



Leadership  
Program  
for Musicians

# LPM News and Notes

Valerie E. Hess, Editor

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## INTRODUCTION AND WORKSHOPS

The annual LPM Conference will meet from Tuesday, June 30, through Friday, July 1, 2005, at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. The conference will feature outstanding teachers leading diverse workshops, most offered twice, on a wide variety of church music topics. Titles include "Composer Reading Session with David Ashley White," "Getting Ready for Sunday: Organ Practice Techniques," "Technology: Desktop Music Software," "Instrumental Music in Church Services,"

## 2005 LPM CONFERENCE

### "Quality Church Music in a New Age: Tradition & Innovation"

By John Marsh, 2005 Conference Planning Committee Chair.

"Turning Hymns into Anthems," "Easy Improvisation for the Church Organist," "Music for Small Choirs," "Growing Your Own Liturgical Musician," "Advent: Challenges and Opportunities," "Worship Planning Resources," "Contemporary Music: Nuts & Bolts" and many more.

The very high caliber roster of teachers at the 2005 conference was selected for their extensive experience, advanced knowledge of their subjects, and ability to present their material dynamically.



THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Following the new conference format that was started in 2004, LPM 2005 will offer a broad-based church music conference geared towards Episcopalians and Lutherans, but open to

church musicians of all denominations – not just those involved with LPM. Two distinctive tracks will again be offered: 1) Coordinator Training, for those who will be starting, teaching, or coordinating an LPM program at home; 2) Enrichment Workshop Offerings on a variety of topics relevant to the needs of today's church musicians. Those attending the Coordinator Training will also have the opportunity to participate in Enrichment Workshops. The 2005 Summer Conference will offer a concentrated week of enrichment, worship, and rejuvenation for ALL church musicians.

### CLERGY DAY

In response to the overwhelmingly positive experience at the 2004 LPM conference, Clergy Day will again be offered. It will be a special focus day of particular interest for rectors and pastors. On Thursday of the conference, local



clergy is invited to come and spend the day with the other participants and attend classes, share the meals, and worship together. The day begins with a special introduction to the LPM program (just for the clergy). Offerings during the day include:

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## LPM QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### LPM SYLLABUS FLEXIBILITY

**Many of you have asked questions about rearranging the course offerings in LPM to meet the needs in your local program. Marti Rideout responds:**

Reports from LPM Coordinators in recent years expressed several concerns about presenting the courses in the order in which they are found in the LPM Syllabus and the limited number of classes assigned to complete some courses:

- More time is needed for the skills courses, especially keyboard tracks, conducting, and voice training. Almost every Coordinator who has been in communication about this issue articulated the desire to extend the skills courses to two years.
- Many participants begin the LPM Curriculum with the hope that they will receive practical information, as contained in the *Resources for Music Ministry* course, to begin to help themselves and their programs immediately. Some LPM Coordinators reported that participants dropped out within a session or two of beginning the course because they were not receiving what they needed.
- Participants have also withdrawn because the first year's offering of *Hymnody of the Christian Church* and *Liturgy and Music: Foundations for Christian Worship* required more reading, study, and writing than they could successfully manage.

LPM Coordinators are encouraged to use some flexibility in scheduling the seven courses of the LPM Syllabus. Detailed suggestions for flexibility in teaching the contents of the LPM Syllabus may be found at [www.lpm-online.org](http://www.lpm-online.org). Options include:

- Assessing the needs of participants at the local LPM through pre-course surveys and conversations.
- Scheduling the *Resources for Music Ministry* course in the first year and either the *Liturgy and Music: Foundations for Christian Worship* course or *Hymnody of the Christian Church* in the first year and the other in the second year.
- Offering ways to incorporate skills courses (organ/piano/voice/guitar tracks, conducting, voice training, teaching new music) over a two-year period.
- Presenting all seven courses over a two-year period.

Suggested schedules are also offered. If you develop a plan that works for your local program, let us know how it works out for you and your participants. You can e-mail me at the address found on page one.

### TEACHING AIDS FOR FACULTY

**Many of you have asked for resources to help your faculty teach more effectively. Jan Thurber Graettinger responds:**

Curriculum enhancements are a new link on the LPM website. These are designed to assist coordinators as well as faculty in preparing and presenting an LPM curriculum to eager participants. The first of these is a Pre-Course Survey and guide designed for coordinators. This is a template for identifying the skills, experience, needs and hopes of those registered for classes as well as methods to facilitate analysis of that information in order to direct course work decisions. You can alter it to fit your needs and provide information helpful to your particular program.

The second is a reading/discussion/activity guide for "Trouble at the Table." This paperback is required reading for the "Teaching New Music" course. This guide provides accountability and activity options to enhance the contribution of this book to the course as well as to the final *Philosophy of Church Music* paper. It is designed for coordinators and particularly for faculty teaching this course.

Coming soon will be general delivery strategies for all courses and activity options to create energy in the learning environment. These will also be linked to specific sessions of specific courses as a start to implementation. This is all constantly "in progress," so I will welcome your comments, suggestions and implementation experiences which can be added to these links. Please e-mail me at the address listed on page one.

**Please send questions related to LPM to: [JVML10@hotmail.com](mailto: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.**

### CONFERENCE CONTINUED:

sessions on liturgical issues, a special round table discussion for everyone at the conference, and worship.

#### WORSHIP

A regular part of every day, worship is offered in various forms from both the Episcopal and Lutheran traditions. Some are intentionally geared to nourish and comfort, while others are meant to explore and challenge. Services will include a contemplative service in the style of Taizé, Compline, Morning Prayer, and Holy Communion. There will also be an opportunity for early morning meditation.

#### LOCATION

Founded in 1891, Texas Lutheran University is located in Seguin, near the beautiful Texas hill country and thirty-five miles east of San Antonio. It is associated with the ELCA, and offers an undergraduate program in liberal arts, science and professional studies. It offers a wealth of facilities in close walking distance of each other, including the Tschoepe Conference Center, which opens in February, 2005, where the majority of our workshop sessions will take place.

Abundant vacation opportunities for families abound in the area (San Antonio, Austin, New Braunfels, Houston).

#### MORE INFORMATION ABOUT LPM 2005

**For those who are interested in finding out more, see the online conference brochure at the LPM website at [www.lpm-online.org](http://www.lpm-online.org) (available December 2004), or contact the conference chair, John Marsh, at 281-444-3127, ext. 231, [jmarsh@kinsmenlutheran.org](mailto:jmarsh@kinsmenlutheran.org).**



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2004

The National LPM board held their fall meeting in the traditional conference call format. All members called in. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Minutes of the summer meeting were approved and a verbal report of the finances and the upcoming Joyful Gifts campaign was given.
- Summer conferences were discussed. The 2004 conference (which ended in the black) was affirmed as a success (see article on page 3), a brief report was given on the 2005 conference to be held at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas (see article on page 1), and the 2006 conference was discussed. A site and conference chair have not been firmly settled on though options looked at previously are still possibilities. Watch the LPM web site for updates.
- The 2005 conference is going to tackle the issue of “contemporary” and “blended” worship issues more specifically through an additional worship service and two workshops.
- The application for 501C3 status had a couple of small snags in the paper work. The board approved recommended changes in wording to solve those glitches.
- Long-distance learning options are still be investigated through the University of Alaska’s Distance Learning Center and through a Kinder Music on-line certification course. The goal is to get the LPM curriculum to everyone who wants it regardless of whether they have access to a local program or not.
- The Cantor Track re-write is scheduled to happen in Washington D.C. in October with Bill Roberts and David O’Steen leading the re-write. The Web site and future newsletters will highlight those changes after they are reviewed by the board at its meeting in February.
- Teaching aides, that were reviewed by the board this summer, will be accessible on the Web site as they become available (see article page 2). These are tools to help faculty and students customize the standardized curriculum for local classes as well as teach the curriculum more effectively.
- The dates for the winter board meeting at ELCA Churchwide Offices in Chicago were confirmed for February 18-19.

### JOYFUL GIFTS UPDATE

Contributions Given Since August 2004—THANK YOU!

Carol and Tom Foster

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 each year 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.

### TAKING A CHANCE ON THE 2004 CONFERENCE

By Stephanie Hall, Juneau, Alaska

Last spring I received a phone call from Valerie Hess informing me about the LPM conference in June and I just knew I was supposed to go.

I never aspired to be the church pianist; I inherited the job through attrition. I'm from St. Brendan's in Juneau, Alaska that serves about 50 active congregants and I knew I needed training for church music but Alaska is too isolated for the typical LPM training to occur. In Juneau we either leave by airplane or boat and it's expensive to attend weekly sessions somewhere.

When I looked at the schedule on the website I was excited about all the enrichment workshops and knew they would help me in my music ministry. I came home renewed and enthusiastic about church music. I'd been waiting for someone who played better and knew more than I do to come along but that hasn't happened so I guess it's up to me! The LPM workshops gave me the confidence to go forward and BE the music minister. I enjoyed the variety of worship services and meeting other church musicians and the singing!! (I can't play and sing at the same time!!) Having the resources there was great too because it's hard to look at music through catalogs or online.

I hope to come again and have been encouraging others around Alaska to come as well. Thank you ,Valerie, for your invitation and your passion for Alaska!

MISSION  
STATEMENT:

The Leadership Program for Musicians, Inc. (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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  
NATHAN B. ENSIGN

Here in the Desert where I live, it is often difficult to tell the seasons, but with a recent storm, the 10,000-foot mountains 3 miles away are white with snow and I am aware that fall has arrived. Fall—a time for new LPM programs, a time for reflection, and a time of Thanksgiving.

With LPM there is so much for which to be thankful—a very successful summer conference run by volunteers, a wonderful national board with whom I am very proud to work and share their exciting ideas and goals, and so many of **YOU** who make LPM a reality where it counts most—your home area! Without you, LPM could not spread the information so desperately needed by many. Without you, LPM would not have the financial backing to continue especially through your Joyful Gifts. I want to personally thank all who envisioned LPM, have created and taught in programs, those who have taken classes, and everyone who has supported us financially. LPM is truly changing lives and giving people resources and skills needed.

As the Holidays approach, may you be filled with thanks for God's bountiful gifts the most blessed being the Christ Child!

**L e a d e r s h i p P r o g r a m f o r  
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