish Musician will be **Wednesday, April 15**. E-mail is always best. The May issue of the Parish Musician will be delivered a week early during the last few days of April as the next chapter meeting falls during the first full week of May.



Children's Choir Festival

The Greater Pittsburgh Chapter of Choristers Guild is pleased to announce its Fifteenth CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL

FOR: Unchanged children's voice (middle-upper elementary)

DATE: Saturday, March 21, 2009

Schedule:

- 9:00 – 9:30 Registration
- 9:30 - 11:30 Rehearsal
- 11:30 – 12:30 Lunch/Director's Luncheon Meeting
- 12:30 – 2:30 Rehearsal
- 2:45 - 3:30 Closing 'mini concert' *(Parents and guests are invited!)*

FEES: The following fees include the whole day's activities, including LUNCH!

- Groups including up to 10 children **\$45**
- Groups of 11 to 20 children **\$55**
- Groups of 21 or more children **\$65**

CLINICIAN/DIRECTOR: John Horman

WHERE: St. Winifred Church 550 Sleepy Hollow Rd, Mount Lebanon, PA, 15228-2699, 412-344-5010; Dianne Falvo, hostess.

QUESTIONS: If you have any questions regarding the Festival, call Bennett Porchiran at 412-882-8436 or Bjp2147@aol.com or contact Lynne Williams, 724-274-0329 or gpwlew@city-net.com.

Diocesan Organ School

Are you a pianist interested in learning to play the organ? Are you contemplating a course of organ study? Are you interested in organist certification?

Saint Paul Cathedral Associate Organist, **Ken Danchik**, will offer a 4-week course, "Introduction to Organ Playing that will discuss: 1)organ registration 2)hymn playing 3>manual technique 4)pedal technique 5)accompanying cantors.

The course will be offered at **Saint Paul Cathedral** on Tuesday evenings, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, on March 31, April 14, April 28, and May 12. Other locations could be arranged depending on the resources of the participants.

The tuition for this course will be \$60.00 for all four sessions. In order for the course to proceed we will need at least **7 participants**. Deadline for registration is **Thursday, March 26, 2009**. If interested, contact Ken at kqdanchik@aol.com, or Doris Mercer at the Diocesan Music Office at 412-456-3042 (Monday or Thursday afternoons), for further information. If you do plan to attend, please send a check for \$60.00 made payable to: "**Diocese of Pittsburgh**" to the following address:

Doris Mercer

Music Office

Diocese of Pittsburgh

2900 Noblestown Road

Pittsburgh PA 15205-4227

Please write "organ school" in the memo line



Election of Officers to take place in May

The nominating committee has been formed. Helen Ciotto, Doris Anne Mercer and Don Fellows will be canvassing the membership enlisting the aid of NPM Pittsburgh members to serve on an executive board to lead the chapter. The nominating committee is in process and the slate of officers will be announced soon via e-mail and on the NPM PGH website. www.nmpggh.org

Elected offices that will need to be filled are:

Assistant Director for Recruitment:

A person who could replace the Director. An enthusiastic person that is willing to track attendance, invite newcomers and keep in touch with inactive members. The Assistant Director for Recruiting has two main responsibilities. The first and most important is to encourage people to attend meetings. The second is to support the Director and replace the Director if he/she is unable to be present at a meeting or is unable to continue as the Director.

Animator for Koinonia

An outgoing person who likes to be host or hostess and is a prayer leader. Community spirit is more important than personal "piety" for this position. Koinonia includes all the actions that make and build community or an assembly. Animator is a term used to describe a person who enlivens, gets things done, and causes things to happen. The purpose of including Koinonia in the Chapter Meeting needs to be clear to you, and to the other members. Koinonia allows people in the chapter to a) get to know one another, b) begin to trust one another, c) comfortably support one another in their work through prayer, and d) enrich and broaden each other's experience in a non-threatening manner. Koinonia will happen in the NPM Chapters in two ways; through socializing and through praying together. Your responsibility is to animate both the social and the prayer times.

Secretary Treasurer:

A dependable person that will attend every meeting. This person should be comfortable with basic financial duties. A practical, logical person is best in this position. Minutes should be kept of the Business section of each meeting, with particular attention to "Decision, Voting, and Resolution" in the Directions part of the Business Section. Records of the Music Showcase and the Exchange for Learning can be kept in a brief summary form, noting the topic and the persons leading those sections. You may read the minutes before each Directions portion of the Business section if you wish. To keep this reading short, copies of the minutes can be distributed to the members before the meeting begins and simply referred to at the appropriate time. Three times per year information about the chapter's activities should be sent to the national office for submission in the Pastoral Music magazine, the Notebook newsletter, and/or the NPM Website.

