



Leadership
Program
for Musicians

LPM News and Notes

Valerie E. Hess, Editor

The LPM National Board

- *Nathan B. Ensign, chair*
nathan@nathanarts.com
- *Carol A. Doran*
cdoran@vts.edu
- *Jan Graettinger*
doremi@ruthventel.com
- *Valerie E. Hess*
JVML10@hotmail.com
- *Anna M. Leppert-Largent*
amllargent@yahoo.com
- *Clayton L. Morris*
cmorris@episcopalchurch.org
- *David R. O'Steen*
osteen2@aol.com
- *Marti Rideout*
martirideout@juno.com
- *William Bradley Roberts*
Bill.roberts@stjohns-dc.org
- *Scott C. Weidler*
sweidler@elca.org
- *Paul Westermeyer*
pwesterm@luthersem.edu

CANTOR TRACK REVISIONS

BY DAVID O'STEEN

In response to numerous requests, there is going to be a complete revision and expansion of the Cantor Track of the Leadership of Congregational Song course. The process of rewriting this portion of the course will probably take about a year before it is ready to publish and become part of the complete curriculum. In the interim, there are a few corrections and additions to the existing course that should be helpful to the teacher of this course. The current corrections/additions are as follows:

- Page 151 Course completion requirements #2 (refers to descants) For basses and altos, the descant could be sung down an oc-

tave or transposed to a comfortable key. The point is for the singer to sing well, so keep the descant in their range.

- Page 153 Practical Applications – Bullet 4 has a typo: “is” should be “as.”

- Page 154 Top of page – Bullet 4: add to the end of the sentence “...use singing technique to speak.”

- Page 163 Practical Applications – Bullet 2 – Yawn should be more explanatory, such as “Singer’s yawn: keeping the tongue forward and out of the throat.” All exercises should promote a healthy, relaxed technique.

- Page 163 Practical Applications – Bullet 4 – Startling breath is too easily done with tension. Try a breath of wonder or awe: unrushed, relaxed and open.

- Page 163 Add to last paragraph: The diaphragm and intercostals muscles control airflow.

- Page 167 Practical Applications – No “ng” exercises; there are safer ways for the inexperienced singer to get resonance. Instead try “nn” or “mm” or possibly “hän” (nasalized). These are easy ways to get resonance without using tension, all accessible to the inexperi-

enced singer.

- Page 181 Orchestral Instruments – Add St. James Press to list of instrumental arrangements.

- Page 184 Handout for Session 4 – Change this handout to agree with the revisions made on page 167.

I hope this list will help the teachers of this track to instruct their students in healthy vocal habits. If you have questions about these changes, please email me with your questions or concerns (see address in board member column this page).

Watch www.lpm-online.org for periodic curriculum updates and information.



Some of the board signing the 501 (c)3 paperwork: Marti Rideout, David O'Steen, Valerie Hess, Jan Graettinger, Anna Leppert-Largent, Nathan Ensign, and Bill Roberts.



David O'Steen entertaining at the closing banquet for the conference.

*The 2004 Conference committee:
Christopher Cook, Ellen Johnston,
John Repulski, Barbara
Hoffman, and Nathan Ensign.
Absent: Scott Weidler*

2004 CONFERENCE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

A REVIEW BY JOHN MARSH AND MARSHA SEALE



*The Organ in Samuelson
Chapel, California Lutheran.*



The 2004 LPM National Conference: *Keeping the Song Alive!* offered numerous Enrichment Sessions in addition to the annual Coordinator Training Sessions – a new format that was highly effective. Coordinators who previously had gone through LPM training, LPM graduates, and others interested in church music had new opportunities to explore different means of enriching their music ministries.

Enrichment Sessions and Coordinator Training Sessions ran concurrently in the morning while only Enrichment Sessions were offered most afternoons, giving coordinator trainees a chance to participate in the enrichment workshops. Topics from a wide variety of skilled presenters ranged from the practical to the spiritual, providing resources relevant to musicians of any level of experience and expertise.

