

Galloway Music Network

September 2006 Newsletter

Instead of being headed 'Diocese of Galloway - Music Core Group' this newsletter is headed 'Galloway Music Network'. This is what we have chosen as our new name! It's simple and easy to remember, and ties in with the website address (www.gallowaymusic.net). We hope you like it, and our new logo which appears below.

On the subject of our website, it has a completely new look! More about it is included inside this newsletter.

Also, we are pleased to welcome Marguerite Crolla and Shiela Ford (both from Troon) to the Galloway Music Network committee. Marguerite is an enthusiastic singer, and a member of the St Mungo Singers and the Dreghorn Musical Society. Sheila is a music teacher (teaching piano and theory of a music) and a member of the Diocesan choir.

www.gallowaymusic.net

The new website is now up and running. A new feature are the forms you can use to contact us and share your thoughts. Please use them, and let us know what you think!

There is now a news page, which is your first introduction to additions and ongoing changes to the website, and what is happening in Catholic music in Galloway.

Another new feature is the 'Controversies Column'. The purpose of this is to generate discussion, and we are inviting comments on a series of short articles on various aspects of church music. There are no clear cut answers to the issues raised, and the aim is to enjoy and learn from debate. (If you do not have access to the web, and you would like to read these, please contact Nicola on 01465 714797 and you will be sent print outs).

The 'Favourite Music' page contains hymn reviews which have appeared over the years in our newsletters. 'Music Resources' has been split into four pages - hymn books, books and publications, websites and organisations. Again it takes information from past newsletters, and will gradually be added to and expanded over the coming months.

Thanks are due to Gordon Lawrence for putting in much work on this.

PAST EVENTS

The annual Galloway Music Festival Mass was held on Sunday 20 August in the grounds of Smithstone House. Despite a rainy start to the day, the weather was warm and sunny.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr Mark Kelly (Galloway Diocese's newest priest), and concelebrated by Fr Delio (from

Argentina) and Fr Stephen Motroni (from Smithstone House).

There were over 50 people present, and the musicians included a flautist, two violinists, a viola player, and a guitarist. The music was very successful and we enjoyed playing the Kyrie and Lamb of God from James MacMillan's St Anne's Mass, probably hitherto unknown in the Diocese.

FUTURE EVENTS

We are planning another music ministry evening on Thursday 9 November (again at Smithstone House). It will combine a discussion on aspects of music ministry with music ideas for Advent.

Refreshments will be available from 6.45 pm, then at 7 pm Bishop Taylor will host a discussion on 'Practicalities of parish music', including topics such as

- coping in the absence of a musician
- speed and pitch considerations
- organisational issues - practices and rotas
- teaching congregations new music.

We welcome suggestions from you of other topics you would like to be included.

After a short break, Les Hendren (from St John Ogilvie's in Bourtreehill) will lead a session on music for Advent. The evening will finish at 9 pm.

Publicity materials are enclosed - please advertise the event as widely as possible within your parish.

OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST

An event entitled 'Small is beautiful' is being held on Saturday 11 November at Kincardine led by Andrew Maries (organised by

the Music and Worship Foundation). This will be a workshop specifically for musicians and singers and leaders involved with smaller churches; and will be packed with practical ideas to help you make the most of the resources in your own situation.

'Presenting futures' (also being organised by the Music and Worship Foundation) is being held at Gartmore House, near Stirling, from Friday 13 - Saturday 14 April 2007. It is a two day workshop for those involved in music and worship in churches of all sizes and denominations. The programme will include

- looking at what early church worship was really like, and what the lessons are for today and tomorrow
- a session for those wanting to enjoy and improve their singing, and find new material for their congregation
- a session for those wanting to understand the new music notation programs and their possibilities.

The RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) organise courses and workshops throughout the year across the UK. For more information, visit www.rscm.com. They are now sending out a Scottish newsletter to their members, with information about what's going on in Scotland.

(Independent of her role within the Music Core Group) Nicola is now the Scottish national representative for the Society of St Gregory, so if you want to know more about its activities, please contact her.

YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS . . .

Faith of our fathers

You all know this hymn by Frederick William Faber

(1814 - 1863), usually sung to the tune Sawston, a traditional melody from 'Crown of Jesus' hymnal (1864). The hymn appears in Liturgical Hymns Old and New as number 246.

1 Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire and sword;
O, how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear that glorious word!

Faith of our fathers! Holy Faith!
We will be true to thee till death,
we will be true to thee till death.

2 Our fathers, chained in prisons dark,
were still in heart and conscience free;
how sweet would be their children's fate,
if they, like them, could die for thee!

3 Faith of our fathers, Mary's prayers
shall win our country back to thee;
and through the truth that comes from God
this land shall then indeed be free.

4 Faith of our fathers, we will love
both friend and foe in all our strife,
and preach thee too, as love knows how,
by kindly words and virtuous life.

Faber sought to convert England to Catholicism with 'Mary's prayers' and the 'Faith of our fathers'.

A potted biography! Faber was of Huguenot descent, and was brought up in the strictest school of Calvinism. He became a fellow of Oxford University in 1837. In his early writings he argues that the denomination of the 'Archbishop of Rome' is

unscriptural and declares that Romanism has added falsehood to the sacraments. He took orders in the Church of England and was for three years (from 1843) rector of Elton, Huntingdonshire (where he introduced confession and devotion to the Sacred Heart). However eventually he abjured Protestantism, and became a Roman Catholic in 1845. He studied for the priesthood and said his first Mass on 4 April 1847. He worked closely with Newman, and in 1849 established in London a branch of the Oratory of St Philip Neri, which developed into the present Brompton Oratory.

The last years of his life were troubled by ill health, and he said his last Mass just after Easter in 1863. Newman, many years later, when near his own death, requested a hymn of Faber's to be played when his last hours came, preferring 'Eternal years' to his own 'Lead, kindly light'.

Faber wrote about 150 hymns, intended primarily for devotional reading and to reflect and promote the Catholic faith; and to supply Catholics with an equivalent to the Protestant hymns of Cowper, Newton and Wesley (the influence of which he knew by personal experience). The first edition sold over 10,000 copies.

Apparently Faber was also a poet, although few of his poems became known, and a friend of Wordsworth.

There are those who would argue that Faith of our fathers is 'unecumenical' - but to a certain extent it depends how you read it! However, it's easy to see that its use at funerals when people from other churches are present may be less than completely tactful.

There is an article on our new website 'Controversies Column' about how you should (or shouldn't!) sing it.

Least popular and most popular hymns

Radio 4's Sunday Programme launched a search for these during July. The results of the month long poll were as follows:

Top 3 favourite hymns

- 1st Dear Lord and Father of mankind
- 2nd Guide me O thou great redeemer
- 3rd Be thou my vision

Top 3 least favourite hymns

- 1st Shine Jesus shine
- 2nd All things bright and beautiful
- 3rd Lord of the dance.

MUSICIANS SENT FLYING

A recent article from the BBC web site explains how strict security measures at UK airports are having a devastating impact on musicians, who are now unable to take their instruments on board aircraft as hand luggage.

Galloway Music Network

Visit our website at www.gallowaymusic.net

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