



THE CHURCH MUSICIAN ~ *THE QUILISMA*

The Bulletin of the Church Musicians' Guild of Buffalo

A Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians

September 2017

NPM CONVENTION REPORT BY BILL FAY

I had the good fortune to attend the National Association of Pastoral Musicians convention in Cincinnati, Ohio in July. 1850 people registered for the conference. Gail Shepherd, Stacy Schumacher, and I represented the diocese of Buffalo.

On Monday morning I attended a chapter directors meeting which former Buffalo resident Joel Kumro attended. He is now working in the diocese of Richmond, Virginia.

Several concerts were highlights for me. We heard the choir from St. Peter in the Chains Cathedral perform a *Magnificat* by Scandinavian composer Kim Andre Arnesen. The choir was accompanied by the Kentucky String Orchestra. It was magnificent. On Wednesday, the University of Notre Dame children's choir gave a concert which included jazz vespers written by Dr. J.J. Wright, formerly of Buffalo. Dr. Wright is taking over the famed Notre Dame Folk Choir this fall and I invited him to bring the group to Buffalo. We were then bused to the Covington, Kentucky cathedral to hear a retrospective of the life and works of the late Dr. Robert Schaffer. He was the music director at the cathedral for 60 years. His children led the performance of compositions by Schaffer and favorite pieces by other composers.

Perhaps the most important meeting was the inaugural address by the new president Steven Petrunak. NPM has 5,100 members, a decline of over 40%. He spoke of challenges facing the organization, including declining membership, the need for increased donations, and less reliance on membership fees. NPM has designed a new website and the president wants to do more with technology. A fund has been established for this purpose; it is called the Mark. C. Kulyk Fund for Music Ministry Formation. Petrunak received a standing ovation. If you have not done so, please check out the redesigned NPM website at npm.org.

Meeting old friends and checking out the exhibits were my favorite activities. I selected four break sessions to attend, two of which given by Kelly Dobbs Mickus on organ technique for beginning and intermediate players sponsored by Morningstar Music Publishers. On Thursday evening the closing mass was celebrated by the auxiliary bishop of Cincinnati.

Next year's convention will be in Baltimore Maryland from July 9-13, 2018. Dr. Lynn Trapp is co chair of the event.

Save the Date for Upcoming Guild Events

Sunday, September 24 – 3:00pm – *Members' Recital* at Our Lady of Pompeii Church, Lancaster

Friday-Saturday, November 3-4, *Convocation* at Christ the King Seminary, East Aurora

Friday, November 3 -7:30pm – *Ricky Manalo in Concert* at St. John Vianney Church, Orchard Park

Friday, November 12 –4:00pm *Faure Requiem performed by the Westminster and St. Joseph Cathedral Choirs*, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo

Members' Recital

On Sunday **September 24**, the guild is sponsoring a recital at Our Lady of Pompeii Church in Lancaster at 3 PM. Peter Gonciarz is hosting this concert. Members are invited to perform at this church, which has a restored Moeller pipe organ and piano. We are hoping for a piano/organ duet performed by Melissa Herr and Gail Shepherd. One of the beautiful aspects of the guild is the variety of talents our members possess. We encourage all members to participate. There will be a free will offering taken and there will be a reception after the program. Please contact Peter at pgonciarz@roadrunner.com if you would like to participate.

SPOTLIGHT ON BOARD MEMBER: MARIA CHOMICKA

Our newest board member, Maria Chomicka, has agreed to serve as our new secretary. She is a busy musician, juggling graduate study in organ performance, directing the music program at Saint Benedict's Church, and helping with the guild.

Maria's parents are from Poland and they emigrated to the United States in the 1980's. Maria matriculated at the University of Dallas to study theology. She considers herself a late bloomer and did not discover her passion for liturgical music until her time in Dallas. Maria transferred to SUNY Buffalo to study music. Her first instrument was the piano for which she earned the Bachelor of Music summa cum laude. She was awarded the Outstanding Senior award in the music department.

Our new secretary is very interested in the use of classical music in the liturgy, especially the music of Olivier Messien. Saint Benedict's has benefited from the social network of young adult musician friends she has brought to the church to sing the liturgy. Maria also helps out with the young adult ministry at her church.

Maria received the Msgr. Kawalec organ scholarship for two years. She has more than exceeded our expectations. Maria is fortunate to have a three manual Schlicker pipe organ at her disposal. She would like to encourage more young people to get involved in music ministry. We thank Maria for joining the board and sharing her talents with us.

News From Around the Diocese

Regina Dougherty is still recovering from her car accident in the spring. We wish her a speedy recovery!

Melissa Herr has been elected president of the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus. We will miss her leadership on our board.

Saint Christopher's Church, Tonawanda, is looking for a full time music director. Check out the job description on the diocese of Buffalo website.

Heather Lovelace has accepted a full time job at Depew High School. She will continue as music director of Saint Katherine Drexel Parish.

Mary Lucy Drabczyk's mother is seriously ill and Lucy asks for prayers for her recovery.

New Officers for the Guild

It is with gratitude that we announce that Philip Revenant and Maria Chomicka have joined our board.

Phil is taking the job of treasurer. He took some business courses in college which will help with this work.

Maria is a graduate student at SUNY Buffalo, studying organ for a master's degree. She will assume the role of guild secretary.

We are glad they have found the time to serve as officers on the board.

CHURCH MUSICIANS' GUILD CONVOCATION

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3 & 4, 2017
CHRIST THE KING SEMINARY, EAST AURORA, NY

Featuring Father Ricky Manalo of San Francisco, CA

Friday

- 1:30 Registration
- 2:00 Bearing Gifts Among Us: International Ministers and Parish Life Today; Father Ricky
- 3:45 Introduction of music for diocesan choral festival-Frank Scinta
- 5:00 Vespers with seminary community
- 5:45 Optional dinner
- 7:30 Concert with Father Ricky at St. John Vianney Church. 2950 Southwestern Blvd, Orchard Park, with Our Lady of Hope Church Youth Choir, Jennifer Surniuk, director

Saturday

- 8:15 Optional breakfast
- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Come to the Feast: Nourishing the Assembly, Nourishing our Souls, Father Ricky
- 10:30 **Break out session I: choose one clinic**
 - Vocal strengthening and vocal care for cantors- Catherine Humphrey
 - Ensemble skills for guitarists and pianists- Kathy Felong
 - Clergy/musicians working relationships-Father Ricky
- 11:30 **Break out session II: choose one**
 - Recap of Friday's introduction to music for diocesan choral festival, Frank Scinta
 - Choral literature for church choirs-Heather Lovelace
- 12:15 Optional lunch

Clinicians

Kathy Felong- co- author of the book *Beyond Strumming*, music director, Holy Cross Church, Fairview, PA; MA in liturgical theology from University of Notre Dame

Catherine Humphrey is a classically trained vocalist with a background in theater & voice. She has been a cantor throughout the diocese of Buffalo, NY, Philadelphia, PA & Springfield, IL for over 35 years. Catherine is Assistant Music Director of POP Culture, a teen and young adult music group at Annunciation Church in Elma

Heather Lovelace- music director of St Katherine Drexel Church, choral director at Depew High School; master's degree in music technology from Duquesne University

Rev. Ricky Manalo-composer of *Mass of Spirit and Grace*, doctorate in liturgy from Graduate Theological Union, member of the Paulist Fathers

Frank Scinta-music director of St Louis Church, adjunct professor at Canisius College, master's degree in music from SUNY Buffalo

Jenny Surniuk-choir director at Our Lady of Hope Church, MM in Music education from SUNY Fredonia, doctoral student SUNY Buffalo