If you would be willing to fill any of these offices please contact the Chapter Director or any of the **nominating committee listed below** to make your wishes known.

Helen Ciotto, 412-367-2763, hmaetide@hotmail.com

Don Fellows, 412-681-6802, donaelfellows@verizon.net

Doris Mercer, 412-456-3042, jdoejmi@hotmail.com

Herb Dillahunt, 412-271-1326, nasard@aol.com

Substitute Musicians

Substitute musicians contact information can be found on the Website: www.nmpggh.org, or by calling Doris Mercer at the Music office, 412-456-3042.

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the NPM and the Diocese of Pittsburgh accept no responsibility for reliability or musicianship of the people on this list. Nor does NPM Pittsburgh or the Diocese of Pittsburgh endorse any of the people on this list. Background checks and criminal clearances are the responsibility of the employing parish. The list is provided solely as a resource for parishes seeking at will employment of musicians.



Diocesan Cantor School

A course for beginning cantors will be offered during the month of June. Leading this course will be **Diane Rudolph**, diocesan cantor, director of Music at St. John Capistran, faculty member of CAPA, and an accomplished musician and performer.

The course will be offered at **Saint Edward's** parish in **Blawnox** on Tuesday evenings, 7:30 – 9:00 PM, on June 2, 9, 16, 23.

The tuition for this course will be \$60.00 for all four sessions. In order for the course to proceed we will need at least 10 participants. If interested, contact Diane at DianeRudolph1414@aol.com, or Doris Mercer at the Diocesan Music Office at 412-456-3042 (Monday or Thursday afternoons), for further information. If you do plan to attend, please send a check for \$60.00 made payable to: "**Diocese of Pittsburgh**" to the following address:

Doris Mercer
Music Office
Diocese of Pittsburgh
2900 Noblestown Road
Pittsburgh PA 15205-4227

Please write "cantor school" in the memo line

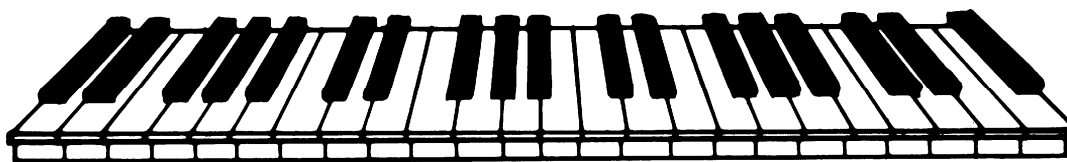
Positions Available

Saint Thomas More Parish, Bethel Park, is seeking to hire a full-time Director of Music Ministries beginning July 1, 2009. The director must be a highly skilled organist with responsibility for five Sunday Masses, adult choir, weekly school Mass and children's choir, monthly Adoration, seasonal prayer services, Christmas children's choir, the bell choir, daily weekday Mass, holydays, some civic holidays, the bell choir, daily weekday Mass, holydays, funerals and weddings, and baptisms. The director must be accomplished with a wide range of liturgical music. Application deadline is May 1, 2009. For more information please contact Mrs. Judy Quesnelle at judyquesnelle@yahoo.com or Father James Wehner at frjim@stmpgh.org. A complete job description can be download from NPM PGH Website using the following link: [St. Thomas More Job Description](#)

Saint Joseph, Verona, is seeking an ORGANIST, responsible for three weekend liturgies, weddings (12 per year) and funerals (50 per year), staff meetings. No Choir. Salary negotiable. Johannes, 3 manual organ. Contact Father Philip Przybyla at: joechurch@verizon.net or 412-795-5114. Send resume to: Rev. Philip Przybyla, Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, 825 Second Street, Verona PA 15147-1498.

DMMD meeting

Don Fellows has invited the membership to attend a DMMD meeting at St Paul Cathedral on Monday, May 11, 2009, at 1:00 PM for a close up look at the renovated Beckerath organ and an opportunity for anyone to play the instrument. Lunch will precede this meeting at one of the Craig Street bistros to be announced at a later date. Mark your calendars now and bring some music and your organ shoes to give the mighty tracker a toot.



