



THE CHURCH MUSICIAN ~ *THE QUILISMA*

The Bulletin of the Church Musicians' Guild of Buffalo

A Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians

February 2018

CHORAL WORKSHOP WITH DR. LUEBKE BY BILL FAY

We are fortunate to have secured the services of Dr. Adam Luebke for our choral workshop on Tuesday, February 6 at St. John XXIII Parish. The church is located at the corner of Harlem and Arcade in West Seneca near the Winchester Fire Hall. The program will begin at 7:00 PM. Members of the Buffalo Chapter of the AGO are invited as well as The Church Musicians Guild. The program is entitled "Singing in Style: Empowering Versatile Musicians".

Adam is the director of the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus and well regarded by all who sing under his direction. He is a graduate of St. Olaf College, Westminster Choir College and Florida State University. The director was formerly on the faculty of Houghton College and now serves at SUNY Fredonia. If you ever wondered about correct performance practice in singing renaissance and baroque music, this is your opportunity to learn from a master.

NPM NEWS

by **Bill Fay**

Father Columba Kelly OSB has been selected for the NPM Jubilate Deo award to given at the convention in Baltimore this July. Father Columba is an internationally recognized chant expert who lives at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana.

Father Ricky Manalo CP will be given the Pastoral Musician Award at the same conference. Father Ricky has many songs published in the Breaking Bread hymnal and was our guest for the guild convocation last November. Ricky, as he prefers to be called, lives in Chinatown, San Francisco, California.

The NPM convention is scheduled for July 9-13 in Baltimore, Maryland. Bill Fay and Mary Weimar are planning to attend. Please consider joining them. Find a roommate to reduce the cost of lodging. Register before March 6 and you will save on the registration fee. It will interest you to know that guild member Joel Kumro is playing in an organ recital during the convention.

Save the Date for Upcoming Guild Events

Tuesday, February 6 – 7:00pm – *“Singing in Style” with Adam Luebke*, St. John XXIII Church

Friday, March 2 - 7:30 PM *Joshua Stafford, organ recital*, SUNY Buffalo

Friday, March 2 – 6:00pm *Signum Fidel Society Induction-Jim Kosnik will be honored by St. Joseph Collegiate Institute*, Brookfield Country Club

Sunday, March 11 – 5:00pm- *Diocesan Festival Choir directed by Frank Scinta*, St. Louis Church

Monday, May 7 – 7:00 PM *Organ Scholarship Auditions*, St. Benedict Church

DIOCESAN CHORAL FESTIVAL

The choral festival is scheduled for March 11 at Saint Louis Church. Our colleague Frank Scinta will conduct the festival ensemble. Participating choirs include St. Joseph Cathedral, St. Louis, All Saints/John Paul II, St. Benedict, and St. Katherine Drexel Churches. Each choir will present ten minutes of music. All choirs and individuals from other parishes will join in at the conclusion. Music directors will have access to the historic Kimball pipe organ and the Steinway grand piano.

Music will be provided free of charge and there will be no cost for admission. The schedule is as follows:

2:00 - registration
 2:30 - rehearsal
 4:00 - refreshments
 5:00 - concert
 6:30 – conclusion

The festival compositions were previewed at the November guild convocation. They are as follows:

I Saw Also the Lord-Paul Christiansen
 Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring- J.S. Bach
 Old Hundredth Psalm Tune -R.V. Williams
 Magnificat -Michael Praetorius

Please send an email (HAISSIS@YAHOO.COM) or call (585-610-6741) to Mary Weimer. to reserve a place. The deadline is February 7.

LIFELONG FORMATION FOR LITURGICAL MUSICIANS BY BILL FAY

Some time ago, I wrote about the time required for maintenance of standards for our profession. Many people of good will think that a musician can just sit down and sight-read scores written by J.S. Bach. Indeed, few understand the need for regular practice for singers to maintain muscle control. For those of us over a certain age, practice minimizes the effects of the aging body. This biological fact is particularly important for singers.

In this article, I would like to address the need for continuing education. We are a “pilgrim people” and our profession and our church does not remain static. If there is a body of knowledge with enough depth to offer doctoral degrees in liturgy and/or liturgical music, it ought to be understood that most of us should use at least read a booklet or attend a convocation/convention!

Before I go any further, let me acknowledge the fact that most of us work full time and our church work is part time. That certainly means that there is a limit of time to which one can devote to music ministry.

How can one advance one’s knowledge of our profession? I believe that the first step in continuing education is to READ! How many people know the document *Sing to the Lord*? This is your major reference source. How about joining the Church Musicians Guild or the National Association of Pastoral Musicians? One funeral or wedding fee will pay for a membership. These organizations provide helpful articles in newsletters and magazines that should fit within your time frame. Booklets on various subjects are available from Liturgical Press and Liturgy Training Publications. Many are inexpensive and easy to read.

A new feature on the NPM website offers tutorials on a myriad of subjects. Take a look at these features: Digital Conservatory and NPM Academy. The American Guild of Organists website now offers tutorials on organ technique.

Attending conferences is important. The least expensive way would be to attend the guild workshops and the annual convocation. The Buffalo chapter of the American Guild of Organists also offers concerts, workshops and in service training for organists. Christ the King Seminary offers continuing education classes in theology and scripture every fall and spring.

I am aware that Saturday has become a major workday for church musicians, making scheduling workshops difficult. Do yourself a favor and request that your pastor find a substitute once a year so you can learn with and from your colleagues.

Churches are becoming hard pressed to support out of town conferences for its employees. Perhaps your parish can rotate the expenses for such an experience among its ministers. For myself, I deduct the expenses from my income taxes.

I think that association with one’s colleagues is another informal way of learning. We learn from each other, at least, smart people do. None of us will attain the pinnacle of knowledge till we reach the promised land! If you have a concern about music ministry, call our board members who have years of experience. Our diocesan director of music, Alan Lukas, is another valuable resource.

If you belong to the guild, you have already demonstrated your commitment to continuing education. Make the guild work for you. Attend, participate, offer suggestions and don’t settle for the status quo. We are better than that!

PRAYERS REQUESTED

The guild offers its condolences to Lucy Drabczyk, whose mother was buried from St. Christopher’s Church on November 18, 2017.

APPLICATION FOR YOUTH MINISTRY AWARD

The board is interested in preparing the next generation of musicians. If you have someone you feel deserves some recognition for his or her work in your parish, please let us know. We will choose the most deserving of the applicants for an award to be given at our annual mass and meeting. We can only commit to giving one award at this time.

Student Name _____

Parish _____

Music Director _____

Pastor _____

Age and grade level _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Participation in parish ministries _____

Participation in school musical activities _____

Participation in community activities _____

Career goals _____

Please mail to Bill Fay and attach letter of recommendation from pastor.

Bill @ 57 Columbia Blvd, Kenmore, NY 14217

