

HEART SPEAKS TO HEART

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS

This newsletter is being sent out as a way to express our gratitude and to stay in touch with you and the many people whose friendship, encouragement, and support over the years have given wings to my musical work, and to the work of our Magnificat Institute of Sacred Music. It is also meant to be a way of extending our community of friends. So please feel free to share this letter with others whom you think might be interested in and inspired by our work!

The title "Heart Speaks to Heart" says something essential about the nature of the calling of a Christian musician and educator, and about the mission of our Institute. This expression – *cor ad cor loquitur* in Latin – was chosen by St. John Henry Newman as his episcopal motto, taken from the letters of St. Francis de Sales. It communicates the understanding that everything we do finds its deepest inspiration and



The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Illuminated Missal from East Anglia, early 14th century).

Cor ad cor loquitur, the episcopal motto of St. John Henry Newman, represents a vital guiding principle for the renewal of sacred music as well as for all our endeavors.

fulfillment in our "heart to heart" communion with God, and through him, in our "heart to heart" love for one another. The word "heart" here doesn't denote sentimentality, but rather represents the core of our being, the place where we can know and respond to the love of God, and where we can know and love one another in true friendship.

And in our quest for the renewal of sacred music – the focus of my work and the mission of our Institute – *cor ad cor loquitur* is a fundamental principle to which we must constantly return for inspiration and guidance. For is this not what gives "inestimable value" to the treasure of the "musical tradition of the universal Church"? (*Sacrosanctum concilium* 112) Artistry and aesthetic quality are essential, but not enough. These contribute to the great value of our sacred music tradition *to the extent that they serve its particular capacity to reveal the loving Heart of Christ to the hearts of all people of good will.* For Catholic composers and musicians to embrace such a principle implies embarking upon an adventure that calls for deep roots in sacred tradition, diligence in education and training, and above all prayerful dependence

on the Holy Spirit. On this path, we are continually amazed to discover fresh, new inspirations which speak to the heart of our contemporaries with spiritual depth and beauty!

Indeed, our work for the renewal of sacred music has been characterized by a sense of great gratitude and hope, as we reflect on the fruits of our labors since the founding of Magnificat Institute in November 2017. Some of these fruits have been

beautifully documented in the films *The Fire of Your Love—The Sacred Liturgy* (2019) and *The Song of the Longing Heart* (2020), aired on EWTN and still available for viewing on YouTube, by clicking the links attached to the titles above. But these important milestones have proved to be just the beginning of many other wonderful developments. Here is a brief account of several of these developments over the past year or so.

MONTHLY SUNG MASSES

In September 2021 we began a new tradition at St. John's Parish (in Clinton, Massachusetts) of having one fully sung Mass per month. In saying "fully sung", I mean just that: in a way that was once a firm tradition throughout the universal Church, and was strongly encouraged by the Second Vatican Council, but which has been seldom heard in parishes since the vernacular was introduced to the Catholic Liturgy in the 1960's. The priest, deacon, cantor, choir, and congregation all have their significant parts to sing, from the beginning to the end of the Mass in a harmonious and seamless whole – not as a concert to be admired by spectators, but as a reverent and beautiful "icon" meant to draw all present to the worship of God "in spirit and in truth." For an idea of just what this looks and sounds like, see *The Fire of Your Love* on YouTube.

I have had the joy and privilege of composing new music for the choral Propers (Introit, Responsorial Psalm, Offertory, and Communion) of each of these Masses, which we have sung in combination with the *Mass of St. Philip Neri* and traditional chant melodies. We have greatly appreciated having Fr. Alfredo Porras as the regular celebrant and homilist, along with faithful



The Cor Unum Chorale and Congregation singing the Mass at St. John's in Clinton, MA

members of our *Cor Unum Chorale* who have skillfully sung their parts and led the congregation in singing. Many thanks to all who have participated in this ongoing venture, and to the pastor of St. John's Parish, Fr. James Mazzone, for his warm welcome and support.