Calendar of Events

- March 1 Sunday 3:00 PM Afro Blue - an a cappella jazz choral group from Howard University. They will present a concert at The Presbyterian Church, Sewickley. This concert is free and open to the public, co-sponsored by the Presbyterian Church, Sewickley, and the Pittsburgh PAM Chapter.
- March 1 Sunday 8:30 PM **Larry Allen**, from Mr. Lebanon United Lutheran-1
- March 2 Monday 7:00 PM **Lewis Lev & Gretchen Van Hoesen** from Pittsburgh Symphony, violin & harp, Heavenly Music in Sacred Splendor, benefit for the Jericho Fund, Smithfield UCC, downtown. Works of Schubert, Ravel Rajna, Massenet, Saint-Saens. \$15.00 in advance. \$18.00 at the door. Tickets may be purchased at www.smithfieldchurch.org, at the Church Office (9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday) and at Dozen Cupcakes located at 1707 Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill.
- March 4 Wednesday 12:30 PM **Jon Tyillian**, Music at Midday: Organ Recitals at First English Lutheran Church, downtown
- March 5 Thursday 8:00 PM Choral Evensong and recital by **Sara Botkin**, soprano. Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis by **Alistair Stout** (second service), Anthem: *O Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem* by Herbert Howells Preces and Responses Richard Ayleward. A wine and hors d'oeuvre reception follows. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 5801 Hampton St., Highland Park.
- March 7 Saturday 8:00 PM The Pittsburgh Camerata, **Rebecca Rollett**, director. "Nocturnes—Songs of Love and the Night" The 24 voice choir sings music connecting love and the night, featuring "Nocturnes" by Morten Lauridson. **St Andrew's Episcopal Church**, 5801 Hampton St, Highland Park. \$20, \$10 (students). (412) 421-5884. www.pittsburghcamerata.org
- March 7 Saturday 8:00 PM Choral Concert: Faure Requiem, Poulenc Gloria, and Durufle Sicilienne (Suite). Pittsburgh Concert Chorale, The Academy Orchestra, **Katherine Mueller**, director, **David Billings**, organist. Ingomar United Methodist Church, Franklin Park. Tickets available at the door. www.PCCsing.org; 412-635-7654
- March 8 Sunday 4:00 PM Pittsburgh Concert Chorale, same program as March 7, Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church.
- March 8 Sunday 5:00 PM Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Ave. (at Walnut) Evensong (Calvary Choir, **Alan Lewis** and **Amy Munoz**, organists) with music by Thomas Tallis; recital following by Susan Shafer, contralto, and Dr. Harold Lewis, piano. Freewill offering.
- March 8 Sunday 6:30 PM Choral Evensong and Recital by **Ted Woehr** - violin, **Laura Gallagher** - violin, **Judi Cagley** - viola, **Michael Woltermann** - 'cello, **Jim Bouwkamp** - clarinet. Works by Mozart. A reception will follow. Christ Episcopal Church, 5910 Babcock Blvd., North Hills, Pittsburgh.
- March 8 Sunday 8:30 PM **Peter Luley**, St. Andrew's Episcopal-1
- March 11 Wednesday 12:30 PM **Amy Munoz**, Music at Midday: Organ Recitals at First English Lutheran Church, downtown
- March 11 Wednesday 12:45 PM **Don Fellows**, Organist/Music Director of St. Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh in a mid week Lenten recital at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Plan to stay a bit longer for lunch in Chef J's Cathedral Café (for a minimal cost). 412.441.3800 x11
- March 11 Wednesday 7:30 PM Organ Dedication and Recital by **Russell Weismann**. Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church, 975 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon. Dedication of the new Antiphonal Division of the Ruffatti organ.(free)
- March 13 Friday 8:00 PM **Road to the Isles**, fiddle, bagpipe, flute music, dance and folk songs of Ireland and Scotland 1st Presbyterian, downtown. Admission: \$15/free with student ID. Corned beef & cabbage dinner: 6:30 p.m. Reception following concert.
- March 15 Sunday 4:00 PM Tenor **Dean Kokanos**, Voice Recital -³
- March 15 Sunday 8:30 PM **John Meyers**, organ scholar, Sacred Heart Church Shadyside-1
- March 18 Wednesday 12:30 PM **Benjamin Cornelius-Bates** and **Adam Heald**, Music at Midday: Organ