The Coordinator Training Track, designed to equip coordinators of local LPM programs, was

well organized and well executed by excellent faculty. In addition to an overview of the curriculum, there was a wealth of practical information provided on establishing LPM on the local level. Topics included financial development, scholarships, recruitment of students and faculty, advertising the availability and value of the program, and ways to utilize the syllabus most effectively.

California Lutheran University proved to be a perfect location for the conference with its beautiful setting, wonderful chapel and organ, tropical vegetation, and ample facilities. Participants came from over twenty states throughout the U.S., plus Canada.

In addition to the workshops, highlights included worship, Morning Meditations with Marti Rideout, and Clergy Day with round table forum – and, of course, a great deal of singing. Worship offerings included Eucharist, Compline, Evensong, Morning Prayer, and a Service in the Style of Taizé. All the services were well planned and executed, offering conferees time for reflection, inspiration and growth. Clergy from the area were invited to participate in

the Thursday Clergy Day, and approximately thirty clergy attended, giving musicians and clergy an opportunity to interact and share common joys and concerns. A stimulating Round Table forum had panelists respond to questions submitted by conferees.

It was a wonderful, challenging, thought provoking time together with church musicians and clergy to share our common ministries, and to inspire each other for our Lord's work. Informal discussions throughout the conference were often lively, invigorating, affirming, and relationship building, as conferees explored the dynamic role of church music in worship and its power to unify and transform lives.

The 2005 conference at Texas Lutheran University (June 28-July 1) will build upon this foundation with enrichment workshops, worship, Clergy Day, coordinator training and other opportunities. The conference setting is near San Antonio and the Texas Hill Country, which offers unrivaled vacation possibilities before and after the conference. **Complete details will be available on the LPM website, www.lpm-online.org, or by calling John Marsh, conference chair, at 281-444-3127, ext. 231.**

LPM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: How can music help in divisive issues?

A: "Both/and" is often holy. "Either/or" is often poisonous. During the stall in the Lutheran/Episcopal negotiations for full communion, LPM kept moving along. Divisive situations can cause visceral reactions. Music is also visceral. Now, we are invited to embrace a variety of music that becomes a visceral, unifying factor. It is always easier to keep an argument alive in an ideological environment than in an experiential area. If you are having tense, po-

tentially divisive meetings at your church, try to get people to sing together. It is harder to stay mad! (The Very Rev. Shannon Johnston, Rector at All Saints Episcopal Church, Tupelo, MS answered this question at the conference.)



Q: How can LPM help both sides of the "contemporary" Christian music argument?

A: By helping people understand their philosophy of church music and talk issue specific, by modeling an example of "both/and" (see previous question), and by teaching musicians to lead both styles well trusting that a natural culling of the bad in both genres will happen over time. God can consecrate anything but we need trained people to lead well.

Left: Rev. Shannon Johnston presiding at closing Eucharist.

Please send questions related to LPM to: JVML10@hotmail.com Please indicate "LPM Question" in the subject box as e-mails from unknown sources are routinely deleted. Action shots from LPM programs are also accepted.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING IN THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA JUNE 27-29, 2004