RECORDING SESSIONS

With the participation of an extraordinary group of professional and volunteer singers, we have completed three sets of recording sessions since the beginning of the year. In January, we recorded my *Mass of St. Monica*, along with other new choral works by me and other composers. In April, I happily welcomed the brilliant David Hughes as guest conductor of my *Missa Parva* along with my settings of the choral Propers for the *Missa pro Ecclesia*. David is an internationally acclaimed organist, conductor, and composer, and it was an honor and delight to collaborate with him on this project. In May, we recorded all my choral settings of the Propers for the *Mass for Persecuted Christians* – more on this a little later—plus several other original works.

A digital album produced from the first session is now available [here on our website](#), with excerpts available [here on SoundCloud](#). The *Missa Parva* recording should be ready as an album sometime before the end of this year. You can already listen to excerpts from the *Mass for Persecuted Christians* on SoundCloud [at this link](#).

As these sessions were also filmed, we have begun to release YouTube videos of most of the tracks, one by one, and plan to continue to share these over the coming year. You'll find a score excerpt and video link for the first one – *Look to Your Covenant, O Lord* (Introit from the *Mass for Persecuted Christians*) on pages 10–11.



Recording the Mass of St. Monica in January 2022 / photo credit: 4pm Media



Cor Unum Artists, recording in May 2022

THE MEANING OF MUSIC — A FILM SERIES

In June 2021, I was contacted by Greg Boudreaux, co-director of *The Vigil Project* based in Covington, Louisiana. He explained the vision of their ongoing production of an eight-part film series, inspired by the writings of Robert Cardinal Sarah—to explore “the meaning of music” in a beautiful and inspirational way—first of all, by addressing the general philosophical question regarding all music, and secondly, by looking at the historical, theological, and philosophical dimensions of Christian sacred music. The goal with all of this was to help people come to a greater understanding and appreciation of the gift of music, and to encourage Catholic (and all Christian) musicians to cultivate the traditional gift of sacred music with renewed inspiration and fidelity. Greg asked if I'd be willing to participate in the filming of this series; after some research and reflection, I happily accepted his invitation.



A performance of the 8th Symphony of Mahler in the Kölner Philharmonie



Filming The Meaning of Music at the Benedictine Monastery of Keur Moussa in Senegal / photo credit: 4pm Media

And so, in early January of this year, Greg, Andrea Thomas (co-director), and their film crew (4pm Media from Mobile, Alabama) arrived in Massachusetts to film our recording sessions as well as a long interview with me. This was a real joy, as our singers did an extraordinary job, and the conversations with Greg and Andrea were most stimulating and edifying.

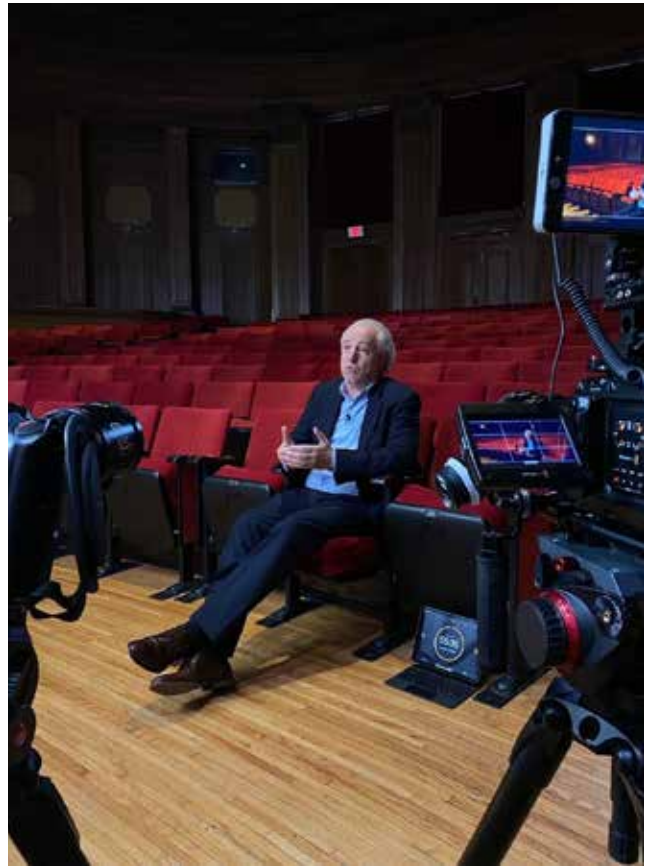
The production of this film series is now almost complete, with many outstanding contributors, including: Maestro Manfred Honeck (director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra); Fr. Marco Frisina (personal chaplain to Pope St. John Paul II); the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville; and the Benedictine Monks of *Saint-Pierre de Solesmes* (France) and of *Keur Moussa* (Senegal). The trailer for this film series is now available for viewing [here on YouTube!](#)