- Recitals at First English Lutheran Church, downtown
- March 18.....Wednesday.....12:45 PM **Cynthia Pock**, Cantor and Director of Music at First Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh and Andre Bierman, Tenor soloist at First Lutheran Church and Temple Rodef Shalom, in a mid week Lenten recital at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Plan to stay a bit longer for lunch in Chef J's Cathedral Café (for a minimal cost). 412.441.3800 x11
- March 18.....Wednesday.....4:00 PM **Larry Allen**, organist - Oakmont Presbyterian Church, Oakmont PA (free)
- March 21.....Saturday.....7:30 PM **Larry Allen**, organist in concert at Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Ave. (at Walnut), music by Byrd, Gibbons, Purcell, Mendelssohn, Parry, and others, \$15 at the door.
- March 22.....Sunday.....4:00 PM **Mike Tomaro** and the Duquesne University Jazz Ensemble. Tiffany Concert Series, Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233. 412.323.1070.
- March 22.....Sunday.....4:00 PM IN REMEMBRANCE. Westmoreland Choral Society, Marvin Huls, director, St. Joseph HS Choir, Nancy Sheehan, director. 1st Presbyterian Church, Greensburg. www.westmorelandchoralsociety.com
- March 22.....Sunday.....4:00 PM **Harald Vogel**, Organ Artist Series, St. Paul Cathedral
- March 22.....Sunday.....4:00 PM The Pittsburgh Gospel Choir (PGC) Albright United Methodist Church, 486 S. Graham Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Admission free, donation asked for Benefit Food Pantry. For more concert information, email Albrightchurch@gmail.com
- March 22.....Sunday.....4:00 PM The Office of Evening Prayer for Lent, sung by the Pittsburgh Compline Choir. **Andrew Scanlon**, Director, **Cynthia Pock**, Organ. First English Lutheran Church, downtown.
- March 22.....Sunday.....8:30 PM **Dr. Christine Clewell**, IUP-1
- March 25.....Wednesday.....12:30 **John Meyers**, Music at Midday: Organ Recitals on at First English Lutheran Church, downtown
- March 25.....Wednesday.....12:45 PM Donald Wilkins, Organist/Choirmaster Emeritus at Calvary Episcopal Church, Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church and Carnegie Mellon University, in a mid week Lenten recital at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Plan to stay a bit longer for lunch in Chef J's Cathedral Café (for a minimal cost). 412.441.3800 x11
- March 27.....Friday.....7:30 PM **Valerie Stipcak**, Senior Organ and Piano recital. student of Edgar Highberger. 1st Presbyterian Church, Greensburg.
- March 27.....Friday.....7:30 PM Organist **Amy Munoz** in recital at Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Ave. (at Walnut) Freewill offering.
- March 28.....Saturday.....7:05 PM SILENT MOVIES with live organ accompaniment by **John Schwandt**, organist (Associate Professor of Organ and Director for the American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma) held in the Sanctuary of Beulah Presbyterian Church, 2500 McCrady Road, Churchill. Movie admission is .25 cents. Celebrating *the International Year of the Organ. Liberty*, with Laurel and Hardy and *The Kid*, with Charlie Chaplin. An optional Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm. Dinner is \$5.00 per person with maximum \$15.00 per family. Reservations for dinner (by Mar. 20) call Barbara Maxwell at 412-242-4570. For more information call or visit us at www.beulahpresby.org. Come join us for *Dinner and a Movie!*
- March 29.....Sunday.....8:30 PM **John Cannon**, Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church-1
- March 30.....Monday.....7:00 PM St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Highland Park - **Joseph Tuttle** junior recital - works for solo organ and organ and choir. Admission free.
- April 1.....Wednesday.....12:30 PM **Douglas Duca**, Music at Midday: Organ Recitals at First English Lutheran Church, downtown
- April 1.....Wednesday.....12:45 PM **Carly Noel Riley**, Contralto sings Songs of the Holy Season with **J. Richard Szeremany** at the organ in a mid week Lenten recital at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. Plan to stay a bit longer for lunch in Chef J's Cathedral Café (for a minimal cost). 412.441.3800 x11
- April 2.....Thursday.....8:00 PM Choral Evensong: Preces & Responses, Plainsong; Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis, Thomas Morley (faux-bourdon) and Anthem, Gabriel Faure, *Cantique de Jean Racine*. A recital by soprano, **Sr. Marie Agatha Ozah** accompanied by **Ayo Oluranti**, Asst. Organist / Composer in Residence. A wine and hors d'oeuvre reception follows. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,

