

# Prism

## MUSIC • WORSHIP • ARTS

YALE INSTITUTE OF SACRED MUSIC COMMON GROUND FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND PRACTICE

### Yale Camerata Advent Concert Marks Group's 25<sup>th</sup> Season



Now celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> season, founding conductor Marguerite L. Brooks will lead the Yale Camerata in its annual Advent concert with orchestra on Saturday, December 5 at 8 pm at Battell Chapel in New Haven. The concert, which is free and open to the public, will have as its centerpiece Josef Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*. Soloists will be Kathryn Aaron, soprano;

Debi Wong, mezzo-soprano; Joseph Mikolaj, tenor; and Paul Max Tipton, baritone.

"Die Geburt Christi" from Mendelssohn's *Christus* (op. 97) will feature Michael Sansoni, Colin Britt, and Tian Hui Ng as the Magi.

Also on the program are the *Videntes stellam* of Orlando Lassus, the *Dona nobis pacem* from Bach's Mass in B Minor, and the instrumental *Nonet* by the 20<sup>th</sup> century master Bohuslav Martinu performed by instrumental soloists Lisa Rautenberg, Ellen Higham, Ashley Bathgait, Peter Seymour, Marjorie Shansky, Olav Van Hezewijk, Andrew Greci, Edward Burns, and Alexander Gusev.

The concert will conclude, in its annual tradition, with the Willcocks arrangement of Goss's *See, amid the Winter's Snow*, with the Camerata joined by the audience.

No tickets are required for the free concert.



Oxford University Press has published “I give you a new commandment,” a new anthem by **DOMINICK DIORIO** (MM '08, MMA '09). Originally the last of his “Four Sacred Songs,” this piece is set for SATB a cappella. Premiered by Yale’s Marquand Chapel Choir in 2007 and then performed by Marguerite Brooks and the Yale Camerata on the 2007 Advent Concert, this is DiOrio’s first anthem with the publishing company.

While on sabbatical leave from his position as music director and organist of Church of the Holy Communion (Episcopal), Memphis, Tennessee, **DAVID PERRY OUZTS** (MM '87) studied systematic and liberal theology at the University of Oxford, England, as an Oxford Foundation Fellow. Dr. Ouzts has also been recently appointed to the Professional Concerns Committee of the Association of Anglican Musicians.

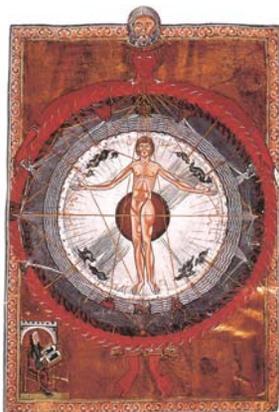
**MARK RING** (MM '90, MMA '91, DMA '96) has begun a new position as Director of Music Ministries at St. George’s Episcopal Church, Nashville. He conducts the semiprofessional St. George’s Choir, oversees the In Excelsis Concert Series, and administers the music ministry music staff that includes a vigorous RSCM program. In addition to weekly services, the choirs sing monthly Evensong and Compline, produce commercial recordings and tour internationally. He and his wife, the **REV. GRETCHEN PERSON** (YDS STM '90), have two children, Trevor and Karis.

**PAUL WEBER** (DMA '08) has been named music director of the Pittsburgh Compline Choir, a semi-professional ensemble sponsored by Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Compline Choir sings the office of compline every Sunday evening during the at Heinz Chapel on the University of Pittsburgh campus. Paul continues to work on the faculty of Franciscan University of Steubenville (OH), where he directs the organ program and conducts the Schola Cantorum Franciscana and Franciscan Chamber Orchestra.

**RUSSELL WEISMANN** (MM '07) has been appointed Adjunct Professor of Sacred Music at Georgetown University. He continues his work as University Organist and Director of Music and Liturgy at Georgetown as well.

