

Leadership Program for Musicians

eNews & Notes

September, 2009

LPM prepares capable and confident worship leaders who will enable their congregations to sing well and take their part in the liturgy of the church.

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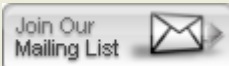
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LPM eNews & Notes is published six times annually. Submissions can be sent to John Weit at john.e.weit@gmail.com. The deadline for the next issue is November 22, 2009.

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LPM Changes in the Works

Many of you know that the LPM National Board's support of local LPM programs throughout the country has been funded in large part by our partner denominations. All partner denominations have participated, but, in particular, the Episcopal Church and Evangelical Lutheran Church in



America have provided the bulk of LPM's financial support. Due to budget cutbacks, Presbyterian Association of Musicians support ended in 2008, ELCA support ended this past spring, and ECUSA support ceases at year's end. As one might imagine, these changes have immense impact upon how LPM operates. The LPM National Board is in the process of evaluating how best to respond to these changes and will

report back to you as changes develop. The curriculum has been the heart of our local programs. The board will continue to encourage local programs and explore means of strengthening the curriculum as we move ahead.

Your prayers, feedback and ideas are solicited. Please share your thoughts with any board member, or through our Facebook page. For the past fifteen years, LPM has been a vital presence in our churches. We know that God will continue to bless this important ministry for his church.

Blessings,
John Marsh

Chair, LPM National Board

Fall 2009 Active Local LPM Programs

The LPM mission statement states our main goal is to "prepare capable and confident worship leaders..." One way we have accomplished this goal is through teaching the LPM curriculum in local settings. Below learn more about current active local LPM programs around the United States. Links to brochures and websites with more information are included.

NW Minnesota - Dakotas LPM

The Northern parts of Minnesota and the Dakotas are fertile LPM territory. Many churches are served by musicians with little formal training who are eager to improve their skills. We are grateful to the Calvin Institute of Worship for awarding LPM a grant that directly benefits this new LPM program. The nine people participating in the program will benefit from generous scholarships. Our program is also being supported by the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota.

LPM begins on September 19, hosted at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. We are thrilled to have nine people registered for the full program! Two are pastors and seven are musicians (pianists, organists and choir directors).

Classes offered this fall will be Liturgy and Music (taught by Rev. Rachel Stout), Resources for Music Ministry (taught by Dr. Peggy Johnson),

Leading Congregational Song (taught by Peggy, Ms. Linda Toso and Jennifer Baker-Trinity) and Philosophy. In addition to Peggy, Linda and Rachel, Pastor Tom Jacobson makes up our wonderful local board.

We look forward to this new venture!

Jennifer Baker-Trinity, Coordinator
(218) 938-4701 - jbakertrinity@mac.com
[Brochure](#)

LPM Southeast (Greater Atlanta)

LPM Atlanta met at various locations throughout the city in 2008-2009 with six students, and offered Liturgy, Teaching New Music, Philosophy and Leading Congregational Song. Coordinators for the program include Sue Mitchell Wallace, Joanne Brown and John Marsh with additional faculty Sarah Hawbecker, Michael Morgan, and Brad Hughley. A highlight was our January session when Bishop Neil Alexander (Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta) taught the Liturgy class.

In 2009-2010, we will continue our multi-location format and offer Hymnody, Resources for an Effective Music Ministry, Philosophy and Principals of Choral Leadership. Complete information is available on the LPM website. Our first fall meeting is September 26 at Columbia Theological Seminary (Presbyterian) where seminarians as well as faculty have been invited to participate and see what LPM is all about. We hope to continue this important link between LPM and seminaries of all denominations. Coordinators Sue Mitchell Wallace, Joanne Brown, and John Marsh welcome inquiries about LPM Atlanta.

John Marsh, Coordinator
713-206-8896 - marek2go@gmail.com
Sue Mitchell Wallace, Coordinator
770-594-0949 - suemwallace@bellsouth.net
Joanne Brown, Coordinator
404-545-3998 - organist227@bellsouth.net
[Brochure](#)

LPM Virginia

Virginia South's 2009-2010 LPM program begins September 11-12 with four courses at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Richmond.

"Teaching New Music to the Congregation" will be taught by Ellen Johnston. Ellen has taught in the LPM program since its inception, formerly in Mississippi and now in Virginia. She is a member of the Virginia South LPM Board and is Vice Chair of the National LPM Board.

