

# HOLY COMMUNION MUSIC PROGRAM

1/28/18

The Holy Communion Choir had its biggest musical year in 2017. In addition to singing the majority of the 10:30 services, the choir reinforces the singing of paperless music, and has participated in special services, including our Music Festivals.

We use songs from Music that Makes Community (MMC) as a way to bring people together. MMC is a movement which promotes paperless music, or music that can easily be learned by those who do not read music. These are accessible tunes, which can be learned after just a few times of singing, and the melodies can easily be recognized by those visiting the church. The goal is to encourage more singing by the entire congregation, which, in turn, helps to establish a stronger sense of community within the church. During the 10:30 services, we use MMC music as the Gathering Song, and then modify the melody for the sequence and the Great Amen.

The Music Festivals at Holy Communion are designed to enhance and heighten worship, as well as attract lovers of music both within and outside of our church. During the festivals we celebrate through song - additional anthems may be sung, "bigger" works may be presented, guest musicians may join us, and a variety of musical styles may be presented.

We've had the pleasure of presenting a number of outstanding Festivals during 2017, with musical styles ranging from gospel to jazz to West African music. In February, the choir presented Bob Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass*, with parishioner Pierce Lamberson on drums and guest musician Guy Cantonwine on bass. This was particularly exciting because from what we were able to research, Chilcott's *Mass* had not been performed in St. Louis for at least 12 years.

Our new friends from St. Paul & the Redeemer Episcopal Church in Hyde Park, IL, visited us in April, bringing their choristers for a weekend of fun and music. A group of Holy Communion youth and the adult choir learned music to be sung with the SPR choristers during our 10:30 service on April 29<sup>th</sup>. We had a great rehearsal in the morning, led by Christian Clough, Director of Music at SPR, with game time scheduled afterwards. Continual rain forced us to remain indoors, but with the help of choir members, we were able to get in exciting games of Live Action Hungry, Hungry Hippo, T-Shirt Tic-Tac-Toe, and Quidditch (without the broomsticks, unfortunately). After lunch, all the choristers and parents spent the afternoon in the City Museum. Needless to say, it was a fun but exhausting weekend.

One of the most thrilling Festivals occurred in October, when soprano Dawn Padmore flew in from New York City to present *Music from West Africa*, featuring music from her native Liberia. Organist Connor Scott accompanied Dawn on the piano, and choir member Brad Curry played the djembe.

Our Music Program is growing not only in the number of musical events, but also in the number of people involved. During the summer months, we invited parishioners who aren't regular members of the choir to sing a service as a "pick-up" choir. For those members who enjoy singing in a choir, but aren't able to commit to weekly rehearsals and services, this is the perfect way to get their "choir fix." If you are interested in our summer choir, get ready - we'll start again in June!

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The Music Program isn't just for adults; we've started a Choristers Program at Holy Communion. This program will be based on the VOICE for LIFE program thru the Royal School of Church Music. In this program, we hope to provide a necessary music education for students in our church and in the surrounding neighborhood, during a time when so many music programs have been reduced or eliminated from some schools.

Studies have shown that music education enhances a student's ability to learn other disciplines of education, such as math and science. It also teaches teamwork (singing in a group), patience (from learning music), how to achieve goals (practicing), as well as social interaction (good musicianship). We hope that the youth in this choral program will learn the joys and discipline of making music, and that as they get older, they continue to reap the benefits that music provides, whether they continue with music as a career or take on other professions.

Our adult choir learned the joys of singing and music-making, and we're so blessed that they share their talents with us every week.

As of today's meeting, the members of the Holy Communion Choir are:

<u>Soprano</u>	<u>Alto</u>	<u>Tenor</u>	<u>Bass</u>
Tricia Anderson	Leslie Caplan	Tim Anderson	Matt Chapman
Julie Farrar	Markie Jo Crismon	* Rudi Bertrand	Christian Davis
Cecily Hawksworth	* Rebecca Hatlelid	Andy Carpentier	* Micheal Lowe
* Juliet Jackson	Roberta Gardner	Brad Currey	Andy Ludwig
Sarah Stanage	Sharon Lightfoot	Andrew Wasson	* Scott Lunte
Patti Thorp	Marlene O'Brien		

\*section leader

Although we've welcomed new singers to the Choir, it is our hope that our number continues to increase so we further minister through music. If you're interested in singing with the Choir, please email me or see me after one of the 10:30 services.

None of the festivals or special music could take place without the hard work and dedication of Connor and our talented singers, as well as the support from Mike, the Vestry, and the congregation as a whole. On behalf of Connor Scott and the choir, thank you all for your support. We are forever grateful.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Chapman, Director of Music (mchapman@holychommunion.net)