



FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

News & updates for Buffalo's church musicians



FREE CMG MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR! DETAILS ON PAGE 3

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UPCOMING EVENTS:



CMG VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH AT 7 PM

(VIA ZOOM, LINK TO BE EMAILED)

A New Joy BY GAIL SHEPHERD

It's hard to imagine a more bizarre time than this. With it, comes crises of mind and heart. I think we experience little griefs every day. We mostly ignore them and try to remain grateful for all that remains. But there it all is, roiling not too deeply beneath the surface. For church musicians the need to abandon sung prayer is a deep, deep abyss of darkness. Indeed, after years of trying to get Catholics to sing, we tell them not to!

But with this sadness, we just take a deep breath and move on. Nothing will replace our lost love, but we can still express ourselves musically and liturgically. Let's think about church music in a different way. Let's think about atmosphere, texture, silence, rhythm. Here are some musical ideas I've been having.

As an organist, I see that I must provide much more solo organ music than ever before. So I'm a little thrilled to be practicing more. Pianists too. Go to the publishers for plenty of solo piano pieces appropriate for church. Guitarists also can use this time to perfect their instrument only playing. Moving beyond strumming, those little practice pieces make beautiful short Preparation time interludes. Full disclosure: I'm an avid ukulelist (don't judge me) I take this Portuguese lute very seriously, so yes my etudes and classical transcriptions are going to make it into Mass soon. Oooo, here's an idea! What if the guitarist who has now mastered beautiful arpeggio techniques (finger picking) joined with the organist in a hymn? The organist provides the bass line and tune while the guitarist provides percussive drive and tonal background. Ooooo.

Perhaps the school has hand chimes of some sort. Arrange them in a pentatonic manner and random ring. Beautiful, meditative sound. We all crave this. Congregations will love it, and anyone can participate.

Dealing with kids? Explore body percussion techniques. No singing, lots of rhythm. Could something like this be used as a response or an Amen? Actually, adults might like it too. Just sayin'.

Soloists. Here's the opportunity for cantors to haul out their favorite solos. Also check with the publishers again for lots of easy solos.

Of course our devoted *instrumentalists*. String players can play more than obbligato parts. Dig out the beautiful pieces you perfected but haven't had occasion to use. Wind instruments are another matter. You'll have to decide if there's a safe way to include them.

All of this can be done with proper social distancing. And I feel that some of these new ideas will remain even after this virus is gone. Church musicians are very proud of their ability to quickly adapt to a changing liturgical situation, sometimes in seconds. *We have been given an opportunity to be creative and to form liturgy and prayer in a new way.*

Create new joy. Keep the Faith.

Church Musicians' Guild Membership Form: Sept 2020 - August 2021

PANDEMIC SPECIAL: DUES ARE WAIVED FOR THE 20-21 PROGRAM YEAR

All Current members will AUTOMATICALLY be rolled over to the 20-21 year.
CURRENT MEMBERS only need to submit a form with changes to contact info,
 otherwise no other action is required.

New members please complete the entire form and submit to the address below.

Donations to CMG and the Msgr Kowalec organ Scholarship are still accepted

This brings you:

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

Please print or type

PLEASE CHECK: ___ BRAND NEW MEMBER! ___ Renewing w/CHANGES

Name _____

Street Address/P.O. Box _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Ph (____) _____ Cell: (____) _____

Email: (PRINT IN CAPITAL LETTERS) _____

Church & Church City/Town _____

Please check ALL that apply to you

- ☐ Music Director
☐ Choir Director
☐ Ensemble Director
☐ Organist
☐ Pianist

- ☐ Cantor
☐ Choir Member
☐ Ensemble Member
☐ Instrument _____

- ☐ Clergy
☐ Retired
☐ Other _____

Are you member of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

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

- ☐ Organ/Piano ☐ Vocalist/Cantor ☐ Other Instrumentalist
☐ Available WEEKDAYS ☐ Available WEEKENDS ONLY ☐ 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

Please submit updated and NEW
 membership forms by 11/15/20
 by mail to:

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

Or email to: rkiersz@gmail.com

Church Musicians' Guild Donations

While dues are waived for 20-21 Program year, donations to the CMG and the organ scholarship are still welcome.