The Saturday sessions offer three courses: The Rev. Eric Moehring will teach "Liturgy and Music: Foundations for Christian Worship". His ecumenical involvement includes being a founding member and past Board Chair of LPM South Virginia. Eric has been pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, Richmond, for twenty-one years.

Isabelle LeSane, the chapter's current Coordinator, will again teach "Philosophy of Church Music." She has been an organist/choir director for 25 plus years, and is a 2003 graduate of LPM. Currently she is pursuing a Master's in Sacred Music from the Graduate Theological Foundation, South Bend, IN.

Stephen Henley will offer "Principles of Choral Leadership". Stephen is the current Chair of LPM Virginia South, and is organist and Director of Music at Bon Air Presbyterian Church in Richmond.

Interested persons can take the full 2-year program or an individual class. Find more information including course dates, tuition, and to learn more about the faculty visit the local website at the link below.

Judith Carlson, Board Member (Publicity)
judithmcarlson@gmail.com
Website: www.lpm-va.org

Texas LPM

The Texas LPM is alive and well, operating continuously since 1996. To date, we have 111 graduates and quite a number of trained coordinators. For 2009-2011, we will be in Temple, Texas, moving to a new part of the state (for us) as we seek to provide church musicians the help and training that they need to have vibrant, excellent ministries. Previously, we have held classes in Austin, Houston, and El Campo, changing locations every two to three years, with students coming from as far away as El Paso and even from outside our huge state!

For 2009-2010, our course offerings will be Teaching New Music to the Congregation, taught by Keith Weber (a Presbyterian); Liturgy and Music, taught by Dorothy Gremilion (an Episcopal priest); and Resources for an Effective Music Ministry (taught by coordinator Marsha Seale, a cradle-Episcopalian, now Lutheran), plus Philosophy of Church Music. As is our custom, we will begin with an Open House - on September 26 at First Lutheran Church in Temple, Texas. Everyone is welcome! RSVP is helpful.

Marsha K. Seale, Coordinator
713-562-6972 - mkseale52@msn.com
[Brochure](#)

LPM at Episcopal Church General Convention



During the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, LPM shared a booth with The Association of Anglican Musicians. At our excellent location right across from Church Publishing, copies of the LPM brochure, LPM buttons, a quick info sheet on courses as well as a post-card with information were distributed along with AAM journals/brochures, CD's and chocolate covered pretzels looking like organ pipes. Some people knew of LPM and many said that it was something greatly needed in their area as they shared stories of their parish music programs.

We wish to thank the following people (LPM and AAM members) for hosting the booth during the 10 day period: Sharon Downey, Nathan Ensign, Debora Huffman, Ray Gustafson, Jeff Johnson, Martha Johnson, Ellen Johnston, Susan Markley, Tom Neenan, Steve O'Connor, David Ouzts, Sonya Sutton, and Karen Taylor.

Want to share your passion for worship and music? Join us on Facebook and discuss church music topics. It's free, easy to use, and keeps you connected. Click [here](#) to find out more.

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LPM Curriculum Access

For access to the LPM curriculum, please contact Anna Leppert-Largent, LPM Consultant-Coordinator. Read more about the LPM Curriculum on the [LPM website](#).



Support LPM by using the above link to shop at Amazon.com

Gifts to LPM can also be given through our [Joyful Gifts](#) program.

Glimpse of the LPM Curriculum: Principals for Choral Leadership

Score Preparation

It is the task of the conductor to be the musical interpreter for the musicians he or she is conducting. In order to perform this responsibility, one must know all one can about the music to be performed, including such things as:

- Formal and harmonic analysis
- Phrase construction
- Text interpretation
- Portions that present a particular performance difficulty
- Stylistic interpretations, including dynamics, breathing
- Pertinent background material relating to the source or circumstances of the composition.

This means that a conductor must spend as much time (or more) in score study and preparation as she or he would in preparing a piece for public performance as an organist or singer. One cannot know enough about the score one will conduct. To be most effective, one should memorize as much of the music as is possible.

Secondly, it is the primary responsibility of the conductor to start and stop the music. While these two things may seem to be self-evident and simplistic, they are of utmost importance. Enabling a group of musicians to begin a piece of music together and in the proper tempo is a skill that the conductor must rehearse often.

Thirdly, it is imperative that every conductor develop an "inner clock." The ability to maintain a steady tempo is paramount to the successful interpretation and performance of any piece of music. Frequent score study using a metronome should be a part of every conductor's daily practice time.