

Report of the Provost to the Chapter 1980 - 1981

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REPORT OF THE ORGANIST-CHOIRMASTER AND PRECENTOR

Richard W. Dirksen

MUSIC AT THE CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Choir

Boys (trebles) - 20 scholarship boys
Boys (altos) - 3 Upper School scholarship boys
Men - 15 (one volunteer)

The repertory prepared and presented for services ranged from medieval monody through contemporary works and premieres, and included several hundred anthems and motets, hymns, psalms, canticles, responses and settings of the communion ordinary. The full choir sang fifty-seven services, two concerts; the men's choir twenty services; the boys provided hymns, psalms and canticles for ninety weekday evensongs and six weddings.

Special events for the Cathedral Choir 1980 - 1981

December 1980 - two performances with the Cathedral Choral Society
"The Joy of Christmas"
- Christmas Day NBC Telecast
March 1981 - Four Washington and one New York concert of Symphony #3
"Kaddish" by and with Leonard Bernstein and the National
Symphony Orchestra
April 1981 - Opening and closing festival services for the Primates'
Conference. Washington premiere of "Te Deum", by Richard
Dirksen
May 1981 - Visit to Trinity Church, Upperville, Virginia to sing Evensong
September 1981 - Annual Open House, and dedication of St. Celilia Processional
Organ, September 26 and 27, 1981

Junior Choir

Sixteen boys, ages 9-11, rehearsed twice weekly and sang the 9 am Sunday Eucharist in Bethlehem Chapel from October through May, under the direction of Douglas Major. Five capable boys were selected for entrance into the Cathedral Choir of Boys and Men, and began their work with sixteen returning boys on September 13, 1981.

In addition, the Junior Choir joined the Cathedral Choir on several occasions for Sunday Services, and sang three evensong services on their own.

Additional Instruments

There were five occasions when instruments in addition to organ were used for services.

Organ Recitals

A total of thirty-seven guest organists presented Sunday recitals, playing many hundreds of pieces of organ literature. All of these fine organists presented these programs for no fee, to an average weekly attendance of 225 people. In addition, half-hour organ demonstrations were given by Douglas Major on thirty-four Wednesdays from October through June, to an average of eighty people.

Visiting Choral Groups

Thirty-seven guest choral groups provided music for Sunday Evensong services and concerts and forty-four groups provided thirty-minute choral preludes to services. In addition, many groups sang informally in the cathedral while having tours.

Diocesan Musical Events

As a member of the Diocesan Commission on Liturgy and Music, associate organist Douglas Major planned and coordinated the following:

- December - Diocesan Girls' Choir Festival Evensong. Participating Choirs:
St. Columba's, All Saints Chevy Chase, St. John's Norwood, Grace Church, Silver Spring
- January - Diocesan Convention Eucharist
Eighty singers from sixteen parishes provided the music
- March - Diocesan Boys' Choir Festival Evensong
Participating Choirs: Landon School, Grace, Silver Spring, St. Columba's, St. John's Norwood, Cathedral Choir, Junior Choir.

Summer Festival

Four concerts were presented on successive Tuesday evenings, July 28 through August 18. All concerts were free to the public.

Tuesday, July 28

D. C. Yourth Orchestra - Lyn McLain, Director

Attendance: 700

Tuesday, August 4

Music of W. A. Mozart
conducted/performed by Dr. Paul Callaway,
organist and choirmaster emeritus

Attendance: 1,250

Tuesday, August 11

An oratorio by Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1726) Attendance: 650
"Agar et Esmaele esiliati" composed in Rome,
1683 (Genesis 16:1-15 and 21:8-14)
Premiere Washington performance
Produced and directed by Judith Norell of New York City

Tuesday, August 18

Washington Bach Consort Attendance: 1,980
J. Reilly Lewis, director
Music of J. S. Bach

Cathedral Choral Society

Musical Director: Paul Callaway Treasurer: Richard Antes
President: Richard W. Hynson Secretary: Mrs. Charles S. Forbes
Vice President: Theodore R. Bledsoe, M. D. Manager: Marion Drew Leach

Approximately two hundred fifteen members sing every concert. Dues are \$30 per member for the season, with special rates for married couples, students and senior citizens with fixed incomes. Programs, publicity and advertising are done by Communications Officer of the cathedral.

