

Diocese of New York and New Jersey

Commission on Liturgical Music Report for the Diocesan Assembly, 2018

Co-Chairpersons

- V. Rev. Daniel Skvir, Rector, Holy Transfiguration Chapel, Princeton, NJ, dskvir@princeton.edu;
- Doreen Bartholomew, Choir Director, Our Lady of Kazan Church, Sea Cliff, NY, johndoreen@optonline.net;
- Carol Wetmore, Choir Director, Holy Trinity Church, Randolph, NJ, wetmore1@aol.com

SUMMARY:

In 2018:

- The CoLM presented three workshops, Rahway, Saddle Brook and the second workshop for readers and singers held at St. Vladimir's Seminary.
- A 'podcast' is now on the CoLM page of the diocesan website. Presented by Tanya Tjoa of Pearl River, it is titled "Working with What You've Got" and describes and illustrates how to work with 4-part music when there are only 2 or 3 singers.
- Our Facebook page, as well as our on-line resources on the Diocesan website, receive regular positive feedback.
- The CoLM has facilitated assistance to parishes with insufficient choir resources through our on-line listing of substitute choir directors and by pitching in to provide choir directors and singers for special events in the Diocese.

Workshops

1. June 2, 2018, Saddle Brook, NJ - There were about 15 people present. This workshop was presented by Mary Ellen Junda and was about how the child's singing voice develops from pre-school through the early teens. Songs and age-appropriate activities were presented that would both inspire children to sing and help to develop their vocal and aural skills.

2. September 15, 201, Rahway, NJ – There were about 60 participants. Led by Professor David Drillock, this workshop provided beginning singers, conductors with limited experience, and "budding" conductors with the *basics* of the skills required to sing/conduct Orthodox choirs. It covered topics such as giving and getting pitches, singing in parts, following printed music, singing chant vs other music, producing a worshipful sound, and singing in an appropriate tempo.

3. October 13, 2018, St. Vladimir's Seminary – There were about 20 participants. This workshop was presented by Fr. Sergius Halvorsen and Prof. Robin Freeman. The workshop reviewed the theology that guides and informs our liturgical ministry and addressed practical concerns regarding rubrics, melodic patterns for reading, and how to chant the Prokimenon and Alleluia in synergy with the choir. It also allowed an opportunity to receive vocal coaching and practice the strategies learned at the workshop.

Choir Director Information

An essential part of the Commission's resources is a Directory of Choir Directors, with contact information, posted on the website. This is the list Fr Ken James and the Commission use to contact our "constituents." The only way to assure accuracy is for Rectors to check the information on the website, and updating via email to the Commission or to one of the Co-Chairs at the addresses above.

CoLM on the Web

We continue to enhance the Music Commission's section of the Diocesan website. As always, we offer thanks for the enthusiasm and quality support of Fr. Ken James Stavrevsky. Sheet music (often with Midi playback) continues to be available there composed or arranged by Diocesan musicians, as well as guidelines for Hierarchical Services, large-print text for several services, and large-print booklets for parish use.

CoLM has a Facebook page. We encourage you to find us on Facebook and “like” the page - <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Commission-on-Liturgical-Music-NYNJ-OCA/714919818560882>

As always, you can reach us at nynjmusic@aol.com.

Remember: “Keep CoLM and Carry On”!