St. Peter's Basilica in Rome / photo credit: 4pm Media



My filmed interview with Greg and Andrea, at St. Benedict's Abbey in Harvard, MA / photo credit: 4pm Media



Maestro Manfred Honeck being interviewed for this film series / photo credit: 4pm Media



The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia / photo credit: 4pm Media

The Magnificat Institute of Sacred Music

SCALA FOUNDATION CONFERENCE



Lauds service at the Scala Foundation Conference

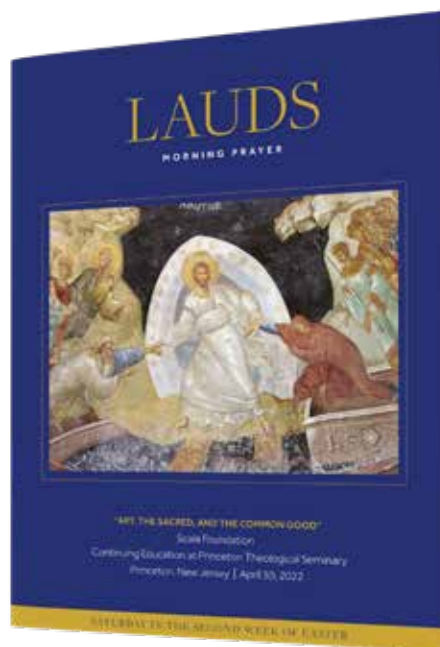
Also in 2021, I had the honor of being invited to participate in the Scala Foundation Conference at Princeton Theological Seminary, held in April 2022 in Princeton, New Jersey. The theme was *Art, the Sacred, and the Common Good*. For this event I composed and directed a Lauds (Morning Prayer) Service in which a small choral ensemble led all conference attendees in sung prayer.

It was an unforgettable moment, as we joined our hearts and voices in praise and petition to God – aided by a wonderful group of local singers assembled by Peter Carter, and the gift of a magnificent icon created by Ioana Belcea (a Romanian iconographer who now resides in Princeton.)

Many thanks are due to founding director Margarita Mooney Suarez, whose vision, energy, and great organizational work made this conference a reality, in bringing together a stellar group of contributors including Francis X. Maier, James Matthew Wilson, Christopher Beha, David and

Elizabeth Corey, Caleb Brown, Tim O'Malley, George Harne, and David Clayton.

The experience of participating in this event was a source of much encouragement, inspiration, and joy. The full score of the Lauds service which I composed for this occasion can be found [here on our website](#).



VISITS TO PARISHES

In conjunction with the Scala Conference, music director Peter Carter invited me to work with his choir at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Allentown, NJ. Peter directs excellent liturgical music programs for his parish and the Aquinas Institute at Princeton University. He has also initiated a number of beautiful and worthy international sacred music events through his *Catholic Sacred Music Project*. He is doing amazing work. It was a great pleasure to work with his



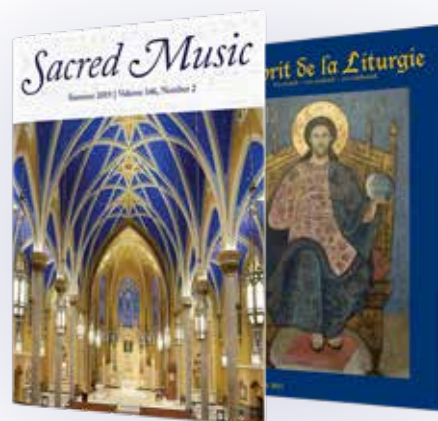
PJ at St. John the Baptist Parish in Allentown, NJ

wonderful Schola, to conduct two of my compositions during Sunday Mass at his church, and to join them in singing the rest of their Sunday Liturgy.