Rehearsals are held in the cathedral every Monday from the first Monday after Labor Day, through the final concert.

The Society participated in the Cathedral's Open House, September 26, 1981.

The Season's Programs:

Requiem, Litaniae de Venerabili Altaris, Sacramento, Mozart, Sunday,
November 16, 1980

The Joy of Christmas V, Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14, 1980.

Missa Solemnis, Beethoven, Sunday, March 8, 1981

Three Centuries of Choral Music: Motet No. 3, Jesu Meine Freude, Bach;
The Wilderness, Wesley; Requiem, Opus 9, Durufle, Sunday, May 17, 1981

Members of the Choral Society joined Cathedral Musicians for the cathedral service for the Archbishop of Canterbury, April 26, 1981, 4 p.m.

"A Merry Evening", Women's Board Benefit was held June 11, 1981 in the Bishop's Garden.

The Joy of Christmas recordings are still being sold.

Cathedral Carillon (Cathedral Carillonist, Richard P. Strauss)

Regularly scheduled carillon recitals: 50
(Every Saturday throughout the year at 4:30 p.m.)

Special Recitals:

Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
Christmas Telecast
Cathedral "Christmas-shopping Evening"
Easter Day
Prelude to service for freed US Hostages from Iran (January 29)
Washington Pilgrimage (October 3)
Prelude to a Memorial Service (February 7)
Prelude to Primates' Service (April 26)
Evensong postlude for the Archbishop of Canterbury and H. R. H.
the Prince of Wales (May 1)
Flower Mart
Cathedral Choral Society Benefit Evening
St. Albans School
 Upper School Prize Day
 Lower School Prize Day
 School Commencement
 National Cathedral School Flag Day
 Open House

Weddings:

Two postludes contracted for; numerous "free" postludes
played Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.

During the captivity of the US Hostages in Iran, the call bell in
the carillon was frequently rung as part of the cathedral's daily vigil for
the Hostages.

Other:

Interview of the carillonist by local radio station WAMU
Use of the carillon in a PM Magazine television story about the
history of the Cathedral
Informal concert for the Smithsonian Continuing Education Program
Demonstration of the carillon for Charles Mayo and Philip Jenny
of the US Park Service, following a Washington Post article about
the Netherlands Carillon (March 11)
Demonstration of the carillon for a retreat group at the College
of Preachers (May 30)

Maintenance: (performed by the carillonist at no charge)

Minor maintenance of the carillon keyboards and carillon mechanism.
Repair of the Call Bell striking mechanism.

As in past years, when my professional work requires me to be out of town, Ronald Barnes (former Cathedral Carillonist) often substitutes in my place.

Report of the Cathedral Ringing Master (Richard S. Dirksen)

Statistics:

Membership, Cathedral Ringing Society	33
Whitechapel Guild members	20
Service Ringing:	52 Sunday Services
	27 NCS Chapel Services
	16 Weddings
	7 National Holidays
Practices: CRS --	Tuesdays, 6:45 - 9:45 p.m., Sunday, 11:00 - 12:00
WG --	Average 5 hours per week during school
Advanced Ringing:	2 handbell peals
	3 open tower peals (Thanksgiving, New Year, Memorial Day (half-muffled in memorian Olive W. King)
	5 closed tower peals
	24 quarter peals (most rung open)
Visitors:	150 persons signed the guest register during the year.

The ringing statistics reflect a continued high level of achievement by members of the Washington ringing community during the past year. Prominent in every aspect of the ringing program has been the sensitive and skillful leadership of Quilla Roth, the Cathedral Tower Captain.

Turnover this summer has been regrettably heavy, costing three of our best ringers. Nevertheless, the band retains sufficient depth to provide quality ringing for virtually any occasion.

Our concern has been some recent discontent with the bells expressed by neighbors on the north and west sides. Strangely, it is not the peal ringing, but the weekly practice ringing on Tuesdays (7:30 - 8:30 open) which seems to be the problem. Partial boarding of certain louvres has reduced the carrying power of the bells to some degree, with little or no effect on their 'presence' on the cathedral grounds. Hence, I recommend complete boarding of the north and west louvres during the coming year. The bells themselves were recently overhauled completely by William Theobald of the Whitechapel Foundry. It is hoped that no further heavy maintenance will be required soon.

The ringers are looking forward to a good year and will be emphasizing instruction of new ringers.