



SUMMER 2021 CMG NEWSLETTER

# FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

News & updates for Buffalo's church musicians



## Upcoming Events

### **CMG Members Recital**

Sunday, November 7th  
at 7 PM

St. Benedict Church  
1317 Eggert Road,  
Amherst NY 14226

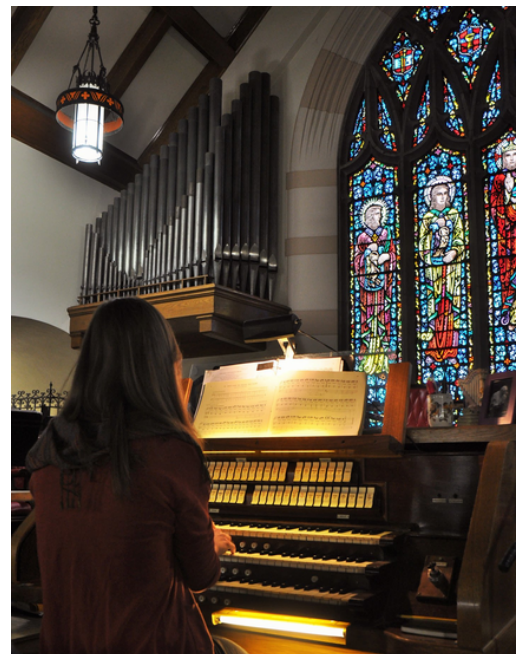
## What's inside this issue:

*CMG Withdraws from NPM: Page 2*

*Book on CMG History Published: Page 3*

*Member News: Page 4*

*Registration Form for 2021 - 2022 Year:  
Page 5 - 6*



# CMG WITHDRAWS FROM NPM

At a recent meeting of the Church Musicians' Guild (CMG) Board, we discussed the benefits and detriments of having the CMG remain a local chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM), based on several changes NPM has recently implemented. After thorough examination, we voted to withdraw from NPM. We remain an autonomous organization dedicated to serving the needs of pastoral musicians in our diocese.



NPM has undergone many changes over the past few years. Their focus and policies have changed, and they no longer offer the programs that have benefited our members in the past. They are facing many challenges, including financial difficulties and declining membership: fifteen years ago, their membership was 9000; currently it is 3600. Other diocesan chapters from across the country have also been terminating their relationship with NPM. Amid all this, the NPM president resigned.

One of the most concerning mandates from NPM was that all our CMG members would be required to join NPM. Currently, only a very small number belong to the national organization. You would have to complete their membership form (which would give you membership in both NPM and CMG) and pay a larger membership fee (their "standard membership" is \$119). You could not remain as only a local member. In addition, we could not collect dues locally, but would be allocated a small percentage from the national dues. Even if every current CMG member joined NPM, our budget would still be cut to about a third of our previous amount. And we fear that many of our members would not join NPM, resulting in even worse funding for us.

Your Guild operates on a tight budget. The Board of Directors are all volunteers, and we have no overhead costs. All of your dues remain here and go directly into programs, events and activities we find relevant and beneficial to our members. We strive to put your dues to the best use while providing a variety of opportunities to grow as church musicians. We feel strongly that we have made the right decision.

If you have any ideas for programs, contact a Board member. If you have expertise you'd like to share, consider joining the Board. We are always looking to expand our offerings and welcome your input. We are excited to be moving forward and thank you for your continued support!

*Michael Hauser,*  
CMG TREASURER

# BOOK ON CMG HISTORY PUBLISHED

## THE CHURCH MUSICIANS GUILD OF BUFFALO; FROM CATHOLIC CHOIRMASTERS TO CHURCH MUSICIANS: 1946 - 2021.

This has been a project in the making for five years. I am fortunate that I got it done when I did as my major source of information, the library of Christ the King Seminary, is now closed.

In the book, I trace the development of liturgical music formation beginning with the Catholic Normal School in Wisconsin where Leo Roy studied under the well known John Singenberger. The musician teacher brought the principles of Cecilianism from Europe to the middle west.

