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12.31.18

JANUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

May the lights of Hanukkah usher in a better world for all humankind.
Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish brothers and sisters

Frustrated with trying to make music software work for you in your ministry? Well, then it’s time for you to “tune in” to December’s live webinar on “Music Software to Make Your Life Easier” ... and who doesn’t want to do that!

We are happy to welcome back our own NPMPGH Director of Technology, Dave Dreher to expertly guide you through this tutorial on music software, specifically the Finale Allegro program. Times have changed and so have the tools of our ministry so why not sign up to attend our December virtual meeting. It’s not too late! You will be glad you did!

TO REGISTER, please click on this link:
https://daviddreher.webinarjinja.com/webinars/61449/register

O God Everlasting,
in this year and every year, in this and every place,
Your Word resounds in the wilderness of Advent,
calling us to stand upon the height of Your holy mountain to behold the splendor of Your beauty.

Fill in the valleys of our neglect and bring low the mountains of our self-centeredness.
Prepare in our hearts Your way of righteousness and peace.
Let our love become a harvest of goodness which You will bring to completion for the day of Christ Jesus.
Amen.
DMMD NEWS

SAINT ANTHONY’S CHAPEL TOUR

Every city in our country contains historical significance whether in the history of our Church or culture. Pittsburgh has a unique worship space containing over 5,000 relics of Catholic Saints and articles that are significant in our belief as Christians. On November 5, 2018, our Pittsburgh Chapter of DMMD gathered at St. Anthony Chapel in Troy Hill for a guided tour of the chapel, learning the history on how the chapel was built and the acquiring in time of the relics. St. Anthony is one of Pittsburgh’s most beautiful, traditional worship spaces.

Following the tour, our members gathered at Penn Brewery for lunch. Please stay tuned in our newsletter and our Facebook page for our next upcoming meeting in the early months of 2019!

- Daniel F. Kovacic,
  Director of DMMD Pittsburgh

LOOKING AHEAD …

✦ 2019 DMMD WINTER COLLOQUIUM
  January 14 - 16, 2019  San Antonio, Texas

“Unpacking the VISION for On Mission for the Church Alive”

We were most excited to welcome Fr. Sam Esposito as our guest speaker for our November 16th meeting at St. Thomas More Parish, Bethel Park. As one of the architects of the initial OMFCA vision, Fr. Sam offered more background on the process and how it evolved and changed along the way. With an insightful perspective, Fr. Sam left us with a much more in-depth understanding of the inner workings of the OMFCA planning process and the goals that were met and unmet, changed and unchanged. Our evening ended with Fr. Sam presiding over a Blessing Service for Pastoral Musicians, and a wonderful time of food and fellowship, courtesy of St. Thomas More Music Ministry and host, Nathan Bellas. Evan Bellas presented a mini-concert of organ music on the newly installed Al Sterner designed Walker organ.
NPM Pittsburgh 2018 Chapter of the Year presents ...

**MONDAY JANUARY 14, 2019**

**7:00PM**

**HOLY NAME CHURCH**

**CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD PARISH**

**DUQUESNE**

Greg Lesko, Host

**7:00pm PIZZA DINNER**

**8:00pm GEORGE PECORARO**

Guest speaker

**9:00pm NIGHT PRAYER**

Come and be enlightened on the merits of creating a hybrid organ — pipes plus technology!

For more info, visit our website at [www.nmpgh.org](http://www.nmpgh.org). Click on the link: JANUARY: Pizza, Pipes & Prayer

**HOLY NAME CHURCH · 32 SOUTH 1ST STREET · DUQUESNE, PA 15110**

**CHOIR DIRECTORS** ... here’s your invitation! Each month, we would like to highlight one parish choir or ensemble — any one of your parish music groups — in our newsletter. Just send us a photo identifying your group, and we’ll do the rest! Parish music ministries work incredibly hard, so let us acknowledge them, and you, their fearless director! Please send a photo to: dmf653@verizon.net.
UPCOMING HAPPENINGS & EVENTS

ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION at Epiphany Academy
“To Us A Child of Hope Is Born”
Sunday - December 2, 2018
6:00pm
Epiphany Academy of Formative Spirituality • 820 Crane Avenue • Pittsburgh, PA 15216
Join us for this special evening of music, prayer, silence, and song as we prepare our hearts to welcome the Infant Jesus at Christmas. Please call 412-341-7494 or email epiphanyassociation.org. A free will offering will kindly be accepted. Fellowship and a reception will follow the service.

