Sacred Music, Worship, and the Arts... on Film!!

Margot Fassler

The Institute of Sacred Music has always been about education and scholarship, working synergistically at a unique intersection between two great professional schools and other departments as well, and serving through its many activities to advance the larger research mission that is at the heart of Yale University. We live in an age that needs the work of the Institute: 1) to bring musicians, ministers, and scholars together for common formation; 2) to train well-informed, superbly capable, and compassionate leaders for faith communities and for the academy; and 3) to develop a wide array of tools for teachers and students, in the academy, the churches and synagogues, and beyond. Our course of study over the last few years has demonstrated that for modern sensibilities, film (the term is used generically to include various production media, our own being video) is vital to the study of sacred music, liturgy, and the arts as lived in communities of faith. Moving images of liturgical and musical practices, as seen and heard within a variety of sacred spaces, are essential to give our students the range of experience they need to do their work, and to inspire and teach various congregations about a range of excellent repertories for congregational singing. Our project to produce films to meet this need, supported now by a grant from the Lilly Endowment and which we hope will continue even beyond the life of the grant, depends upon the interaction of Yale professors and their students with wise practitioners and their communities. The innovative ways these films are being made are not only reflected in the works themselves, but also are an integral part of the learning process.

The Institute’s video project seeks to create a range of new tools for educators in both the theological and the musical spheres of education, and aims as well at an audience in the congregations of this country, and even more broadly, in the world. Videos in the project examine the heritage of musical and liturgical practices; they look at present-day developments; and they seek to prepare us for a complicated future. In addition to producing original work, we are also establishing an archive at the Institute, for the collection and preservation of footage of liturgical practice and singing.

In managing the project, I have found a new way of doing scholarship. It is a joy to work with a variety of scholars, practitioners, and congregations as part of the work of researching, determining content, and writing scripts. The production elements are the work of ISM video producer Terri Cain, ISM/YDS ’00. It is she who makes sure the conditions are right to capture the images, makes sure they are captured well, and that the ones we choose are the very best. She is a “visualizer” who both understands the subjects we treat, and makes the videos not only informative but beautiful.

The project has two parts, both of which depend upon that priceless interaction between the academy and the community which makes such study possible. Part II will include production of a longer series of films, and I will not discuss it here. Part I was launched two years ago with the conference “Up with a Shout! The Psalms in Jewish and Christian Religious, Artistic, and Intellectual Traditions.” The conference was the impetus for the book The Psalms in Jewish... Continued on page 2

Also in this Issue
Staff, Faculty & Student News.......... Page 2
Benefit Concert.............................. Page 3
New Faculty Appointment............ Page 3
Placement Listings....................... Page 4
Alumni News............................... Page 5
Up With a Shout! Redux............... Page 6
Institute’s Video Project continued from page 1

and Christian Textual, Liturgical, and Artistic Traditions, ed. by Harold Attridge and Margot Fassler and forthcoming from Brill and the Society of Biblical Literature. In support of this book of scholarly essays, we have made two videos, both of which were shot primarily in New Haven, and have two more almost finished, both of which were shot in congregations nearby. The pilot video is a 30-minute study of Dutch Reformed Psalmody, and it features musical forces assembled at the sing-in held at United Church on the Green, New Haven, in conjunction with the conference: in it you will hear a choir, conducted by ISM/YSM graduate Susan Carroll, improvisations by organist William Porter, the singing of the congregation, the commentary of musician and scholar Robin Leaver of Westminster Choir College upon the music and its history and meanings for musicians and worshippers today, and the wise words of Mark Brombaugh, music director at United Church on the Green, and Yale Professors Carlos Eire and Serene Jones. The longer video is entitled “Psalms Singing in the USA: Traditions for Today.” Vol. I treats Christian traditions (an anticipated second volume will be of Jewish traditions). This video includes the singing of several groups, including the nuns of Regina Laudis of Bethlehem, CT; the congregation and choir of Marquand Chapel at Yale Divinity School; the congregation and choir of Trinity Baptist Church in the Bronx, with James Abington as guest musician; the Korean Presbyterian Church in Hamden, with Paul Huh as guest musician; the choir of Trinity Church on the Green in New Haven, conducted by Walden Moore, with Thomas Murray at the organ; scenes from a workshop on early American psalmody conducted by Professor Steve Marini of Wellesley College which took place at Center Church; and a performance by Yale’s own Camera, conducted by Professor Marguerite Brooks, of an ISM-commissioned setting of Psalm 1 by Steven Paulus. Two sections of “Psalms Singing in the USA” emphasize the understandings of two different groups of “word women,” wise in the ways of praise.

