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MEMBERSHIPS

Your membership renewals for 2018 have been sent. If you have not received yours, please let me know. If you have, your prompt attention to it will be greatly appreciated by me!

—W. Joy Horstwill
jolibays@netrover.com

VOICE FOR LIFE AND SINGING AWARDS

The Voice for Life programme is available to choristers of all ages. There are five levels distinguished by colour: White (for beginners), Light Blue, Dark Blue, Red, and Yellow.

The choir trainer guides the choristers through the workbooks to completion. Presentation of medal and ribbon may be presented during the worship service or before the beginning of the liturgy. There is a short service of admission, and promotion, available from the RSCM. In lieu of a medal and ribbon, a lapel pin with the appropriate colour may be worn. Further information on the Voice for Life programme is available at www.rscm.com.



The Singing Awards are part of the Voice for Life programme and are formal examinations.

There are three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold, with each having specific requirements for the singing and spoken sections. The Bronze exam may be taken after the Dark Blue level has been achieved, Silver after the Red level, and Gold after the Yellow level. The examinations are conducted by examiners who have been validated by RSCM Education through a detailed process.

Requirements and repertoire lists are available at www.rscm.com, Singers section. Applications for the spring session are due by March 31, 2018. Application forms and further details available from William Lupton, Awards Administrator (lupton8976@rogers.com).

THOUGHTS ON LENT

As I have often observed before, the music written for the season of Lent truly contains the height of the liturgical music repertoire – nothing, to my mind, compares with the astonishing depth of emotion, complexity of musical thought, and virtuosity of composition of motets, anthems, and mass settings for this period in the liturgical year, assuming that you're taking a traditional pathway through the Lenten Season.

Even if your tradition isn't Anglican (or High-Church Anglican), there is so much good music for this point in the Liturgical Calendar written by many contemporary composers and hymn writers and I would encourage us all to do a little deeper research than we might normally do to find something new to introduce to our worshipping communities.

As we move along our own pathway to the celebration of the Resurrection, here's something that, being Irish, very much resonates with me:



*Morning Chapel Service, Trinity College School
Photo Courtesy of Randy Mills*

*"Pray for peace and grace and spiritual food,
For wisdom and guidance, for all these are good,
But don't forget the potatoes."*

From 'Prayer and Potatoes,' J.T. Pettee, in 'How to Cook a Wolf,'
in *The Art of Eating*, Mary Frances Kennedy. Collins Books, NY. 1990.

Andrew

—*Andrew Keegan Mackriell,*
RSCM Canada President & CEO

—TORONTO—

UPDATES

Nominations to the Order of the Diocese of Toronto (ODT). Congratulations to Rebecca Wang and Edward Moroney who were both nominated to the Order of the Diocese of Toronto (ODT). The ODT, an award created in 2013, honours members of the laity in the diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry. They were presented with their medallion at St. James Cathedral, Toronto, on Jan. 1, 2018.

Willan 50. On the evening of February 16, 2018, over 300 in attendance at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto. The concert on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Healey Willan, featured various choral and organ works performed by the

combined choirs of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene and St. Thomas Huron Street. Congratulations to all involved — It was a spectacular evening!

—*Michael Pirri*

—NIAGARA-HURON—

The choirs of All Saints and St. Martin-in-the-Fields London participated in an event titled 'A Celebration of Advent: Lessons, Hymns and Anthems for the Season'. The service was held at All Saints Anglican Church with approximately 35 people in attendance. The opening hymn 'O Come O Come Emmanuel' was sung with a choir and clergy procession around the church.

—*Bill Lupton*

UPDATES —BRITISH COLUMBIA—

The Art of Chant... was the name of a Weekend Retreat held at the Bethlehem Retreat Centre at the end of January. During the course of the weekend, participants listened to, and sang, examples of chant from Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Islamic, and contemporary traditions. I led the segment on Gregorian chant. Hitherto, as a church musician, my experience of Gregorian chant had been limited to what might occasionally crop up in liturgical settings. 'High church' Anglicanism tends to use more chant than is found in middle-of-the-road parishes, while both tend to use more than most post-Vatican II Catholic parishes. So, I wondered! I wondered how a group of thirty or so people from diverse spiritual and musical backgrounds and interests might react to attempting Gregorian chant, using its own special notation (see illustration) and in Latin to boot! These thoughts crossed my mind as I considered transcribing examples of chant into modern notation and using English translations. At that point, I decided to 'go for it' and be as authentic as possible. In the end, there was no need for concern. The participants were eagerly receptive and it was gratifying to hear people humming the melody of a Gregorian hymn they had just learned as they waited for lunch!

In this very basic primer on the art of Gregorian chant we also covered its historical background, its provenance and development; discovered how Gregorian chant was foundational for so much of later Western music; and actually sang some examples chosen to illustrate the variety of styles included in the body of chant that has come down to us. A receptive group this was indeed, readily grasping some of the basics of Gregorian notation, the breathing, and the sustaining of quite long musical phrases – and with such enthusiasm! At the end of our time together we were not ready to make our CD, but we certainly had some idea of the captivating beauty of this important part of the Western cultural heritage. [...]

— Peter Orme

—EASTERN ONTARIO & QUÉBEC—

Michael Capon Appointment at Queen's University. Congratulations to Michael, who has taken up the post of Adjunct Lecturer in Organ at the Dan School of Music, Queen's University, Kingston. Michael will be able to follow on the work of David Cameron at Queen's. It is wonderful to see a new opening for the organ at the university level in Ontario (after my own Alma mater sold off its instruments!). He continues as Director of Music at St George's Cathedral.

David Briggs at St Thomas, Belleville

A rave review in the *Belleville Intelligencer* mentioned a full house for Briggs' recital there on Feb. 18. The writer was amused at someone humming the old 'Hockey Night in Canada' theme when a call went out for suggestions for David's closing improvisation. It would appear the Handel won out.

Bronze Award for Port Hope Chorister

Bill Lupton travelled from London to test one of the choirgirls at St Mark's, Port Hope.

Kate Legakis, a Gr 7 student in Cobourg, passed the test and has received her Bronze award. Her name should appear in the next CMQ.

— Randy Mills

Please let us know about church music related events. We will be happy to publicize them both in our newsletter, and on Facebook!