



NEWSLETTER

The Time is Near!

NPM National Convention 2013

**See Page 3 for complete
details and needs!**

ADVANCE PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAMING WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

The organizers of the DC Chapter's two Cantor Workshops learned something this year: the value of placing a limit on the number attending a workshop. We learned that with a limit, everyone has a chance to be evaluated and receive personal attention. We tend to look for large turnouts for events, and worry when it doesn't happen. Maybe this should not apply to Cantor Workshops.

We'll soon begin planning the Chapter Programing schedule for next 2013-2014. (One possibility for the DC Chapter: hold one of the cantor workshops at a parish in Southern Maryland.) What are your thoughts on Cantor Workshops or other possible events? Please contact any member of either Board listed on page 9 of this newsletter and let us know.

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Note from the Editor:

Each month we strive to collect material, organize it, and distribute this Newsletter in a timely fashion. However, because all members of the Board are volunteers and very busy with our work - as are all our members - it does not always happen. We will continue to do our best to get this Newsletter out each month, and are grateful for your understanding.

- Jim Wickman, Newsletter Editor

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



For pastoral musicians, the month of May means First Communions, Weddings, Marian Celebrations, Graduations, end-of-year Concerts – the annual merry-go-round that makes our lives so interesting.

This year, we add the Annual NPM Convention, to be held here in Washington, to the mix.

Now is the time to:

1. Register, if you have not yet done so! The most economical way (via the Chapter Discount) is still available. Please see Registering via the Chapters on page 4. (N.B. Special registration for volunteers.)

2. Volunteer! All of the details are under Volunteering at the Convention on page ???

3. Consider Being Part of the Opening Event -- 1 p.m. – July 29 – in the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel – 100 Processional Singers & 50 Symbol Bearers are needed. Details can be found on page 3.

Attending an NPM Convention can be difficult for some. It may mean using precious vacation time from a day job, and fees may be a factor. Parishes face rising costs, and may not be able to pay for registrations (volunteering helps here). We encourage you, however, to do the best you can to attend. Conventions offer something for everyone.

The brochure is available on-line (www.npm.org); just click on brochure right there on the first page. You're bound to see something that will enrich your ministry.

*Charlene Dorrian,
Director, Washington, D.C. Chapter*

For Complete Convention information

see the NPM Website

www.npm.org

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NPM National Convention 2013

July 29- August 2, 2013 • Marriott Wardman Park Hotel • 2660 Woodley Road, NW, Washington, DC

Be Part of the Opening Event with a cast of hundreds!

Consider Being a Participant

♪ ...in the Opening Event – 1 p.m., July 29, at the Wardman Park Hotel – Needed: 100 Processional Singers & 50 symbol bearers! Yes, that's not a typo – 150 people will participate in the Opening Event as we remember the Opening of the Second Vatican Council.

♪ The Convention Opening Event is being designed to illustrate the Convention theme of participation, and you can help make that happen! Anyone who sings in the Opening Event Procession Choir is also welcome/encouraged (but not required) to sing in the Eucharist Procession Choir – 10 a.m. July 31 at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. For the liturgy (i.e. after the procession) you will sit scattered among the assembly. The Processional Choir is a group distinct from the Opening Event Choir and the Convention Eucharist Choir.

Please indicate your willingness to participate with an email* to Mary Beaudoin, Coordinator of Liturgy for the Convention, at m.beaudoin3@verizon.net. Details will be sent to you.

*To anyone who, for whatever reason, would rather not go the cyber-route: Please don't hesitate to participate for that reason. Just call 301-384-5796. We want to hear from you.

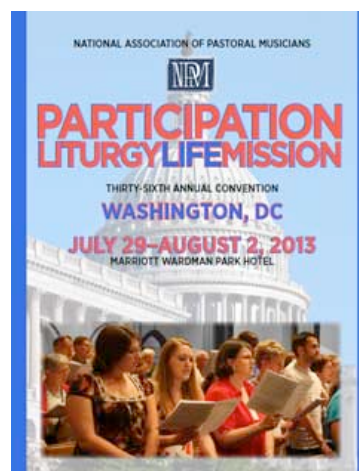
Convention Liturgy Coordinator:
Mary Beaudoin,
m.beaudoin3@verizon.net

Interested in Volunteering?