Viewers will recognize other familiar faculty faces in these videos: Harry Attridge, Siobhán Garrigan, Diana Swancutt, and Martin Jean, among others, are featured in a “cast of thousands.” But from chapel to concert stage, the real stars of this show are the Psalms— and the Congregations who sing them. The videos “speak” to how the Psalms shape the lives of those who pray and sing them, and to the unique language of the only canonical songbook of the Christian faith, which is also the shared songbook of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

But enough of words: come, hear, and see.

The ISM is pleased to introduce our new Senior Administrative Assistant, Pamela Shields, replacing Laurie Holst. Ms. Shields will provide financial and student affairs (admission & financial aid) administrative support to ISM, and will be the new Alumni News and Job Placement Editor of Prism. She comes to the ISM from Student Financial Services, bringing vast knowledge and experience in the area of financial aid.

Ms. Shields is currently a full-time senior at Albertus Magnus College pursuing her Bachelors Degree in Sociology. She is also a minister in the Christian Training and Healing Center Church, and enjoys singing. She is currently working on her first Gospel CD project, to be released this coming summer. In the future, Ms. Shields looks forward to traveling all over the world, preaching and singing the Gospel.

Sarah Hare ’02 has accepted the position of Assistant Regional Director for Church World Service. CWS is a relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 36 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the United States. It works in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries worldwide to “meet human needs and foster self-reliance for all whose way is hard.”

Ms. Hare will begin work out of their Middletown, CT office in March. The ISM will miss her, and wishes her the very best in this exciting new position.

Professor Emeritus Robert Baker has been experiencing health problems recently. Cards and good wishes can be directed to him at home, 84 Jesswig Drive, Hamden, CT 06517.


Paul Jacobs ’03 is the first organist to receive the Arthur W. Foote Prize of the Harvard Musical Association. Each year the HMA, founded in 1837 to promote musical life in Boston and support chamber music, recognizes outstanding young musicians as they embark on a performance career. Paul will give a concert for the HMA in Boston this spring.
Singers from the Yale Camerata, forming the chamber choir Pro Musica, will present a concert to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven on Sunday, March 2 at 4 pm at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 450 Whitney Avenue, New Haven. The Bethesda Music Series is sponsoring the performance in collaboration with the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. The free will offering taken at the concert will be matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a fraternal financial benefits company. Childcare is available, and a reception follows the performance.

The program will feature the dramatic Miserere in c minor of Johann Hasse, accompanied by chamber orchestra. Also on the program are works of Spanish Renaissance composers Vivanco and Guerrero, as well as new works written by Pro Musica members Joseph Gregorio, Christopher Hossfeld, Kola Owolabi, and Dan Roihl. “You Drive Me Crazy” from Rants by California composer Herb Bielawa, with its humorous and sassy solo violin accompaniment, will close the program. Marguerite Brooks will conduct.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater New Haven, the concert’s beneficiary, is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, the ecumenical Christian ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing by creating home ownership opportunities for working, low-income families.