- 5801 Hampton St., Highland Park. (412) 661-1245.
- April 5Sunday8:30 PM **Dr. Stanley Yoder**, Zion Lutheran, Emeritus-¹
- April 10Friday8:00 PM Brookes-Passion by G.F. Handel, with Chatham Baroque and original instruments ensemble, **Webb Wiggins**, chamber organ, and the Calvary Choir and soloists, **Alan Lewis**, conducting. Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Ave. (at Walnut). Freewill offering.
- April 12Sunday8:30 PM **Andrew Scanlon**, First Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh & Director, Pittsburgh Compline Choir-¹
- April 17Friday7:00 PM Cabaret Evening featuring traditional British pub food and beverages with entertainment by St. Andrew's Choir and "Friends." Donation of \$20 requested. Proceeds benefit St. Andrew's Children's Music and Music Scholars programs. Limited seating, please call George Knight (412) 963-7337 for reservations.
- April 19Sunday4:00 PM Rodrigo Guitar Trio -³
- April 19Sunday5:00 PM Collegium Musicum of Oberlin College, conducted by **Steven Plank**. "An English Ave," unaccompanied Marian music from the British Isles. Freewill offering. Calvary Episcopal Church.
- April 19Sunday6:30 PM Choral Evensong and Recital by **Jon Kolenchak**, organ. Works by Bach, Denis Bedard, and Bernard Herrmann. A reception will follow. Christ Episcopal Church, 5910 Babcock Blvd., North Hills, Pittsburgh
- April 19Sunday8:30 PM **Dr. Ann Labounsky**, from Duquesne University-¹
- April 23Thursday12:10 PM **Carolyn and John Skelton**, organ solo and duets (Andover, MA), 1st Presbyterian, downtown.
- April 24Friday7:30 PM MADE IN AMERICA, Sten Hill University Piano & Organ students of Edward Kuhn and Edgar Highberger perform a marathon concert of music by American composer. 1st Presbyterian Church, Greensburg. 724.832.0150.
- April 26Sunday2:00 PM THE GENEVANS, the student choir of Geneva College, 1st Presbyterian, downtown. Admission: \$15/free with student ID
- April 26Sunday3:00 PM Calvin Festival Worship Service at Heinz Chapel. This service will honor the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin. Guest Preacher will be **Charles Partee**, P.C. Rossin Professor of Church History, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. This program is free and open to the public.
- April 26Sunday4:00 PM On Strings of Song, Pittsburgh Chapter, American Harp Society Concert. Tiffany Concert Series, Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233. 412.323.1070
- April 26Sunday4:00 PM **Bruce Neswick**, Organ Artists Series, Calvary Episcopal Church
- April 26Sunday4:00 PM St. Paul's UMC, Allison Park - John Rutter's "Mass of the Children" with combined church choirs, North Hills High School Concert Choir, and North Hills High School Orchestra. Admission free.
- April 30Thursday12:10 PM **Michael Wayne Smith**, (Groton, MA), 1st Presbyterian, downtown.
- May 5Tuesday....7:30 PM..... Robert J. Batastini presents a seminar on the new USCCB liturgical music document "Sing to the Lord." St. Margaret Mary Parish, Moon Twp. Dinner preceding at 6:30 PM**
- May 7Thursday12:10 PM **Kola Owolabi** (University Organist, Syracuse University), 1st Presbyterian, downtown

¹ – Choral Prayer at the End to the Day, Sung by the Pittsburgh Compline Choir, **Andrew Scanlon**, Director. Sunday Evenings, 8:30 PM. Heinz Memorial Chapel, University of Pittsburgh. Weekly guest organists are listed.

² – Noontime Organ Recitals at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, downtown, 328 Sixth Avenue. Wednesdays, 12:30 to 1:00 PM. Visiting Artists listed.

³ – Music in a Great Space. Shadyside Presbyterian Church, 5121 Westminster Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors (60 and over). Students and children are free. Season subscriptions are also available: \$48 for adults and \$24 for seniors. Proceeds from ticket receipts benefit the local and global missions of Shadyside Presbyterian Church. For more information on the Music in a Great Space series, call 412-682-4300 or visit

<http://www.shadysidepres.org/music/migs/index.htm>.

⁴ – Free Organ Concerts, Heinz Memorial Chapel, 3:00 PM Sundays.