## Sung Evening Prayer

The Yale Schola Cantorum, led by guest conductor Simon Carrington, will join forces with students of chant and liturgy led by **Prof. Margot Fassler** to present a unique program at Dwight Chapel at 5 pm on Friday, December 11. According to Prof. Fassler, there will be “two strands of



singing: monastic and cathedral. First the class sings Vespers psalms, reconstructed with modifications, from the time of Hildegard of Bingen. Hildegard’s antiphons are sung by soloists from our class as the ‘monks and nuns’ render the medieval psalm tones. Yale Schola Cantorum then takes us to a very different sonic world, that of the cathedral choir, singing music from the period of the English Reformation, with its soaring elegance.” Simon Carrington, the founding conductor of Yale Schola Cantorum, will lead the ensemble in a performance

of a Magnificat of Gibbons, and Tallis’s *Tē lucis ante terminum*.

Simon Carrington will return to conduct Yale Schola Cantorum in a full-length program of Renaissance and contemporary music on January 23. Information is online at <http://www.yale.edu/ism/events/SingYeBirds.html>.

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# Lauren Winner to Inaugurate the Yale Literature and Spirituality Series

The memoirist Lauren F. Winner, Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality at Duke University, will speak and read from her work as part of the Yale Literature and Spirituality Series on Wednesday, December 2 at 3:30 pm in Marquand Chapel. A reception and book-signing in the Common Room will follow.

Lauren F. Winner is the author of three books, *Girl Meets God*, *Mudhouse Sabbath*, and *Real Sex: The Naked Truth about Chastity*. She has appeared on PBS's Religion & Ethics Newsweekly and has written for The New York Times Book Review, The Washington Post Book World, Publishers Weekly, Books and Culture, and Christianity Today. Winner has degrees from Duke, Columbia, and Cambridge universities, and holds a Ph.D. in history. The former book editor for Beliefnet, Lauren teaches at Duke Divinity School, and lives in Durham, North Carolina. Lauren travels extensively to lecture and teach, and during the academic year of 2007-2008, she was a visiting fellow at the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University.



The series continues in February with Thomas Troeger on February 2 and Robert Pinsky, who will offer the Lana Schwebel Memorial Lecture in Religion and Literature on February 18. For more information, see <http://www.yale.edu/ism/events/LiteratureandSpirituality0910.html>.

## The Yale Camerata Celebrates 25 Years!




# Emily and Don Saliers: Saturday Night and Sunday Morning Convergences

By Lisa Levy

Indigo Girl musician Emily Saliers and her father, liturgical musician Don Saliers, a current member of the ISM Friends advisory group and former Yale Divinity School professor of theology, entertained an enthusiastic and participatory Convocation and Reunions crowd at Battell Chapel Oct. 13 with a richly woven tapestry of musical offerings and stories drawn from both the secular and the sacred.

Billed as an exploration of the “crossovers between the musical languages of Saturday night and Sunday morning,” the evening of music and conversation was sponsored by the Institute of Sacred Music. In his introduction, ISM director Martin Jean explained that the event was emblematic of the Institute’s commitment “to honor music that brings healing, seeks for justice, and makes strangers friends.” In their respective fields of music, Jean observed, “Emily and Don Saliers promote reconciliation and peacemaking”—themes that emerged as the evening moved from lyrical musings on reincarnation to hymns and antiphons on the peace of God, from vibrant spirituals to ebullient political protest.

The trip to Yale held special, personal meaning for both. Born at Yale/New Haven Hospital, Ms. Saliers and her three sisters spent a formative period of their childhood in a small house off Dixwell Avenue, located in one of New Haven’s predominantly African American neighborhoods, while their father completed his Ph.D. in theology at Yale. During this trip, Ms. Saliers and her father, who taught at YDS in the 1960s and 1970s, went to visit the house on Charles Street. “It looked like a model of itself,” she said, “It looked so small.” She thanked the audience for making possible this “Trip to Bountiful,” in reference to the 1954 play and 1985 film about a homecoming.

The evening kicked off with a lively rendition of the popular Indigo Girls classic “Galileo,” a song about reincarnation that, according to Ms. Saliers, offers “an ongoing critique of the living church in music.” Professor Saliers dubbed the song “the Indigo Girls’ national anthem.” He dedicated the next two songs to Annie Le, the 24-year-old Yale graduate student who was murdered on the medical school campus in September of this year. The first of those songs, an arrangement of “Be Still and Know that I am God” by John Bell of the Iona Community, was followed by a deep silence in the chapel, prompting Professor Saliers to observe, “Some music breaks the silence. Some music brings the silence.”

Next came the Indigo Girls’ poignant “All That We Let In,” which Ms. Saliers described as



Albert Aghayan

being “about the grandness of life and also a little bit about the minutiae.” It describes the simple act of leaving a poem on the windshield of a truck but at the same time carries an overtly antiwar message. “Amy [Amy Ray, the other half of the Indigo Girls duo] and I like to write pretty melodies,” laughed Ms. Saliers, “and rail against conservative political regimes.” She added that her father had made his debut with the Indigo Girls with this song, playing piano in the recording studio. “Dad likes being an Indigo Boy,” Ms. Saliers teased. “It takes him out of his element. He’s angling for a harpsichord solo on the next album, and I think we’re going to give it to him.”

The father-daughter team continued the set with the elder Saliers’s arrangement of “Peace Child,” a song by New Zealand hymn text writer Shirley Erena Murray. Professor Saliers noted, “In this song, Murray gives tensile strength to our desire for peace.” They followed “Peace Child” with another of his arrangements, “My Plans for you are Peace,” an antiphon from Psalm 126, with the words, “my plans for you are peace, not affliction,” says the Lord. “Only cry to me, and I will bring you home.” This segued into a narrative interlude during which Ms. Saliers told stories about the justice work she and Amy Ray have done over the years. She spoke of music as an important tool for activism and described the Indigo Girls participation in a musical exchange program in Cuba, their co-founding of a woman’s cooperative in Chiapas with Native American activist and politician Winona LaDuke, and taking a hammer and chisel to the Berlin Wall. Ms. Saliers invoked her grounding in faith as foundational for this impulse toward peacemaking, saying, “Growing up Amy and I were both taught that we were citizens of the world, part of one human family.”

Ms. Saliers also discussed her experience working with the Metro State Women’s Prison Choir in Atlanta. “These women came into the church in shackles and were unshackled to put on their robes and sing,” she said, adding, “They are



Emily Saliers, Yale President Richard Levin, and Don Saliers

experiencing the transformative power of music. It's an example of God's presence, using music as a tool for change." She played an excerpt from a CD the prisoners recorded in 2008 at Emory University's Cannon Chapel, entitled "Voices of Hope." All proceeds from the album sales go to the Children's Center at the prison, which hosts children of the incarcerated women just one Saturday a month. The women hope that the money and awareness raised through sales of the CD will help keep the center open every Saturday.

The set continued with the Indigo Girls' antiwar song "Our Deliverance." Don Saliers pointed out, "It started out as a love song." "They always do, and then I digressed," said Emily Saliers, drawing laughter from the audience. She spoke of her experience playing the song at a concert in New York City not long after the World Trade Center tragedy. Discussing the set list for that night's show, Ray and Saliers hesitated to include such a song, worried about touching the raw nerves of a people so recently affected by tragedy and loss of such magnitude. In the end, they decided to play the song. "When we got to the line that's about reconciliation rather than retribution ["Lay down your weapons and love your neighbor as yourself"], the audience just burst into applause and cheers," she said, adding that the moment taught her that most people have a deep heart for peace.

"Power of Two," the next song in the set, was inspired by a sermon preached by Don Shockley, the retired university chaplain at Emory University, Emily Saliers explained. On the heels of "Power of Two" came an antiphon from Psalm 139, "Search me, oh God, and know my heart." Said Professor Saliers, "Certainly you can't go wrong with Psalm 139. Wherever we go, we can never escape the spirit of God." After the meditative antiphon, Don Saliers shifted gears, returning to his roots as a jazz musician. "Duke Ellington has a hymn in the Methodist hymnal," he pointed out, "Thank God!" Emily Saliers noted that her father has worked hard to open up the offerings in the Methodist hymnal,

introducing global hymnody from Africa and Korea and other countries.