The National LPM board held their summer meeting with all members present, except for Paul Westermeyer, who had a prior speaking commitment. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Accepted Marti Rideout's resignation as LPM administrator. Voted to hire Anna Leppert-Langert as her replacement. Marti was voted onto the board as Vice President to replace the vacancy created by Anna's leaving the board. David O'Steen was re-elected to another three year term on the board.
- Discussed the new model of having summer conferences organized by a sub-committee of the board vs. the board themselves. All agreed it was a much better model.
- Discussed next year's summer conference to be held at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, TX. (See article on page 2.)
- Discussed different locations for the 2006 conference. Carthage College is still an option but the desire to have conferences in various sections of the country is preferred. We will try to find a series of three or four institutions that would be conference sites on a rotating basis.
- Discussed ways to help LPM overcome the distance issues in Alaska. Some of the board may go talk to the Bishop. We also discussed potential LPM-style workshops that could be held around the Deanery meetings.
- Finished up the paper work for our 501 (c)3 application. Had a signing party. Now the long wait for a response from the IRS begins. The Ecumenical Grant Proposal is on hold until we receive 501 (c)3 status.
- Looked at Jan Graettinger's proposed enhancement of the curriculum with activities which faculty members can use in the different courses. It was well received by all of the board. She presented the beginnings of that material to the Coordinator training class. We plan to have those ideas and options available to all coordinators on the national LPM web site at a future date.
- Talked briefly about a "pre-LPM" program for people who need even more basic training and/or for young musicians in our congregations. Looked briefly at ideas to encourage young people to go into church music, possibly even setting up some kind of a music mentor model.
- Talked about getting some vocal track curriculum changes on to the Web site in the near future. (See article page 1.)
- Set up the fall board meeting for October 18th as a conference call.

JOYFUL GIFTS UPDATE

Contributions Given Since March 2004—THANK YOU!

Edward H. Kryder; John G. Peck, Jr.; The Rev. Carl and Mrs. May Daw; Joseph Waterman; Patricia Churchley, in memory of James Holloway.

LPM is dependent on your generous giving to continue its mission and ministry. Please consider giving regularly. For example, give one wedding or funeral fee to the LPM Joyful Gifts fund. Checks may be made out to "LPM" and sent to: **Marti Rideout, 6230 Covered Bridge Rd., Burke, VA 22015**. The National Board and LPM students everywhere thank you for your support.

May His Memory Be Eternal

The board was notified at its June meeting of the death of Roy Horton. Roy was the Choral Director and Organist at the Delbarton School and St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown, New Jersey, and Organist and Choirmaster at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in nearby Mendham. He was a gifted musician and teacher, and the LPM Coordinator in the Diocese of Bethlehem, PA.

Condolences may be sent to his wife:

The Reverend Canon Carol J. Horton
 P.O. Box 777
 New Milford, PA 18834



The 2004 conference in Thousand Oaks, California.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

NATHAN B. ENSIGN

The Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations (LPM) seeks to prepare capable and confident musical leaders who will enable their congregations to sing well and take their part in the liturgy of the church.

“Exciting time”, “Rewarding”, “Just what I needed”— These are all things I heard as our first West Coast Summer Conference came to an end. Thanks to John Repulski and his committee of Chris Cook, Barbara Hoffman, Ellen Johnston, and Scott Weidler, LPM had the largest conference ever with almost 90 participants (one third of them in the Coordinator track) and from as far away as Florida and Alaska. The week was filled with opportunities to worship together, exchange ideas, sing, and create new relationships. Excellent plans for next summer at **Texas Lutheran University** were announced so mark your calendars now—**June 28-July 1, 2005**.

At our summer board meeting, Marti Rideout became Vice-Chair and Anna Leppert-Largent moved into the role as National Coordinator, and we are very happy to announce that we signed the final application for 501 (c)3 status and are awaiting governmental approval. It is exciting to see LPM growing and changing lives all over the country and this next step should enlarge our possibilities of growth. Pray with us that this goes quickly and smoothly.

As summer ends, let us remember the theme of the conference by **“Keeping the Song Alive!”** as we begin another year of service to God and our spiritual communities.



Board Members Bill Roberts, Valerie Hess, Marti Rideout and 2005 Conference Chair, John Marsh at the Opening Liturgy; Right: The closing banquet and the closing liturgy of the conference.



Leadership Program for Musicians

Ms. Anna Leppert-Largent
915 Court Street, Suite 6
Saginaw, MI 48602-4196

Phone and FAX: 989-792-6576
Website: www.lpm-online.org

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
SAGINAW MI
PERMIT NO. 13

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED