



THE CHURCH MUSICIAN ~ *THE QUILISMA*

The Bulletin of the Church Musicians' Guild of Buffalo

A Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians

November 2016

Save the Date for Upcoming Guild Events

Friday, November 4 – 7:00pm- *Krista Seddon, piano* at St. John XXIII Parish

Friday, November 11 – 7:30pm - *Organ Recital given by Ron Martin* at SUNY Buffalo, Slee Hall

Saturday, November 19 – 9:30am- *Workshop on the Aging Voice* at Kenmore Presbyterian Church

Friday, December 2 – 7:00pm-*Friends of Harmony Christmas Concert* at St. Martin of Tours, Buffalo

Sunday, December 4 – 4:00pm- *Advent Vespers* at Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora

Tuesday, December 6 - *Saint Saens' Christmas Oratorio* by St. Joseph University Choir

Friday, January 20 – 6:00pm- *Annual Guild Dinner* at The Eagle House

Friday, March 3 – 7:30pm-*UB Distinguished Alumni Recital: James Kosnik, organ*

MICHAEL KEMP COMES TO BUFFALO

We have a special opportunity to learn from Michael Kemp. The Guild is partnering with the Buffalo chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Kemp will lead a workshop on the aging voice for choirs at Kenmore Presbyterian Church, 2771 Delaware Avenue on Saturday, November 19. Glenn Hufnagel is chairing this event and Diane Green is hosting at her church. We will meet at 9:30 and conclude at 3:00. A participation fee of \$10 will cover the cost of lunch and materials.

Kenmore Presbyterian Church is near the corner of Kenmore and Delaware Avenues in the village of Kenmore. We will gather in the choir room. Kemp wrote the book *Rejuvenating Senior Voices: Enhancing the Sound and Confidence of Mature Voices* and has presented at several NPM conferences. He is the son of the well-known children's choir pedagogue, Helen Kemp.

Please reserve a place for me for Saturday, November 19, 2016 at Kenmore Presbyterian Church.

Enclosed is a check for \$10 per person for lunch and materials.

Musician's name _____

Additional singers _____

Total amount _____

Checks should be made out to Church Musicians Guild and mailed to:
Glenn Hufnagel - 1174 Kensington Ave -Buffalo, NY 14215-1612

Creative Hymn Playing

New Music Review by Peter Gonciarz

As church musicians, I feel we sometimes take for granted the fact that our congregations hear us each and every week. Whenever I remind myself of that fact, I try to ask myself "what am I doing so that my music stays fresh and inspirational each week?" I think I have come across a useful new book that may help us keep our weekly playing fresh and exciting week after week. The book is "Creative Hymn Playing" by Michael Burkhardt (published by Morning Star).

Burkhardt uses very practical language throughout. He touches on an overall view of hymn playing in the context of worship, an introduction to core improvisation techniques and skills, and sequentially structured core improvisation preparation exercises. The book concludes with 30 written improvisations on hymn tunes further illustrating core improvisation techniques and forms. The 30 written improvisations are perfect for use in the liturgy when more time is needed after the last verse.

What I appreciate most about this book is Burkhardt's effective approach at explaining important concepts such as what hymnody actually is, hymn texts, choosing hymn tempi, registration, phrasing and breathing, hymn intros, performance space, etc. This book also teaches how simple varying the material on the page of the hymnal can be, so that the reader, whether beginner or advanced, can experiment successfully with improvisation. So, if you're looking for material on how to artistically interpret a hymn, this is a great source! Enjoy!

Meet Southern Tier Musicians

In October I traveled to Jamestown to meet with church musicians from that area. I met three very committed music ministers who had a lot to say in the two hours that I spent with them.

Bill Chandler is the choir director at St Peter and Paul Church in Jamestown. He has had a very interesting life. Chandler is a City College of New York graduate in engineering. Growing up in the Bronx, he served as chorister under the well-known Father Joseph Foley at the Paulist Church in New York City. This was a choir that served in the Pietro Yon tradition of liturgical music. (Yon was a famed organist and choir director in New York City). He moved to Jamestown to work in the office furniture industry. Chandler currently directs a choir of 40 people who are accompanied by a 45 rank pipe organ. The organ was originally a Felgemaker, rebuilt by Tellers and Fischer with some digital add-ons. Bill sings bass with the Chautauqua Chamber Singers.

Gary Britton serves as music director at Saint Mary of the Angels Church in Olean. He grew up in the Methodist church in the Dubois -Bradford area of Pennsylvania but was "adopted" by the Lutherans and their strong music tradition. The musician earned a degree in music education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania but did not stay in that field. He moved to New York City where he studied with famous organists Searle Wright and Leonard Raver and earned a master's in sacred music. Gary lived in NYC for over twenty years and was confirmed a Catholic at St. Patrick's Cathedral and attended church at Corpus Christi near Columbia University. He returned to his roots years later, and still lives in Pennsylvania. Gary commutes to Olean to play at Saint Mary of the Angels. Gary is going to help Mary Weimer with the new sub chapter of our guild.

Paul Graham later joined us. He plays at Saint Dominic Parish in Brockton and Westfield. Paul was employed as a librarian and is semi-retired. The organist is very interested in chant and leads his congregations in the *Mass of the Angels* and chants from the Roman Missal.