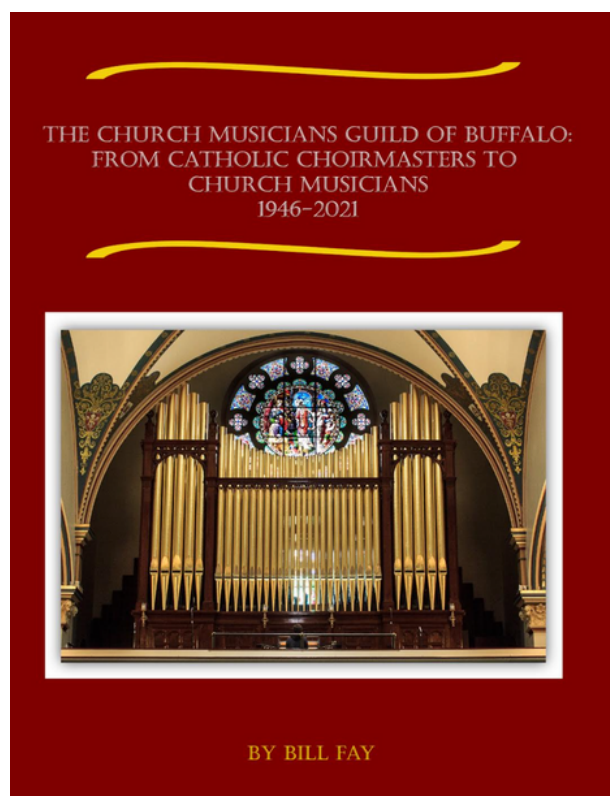
Leo worked in two parishes in the Buffalo diocese: Saint Mary, Swormville and Saint Mary of the Assumption in Lancaster. Leo's wife Magdalena and four daughters were organists in various churches; Cecilia Roy Kenny is the most well known of the children.

The book connects John Singenberger to Leo Roy to the next generation of children with Cecilia's alliance with Msgr. Henry Kawalec, Sr. Mary Grace Ryan and Msgr. Paul Eberz. The rest, as they say...."is history!"

Few remember that Cecilia Kenny was a pioneer aviator at a time when women were not involved in that kind of activity. The early death of her husband caused the cessation of her flying career and eventually she had to start work full time at Saint Joseph's Old Cathedral.

Writing my first book was fraught with difficulties. A few individuals refused to be interviewed. I had never written a book before and never met my publisher. All was done online. Some information had to be procured through the interlibrary loan system.

There are some typos of names and some photographs did not appear as I had hoped. However, there is some really good information here. I have drawn connections to illustrate the unusual history of liturgical music in our diocese. How many dioceses were able to produce a diocesan hymnal such as *Cantate Omnes*? Cecilia's sisters helped to put the book together in 1952. It sold over 100,000 copies.



The book reveals the changes in the guild after Vatican II in response to more diversified ministries. In 1976, the guild changed its name and the name of the newsletter to welcome guitarists and non traditional music ministers into the fold. The text also discusses Buffalo natives who earned a national profile in liturgical music such as Bishop Edward Grosz, Sr. Judith Kubicki and Dr. James Kosnik.

I hope you will consider purchasing a copy of the book. It is available on amazon.com for \$16.95. The book was subsidized by the author, but I do receive some money from each book to help me to recoup the cost.

The text has been accepted by the Library of Congress, Buffalo History Museum, University of Notre Dame, Catholic University of America and Buffalo and Erie County Library.

Our illustrious history has been preserved for generations to come. Learn about it and respect it. More than that, share the story of the development of the guild with others.

*Bill Fay,*  
AUTHOR

# MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to CMG Board Member, **Chelsea Brodka**, on her marriage to Dominic Buttino! The very musical wedding for a very musical couple took place on July 25th at St. Benedict Church. Prayers & Best wishes to the Newlyweds!

**Joanne Jasinski** has retired from Church of the Advent in Kenmore and **Bill Fay** retired from St. John XXIII in West Seneca. Both are available to substitute.