We still need help. Just send your name and email address to Remi Bauer, the volunteer coordinator, to volunteernpm2013@gmail.com.

The discounts are great, and if you can give four hours every day of the convention, you are afforded a full registration at no cost. As with the Chapter Discount, volunteers do not register in the usual way with the National Office. Special registration forms are made available to volunteers

Volunteer Coordinator:
Remi Bauer
volunteernpm2013@gmail.com



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Registering via the chapters

DC and Arlington are considered together for the “Chapter Discount” - as long as you or your parish, is a member at the national level, as well as the chapter level. Volunteers do not register via the Chapter, see below.)

Here's what to do:

- Complete a registration form (available as www.npm.org).
- Make a check payable to NPM/Arlington (\$268* plus any extras you've chosen).
- Mail both to Ms. Susan Trainor, 3217 Wildmere Place, Oak Hill, VA 20171 by June 9.

*If more than 19 sign up with us, the fee is less. You'll receive a refund in the mail.

Questions: Please call 301-384-5796.

**If more than 19 sign up with us the fee is less. You'll receive a refund in the mail.*

**Chapter Discount
Coordinator: Susan Trainor
703.476.2891**

We Need Your Talents at the Convention

One of the things that makes NPM conventions so much fun is the “musical environment.” While attendees are waiting in line, getting a bite to eat, relaxing before their next workshop, or hanging out with friends, they are serenaded by local musicians. This “musical environment” makes a great deal of difference in the sheer pleasure of being at the convention.

Scheduling high quality musical performances that are interesting and fun to listen to takes some organization and planning. That's why the convention planning includes a **Musical Environment Committee**. This committee is tasked with providing musical environment throughout the convention, in the open spaces, such as halls, registration area, hotel lobbies, and more.

Kathy Fitzpatrick, committee chair, is looking for **local ensembles and solo musicians** to sing and play during registration time, during all the breaks of the convention schedule, in bars or lounges. What kinds of music are we looking for? All kinds of music that is interesting and fun to listen to: music of various genres (e.g., baroque, madrigals, jazz, local sounds, etc.); music of voices, instruments, solos, and ensembles.

**Musical Environment Coordinator:
Kathy at katfitzoo@yahoo.com or
301-332-7733**

ROMERI CHORAL WORKSHOP SUCCESS

Nearly 80 members of NPM gathered at Our Lady of Mercy Church on Saturday, April with Dr. John Romeri, Director of Music at the Cathedral of and Diocesan Director of Music for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. By all counts the day was a great success, with Dr. Romeri giving the group the benefit of his years of experience in choral techniques, warm ups, breath support, and all that we need to know to be good choral singers. In addition, he took us through characteristics of music from the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods, while we sang examples of music from each period. Great thanks go out to John, and to the members of the NPM/DC Board who organized the day, especially our planning director, Hank Bauer!

Here is what two of our members had to say about their experience that day:

I thought the NPM Choral Workshop was wonderful and covered both why and how to sing better. Dr. Romeri shared many great ways to prepare the body to sing more beautifully and how to modify and improve the sound we make as well as how to interpret and sing music from various time periods. In no time at all the singers present had transformed their sound in a positive way. What was perhaps even more inspiring were the words of Fr. James who talked about why it is important to make beautiful music at church. Music reaches people in unique ways and can penetrate sometimes when nothing else can - it can lift people to the very gates of heaven and so we are evangelists, helping God in the work of saving souls!

-Melinda Zakrzewski, Cathedral Choir of St. Thomas More, Arlington, VA.

The one day workshop with Dr. John Romeri started with a very helpful review of warm-up techniques, including breathing, pronouncing consonants and how you can control resonant sounds and head tones.

