



SUMMER 2022 CMG NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

News & updates for Buffalo's church musicians



Upcoming Events

75th Anniversary Mass

Friday, September 30

Prelude 6:30pm

Mass: 7pm

Reception to follow

14 Holy Helpers Church
1345 Indian Church Road
West Seneca, NY 14224

RSVP: 716-873-0180

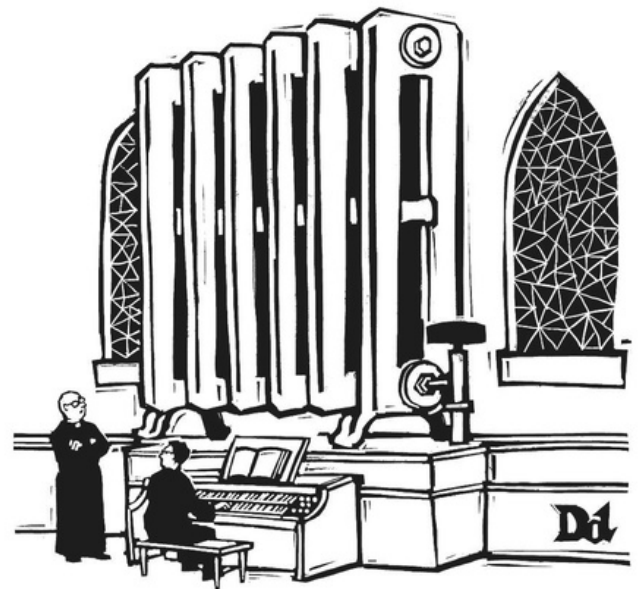
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"I see the radiator's Baroque again."

CMG TO CELEBRATE MUCH ANTICIPATED BELATED 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The board of the Church Musicians Guild invites you to celebrate our history and our hope for future music ministry. The event will be held at Fourteen Holy Helpers Church on Friday, September 30. Bishop Michael Fisher will preside.

We will celebrate our anniversary in three parts. At 6:30, an extended prelude will be offered by Gail Shepherd, Tim Socha, Frank Scinta, and Donald Fellows.

The music for the mass will be directed by Peter Gonciarz and Maria Chomicka. Readings will be given by Mickey Dick, and Steve Quebral and the prayers of the Faithful will be offered by Sister Judith Kubicki. Father Jack Ledwon will give the homily.

After the mass, we will proceed to the parish social center for a champagne cocktail reception. There will be a display of memorabilia for your perusal.

Admission is open to the public with no charge. All we ask is a reservation for each person attending. Please call Bill Fay at 716 873 0180 to let him know how many in your party will attend. Members will receive an invitation in the mail but the attendance need not be limited to members.

The guild history is remarkable. As far as we know, our guild is the oldest continually existing organization for Catholic Church musicians in the country. Let's honor that and each other with our presence!

Bill Fay

CMG BOARD MEMBER



REUNITE & REIGNITE: A RETURN TO CMG PROGRAMMING

After over two years of living with COVID, we are starting to find our way back to normalcy in many aspects of our lives. Once again we are raising our voices in praise in mass both as a congregation and in choirs. To help jump start this revival of church music, CMG hosted a mass in June at St. Katharine Drexel in Lovejoy. CMG chaplain, Fr. Sean Paul Fleming celebrated the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul with music provided by Heather Lovelace and Peter Gonciarz. Heather invited any and all CMG members to come together to form a choir for the evening. There was a wonderful representation from the guild and together everyone created a beautiful, prayerful atmosphere that was inspirational and healing after being apart and silent for so long. The choir sang Rory Cooney's Heart of a Shepherd, which intertwines the well-known Gelineau setting of psalm 23 with a beautiful refrain:

If you love me, feed my lambs; Be my heart, my voice, my hands. If you love me, feed my sheep. And for my part, I give you the heart of a shepherd.

The text was very meaningful to this gathering of worship leaders. After the mass, all in attendance socialized at a reception. Everyone left with both souls and bellies fed.

Looking ahead, the board has many ideas for a wonderful year as we all reunite with choirs and colleagues and reignite our passion for church music and leadership. Following our festive anniversary mass, we hope to offer workshops on music of Holy Week, the use of Praise and Worship music in prayer services and mass, and accessible choral pieces. Of course, our group is not only about professional development, but also the camaraderie of professionals. We hope to host at least one social event this year to continue to foster a sense of connection in our church music community.



You are the most important part of our planning. The CMG wants to best serve its members and provide the connections and support you need. To help us know how best to serve you, would you please take a brief moment to [complete this form](#)? Your feedback will help us best plan programming that fits your needs and availability. Thank you in advance for your help!

We hope that you will return your membership form and continue to attend and support the CMG programming as we Reunite and Reignite in 2022-23!

Heather Lovelace
CMG BOARD MEMBER

Stay tuned!
Praise & Worship Night
Join Maria Chomicka
& the St. Benedict's music ministry
for an evening of song, prayer,
reflection, and discussion.
Details to follow!

MEMBER NEWS

Our condolences, kind thoughts and healing prayers to **Susan Schwartz**. Earlier this summer Susan's husband Richard passed away. May he rest in peace.

CMG extends our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of member **Don Jenczka**, who died unexpectedly on June 1. Don was a long-standing and very active member of the CMG and well-known in the Buffalo theater and music community.

Healing prayers to the family and friends of **William Kurzdorfer** who passed away July 22. He was a member of the guild in 1960 and is remembered for having fixed many pipe organs in town for little or no money. Bill was the organ curator at St Louis.

Wishing a very happy retirement to **Pat Barrett** after 34 years at Fourteen Holy Helpers in West Seneca. Pat has had a full career as an organist, choirmaster, and vocalist. He is looked upon fondly by many young organists as their first organ teacher and mentor. Congratulations & may you enjoy a well deserved break!

Our congratulations to **Peter Gonciarz** and his wife Tasha on the birth of their son, Owen Peter. Welcomed into this world on Friday, July 29th at a whopping 9.8 lbs. Wishing our tiny organist a life of health and happiness.



The CMG family keeps growing as member **Chelsea Buttino** (Brodka) and husband Dominic welcomed Thomas Dominic Buttino on July 8. Congratulations and all the best to our newest joyful singer!

Do you have any updates you'd like to share with other CMG Members?
Contact Joe Morreal, our Hospitality Chair, at
joseph.morreal@gmail.com

Church Musicians' Guild Membership Form: Sept 2022 - August 2023

CMG Annual Dues: \$20

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 Annual Convocation; 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) _____

Main Parish & Parish City/Town _____

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 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) _____

Parish & Parish City/Town _____

Send mailings via _____ Email (preferred) OR _____ US MAIL

CMG 2022-23 Membership Dues \$20.00 _____

- OR - CMG 2022 - 23 RETIREE Dues \$15.00 _____

Add a Pastor \$10.00 _____

General Donations: _____

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, 2022**

to be included in the Member Directory

Membership is for September 2022 - August 2023