Further, over this past year it has been my privilege to visit *Coronation of Our Lady Parish* in Grandview, Missouri, and to begin an ongoing collaboration with their wonderful choir. One fruit of this collaboration has been a major event which just took place on August 31st: for the opening of the new *Chesterton Academy* in Kansas City, a large diocesan-wide choir gathered to sing a Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit in *Our Lady of Good Counsel Church*. Under the leadership of *Coronation* music director Ollie Bockwinkel, they sang my *Mass of St. Philip Neri* and choral Propers for this votive Mass. It has been a great blessing to witness their growing interest and enthusiasm for the renewal of sacred music, as manifested in this beautiful sung Liturgy!

INTERVIEWS AND ARTICLES

In addition to all this, over the past few years, I've done several interviews with engaging interlocutors who have been interested in exploring my work as a composer and our Institute's mission for the renewal of sacred music. Two of these, both easily accessible on YouTube, are my EWTN Live appearance with Fr. Mitch Pacwa ([here](#)) and my interview with Jennifer Pascuale, music director of St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC ([here](#)). Other written interviews can be found [here on our website](#).



Last fall, I also wrote a three-part article series for The Vigil Project (see parts [1](#), [2](#), and [3](#)), to introduce some of the topics we would be covering in their aforementioned film series. With the help of Fr. James Mazzone, pastor of the St. John the Guardian of Our Lady Parish in Clinton, Massachusetts, I developed a set of Guidelines for Parish Music Directors which was published in the Summer 2021 issue of the Sacred Music Journal (a quarterly publication of the Church Music Association of America.)

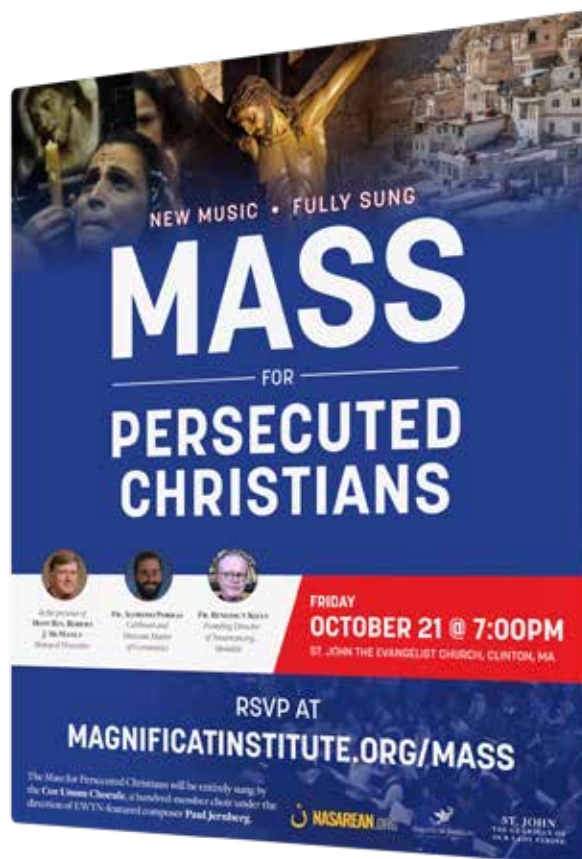
I was particularly touched and grateful to receive a request from the editors of a Catholic journal in Paris

for an article—in French—on the nature of Catholic sacred music and its cultivation in our parish Liturgies today. The name of this journal is *L'Esprit de la Liturgie*; they translated and published one of my blog posts, “Adoration and Aesthetics”—in French “*Adoration et esthétique*”—which can be found [online here](#). Oh, and speaking of blog posts: due to my intense schedule, my series entitled *Singing in Harmony with Heaven* has been on hold for a while. But I do hope to begin regularly posting these blogs and podcasts again by the end of this year, *Deo volente!*