I asked the men what they wanted from the guild. Bill emphasized the attractiveness of the semi-annual convocation with a well-known clinician speaking at the seminary. Paul would like to see the guild become a stronger advocate for liturgy and musicians. All three men are generous, talented, and a welcome addition to our guild.

CHURCH MUSICIANS' GUILD CHILDREN'S CHOIR FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017- Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Williamsville

Heater Lovelace-conductor

Children's choirs no matter how large or how small are invited. Even if you don't have a regular choir, consider getting a group together just for this. This is a great opportunity to sing in a large chorus in a beautiful church. You may prepare as much, or as little as is reasonable for you, so don't let anything keep you from joining us and we will provide recordings to help you prepare!

- Two age groups will sing sacred music: **Cherubs** (up to 3rd grade) and **Youths** (4th -8th grade)
- Most of the music is free, or easily accessed.
- Rehearsal 1:30-4:00 (pizza snack) Concert 5:00

PROGRAM: Cherub Choir

Siyhamba / We Are Marching- can be found in most hymnals.

Here I Am to Worship, Christopher Walker- OCP Hymnals

Jesus, You are Bread for Us- OCP Hymnals

Soon and Very Soon- can be found in most hymnals.

Dona Nobis Pacem, Richard Clark (CMG owns the copy permission and will provide music)

PROGRAM: Youth Choir

Deo Gracias, Natalie Sleeth HMC 889

(**NOTE: Deo Gracias is a Christmas Anthem, so let me know ASAP, and we'll get copies to you in time for Christmas)

Panis Angelicus, Lambillotte-OCP Hymnals

This Little Light of Mine (2 part), Mabry-Saint James Music Press- (If you don't subscribe to SJMP, CMG will provide music)

Dona Nobis Pacem, Richard Clark (CMG owns the copy permission and will provide music)

Please contact me if you are interested in participating via email or office phone.

Gail Shepherd

gcshepherd@roadrunner.com

(716) 632-2559 ext 209

NPM Convention in Houston

At the summer conference, the chapter directors met and ratified a new set of by- laws for the pastoral musicians' local chapters. The original booklet has been simplified to a more practical working document. Your guild board will meet in November to study the by-laws and decide how to bring our guild more in conformity with the national association. In particular, a decision will need to be made as to length of service given by the officers of our organization as allowed by the by- laws. You may find this document on line under the website of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

SURROUNDED BY SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES BY FATHER JOHN MACK

The fall season proclaims a vivid, visual transformation of colors that unfolds before us in all its glory. Sunny days seem to make that formerly green foliage nearly radiant in shimmering yellows as well as bold reds and oranges. Then, the leaves fall, swept away by gusts foretell the impending, inevitable fury that accompanies a Western New York winter.

Despite the modern technologies that harness the forces of energy to heat and light our homes and places of worship, we repeat (at least here in the northern climes) the activity of our ancestors. We retreat indoors, to home and hearth, even as we are busy preparing for the upcoming festivals later in November, all of December, and into the New Year. As we watch creation seem to settle into a slumber, we find ourselves longing for life and light, beyond all evidence outside to the contrary.

The ancients saw the year divided into two, the Season of Life, beginning May 1, and the Season of Death, beginning November 1. In a somewhat different manner, the Church draws inward as well as a curtain of nighttime descends, discerning through introspection and with hope the fulfillment of God's promises, the coming of Christ in glory. We contemplate the bond of communion in the Risen Christ, which continues in the Communion of Saints, the Great Cloud of Witnesses, on the festival of All Saints and our prayers for the repose of the faithful departed on All Souls Day.

Since our ministries converge on a frequent basis around the celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial, it would be easy to see these November festivals and commemorative days as a type of liturgical hoop through which we make an annual jump. But, there is more. The Church's Liturgy of the Word which carries us forward from Lord's Day to Lord's Day begins to turn our attention to matters of the End; this includes our own mortality as well as the end of time, the return of Christ and the presentation of the Kingdom to the Father.

Beyond what happens as a near avalanche in the stores as November begins (i.e. "Christmas), our celebration of these November days lead us through the end of the liturgical year into the beginning of a new liturgical year. We navigate carefully and lovingly through longing and lamentation. Our music making keeps us from falling into despair and lingering in the shadow of death and leads us forward into the way of peace.

In these busy times with countless demands on our attention, appreciate the manner that our music ministry leads us deeper into Divine Mystery. Tasks are many. But, moments of grace and gratitude accompanying our music will draw us and those with whom we pray, including presider and congregation, beyond the busyness into Healing, Holiness, and Hope.

Dues Reminder

THIS IS OUR LAST REMINDER TO PAY YOUR DUES FOR THE 2016-2017 SEASON. ALL MONEY SHOULD BE TURNED IN BY JANUARY 15, 2017. OUR EFFICIENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, HEATHER LOVELACE, HOPES TO HAVE THE DIRECTORIES OUT BY THE FIRST OF FEBRUARY. YOU MAY FIND A MEMBERSHIP FORM ON OUR WEBSITE. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR DUES ARE NOW \$30, WITH A REDUCTION FOR RETIREES. FOR ANOTHER \$10, YOU MAY ENROLL YOUR PASTOR. WE ARE NOW CONFORMING TO THE NORMS OF OUR PARENT ORGANIZATION, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS.