

SOUNDS

Of

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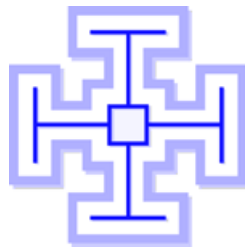
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Grant to us, Lord, we beseech thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot exist without thee, may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

LISTEN UP!

AN ANGLICAN MUSIC MINISERIES:

III. WILLIAM BYRD

One of the strongest bonds of affection in the experience of many, including myself, is that between teacher and student. The power of knowledge is remarkable and the process of conveyance, no less. There is a sense of continuity, a connection to the past and to the future running both ways through the present. It truly is, to use a word from the late 16th century, awesome.

Music, as in many disciplines, demands at certain stages a constancy of work and an unavoidable intimacy of pursuit through its multitude of mysteries. For all the years of my collegiate training, I had the privilege of meeting on a daily basis with my primary teacher, Max Miller, to explore the seemingly endless aspects of refined music. And now, at this stage of my life, I find an increasing satisfaction in the act of teaching our young choristers and to watch their lanterns of learning grow brighter.

One of the more notable relations of this sort in the history of music occurred in the last half of the 16th century between Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585) and his student, William Byrd (1543-1623). This was the golden age of the English Renaissance under the long reign of Henry VIII's daughter, Elizabeth I. While we do not know the full details of the relationship between Tallis and Byrd, we do know they are connected inextricably through the Chapel Royal, where Byrd was "bred up under Tallis," and later shared duties as organist while serving as Gentlemen of the Chapel Royal. In the mid-1570's, Queen Elizabeth granted them a 21-year monopoly in publishing, thus bringing them together as business partners, as well as musicians serving the crown. The esteem in which Byrd held his mentor and colleague is

reflected in his musical elegy using this text:

Ye sacred Muses, race of Jove,
whom Music's lore delighteth,
Come down from crystal heav'ns above
to earth where sorrow dwelleth,
In mourning weeds, with tears in eyes:
Tallis is dead, and Music dies.

In my last issue we spent time with Tallis and considered his quintessential English anthem, *If ye love me*. Mr Byrd, equally prolific and equally long-lived, produced polyphony of the most sublime nature, but acquiesced to the new demands of the Reformation when writing for the church. It appears that Byrd held firm to the Roman Catholic Church in his personal life, yet proved a keen survivor through adaptability and diplomacy, not unlike his famous mentor.

Byrd was a teenager at the time Elizabeth I ascended to the throne. And it was his great fortune to serve a monarch richly versed in the musical arts and with a broad tolerance for a diversity of styles, including the use of Latin! There is so much for which to be thankful as a result of that great lady, not the least of which is a treasury of Anglican music as beautiful and divine as any in the world.

So, this was good news for Mr Byrd the composer, but he must have struggled his whole life long privately and I would like to suggest that we see a glimpse of that in one of his most telling anthems, *Bow thine ear, O Lord*. (There is a Latin counterpart called *Civitas sancti tui*.) Its form is, more or less, ABA'. What makes it a subtle yet powerful statement is that the A section, to the text "Bow thine ear, O Lord, and hear us: Let thine anger cease from us," uses the older polyphonic style; the B section, linked to the words, "Sion is wasted and brought low," is in the simpler homophonic style demanded by the

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LISTEN UP

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reformers. Byrd returns to a slightly less ornate polyphony, perhaps a symbolic compromise, to conclude the work on the last line, "Jerusalem desolate and void." It is, in my mind, a lament in which he expresses his own deeply held feelings and yet produces a work of stunning beauty and music with a practical use. That is genius! This anthem is available on one of my favorite CD's from the Cambridge Singers called *Faire is the heaven*. It also contains a number of anthems we'll explore in this miniseries.

One more anthem worth our look here is, *Teach me, O Lord*. The reason is that it represents a new form particular to Anglican church music, the so-called Verse Anthem. It involves a simple back-and-forth delivery between a solo line and a choral response, probably an extension of the parlor songs of the day. Although not exclusive to psalm texts (look at *This is the record of John* by Orlando Gibbons, for instance), the form lends itself to the divided verses of psalmody perfectly. That is, the soloist delivers the first half of the verse and the choir responds with the second half. It is a useful and attractive form and still in use. In fact, I used this very form in a commissioned anthem from a few years back called *My song shall be always of the loving-kindness of the Lord* (from Psalm 89). I'm afraid my work is not yet recorded, but there is a fine rendition of Mr Byrd's verse anthem on a CD called *Matins for the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi* (our adult choir's first recording) and available in our church office, oddly enough. Don't let your inheritance escape you. Come on in and listen up!

Stay tuned.... Gary Davison, O-C

A FOND FAREWELL

The small organ in our chapel will be dismantled and moved in the next few weeks. We have been fortunate to have it on loan from my friend and colleague, Harvey Burgett, a student of the late Vernon de Tar (1905-1999), from whom he acquired the organ. The "house" instrument, built by the Steiner Organ Company of Louisville, Kentucky, has been purchased by a student of Mr Burgett's and is being relocated to an apartment in New York City.

Because the instrument is not visible from most of the nave and because the chapel acts as a sound chamber speaking well into the main room, many of you may be unaware of it having been played and may have mistaken it for our main organ. That notwithstanding, it has proven useful during communion on Sunday mornings and, on a few occasions, for services held in the chapel. While not in use every week, it has been a vital part of our worship life for a number of years now, for which I am grateful.

An historic note: Dr de Tar served for 42 years as O-C at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Greenwich Village. He taught organ and church music at the Juilliard School from 1947 to 1982, the School of Sacred Music at the Union Theological Seminary from 1945 to 1972 and the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale University from 1975 to 1978. He was also a member of the National Council of the American Guild of Organists, the Association of Anglican Musicians, the Hymn Society of America, and of the boards of several church music organizations.

Gary Davison, O-C





POTOMAC COUNTRY HOUSE TOUR HOUSE TOUR MAKE-OVER

Under the able leadership of Co-Chairs Fran and Anne Baker, the PCHT will have some exciting new features while retaining and updating some of your favorite features.

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

1. **4 Fabulous New Homes**– A French Mansion, a Renovated Family Colonial, a Replica of Chownings Tavern, and a Stunning Town Home;
2. **Twenty New Boutiques**– Finish your Christmas list in July!;
3. The Dessert Bar is being transformed into an "**Antiques Cafe**";
4. The Luncheon will have a new **gourmet menu**;
5. **Exciting on-line auction**- can't make Friday night's live auction? No problem—we'll also have great items on line .

HOW YOU CAN HELP FOR THE SUMMER:

1. Call or e-mail Carol Jarvis or Laurel Bahar if you could list our House Tour information in your community newsletter. The e-mail addresses are: Jarvis.carol@gmail.com and laurelbahar@gmail.com;
2. Lend a family antique to decorate the "Antiques Cafe". Call Carol Jarvis- 301-299-4296;
3. Have you decided how you want to to **volunteer**? Call Anne Seymour at 301-452-6699 to make the offer. You could be a Host, Hostess or parking director, sell tickets prior to event, or do myriad

Continued oin next column

JOY AND CONCERN

Please pray for Penne Wells who died on 7/17/2009.

Please also pray for Dorothy Lardner, mother of Barbara Moore, who died on 7/23/09



Congratulations to grandparents, Don and Liz Harrison, and parents, Joelle and Stephen Harrison, on the birth of Henry Hayes Harrison on 7/14/09.

POTOMAC COUNTRY HOUSE TOUR

Continued from Col. 1

other activities based on your time and inclination.

You can volunteer a few hours or a few days—it's up to you! Your help is vital and much appreciated.

5. Start calling friends, family to **SAVE the DATES- October 3 and 4th** to enjoy a day shopping at the boutiques, enjoying a delicious luncheon or desert, and touring the homes.

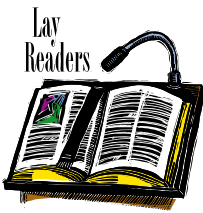
THE INN AT PERRY CABIN

Imagine spending 2 relaxing nights at the beautiful Inn at Perry Cabin on Maryland's Eastern Shore in a luxurious signature room in the historic section of the Inn.

The Inn has graciously offered to donate a second night's stay with our purchase of the first night. Please consider making a cash donation so we can take advantage of this generous offer. Kindly send your donation to St. Francis Church, 10033 River Rd., Potomac, Md. 20854, Attn: Cindy Buck.



LAYREADER TRAINING IN THE FALL



Would you consider serving as a Layreader? Training for new Layreaders will soon be scheduled during the early fall, and we hope you will consider joining

this ministry.

The duties include reading the lessons, leading intercessions during the Prayer of the People, and administering the Chalice during Holy Communion.

Service as a Layreader is a very rewarding form of participation in worship. It affords a deeper understanding of the liturgy. We offer comprehensive training on the duties to prepare Layreaders for their service. The training consists of two evening sessions of one and one half hour's duration each. The first will focus on the techniques of voice projection. It is not a class on public speaking but is a way to enhance the public reading of the Bible or Prayer Book. The goal is clear voice projection to enable the congregation to hear the lessons and prayers distinctly.

The second session will cover the techniques for administering the Chalice and assisting in the administration of Holy Communion. Layreaders serve in a regular rotation at all services, although we try to schedule assignments in keeping with individual preferences.

Please consider this invitation to join this important parish ministry. For further information, contact Devar Burbage at 301-424-1993 daytime or evening.

A NEW OPTION FOR *SOUNDS*

Effective this fall we will be able to offer an e-mail version of *Sounds*. Each week an e-mail from the parish office will provide a link to the on-line edition of the newsletter. Recipients would then read the current issue at their own convenience. Content will be identical to the mailed copies.

This is offered as an option only. Some will prefer to leave things just as they are, in which case there is no need to respond. Those who wish to receive the e-mail version in lieu of any printed copies are asked to send an e-mail request to the parish office so that the electronic mailing list can be compiled. We will maintain the same privacy standards for this mailing list as have been in place for some years with the printed edition. This option will be provided only for those who request it. Please send that request to this address: ctetrault@stfrancispotomac.org.



'THE SPIRIT OF THE PEARL'

David W. Smith, Sr., executive director of The Pearl Coalition, will talk about the escape of 77 slaves from Washington and Alexandria, Va., on Aug. 30 at St. Augustine's, D.C. The escapees boarded the Pearl schooner, docked at the Southwest waterfront, just yards from St. Augustine's present location, on April 15, 1848 - the largest such escape attempt in the U.S. The Pearl Coalition's mission is to educate others about slaves, slavery and escapes from slavery, along with the role of abolitionists and the Underground Railway. The Aug. 30 event runs from 10:45 to 11:30 a.m and will begin with light refreshments and end with a facilitated audience Q&A.

COMING UP AT ST FRANCIS

For more information, please visit our website at www.stfrancispotomac.org

SUNDAY, AUGUST 02

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:00am Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY, AUGUST 04

Youth Bible Study
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft
7:30 pm Finance Meeting—Kincaid Library

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 05

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
1:00 pm Jr High Putt Putt

THURSDAY, AUGUST 06

7:00 pm Sr. High — Dave & Busters

SUNDAY, AUGUST 09

8:00am Holy Eucharist
10:00am Holy Eucharist

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

10:30 am Grounds Committee
6:00 pm Youth Bible Study
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
Youth to King's Dominion

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

3:00 pm Jr. High to County Fair

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

3:00 pm Sr. High to County Fair

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
10:00 am Holy Eucharist
7:00 Youth to NIH Film Festival

The Scripture appointed for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:
2 Samuel 7:1-14a, Psalm 89:20-37 *or* Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22,
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The Scripture appointed for the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost:
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, Psalm 130 *or* 1 Kings 19:4-8, Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John
6:35, 41-51

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