



Newsletter

The monthly joint publication of the NPM Arlington and DC chapters
Fostering the art of musical liturgy

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St. Cecilia, pray for us!



Article submissions:

Do you have an event or virtual choir performance coming up in your parish? Do you have an idea to share with other Chapter Members? Please submit all articles and inquiries by the 15th of the month to: Katie Evans at music@ccjgs.org. All submissions subject to review. Thank you.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER:

He is risen! Alleluia! Truly, he is risen! Alleluia!



Happy Easter NPM! In what has seemed like the longest Lent (beginning March 2020 and continuing!), we arrive once again in the joy of the Easter Season.

With more and more vaccinations available and continued public health mitigations, people are slowly returning to our churches; perhaps we're even singing a little more, either in small ensembles or even the congregation. (It's amazing the sound you can still make while wearing a mask!). It is truly joyful to make music together. As we proclaim in the Easter sequence, "Yes, Christ my hope is arisen!"

Now I think we all need to take some time this Easter season to evaluate our musical situations in our parishes. As spring turns to summer, and summer to fall, in all likelihood we'll have some sort of pre-pandemic "normal." How do we reintroduce congregational singing if you haven't already? When can we use hymnals in the pews again? Perhaps this is a good time to introduce a new Mass setting or a new hymn text you've been wanting to use. This time of Spring might also be time to have that conversation with your pastor about the "quiet" Mass on Sunday mornings.

What about our choirs? Not singing for a full year or more is going to have an effect on the voice. Consider using some rehearsal time to teach basic music theory or sight reading; (re)introduce proper vocal technique to help prevent tired voices. When choirs return, try singing hymns in unison and 2 or 3 part choral pieces to slowly get back into routine. This is the time to recruit new voices! Some members may not return when choir resumes, for a little while or at all. I think it will be a while before we can assume "We know this anthem, motet, hymn harmonization, etc... Choir directors will have to keep that in mind when we get flustered before Christmas because the choir doesn't remember that fancy "Gloria" setting.

In the coming months, it would be good to have a (virtual?) meeting with our membership to share ideas on how this return could look. Stay tuned for some opportunities to gather.

In the darkness of the pandemic, I see hope and light in this Easter season. Not only is Christ truly risen and present among us, but the Spirit dwells with us, inspires and sustains us. As the angel Gabriel reminds us, "nothing will be impossible for God." (Luke 1:37). Let us take this faith and journey on, continuing to bring the joy of the Resurrection to all we do.

As we proclaim in the Easter sequence, "Yes, Christ my hope is arisen!"

- Tim Lewicki, Arlington Chapter Director

WE CRY TO YOU O LORD!

LENTEN EVENING PRAYER AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MATTHEW THE APOSTLE

From the In-Person Perspective:



under the direction of Thomas Stehle, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Director of Music Ministries, were tantalizing in the cathedral air.

The [event](#), jointly sponsored by the Cathedral and the DC Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians was entitled, “We Cry to You, O Lord - *From Lament through Faith to Hope*”. It began with a prelude by Polish composer Felix Nowowiejski, *PARCE DOMINE*, sung by a quartet, which set the tone for the quiet solemnity and beauty of the evening service. The procession began with the Cathedral organist, Mr. Paul Hardy adding to the quartet’s plea, “*Spare your people, Lord*”. Msgr. Ronald Jameson, Cathedral Rector, then warmly welcomed us, and called us to reflect on our losses of the past year, to name them and to remember them, and to ask for God’s help, especially for those most in need. He then introduced guest homilist, Msgr. Ray East, who was personal and engaging as he led us from lament, through faith, to hope.

Through [meditation, reflection, and litany](#), we lamented the real losses we have seen and endured this past year. We know that, even in the darkest night, the Lord is the center of our life, and we heard this so simply yet eloquently in prayer and song. Armed with the gospel, and the psalms, and with the words of Pope Francis, we heard as well from beautiful cantors, a vocal quartet, a violinist, a guitarist, and cellist, all so seamlessly melded with the organ in meditative selections from Tallis, Berthier, and others. DC Chapter board members served as readers and guides. The cathedral staff aided greatly in both the live and virtual productions.