MASS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

The most prominent new work I have composed this past year is the *Mass for Persecuted Christians*. It will be sung for the first time in a solemn Liturgy on Friday, October 21st at St. John’s Parish in Clinton, Massachusetts, in the presence of Bishop Robert McManus. The celebrant will be Fr. Alfredo Porras and the homilist will be Fr. Benedict Kiely (founding director of [Nasarean.org](#).) Our Cor Unum Chorale (which includes singers from three regional Catholic Colleges) will sing the Propers and other choral music, and will also lead the congregation. This sung Mass will be similar in format to the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit we sang in February 2019, but with new musical settings. It will also be recorded and filmed for subsequent broadcast.

We invite other parishes and dioceses to join us in praying for and helping our persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world—those who sincerely seek to follow Christ in the midst of fierce opposition along with those who, through their discreet commitment to truth and justice, incite the wrath of those in power. In our world today, there are a multitude of such people whose plight has been largely forgotten or ignored by the media. To encourage others to join us in this endeavor, we plan to



offer the full pdf scores free of charge to all parishes and communities who wish to sing/pray this music, either in the Liturgy or in the context of benefit concerts.

There is much more I'd like to share with you about the birth of the vision for this sung Mass, and about the many insights and blessings I've experienced in the process of composing it. But as I am now running out of space, it looks as if most of this will need to wait for our next newsletter, scheduled

for some time in the winter! Just one brief note in this regard: I found much inspiration for the composition of this music in reading and reflecting upon Michael O'Brien's epic novel *Island of the World*, and would like to express here my deep gratitude to him for this great gift!



Icon of Mary, Mother of the Persecuted Church painted by an Iraqi deacon icon for the shrine at Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Gregory in London

HENRY & TRAVIS

Over the past two years, I have been blessed to have two excellent assistants whose diligence and enthusiasm have been a constant help:

Henry Aquino is a full-time executive assistant whose work covers a wide variety of responsibilities including the editing of scores for publication, coordinating logistics for all Liturgies and recordings, managing our website and social media, and fulfilling the orders we receive for scores and recordings. Henry's faithful commitment to our mission and willingness to take on new unexpected tasks have made him a great co-worker!

Travis Benoit is a part-time musical assistant and intern who is presently leading our Cor Unum rehearsals and also developing a program aimed to

help pastors and music directors understand and enhance the natural acoustic qualities of the church buildings in which they sing. Travis is a voice teacher and an outstanding professional Tenor, appearing regularly in concerts and operas throughout the East Coast.

For the time being, Henry and Travis are manning the fort of our new Magnificat office in Clinton, MA, located in the rectory of St. John the Guardian of Our Lady Parish. Again we thank Fr. Jim Mazzone for the opportunity to use this space. And our gratitude overflows to Trivium School and its headmaster, Dr. William Schmitt, for providing our office space in the school's 3rd floor, from 2017 until late May of this year!

LANDER, WYOMING

Over the past few years, my wife Anne and I have been exploring the possibility of moving West, to be closer to our son Martin (who has been based in Denver, thriving in his work as a photographer and cinematographer.) While enjoying regular visits to Colorado, and cherishing times with old and new friends there, we have become increasingly drawn toward a simpler lifestyle which is difficult to experience in a big metropolitan area. Martin suggested that we all consider the possibility of moving to Lander, Wyoming – a charming little town situated at the foot of the magnificent Wind River Mountain Range—where several friends of his and ours happen to be located.

In February, we all visited Lander together. In a remarkable way, many aspects of this potential move began falling in place. We were warmly welcomed with open arms and hearts by old and new friends, and the many practical issues involved with such a move were smoothly resolved. To make a long story short, Martin moved to Lander in May, and we (together with my 91-year-old mother) landed here in June! After having rented a small house in town over the summer, we moved on September 1st into a new home we have purchased.