Please complete this form and send your donations to:

Mike Hauser
475 Broad Street
Tonawanda, NY 14150

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

Name _____

Street Address/P.O. Box _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

CMG 2020-21 Membership Dues ~~\$30.00~~ _____ **FREE!!**

General Donations to CMG _____

Donation to Msgr. Kawalec Organ Scholarship Fund: _____

TOTAL: _____

Suggested Alternative Song Selections to Use in Place of Commonly Used David Haas Pieces

(Assembled by the DSJ Liturgical Commission, the Office of Liturgy, and 12 Local Music Ministry Directors)

All Is Ready – David Haas

Alternatives:

- Welcome and Wanted – Zack Stachowski
- We Belong to You - Trevor Thomson; Victoria Thomson
- All Are Welcome (All Belong)- Jesse Manibusan, Jennah Manibusan
- All Are Welcome- Marty Haugen
- In This Place- Trevor Thomson

Blest Are They – David Haas

Alternatives:

- O How Blest – Dan Schutte
- We Are the Light of the World – J. Anthony Greif
- Lead Me, Lord – John D. Becker

Magnificat – David Haas

Alternatives:

- My Soul Rejoices- Jackie Francois
- Holy Is His Name- John Michael Talbot

Now We Remain – David Haas

Alternatives:

- Two Were Bound for Emmaus – Bob Hurd
- Alleluia! Love is Alive – Sarah Hart
- The Servant Song – Richard Gillard
- We Who Hunger Come to the Table – Hurd/Cortez
- Caminemos con Jesús - Tony Alonso

Psalms 139 – Before I Was Born – David Haas

Alternatives:

- These Alone Are Enough - Dan Schutte
- Behind and Before Me - Cyprian Consiglio
- O God You Search Me- Bernadette Farrell

Send Us Your Spirit – David Haas

Alternatives:

- Envía tu espíritu - Bob Hurd
- Psalm 104; Send Out Your Spirit - Haugen/Alonso
- Holy Spirit – Ken Canedo

Song of the Body of Christ – David Haas

Alternatives:

- Bread for the World – Bernadette Farrell
- The Supper of the Lord – Lawrence Rosania
- Take and Eat – Michael Joncas
- Here at this table – Janet Sullivan Whitaker
- Ang Katawan Ni Kristo – Manalo

We Are Called – David Haas

Alternatives:

- We Are Called to Serve – Tim Smith
- Take the Word of God – Christopher Walker
- If Christ is Lord of All – Zack Stachowski
- God Has Chosen Me – Bernadette Farrell
- God Sends Us Forth – Tony Alonso
- Go Out, Go Out – Curtis Stephan
- Can We Love - Tom Booth
- A Rightful Place – Steve Angrisano
- Go Out in the World – Ed Bolduc

We Have Been Told - David Haas

Alternatives:

- I Have Loved You – Michael Joncas
- Come Unto Me – Bob Hurd
- As Christ is For Us – Janet Sullivan Whitaker
- We Remember - Marty Haugen

We Will Rise Again - David Haas

Alternatives:

- Rise Again – Christian Cosas
- Only in God – John Michael Talbot
- Shelter Me, O God - Bob Hurd
- You Are Near - Dan Schutte
- In Every Age – Janet Sullivan Whitaker

You Are Mine – David Haas

Alternatives:

- Be Not Afraid – Bob Dufford, S.J.
- Like a Child Rests – Christopher Walker
- Come to Me, All Who Labor – Jaime Cortez
- Day of Peace – Janet Sullivan Whitaker
- All Shall Be Well – Carol Browning & Christopher Walker
- O God You Search Me – Bernadette Farrell

Historical Corner

Over the years, comparisons have been made of Buffalo with Cleveland and Pittsburgh. For me, Pittsburgh was the city where my uncle played oboe in the symphony under William Steinberg. I had hoped to go to college there.

My involvement in NPM over the past ten years has made me aware of the strong chapter that exists in Pittsburgh. Music history buffs will remember the many publications by Rev. Carlo Rossini which were used prior to Vatican II. Father Rossini led the music at St Paul's Cathedral there from the 1920's through the 1940's. It has been said that he ruled the liturgical music scene in Pittsburgh with an iron hand.