**Kathleen Almeter** has retired from St. John Newman in Strykersville

**Ed Witul** and **David Nease** have recovered from surgery and we wish them the best of health for the future.

**Dr. Susan Jenczka** relocated to Maine in May. We will miss her beautiful flute music.

On June 6, **Dan Ulmer** was ordained a priest for the diocese of Buffalo. We first met Dan when he attended the Ricky Manalo convocation at the seminary. We wish him many years of fruitful ministry to our church.

The Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus is beaming these days because they won a Grammy for a recording made with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Guild members **Melissa Herr, Kathleen Almeter, Donna Kiersz** and **James Bobak** were members when that recording was made.

St. John Kanty is the beneficiary of the talents of **Bob Winkler**, who has come out of retirement to lead the music on the historic pipe organ.

Last fall, **Steven Gruhalla** left the SUNY Newman Center to become the music director at St. Amelia's Church.

**Father John Mack** has accepted a position as vice president for formation programs at the Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Fr. John was our chaplain since 2008. We wish him the best in his new post.

**Dr. Jim Kosnik** will be the guest organist at the cathedral in August while resident musician **Tim Socha** is on vacation. Jim is professor of organ and music history at Old Dominion University in Norfolk Virginia.

**Sister Judith Kubicki** has been elected provincial minister for the Felician Sisters of North American.

**Peter Gonciarz** is the music director at Our Lady of Victory Basilica and the staff is beginning preparations for the basilica centennial.

**Do you have any updates you'd like to share with other CMG Members?**  
**Contact Joe Morreale, our Hospitality Chair, at [joeym519@aol.com](mailto:joeym519@aol.com)**



# Church Musicians' Guild Membership Form: Sept 2021 - August 2022

**"Come back from COVID Closure SPECIAL!" \$20 Dues**

**Add a Pastor for only \$10! Retirees only pay \$15!**

**This brings you:**

- Regular mailings of the Guild Bulletin, and other Guild news
  - Listing in, and a copy of, the annual Guild Directory
  - E-mails concerning musical events, job listings, etc.

**-And-**

You are supporting the important work of the Guild, including:  
a schedule of events of interest to musicians; the Kawalec Memorial Organ Scholarship;  
and Guild sponsorship of various musical causes in our Diocese

**Please print or type**

**PLEASE CHECK:** \_\_\_\_ BRAND NEW MEMBER! \_\_\_\_ Renewing **NO** CHANGES \_\_\_\_ Renewing w/CHANGES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Ph (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (PRINT IN CAPITAL LETTERS) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check ALL that apply to you**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music Director    | <input type="checkbox"/> Cantor          | <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choir Director    | <input type="checkbox"/> Choir Member    | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired (\$15 MEMBERSHIP) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ensemble Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensemble Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organist          | <input type="checkbox"/> Instrument      | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pianist           | _____                                    |  |

**Would you like to appear on the Sub List?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Select a Category and Availability (if appearing on Sub List)**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organ/Piano        | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalist/Cantor         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Instrumentalist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Available WEEKDAYS | <input type="checkbox"/> Available WEEKENDS ONLY | <input type="checkbox"/> Available ANY DAY     |

**Private Teacher Listing ~ We are happy to make a listing of members who are also private teachers.**

**Would you like to appear on the Teacher List?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

Lessons provided: (list voice, instruments, etc)

**Mailings and directories will be sent by email by default. We save a great deal in postage and we are helping to save the planet! We will mail via US MAIL by request.**

☐ Please send all mailing via US MAIL

**TURN OVER**

**Add your Pastor for only \$10 more!**

**Please print or type information below for your pastor:**

Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Ph (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (PRINT IN CAPITAL LETTERS) \_\_\_\_\_

Church & Church City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

Send mailings via \_\_\_\_ Email (preferred) OR \_\_\_\_ US MAIL

CMG 2021-22 Membership Dues **SPECIAL!** \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**- OR -** CMG 2021-22 RETIREE Dues \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Add a Pastor \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Msgr. Kawalec Organ Scholarship Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **The Church Musicians' Guild**

Mail your check and this form to:

CMG Membership c/o  
Robert Kiersz  
211 Parkhurst Blvd  
Tonawanda, NY 14223

Other contact: rkiersz@gmail.com

Membership forms must be received **by October 1, 2021**

to be included in the Member Directory

**Membership is for September 2021 - August 2022**