In the midst of the challenges that go along with any major transition like this, and though we miss our dear friends in New England, so far this has been a wonderful step for our family. For my composing and



Green River Lakes (*not far from Lander*)

writing work, and for all that pertains to Magnificat Institute, this new setting seems to be a truly excellent fit on many different levels. We are so grateful to be near the Wyoming Catholic College community, and my new office – the new headquarters for Magnificat Institute (see our new mailing address in Lander below) – is being rented from the College.

From this new home base, I will continue to travel as needed for various Liturgies, workshops, and other events throughout the country. In early October I'll be flying to Massachusetts for rehearsals and other preparations, well in advance of our sung Mass for Persecuted Christians on the 21st!

PREVIEW OF NEW MUSIC

Here is a preview of the music from our upcoming Sung Mass for Persecuted Christians: the Introit, Look to Your Covenant,

O Lord. The SATB score for the antiphon is copied below, and you can watch/listen to this piece [here on YouTube!](#)

Introit (excerpt)
Mass for Persecuted Christians

Text: Gregorian Missal
Music: Paul F. Jernberg

Antiphon (SATB):

Look to your co - ve - nant, O Lord, and for -

get not the lives of your poor ones for - e - ver. A -

rise O God, and de - fend your cause, and for -

get not the cries of those who seek you.

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THANKSGIVING AND REQUESTS

We are deeply grateful to all of you who have supported us in our mission! This assistance has been given in many forms: through the invaluable gifts of friendship, prayers, words of encouragement, and volunteer help, as well as generous financial support.

We continue to rely on this help from you, our friends, as we continue to develop and grow in the hope of reaching ever greater numbers of people and

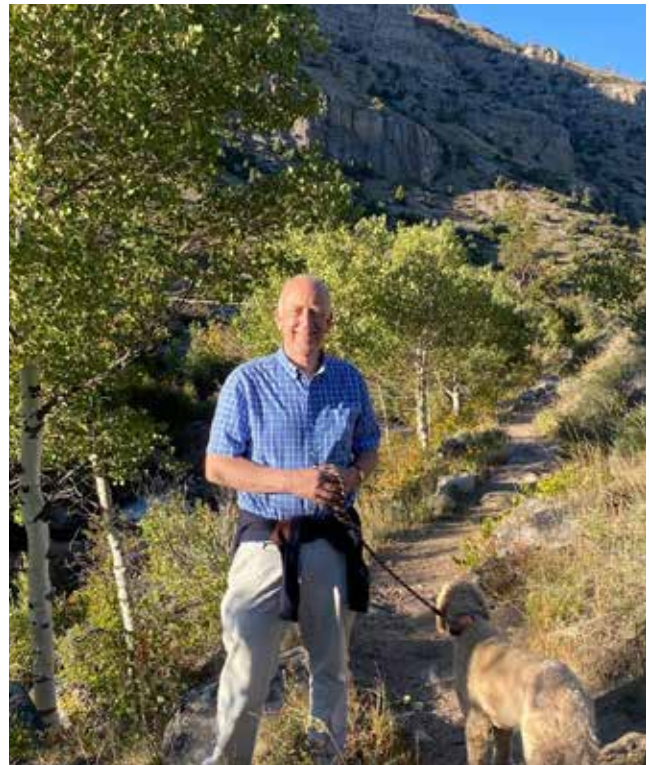
parish communities in need of our assistance... and as you know, the needs are multitudinous!

If you are able to support our work through your monetary gifts, these are tax-deductible as we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. You can give in this way by going directly to magnificatinstitute.org/donate or by sending a check, made out to **Magnificat Institute of Sacred Music**, to the address given below.

LOOKING FORWARD...

I send my warmest greetings to each of you, and look forward to staying in touch! As we continue to develop the format and content of this quarterly newsletter, your input in this regard will also be much appreciated. The best way to reach me is via email at pjernberg@magnificatinstitute.org.

Yours sincerely,
Paul Jernberg
Executive Director,
Magnificat Institute of Sacred Music



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O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! — PSALM 107:1

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