⁵ – Free lunchtime student recitals at Heinz Memorial Chapel, Wednesdays, 12:15 PM

⁶ – Duquesne University Chapel Organ Recitals, from the studio of Ann Labounsky, Chair, Sacred Music Department, Duquesne University. Tuesdays, 12:45 - 1:10 PM, Duquesne University Chapel, Old Main Building. Recitalists listed.



Renovation of Beckerath Organ at St. Paul's Cathedral a Success



St. Paul Cathedral hummed with more than its usual complement of music the week of January 5.

Two festive concerts celebrated recent comprehensive restoration of the Cathedral's monumental von Beckerath pipe organ. During the same week, St. Paul hosted the 26th national Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians.

Oberlin Conservatory's James David Christie's January 6 solo organ recital featured seldom-heard earlier-period pieces, as well as contemporary repertoire by Jean Langlais and the recitalist. "He was brilliant," says Cathedral Music Director Don Fellows. "Christie highlighted the sound of the organ even more than his own virtuosity" with "audience-friendly pieces that delighted both casual and serious listeners."

The following evening, Cathedral rector Fr. Donald Breier proudly announced, "Tonight, it's our own people." Associate Organist Ken Danchik commanded the rear "Grande Orgue," with Russ Weismann at an "Orgue de Choeur" in the sanctuary. A closed-circuit TV beamed conductor Fellows' beat to Danchik, a full city block away. Because the organ reeds and brilliant trumpet "en chamade" had just been installed, even the musicians had not heard the organ's full sound until the thunderous opening chords of Vierne's "Solemn Mass."

Danchik sparkled in a Daquin "Noel," with elaborate ornamentation and rapid switches among the four manuals (or keyboards) of the organ. Fellows shone in Karg-Elert's treacherously difficult "Fugue, Kanzone, und Epilog," with violin and four-part women's choir. "Like angels singing!" exclaimed one delighted attendee.

The choir's sustained dissonances through Mathews' "O Magnum Mysterium," and a brightly syncopated Mathias "Sir Christemas" prompted a final prolonged ovation.

In the audience were Cathedral musicians from across America, in Pittsburgh for their annual conference. Composer Richard Proulx, Catholic University's Leo Nestor, Jennifer Pascual from New York's St. Patrick Cathedral, and others from as far away as California and Canada gathered "to make music, pray in liturgy and song, and share ideas in collegial fellowship," according to host Fellows. Pittsburgh proudly welcomed home John and Karen Romeri (now in St. Louis, MO), Rick Gibala (Arlington, VA), Tom Stehle (Washington, DC), Jerry Kaminski (Yakima, WA), National Pastoral Musicians' president Mike McMahon, and James Wetzel (New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine).

The musicians experienced the restored St. Paul organ in a variety of liturgical settings, from morning and evening prayer to Mass with Bishop Zubik. They studied the US Bishops' document, "Sing to the Lord," visited Duquesne University's Sacred Music Collection, and toured Sacred Heart and other East End churches. Pitt Chapel Choir and Men's Glee Club mini-concerts garnered glowing reviews.

George Taylor, of the Taylor and Boody organ restoration team, reminded the musicians that the St. Paul organ "has long been recognized as one of von Beckerath's finest instruments." Organist Danchik agrees: "It represented a turning point in organ building, wherein the ideals of clear ensembles and counterpoint were recaptured. It leads prayer more clearly than organs with thicker, more orchestral textures, and truly is a national treasure."

Before the restoration, Director Fellows says the Cathedral organ "limped along" with perhaps only a third of its parts in working order. It now sings with a warm, clear voice, supporting prayer and giving praise and glory to God during the 700+ parish and diocesan liturgies celebrated each year at St. Paul.





Diocese of Pittsburgh

Office for Music Ministry
2900 Noblestown Road
Pittsburgh PA 15205-4227

Phone: 412-271-1326
Fax: 412-271-1222
E-mail: nasard@aol.com



We're on the
web at
www.npmpgh.org

Dinner Reservation

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Bob Batastini, "Sing to the Lord"

St. Margaret Mary, Moon Twp. Brenden Griffey, host

Name _____

Guests _____

Amount Enclosed (\$18.00 per dinner) _____

Make check payable to "Pittsburgh Chapter NPM"

Doris Mercer, Music Office

Diocese of Pittsburgh

2900 Noblestown Road

Pittsburgh PA 15205

412-456-3042

jodoejmi@hotmail.com

**Reservation deadline
in Monday, April 27.
Please do your best
to be on time.**