One of the songs Emily Saliers played is an old Indigo Girls song, "A History of Us," composed using images from a family trip to Europe after her college graduation. At the end of the song, Professor Saliers mused, "It illustrates so well how a song that sounds like a love song in the popular idiom is actually about mortality, immortality, and love."

Ms. Saliers prefaced her next song, "The Wayfarin' Stranger," with a reminiscence about how the song reminded her of her travels through the South, on tour with singer Joan Baez: "We were driving through the deep, dark South at night, with the Spanish moss hanging from the trees, when Joan began to sing an old spiritual..."

Before the final songs of the evening, Ms. Saliers observed, "Sacred music has influenced me all of my life—from singing in the Presbyterian choir here in New Haven to borrowing vigorously—ripping off!—the Bible." While playing in dive bars in Atlanta, she said, she "began to realize that the secular experience of music is really just like what happens in church." Indeed, in *A Song to Sing, A Life to Live*, the book she co-authored with her father, she wrote, "I have felt the intensity of sacred music not only in the hallowed halls of church but also in the smoky bars of Atlanta.... I can't say one experience is more deeply sacred than the other."

Father and daughter then led the audience in the Indigo Girls' classic call to action, "Hammer and a Nail," transitioning without pause into the hymn "Let us Break Bread Together" in a graceful liturgical move that connected the communal action exuberantly advocated in the Saturday night verse "Gotta get out of bed, / Get a hammer and a nail, / Learn how to use my hands" with the Sunday morning breaking of the bread.

*Lisa Levy is working toward her MDiv degree at Yale Divinity School. She contributed this article to Notes from the Quad. It is reprinted with permission.*

# Remembering Gale Pollen

Gale Pollen, who was the face of the Institute to so many over the 23 years she worked here, has passed away. At her retirement party in July 2006, Martin Jean remarked “for the Institute, you have become the institutional memory... You have been the line of continuity through massive changes in an enterprise that began its life with 25 students, faculty, and staff, and now comprises almost 100.” She was 59.

A native of New Haven, Gale worked at Yale for nearly 37 years. After retiring, she gave generously of her time, volunteering at Yale-New Haven Hospital two days a week, and two evenings a week at Ten Thousand Villages. She is survived by her parents, Curtis L. and May Pollen of Hamden, three sisters, and a brother, as well as several nieces and

nephews. A memorial service was held at Whitneyville United Church of Christ on October 15, 2009.

Donations in Gale’s memory may be made to:

- The American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr., Po Box 5022, Wallingford CT 06492;
- Whitneyville United Church of Christ, 1253 Whitney Ave., Hamden CT 06517; or
- Parents Foundation for Transitional Living Inc., 100 Broadway, New Haven CT 06511.



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## Notes on the Staff

**Derek Greten-Harrison** is the new Senior Administrative Assistant for ISM Student Affairs. Derek received his Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from Manhattan School of Music in 2004 and his Master of Music in opera performance from Purchase College, State University of New York, in 2009. He was previously the ISM Special Projects Assistant and Choral/Vocal Librarian before returning to school for his Master’s degree. In addition to his time at the ISM, he brings nearly two years of experience working in admissions at Yale School of Management. Derek has also had twenty years of experience in choral singing, beginning as a treble at Trinity Church on the Green and the Saint Thomas Choir School, continuing as a countertenor

at Christ Church Episcopal, New Haven, and then as countertenor section leader at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Fairfield, and the Episcopal Church at Yale. He also has a lifelong interest in and connection to the Divinity School, being the son of two YDS alumni. Outside of Yale, Derek teaches voice at Purchase College, directs Etherea Vocal Ensemble (a new all-treble vocal group), and writes CD reviews for *Opera News* magazine.

**Pam Hughes**, formerly the Senior Administrative Assistant for Student Affairs, has left Yale to pursue her pastoral mission and to further her studies. She is seeking certification as a substance abuse counselor.

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