ADVENT ADVENT CONCERT “One Light, One Hope”
Choirs of Nativity, St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin, St. Germaine, and St. Valentine
Sunday - December 2, 2018
6:00pm to 8:00pm
St. Germaine Church • 5000 Baptist Road • Bethel Park, PA 15102
Join us as we begin the Advent Season with a concert of inspiring Advent music. For more info, call 412-833-0331.

ST. JAMES MUSIC PLUS SERIES presents A CHRISTMAS CONCERT: MUSIC FOR McGUIRE
Pittsburgh Symphony Brass
Sunday - December 2, 2018
6:30pm
St. James Parish • 200 Walnut Street • Sewickley, PA 15143
Please join us for a wonderful 50 minute concert of Christmas selections for the entire family! Pre-concert at 6:00pm by Quaker Valley Schools Musicians, directed by Chris Burgh. A free-will offering will be gratefully accepted with proceeds benefitting the McGuire Memorial Home of New Brighton. A reception will follow. This concert is generously underwritten by Sam and Judy Spanos. Questions: Call 412-741-6650

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS & PRAISE
Hosted by the Diocese of Pittsburgh
Sunday - December 9, 2018
2:30pm to 4:30pm
St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland
Join us for a powerful adaptation of Lessons and Carols in the context of Adoration. Every choir in the Diocese is invited to participate in this prayerful and inspiring overture to the Advent and Christmas seasons.

“CHURCH ALIVE RECITAL”
Upper Allegheny Grouping (Holy Family, Holy Martyrs, Our Lady of Victory, Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament, St. Alphonsus, and St. Joseph)
Sunday - December 16, 2018
2:00pm
Holy Martyrs Church • 353 West 9th Avenue • Tarentum, PA 15084
The churches of the Upper Allegheny Valley Grouping are sponsoring a “Church Alive!” Recital. All are welcome!

RING PITTSBURGH
RING PITTSBURGH Handbell Ensemble
Friday - December 14, 2018
6:30pm
The Frick Museum • 7227 Reynolds Street • Sewickley, PA 15208
Come and celebrate the holidays with RING PITTSBURGH, your community handbell ensemble, as they entertain you with popular and traditional Christmas music. For more info, visit www.RingPittsburgh.org.

ST. JAMES MUSIC MINISTRY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT
St. James Music Ministries with Orchestra
Sunday - December 16, 2018
7:00pm
St. James Church • 200 Walnut Street • Sewickley, PA 15143
The combined Music Ministries of St. James Church will present their annual Christmas concert with orchestral accompaniment, directed by Lou Valenzi. Performing will be the St. James Choir, directed by Lou Valenzi and the Bells of St. James, and the Children’s Choir, directed by Sharon Schaefer. Piano, Donna Amato and organ, Phil Liebscher and Sharon Schaefer. Reception follows. For more info, call 412-741-6650.
SING WE NOEL
Saint Kilian Parish Music Ministry
Wednesday · December 19, 2018
7:00pm
Saint Kilian Church · 7076 Franklin Road · Cranberry Twp, PA 16066
The Saint Kilian Parish Music Ministry will present their annual Christmas Concert, “Sing We Noel”, featuring the Adult, Children’s, Bell Choirs and instrumentalists of all ages, in the Parish Church. Admission is FREE. A freewill offering will be collected with all proceeds benefitting the St. Vincent de Paul Society. For more info, visit www.saintkilian.org/noel.

RING PITTSBURGH
RING PITTSBURGH Handbell Ensemble
Saturday · January 5, 2019
6:30pm
St. Francis Cabrini Parish · 115 Trinity Drive · Aliquippa, PA 15001
Come and celebrate the holidays with RING PITTSBURGH, your community handbell ensemble, as they entertain you with popular and traditional Christmas music. For more info, visit www.RingPittsburgh.org.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT
St. Andrew's Cross Band
Friday · December 21, 2018
7:30pm
St. Andrew Church · 1660 N. Main Street · Butler, PA 16001
All are invited to this family-friendly, high energy Christmas Concert performed by the 9-member band, St. Andrew’s Cross. Traditional Christmas carols with a “pop beat”, along with featured arrangements by BE Taylor, Tom Petty, John Lennon, as well as Chris Tomlin, Casting Crowns, and Sidewalk Prophets will fill the air. A free will offering will be taken to help with band expenses. A light reception will follow.

CHORAL KALEIDOSCOPE
Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto
Dr. Caron Daley, Director of Choral Activities, Duquesne University
Saturday · January 12, 2019
8:30am to 4:00pm
Mary Pappert School of Music, Duquesne University · 408 Magee Street · Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Choral Kaleidoscope is a professional development event exploring the multi-faceted choral educator, conductor and church musician! Act 48 credits available. To register, visit www.duq.edu/choralkaleidoscope.

COMING SOON … to a coffee shop near you!

We’re working on a new idea for 2019 — something to make it easier for you to tap into NPM PGH…without a “latte” hassle for you! “Coffee Talks” will offer an informal setting to gather, talk, share ideas or stories, and of course, have a good cup of “Joe” with friends and colleagues. We’re still in the planning stages, so stay tuned for more details! Have a favorite coffee shop in your area? Please let us know about it so we can meet you there!
MEMBERSHIP NEWS & NOTES

Congratulations!

NATHAN BELLAS … Director of Music and Liturgy at Mother of Sorrows Parish, Murrysville.

DANIEL KOVACIC … Director of Music Ministries, “Grouping 221” St. Thomas More and St. John Capistran Parishes, Bethel Park/Upper St. Clair

✔ CHECK OUR TECH …

NPMPGH YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV2QhtTA_vSa6JFSZLmGAVideo
Website: www.npmpgh.org
Facebook: Pittsburgh NPM Musicians’ Forum

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE…

BACK in the summer, I gave a talk to a group of first year seminarians on ‘being pastoral’… a very broad topic to be sure. One of the talking points that I was tasked to address was the importance of carrying a hymnal and singing in the gathering and closing processions — most especially the priest, but also all liturgical ministers in the procession.

TO us pastoral musicians, this concept seems like a no-brainer … it is naturally expected and not something that needs extra re-inforcing or petitioning on a regular basis.

AS pastoral musicians, I think we can all agree that the congregational song is always better encouraged by example when the presider enters and leaves carrying a hymnal or worship aide and actually joins in the singing!

TOTAL no-brainer: If the presider leaves the altar the moment the closing song has begun, and does not carry a songbook, chances are that a lot of folks, perhaps even most, will follow his example and be out the door before you finish the last verse.

- Dianne Falvo

Regniescat in Pace

We offer our deepest condolences to Anthony Milbower, our Animator of Koinonia, on the passing of his mother, MARY JEAN (Kelso) MILBOWER and to John Miller, our former Diocesan Director of Music, on the passing of his mother, GERTRUDE (TRUDY) MILLER. Trudy had a strong love and appreciation of music, singing in the Diocesan Choir for over 12 years.

May perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
MONDAY • JANUARY 14, 2019
Pizza, Pipes, and Prayer: A Night for the Organist
(The Advantages of Creating Hybrid Organs from Existing Pipe Organs)
7:00pm
Location  Holy Name Church/Christ the Light of the World Parish · Duquesne, PA
Presenter  George Pecoraro
Host  Greg Lesko

FRIDAY • FEBRUARY 1, 2019
A Celebration of Candlemas – Candlemas Eve Mass & Invitational Choir Fest of Music for the Season
7:00pm
Location  St. Kilian Parish · Cranberry Township
Host  David Dreher

SATURDAY • MARCH 30, 2019
PUERI CANTORES Festival for Mixed Voice Choirs [Grades 4-12] and Festival Mass
12 Noon to 5:00pm  (Registration and Rehearsal)
5:30pm  Choral Prelude
6:00pm  Festival Mass
Location  St. Paul Cathedral · Oakland
Host  Don Fellows
To register, please visit:  www.pcchoirs.org

APRIL 2019
A VIRTUAL MEETING (Webinar)
Date and topic TBA

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
... for these exciting events, sure to ‘feed’ body, mind, and spirit! Gift yourself with two opportunities to sing and pray, to dance and delight with NPM PGH colleagues, friends, and fellow music ministers from other parishes. We need to support each other more than ever, and what better way than to do what we do best … celebrate in the spirit of faith and shared ministry, and of course, party with each other! Let 2019 be the year that you take that first step to join in an NPM PGH event … and let it be a year of renewal with new beginnings for YOU! We’re waiting to welcome you!
During my post-graduate studies in Germany and Austria, I had the privilege to visit this amazing little chapel and learn more about the history of this famous carol. I wanted to share this story with all of our fellow musicians who may also appreciate this wonderful story.

“Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht” was composed in 1818 by Franz Xaver Gruber to lyrics by Joseph Mohr, in the small town of Oberndorf bei Salzburg Austria. It was declared an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO in 2011. The song was first performed on Christmas Eve Mass in 1818 at St. Nicholas Parish church in Oberndorf, a village in the Austrian Empire on the Salzach River in present day Austria. A young priest, Father Joseph Mohr, had come to Oberndorf the year before. He had written lyrics of the song “Stille Nacht” in 1816 at Mariapfarr, the hometown of his father in the Salzburg Lungau region. The melody was composed by Franz Xaver Gruber, schoolmaster and organist in the nearby village of Arnsdorf. Before Christmas Eve, Mohr brought the words to Gruber and asked him to compose a melody and guitar accompaniment for the Christmas Eve Mass. It is not commonly known, but the organ stopped functioning those few days before Christmas, due to a few pesky mice. What the organist and priest created is perhaps the most beloved Christmas carol of all time.

According to Gruber, Karl Mauracher, an organ builder who serviced the instrument at the Oberndorf church was enamoured with the song and took the composition home with him to the Zillertal. From there, two traveling families of folk singers, the Strassers and the Rainers, included the tune in their shows. The Rainers were already singing it around Christmas 1819, and once performed it for an audience that included Franz I of Austria and Alexander I of Russia, as well as making the first performance of the song in the U.S., in New York City in 1839. By the 1840s the song was well known in Lower Saxony and was reported to be a favorite of the wealthy Wilhelm IV of Prussia. During this period, the melody changed slightly to become the version that is commonly played today.

The first edition was published by Friese in 1833 in a collection of Four Genuine Tyrolean Songs. In 1859, the Episcopal priest John Freeman Young, then serving at Trinity Church, New York City, wrote and published the English translation that is most frequently sung today, translated from three of Mohr’s original six verses. The carol has been translated into about 140 languages.

So this year when you sing this carol, no matter what the language, remember where it came from and how special it has been to Christianfolk for this past two hundred years. If you have the chance when you are visiting Salzburg, Austria, it is worth a small side trip to see this lovely chapel and feel the presence where it all began all those years ago. Each year, no matter where I am the music director/organist, I always have the choir sing “Stille Nacht” in German and English. It just wouldn’t seem like Midnight Mass to me without it!

Frohe Wiehnachten!

B. Béla Pater, Pittsburgh PA
NPM PITTSBURGH LEADERSHIP TEAM

DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
Reverend James J. Chepponis
Diocese of Pittsburgh Music Office
2900 Noblestown Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15201-4227
Music Office (412) 456-3042
FAX (412) 456-3163
Church (412) 221-6275
Email npmpgh@aol.com

NPM PITTSBURGH CHAPTER DIRECTOR
Kevin Maurer
Cell (412) 999-4607
Email music@diopitt.org

DMMD DIRECTOR
Daniel Kovacic
“Grouping 221” (St. Thomas More, St. John Capistran, Bethel Park/Upper St. Clair)
Cell (724) 880-5418
Email dlfkovacic@gmail.com

SECRETARY
Ginny Ambrose
“Grouping 103” (St. Athanasius, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Sebastian, Incarnation of the Lord, North Hills)
Cell (412) 389-9933
Email ginnyambroseorganist@gmail.com

TREASURER
Béla Pater
“Grouping 210” (St. Elizabeth Anne Seton, St. Margaret of Scotland, SS. Simon & Jude, Carnegie/Green Tree/Scott Twp)
Cell (847) 620-9893
Email BelaPater@aol.com

ANIMATOR FOR KOINONIA
Anthony Milbower
St. Patrick Parish, Canonsburg
Email anthonymilbower@comcast.net

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY
David Dreher
Saint Kilian Parish, Cranberry Township
Cell (412) 585-1398
Email ddreher@saaintkilian.org

PUBLICITY COORDINATOR
Dianne Falvo
Cell (412) 303-0908
Email dmf653@verizon.net

VICARIATE 1 COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT
Julianna Haag
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Beechview

VICARIATE 2 COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT
Béla Pater
“Grouping 210” (Carnegie/Green Tree/Scott Twp)

VICARIATE 3 COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT
Robin Schillo
St. Columbkille Parish, Imperial

VICARIATE 4 COORDINATOR/DIRECTOR OF RECRUITMENT
Shari Whitico
St. Pio of Pietrelcina Parish, Blawnox

WE, the NPM PGH Leadership Team, wish you and your choirs and ensembles all the best as you engage your parishes in prayerful, inspiring music for the Advent/Christmas season. May you submit gracefully and rejoice quietly in the gift of new beginnings which bring to birth what is ready to be born—a new song, a deeper relationship, a new community—all done in the fullness of God’s time. May this season of short days and long nights carry you to the silent birth of Incarnate Love. Peaceful Advent and Blessed Christmas to one and all!

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THE PARISH MUSICIAN