Under Tom Stehle’s direction, the scripts and the scores were a salve for weary souls, a healing of hearts, and a stirring of hope in us as we were reminded of Mary, our Mother of hope; the holy Saints; and the saints in our lives who by their witness, have shown us that “hope does not disappoint.” Msgr. Ray celebrated that hope in the recessional, “We Will Walk With God”. His recounting the events of his life in the pandemic, and his trust in the mercy of God surely gave us all hope as well.

- Diane Yendrey, DC Chapter Secretary

From the At-home Perspective:

100 people virtually experienced NPM/DC's Lenten Evening Prayer on March 2, as the pandemic continued to force social distancing. The best parts of Evening Prayer -- readings and sung responses echoing in a church, the silence of meditation, the smell of rising incense, the sense of community among fellow worshipers - had to come alive in our hearts and minds. Yet somehow it worked.

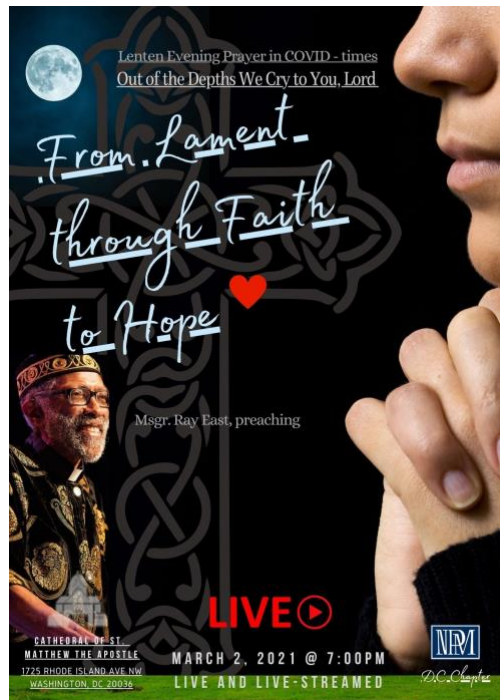
The service was held at Washington's Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, and the cameras successfully captured the beauty of its Romanesque and Byzantine styles. Msgr. Ray East gave warmth to the evening with his comments and insights. Readers, Remi Bauer and Mark Kozeal, brought the words from Scripture to life, and the music, provided by musicians from the Cathedral and led by Tom Stehle, added the solemnity that only music can offer.

There is no timetable for the resumption of regular liturgical gatherings. Meanwhile, we are thankful that such an event can occur in our digital world.

- Charlene Dorian, past DC Chapter Director

You Can view the recorded evening prayer here:

<https://youtu.be/7ZB7NcL63y0>



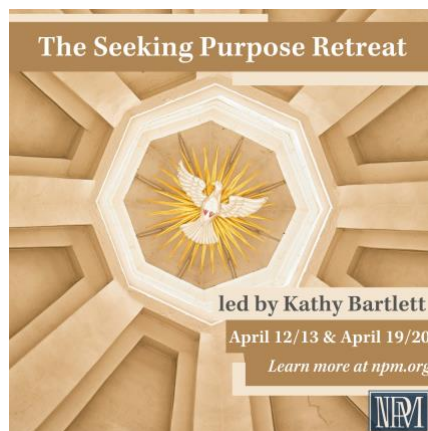
Seeking Purpose Retreat (Talents, Strengths and Charisms)

Are you wondering about God's direction for your life? What Natural talents/gifts have you been given for your personal relationships and success?

Presented by Kathy Bartlett

April 12/13, April 19/20 - 8-10pm ET

Learn more and register at NPM.org



MASTER TECHNIQUE FOR THE CHURCH SINGER

Tired of not having your voice sound like it did a year ago?

Not sure how to get your tone and breathing back in shape?

This event is for you!

Two Master Singers will share vocal techniques and vocalizes to help you regain pandemic induced lost ground. Join us on **Wednesday, April 14 at 7:30 pm via zoom** for this exciting event presented by James Myers and Joyce Lundy. All levels of singing will benefit from their knowledge and there will be time for questions as well.

