

Breakout Sessions Virtual Colloquium

Monday

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm

Rationale for Repertoire: Programming for your Choir, Dr. Timothy McDonnell (1 hour),
Moderator: Peter Carter

Have you ever struggled to find the perfect piece for your choir—one that balances the expectation of success with the benefits of new challenges? This session with Dr. Timothy McDonnell will outline the various markers of repertoire evaluation that will help you to determine the right fit for your ensemble. The session will be more than just a repertoire list, but rather a template with repertoire examples that will help participants distinguish the compositional attributes that will leverage choral performance excellence in a variety of situations and applications.

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Resonant vocal training, Dr. MeeAe Cecilia Nam (1 hour), Moderator: Mary Jane Ballou

The session will introduce several exercises that may help understanding the vocal production in relation to resonance and breathing and help maintaining the voice in a healthy shape. Related pedagogical information would be introduced to enhance comprehension.

Tuesday

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm

Rehearsing the choir: a balance between efficiency and excellence, Dr. Horst Buchholz (1 hour),
Moderator: Bruce Ludwick

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

The Ward Method for Teaching Gregorian Chant to Children—What's in a Lesson?, Dr. Jennifer Donelson (1 hour), Moderator: Alane Boudreau

Take a guided tour through the pedagogy of a Ward method lesson and pick up some helpful tips for teaching chant to your own choirs. We'll also discuss some of the educational principles which undergird the method, and how these principles fit in with a Catholic understanding of education and active participation in the sacred liturgy.

Wednesday

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm

Chant Analysis, Dr. William P. Mahrt (1 hour), Moderator, Nicholas Lemme

Gregorian chants as melody, the style of the various genres of the proper and ordinary as reflecting their liturgical function, including grammar, mode, rhetoric, phrase construction, pitch focus, text expression, and role of melisma. Examples will be shown in notation and sung.

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Antiphonale Duplex: An Introduction, Dr. Edward Schaefer (1 hour), Moderator, Catherine Schaefer

In preparation for the opening of The Collegium, I have been preparing an Antiphonale to make the singing of Lauds and Vespers as easy as possible for students who have not sung the Office before.

In addition, I wanted to find a way to incorporate into contemporary chant notation some of the nuances found in the ancient notation.

This has led to an amazing adventure in manuscript study, notation, melodic restoration, and the planning of an effective, easy-to-use layout.

This session will

- walk you through the process I have undergone;
- demonstrate the tweaks in our contemporary notation that I have used to convey the nuances of the old notation;
- give you a chance to see and experience the final product.

The session will also prod you with questions to make you think about chant-related issues, such as

- how do we know what various notation markings mean;
- what do we want to convey in notation and how is the best way to do that;
- what makes an edition of the Office easy or difficult to use.

Thursday

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm

Sacred Music Overview (in Spanish), Heitor Caballero (1 hour), Moderator, Jose Ballon
or

Organ Improvisation, David J. Hughes (1 hour), Moderator: Sam Schmitt

How can one craft a musically satisfying improvisation even from humble materials? How can one prepare the organ console for an improvisation of unknown length? What are the things to look for in evaluating which chant, and which section of that chant, to choose for improvisation? How can one plan in advance, even for a brief improvisation, to avoid inspirational cul-de-sacs?

David Hughes will present strategies for doing so, with live demonstrations.

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Spanish Resources (in Spanish), Heitor Caballero (1 hour), Moderator, Jose Ballon

or

From Plague, Famine and War, Deliver Us, O Lord: Catholic Music in Time of Pandemic, Dr. Susan Treacy (1 hour), Moderator, Joy Niklas

This presentation will examine Catholic sacred music--both liturgical and devotional--for times of pestilence, with a special focus on Saint Charles Borromeo and the Milan Plague of 1576-78.

Friday

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm

The Alleluia, Dr. William P. Mahrt (1 hour), Moderator: Matt Fong

The alleluia as psalm antiphon and as Mass chant and their contrasting liturgical functions: for the psalm antiphon, a moderate style complementary to the chanting of a whole psalm and reflecting its modality; for the Mass chant the most melismatic passages of the Proper of the Mass, with a liturgical function of both recollection and ecstatic anticipation; the jubilus—the concluding long melisma—as essential to the alleluia and the various ways it is constructed. The aesthetic of melismatic chants.

7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

.Children's Programs, Mary Ann Carr Wilson (1 hour), Moderator: Jenny Woo

Discussed will be approaches to teaching sacred music to children, with a focus on what motivates many young people to learn this discipline. Strategies will include training young voices (including cambiata), choosing repertoire, and learning games.