Carrington Appointment Announced

The Yale Institute of Sacred Music and the Yale School of Music announce the appointment of Simon Carrington to the choral faculty, joining Professor Marguerite Brooks. Mr. Carrington joins the Yale faculty from New England Conservatory where he has been director of choral activities since 2001. He was formerly artist-in-residence and director of choral activities at the University of Kansas. He is founding co-director of Britain’s internationally-acclaimed ensemble The King’s Singers, with whom he performed at many of the world’s most prestigious festivals and concert halls. He has made over seventy recordings.

At Yale, Mr. Carrington will conduct a newly-formed chamber choir for performance, touring, and recording, whose members will receive generous scholarships.

The appointment is effective July 1, 2003.
Connecticut

First Congregational Church, PO Box 77, Ledyard, CT 06339. Director of Music. Part-time organist/accompanist and choir director. Two-manual Allen digital computer organ (1985), Howard baby grand piano, Malmark Handbells. Adult and youth choirs. Looking for enthusiasm and dedication. Salary commensurate with experience and duties assumed. Contact Rob Ayer, Board of Music Chair, at 860-464-6997 or erwin@fpcg.org.

First Presbyterian Church of Greenwich, 1 Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830. Director of Children’s Choirs. Half-time. Four choirs, each sings approximately once per month at the 10:00 am service. Responsible for directing a spring musical. Keyboard skills helpful (accompanist provided). Salary in the low $20K. Contact David Erwin, Minister of Music at (203)869-8686 x 20 or erwin@fpcg.org.

First United Methodist Church, 42 Cross Road, Stamford, CT 06903. Organist/Director of Music. Seeking person with a commitment to the ministry and life of the church. Must be interested in adult vocal and handbell choirs, children’s choirs, youth music, and diverse musical styles, with proficiency in organ performance. Salary $30-40K plus medical insurance. Contact Rev. Douglas McArthur at (203) 324-1323. www.fumcstamford.org

King St. United Church of Christ, 201 S. King Street, Danbury, CT 06811. Organist/Choir Director. Part-time. Responsibilities include providing music for Sunday worship and special services, directing adult vocal choir, adult bell choir and working with children’s choir for 1 – 2 special events. Salary $13-15K, commensurate with experience. Contact: Organist Search Committee, Church phone 203-748-0719, email: office@kingstchurch.org or Barbara Nobles, 203-746-0616, email: selbony3@aol.com.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, 505 South Main Street, Thomaston, CT 06787. Organist/Choir Director. Sunday morning and special services. Rehearse and direct the choir, and assist in selecting music for services. Pay will be $8,900 ($150 for Sunday service and $100 for 11 special services; weddings and funerals are paid by the families). Contact: Jack Kearney, Council President. Office address: 50 DeForest Street, Watertown, CT 06795, (860) 274-8534

Out of State

The Church of the Epiphany, 8081 SW 54th CT, Miami, FL 33143. Associate Organist/Associate Director of Music. Part-time. The music program at the Church of the Epiphany currently consists of 6 liturgical choirs, one bell choir, a professional chamber choir, and a professional chamber orchestra. The position is for the person with a thorough knowledge of traditional Roman Catholic liturgy and music, with a special emphasis on Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony. Good accompanying and improvisation skills are a must. The candidate will be responsible for accompanying the Adult Choir at High Mass, playing for the other Sunday liturgies, supporting the Director of Music, and directing one or more of the following ensembles depending on ability: boys/girls choirs, bell choir. The candidate should have a proven history of quality work in liturgical music, and possess at least a Master’s degree in music, preferably organ. Please send cover letter, resume, references, and supporting materials to Patrick Dupré Quigley, Director of Music, The Church of the Epiphany, 8081 SW 57th Ave., Miami, FL 33143 or email to Patrick.Quigley@aya.yale.edu.

Clinton Heights Lutheran Church, 15 Clinton Heights Ave. Columbus OH 43202. Organist. Part-time, two Sunday services (8:30 & 11:00), lead adult and children’s choirs. Allen Digital Organ (computer organ with transposer), Yamaha Grand Piano. Salary: $8-10K based on qualifications. Call (614) 267-8777. Fax: 401-845-9497. references to Attn: Search Committee, or dzechman1@aol.com (emailed resumes preferred).

Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Ave. Fairfax, VA 22030-3217. Director of Music/Organist. Highly experienced, three Sunday services. 41 rank, 3 manual Zimmer Organ; 50-voice adult choir, auditioned 20-voice motet choir. The current music department consists of an assistant director of music, a youth choir director, an assistant organist, a director of children’s choirs, a preschool choir director, and a bell director. Qualifications include a bachelor’s degree or higher in music with an emphasis in choral conducting and organ, experience in handbell ringing/directing, strong organizational and planning skills, ability to motivate both musically and spiritually and work with other program staff as part of a ministry team. Salary commensurate with 2002 AGO guidelines. Contact Denise S. Zechman, Chairperson of Music Search Committee. Call (703)716-7486; Fax (703)716-5922; email dzechman1@aol.com (emailed resumes preferred).

St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, PO Box 547, 12 William Street, Newport, RI 02840. Director of Music. Part-time. Responsibilities include adult choir, cantor training, staff collaboration, and oversight or direction of youth choir. 3-Manual Casavant organ, 5-octave Schulmerich handbells. Salary commensurate with education and experience ($20-30K). Mail resume and references to Attn: Search Committee, or fax: 401-845-9497.
ISM ALUMNI NEWS

Mary-Jo Cliff ’81 resigned her post at Bethany Presbyterian Church and is enrolled in full-time graduate studies at the University of Scranton in the field of Reading Education. She still serves as organist at Grace Episcopal Church, Honesdale where her husband Graham is Rector. Andrew (11) and Norah (8) continue to bring great delight.

UTS ALUMNI NEWS

Dr. Vernon Wolcott ’56 is in his forty-first year of teaching organ at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. Previous to that he taught at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, MD. He is organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green where his wife, Nancy Bookout Wolcott ’56, is Director of Music. In May, she was elected dean of the Toledo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Pictured above are the UTS School of Sacred Music alums present at their 50th reunion at UTS in October 2002. From left to right: Wilberta Naden Pickett ’52, Gloria Massa, ’52, Marilyn Penner ’52, Margaret Barnes Lehrooke ’53, and Ellouise Skinner Beatty ’52.

N. William (Bill) Zimmerman ’59 died on Wednesday November 13, 2002 in Denver. Bill served with his wife as educational missionaries for the United Methodist Church from 1954-1987 in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Taiwan. While in Southeast Asia he was a professor of vocal, choral and orchestral music, in addition to conducting community choirs and church music workshops, as well as conducting the Singapore Symphony Chorus. While in the United States, he served as the Minister of Music for the Westminster Presbyterian Church (Oklahoma City, OK), Park Hill United Methodist Church (Denver, CO), and as choir director for churches in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Boulder, CO. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Anne Brown, his four daughters and two granddaughters.

SPECIAL HONOR

Professor Thomas Murray has been awarded the Diploma of Fellowship (honoris causa) by the Royal College of Organists. A formal ceremony is being planned in England for the new Fellow of the Royal College (honoris causa). Watch PRISM for further details!

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Stanley E. Yoder ’58 reports that A Pittsburgh Retrospective, a program of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AGO in November 2002, was researched and presented by UTS alums, included compositions by UTS alums and numbered UTS alums among the performers. Composers included John R. Lively (d. 2001), Russell G. Wichmann (d. 1987), John W. Becker ’54, and Charles Huddleston Heaton ’52. Gretchen Franz ’70 conducted the AGO Choral Ensemble, and was one of the organizers, along with Mina Belle Packer Wichmann (UTS/ISM Administration).

Left: Mary Louise Wright (l) and Wilberta Pickett (r) with friend Center: Charles Huddleston Heaton (with J. David Hart) Right: John W. Becker with Mina Belle Packer Wichmann
Up with a Shout! Redux

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