For more information, contact Jayne Traynor Rose at jrose@olom.org



James Myers is an accomplished singer, actor and voice teacher. He sings primarily as a baritone but has also performed dramatic tenor repertoire. He has sung with Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap Opera Company, Fairfax Symphony Orchestra and abroad in Germany

with the Mittelsachsiches Theater. As an actor he has appeared in numerous plays and musicals. He played the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, Tommy Albright in *Brigadoon*, Edward Rutledge in *1776* and Max Halliday in the play, *Dial M for Murder*. He has taught private voice lessons for many years and currently serves on the faculty of George Mason University's Mason Community Arts Academy. He has also taught voice classes within the School of Music at GMU. He holds a Master of Music degree in vocal performance and received acting training through the Signature Theater in Arlington, Virginia. Highlights include serving as both Tenor and Bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and Baritone soloist in the Faure Requiem. He currently serves as Baritone cantor and Bass section leader for Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Potomac, Maryland. For more information and samples of his work, please visit James Myers' professional website at www.jamesmyers.com



Joyce Lundy a native of Washington, D.C., made her operatic debut as Nella in *Gianni Schicci* with the Municipal Opera of Baltimore. Ms. Lundy hails performances with the Washington National Opera, Virginia Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Summer Opera Theater of Washington, Opera Bel Canto, Opera Camerata, Diaspora

Opera, the Maryland Opera Society and the Washington National Wagner Society. Notable roles include *Tosca*, (*Aria Club of Washington*), *Madama Butterfly* (DC Federation of the Arts) and *Aida* performed for the DC Federation of the Arts, *Jo* from Bruce Adolpe's *Let freedom sing* (Washington National Opera), *Mother* from *Hansel and Gretel* (Opera Camerata), *Annie* from *Porgy and Bess* (Virginia Opera). As a soloist, notable performances include Handel's *Messiah* with the National Symphony Orchestra, and Verdi's *Requiem* with the National Cathedral Choral Society. A recipient of the Meistersinger Award from the Washington National Wagner Society, Spectrum Artist for Virginia Opera, and former Teaching Artist for the Washington National Opera, Ms. Lundy is currently the Voice Faculty Chair of the esteemed Levine Music.



[Master Technique for Church Singers](#)

Meeting ID: 844 3214 5858

Passcode: Mercy

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

7:30 – 8:45 pm



ORGAN RECITAL

Dr. Jennifer Pascual, Music Director at Saint Patrick Cathedral in New York

Cathedral of Saint Thomas More
3901 Cathedral Lane
Arlington Va
Friday, April 23
7:00 pm

Free and open to the public
Will also be live-streamed at:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/CathedralofStThomasMore>



CHRIST

BROKEN ✦ SHARED ✦ SENT

44th NPM Annual Convention, New Orleans

July 27-30, 2021

More than 80% of those currently registered plan to attend in person!

The Annual Convention is planned to be a hybrid experience. Whether you join in person in New Orleans, or virtually, the NPM Convention has something for all members!

[Registration Link is here.](#)

[Online brochure click here.](#)



Ministry Monday is the podcast for today's parish minister. Weekly episodes provide opportunities for anyone engaged in pastoral ministry to learn, engage, grow, and be renewed.

To Subscribe, [click here.](#)

Thursday Thoughts at 3:00pm:



Every week, NPM holds Thursday Thoughts at 3! Here are the latest and greatest in case you missed it! The videos are also archived and can be viewed [here.](#)

- [Reflections on Unity, Peace, and Hope](#)
- [Midday Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours](#)



MEMBERSHIP



Which membership is best for you?



BASIC The BASIC membership is \$39. This is also a good option for those who feel philanthropic about our organization and want to continue supporting us.

STANDARD The STANDARD membership is \$119. For those planning liturgies, professional growth opportunities, receive *Pastoral Music* magazine, and are likely to want a discount on attending conferences.

PREMIUM The PREMIUM membership is \$169. For Directors of Music Ministries Division (DMMD). They receive all the above-mentioned benefits, as well as access to more premium content and the colloquium, among other professional events.

It is vital that you choose your local chapter in order for us to be notified of your registration and receive a portion of your dues to support local events.

We encourage you to take the leap and register for your national membership at [www.npm.org/membership.](http://www.npm.org/membership)



Regina Caeli

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
 The Son whom you merited to bear,
 alleluia, has risen as he said, alleluia.
 Pray for us to God, alleluia.
 Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia!
 For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray:
 O God, who through the resurrection of your Son,
 our Lord Jesus Christ, did vouchsafe to give joy to the world;
 grant, we beseech you, that through his Mother, the Virgin Mary,
 we may obtain the joys of everlasting life.
 Through the same Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

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