Another interesting fact is that the 19th century liturgical music pioneer John Singenberger taught Leo Roy, (father of Cecilia Kenny) and Caspar Koch at the Catholic Normal School in Milwaukee. In researching my book on our chapter history, I was shown a yearbook of sorts that belonged to Leo Roy that had Caspar Koch's signature. Koch moved to the Pittsburgh area and served as organist there for many years. His son, Paul Koch was nationally renowned for his men and boy's choir which led the liturgy at the cathedral. Paul was instrumental in installing the von Beckerath pipe organ around 1962. The instrument has four manuals and 97 ranks of pipes. Our guild member Donald Fellows is the organist there now. About a year ago, Peter Gonciarz gave an organ recital there and this has been recorded for public radio.

The chapter appears to be very active. The written record of the history of the the music program has been published: *From Organist to Pastoral Musician: A History of Church Music* in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. The book was compiled by three well known musicians: Rev. James Chepponis, Dr. Fred Molek and Sister Cynthia Serjak. This book gave me the inspiration to write our own guild history which should be published within a few months. Mention should be made of the liturgical music degree program at Duquesne University led by the Jean Langlais scholar Ann Labounsky. I recall her playing the Poulenc organ concerto at St. Paul at an NPM convention.

If you desire additional information on the cathedral or the pipe organ, I suggest that you get a copy of *A Reflection of Faith: Saint Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh*, edited by Dr. David Wilkins.

Better yet, take a weekend off and travel to Pittsburgh to hear Don play that wonderful organ. The Oakland area where the cathedral stands is a great area to visit near Carnegie Mellon University and several museums.

 **BILL FAY**



**JOHN
SINGENBERGER**

Our photo depicts the organist, choral director, and composer who served as instructor at the Catholic Normal School at Saint Francis, Wisconsin. The school was founded in 1870 to train German teacher-organists. Singenberger was brought from Regensburg Germany to serve on the faculty there where he instilled the ideals of Cecilianism in liturgical music. In addition to teaching the young men, Singenberger traveled throughout the midwest instructing the religious sisters during the summer. He formed the Society of Saint Cecilia, with the publications of several journals in German and English and promoted liturgical music through conventions as close to Buffalo as Rochester, New York. Singenberger died in 1924.

Singenberger is important to our guild history as one of his students, Leo Roy, came to western New York where he served as music director at St. Mary, Swormsville and St. Mary, Lancaster. Roy and his wife, Magelena, had ten children. Four daughters became church musicians with Cecelia Roy Kenny being the most well known. Cecelia was a founder of the guild along with Sister Mary Grace Ryan, Msgr Kawalec, and Msgr. Paul Eberz. So the influence of the Cecilian movement was brought forward by Leo Roy and developed within our diocese by his daughters' work in liturgical music.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to CMG Board Member, **Sarah Rice**, on her wedding to Jacob Mrugalski! The wedding took place on August 15th at Blessed Sacrament Church. Prayers & Best wishes to the Newlyweds!



We offer our best wishes for a speedy recovery to our chaplain **Rev. John Mack** after surgery for a liver transplant!

Sister Barbara Amrozowicz has been promoted to full professor of music at Villa Maria College. It was noted that Sister has published music including some dedicated to the founder of the Felician Sisters, Blessed Angela.

The Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus has appointed **Bill Fay** as a member of the board of directors.

Our diocesan director of music, **Alan Lukas**, has retired from that position.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in North Tonawanda has appointed **Timothy Neel** as director of music for the parish.

Samuel Zalacca of Leroy has retired as principal of Christ the King School in Snyder. Sam is the organist at Our Lady of Mercy in Leroy.

Prayers are requested for **Kristina Daloia** who has experienced some health problems.

Gail Shepherd spent the summer recovering from hip replacement surgery but was back on the bench by the middle of August.

NPM has announced that the executive director **Steve Petrunak** has resigned for personal reasons. He served for four years.

Did you know the CMG is celebrating its 75th Anniversary next year? We have a committee working on our upcoming celebrations and we will share details with you as they become available. The 75th anniversary committee has appointed **Elizabeth Clay** to serve as an additional member.

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