Preparing for an afternoon Blessing Service, we started by practicing musical selections from the Renaissance Period. Dr. Romeri mentioned that this Music generally had few stylistic markings and the composers would write musical interpretations directly into the music. He added there was a style of Youth and Independence. Continuing the example, the style, so to speak, advanced "20 years" during the Baroque Period. Moving into the Classical Period, the style changed from "Grandeur to Delicate." We then moved into the Classical Period and this was a period of almost excesses that could move "Church Music into the Concert Hall". As we studied the selections, to help us understand some music styles of the times,

Dr. Romeri would place emphasis on the sometimes "unwritten" and sometimes inconsistent techniques composers might have, to have an unwritten dotted eighth notes to a written or unwritten cut off on the third beat. Dr. Romeri took advantage of selections with held notes that ended on consonants to mention that we "should not sing as we speak." To make our music sound more like sung prayer we should think "Aha" to have a sound that would come less from our throat and would be more like sung prayer. I left with many lessons but the one that stands out is the one about the sound "Aha" as a key way to have Sung Prayer.

This explanation helped to explain a comment that I received one Sunday. I had been a Cantor at a Mass where I was the only choir member and I received an unexpected (and most certainly undeserved) comment that I had sung as an Angel. The knowledge from this workshop helped to provide to me some clues on that experience. God willing, I may be able to repeat that experience one day, thanks in part to Dr. Romeri's pointers.

-Stephen Tedesco, Cantor, Corpus Christi Catholic Mission, South Riding, VA.

May Concert Opportunities

May 17 (Friday), 2013, 8:00p.m. • Blessed Sacrament Church

1427 W. Braddock Rd. Alexandria, VA, contact 703 998-6100 ext 103

The Blessed Sacrament Festival Orchestra will perform concertos for organ, piano, violin, and viola. Admission is free; donations support the concert series. Admission is free; donations will support the concert series.

Hosting Major Speakers

**July 29 - August 2
NPM National Convention**

The Hospitality Committee is seeking volunteers to “host” our major speakers. These volunteers provide hospitality such as rides to and from the airport, helping with check in and speaker registration, meeting them before their talk and taking them to the hall (as needed) and in general providing a warm welcome for our convention VIPs.

Is there one of the major speakers that you have always wanted to meet or talk to? Here is your opportunity to make someone feel welcome to our area. For more information please contact Jim Wickman, Major Speaker Hospitality Committee, jaw249@georgetown.edu.

NPM WEBINAR - LAST OF THE YEAR

Once each month the NPM National Office presents a webinar on a musical/liturgical topic. Each webinar is given by a well respected speaker and is a great opportunity for an individual or a group from a parish to receive updates and new ideas - all this right on your computer screen in less than an hour!

The next webinar is May 16, “Hymns: Texts, Tunes, and Theologies” presented by Alan Hommerding

We sing more than cute ditties that keep us occupied during Mass; we sing our theology, our history, and our prayer. Examine what that means for our choice of hymns and sacred songs.

Mr. Alan Hommerding holds graduate degrees in theology, liturgy, and music from St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, Maryland, and the University of Notre Dame, with additional studies in organ, accompanying and vocal/choral pedagogy at Princeton University, Westminster Choir College and the Peabody Conservatory. He is the editor of AIM: Liturgy Resources magazine, a quarterly journal from World Library Publications.

More information and registration are on the NPM Website: www.npm.org

Be sure to visit the Washington, D.C. and Arlington Chapter Websites for the latest information on Chapter happenings, registration forms, and events:

www.npmdc.org

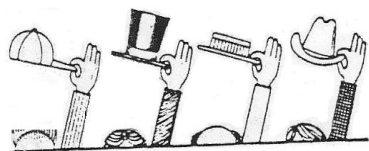
or

www.npmarlington.org

HATS OFF!

To the musicians who generously provide music for the TV Mass for Shut-Ins, celebrated in the

Crypt Church of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, and broadcast on WDCW radio each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



Announcements of items of interest to Pastoral Musicians such as concerts, transitions, or special activities are welcome in the monthly newsletter.

- *St. Leo the Great Parish Youth Choir, Fairfax, VA
- * St. John Neumann Parish Children's Choir, Gaithersburg, MD
- * St. Francis International School Choir, Silver Spring, MD
- * The Catholic University Women's Schola, Washington, DC

Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. remains the 15th of each month.

Please email Jim Wickman directly at jaw249@georgetown.edu.

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