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NPM Cantor Newsletter

National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) <npsmsing@npm.org>

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Reply-To: npsmsing@npm.org

To: hsmith@stmm.org

You are receiving this email as an NPM membership benefit. Thank you for being a part of NPM! Not a cantor yourself? Consider inviting a cantor from your music ministry to join NPM so they can take advantage of this valuable regular resource.

Yearly membership starts at just \$39 - join at npm.org/join.



Gloria in excelsis Deo!

May this issue enlighten your ministry and brighten your hearts during this beautiful Christmas season with:

- **A reflection on Psalm 89;**
- **Tips and tools to grow in spiritual, ministerial, and musical skills;**
- **Readings links;**
- **Formation opportunities;**
- **Certificate updates;**
- **Facebook link to connect with your peers; and**
- **Musings on Music**

I hope you enjoyed the Advent Tips & Tools' focus on litanies as we began our seven-part series of "Singing Through the Mass in a Year." This issue we focus on the ***Gloria*** as it returns to the liturgy to celebrate Christ's birth with great joy!

Thanks to the new voices who gifted us all with the willingness to share their wisdom with our readers. The more the merrier, so please reach out to me at sglovelette@gmail.com if you've ever considered writing for the Cantor Newsletter.

This issue's "Musings on Music" comes from St. Augustine. What quote about music inspires you?

Merry Christmas one and all!

Susan Groeschel Lovelette
NPM Cantor Colleague
NPM Cantor Newsletter Editor



The Goodness of the Lord?

by Mel Kennedy, D.Min.

As psalmists, we take the words of the psalm and offer them as a prayer to our Lord for the community. We sing the words from our heart for the entire assembled faithful and allow them to have their voice in the response. But keeping that prayer in our lives as we encounter the ups and downs of our journey can be more challenging.

“For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.” (Psalm 89) This is one of my favorite psalms. I even sang a bilingual setting of it during adjudication for my Basic Cantor Certificate. It is a psalm of gratitude and calls us to “rejoice all the day.” Yet when we encounter difficulties in our personal lives or when the world around us is thrown into chaos, do we continue to speak and sing words of rejoicing to our Lord? (*[Continue Reading](#)*)



Readings for Christmas

The following USCCB Daily Readings links take you to the five different liturgies for the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) and the subsequent two

Sundays.

Readings for the **Vigil Mass**
 Readings for the **Mass during the Night**
 Readings for the **Mass at Dawn**
 Readings for the **Mass during the Day**
 Readings for the **Nativity of the Lord**

The Octave Day of Christmas
The Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother God
Sunday, January 1

The Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday, January 8

Does something seem missing? Here's why, from the USCCB:
 "Since a Sunday does not occur between December 25, 2022, and January 1, 2023, the **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** is celebrated on Friday, December 30, with only one reading before the Gospel.

The **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord** is celebrated on Monday, January 9. When this Feast occurs on Monday of the First Week in Ordinary Time, the readings assigned to Monday may be joined to those of Tuesday so that the opening of each book will be read."

Sign up to receive each day's readings by email [here](#), and invite the **Book of the Psalms** to enhance your ministry and life throughout the Christmas season!

Tips and Tools



*Tips and
Tools:
Spiritual*



**Glory to God in the Highest ...
Amen!**

by Amy Voorhees

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:14) Sound familiar? These are the words on which the *Gloria*, which is sung at Mass outside the seasons of Advent and Lent, is based. ... If you attend midnight Mass on December 25, the *Gloria* will be recalled in a special way when the proclamation of the Gospel of Luke includes verse 14. But no matter which

Christmas liturgy we serve, after four weeks of preparation for the birth of Christ, we are able once again to sing the *Gloria* just as the angels did on the night of Christ's birth. Let's dig a little into the history of this prayer to gain insights that will enhance our spirits as we sing. [\(Continue Reading\)](#)

History Enlightens Your *Gloria*

by Joy Viceroy Geraghty

As a cantor I am a great believer in understanding the origins of the parts of the Mass and how they have changed over time. Knowing this history, I more deeply appreciate today's rubrics and engage with them in a pastoral way. This is reflected in how I prepare, how I sing, and how I confer with the people who shape the liturgy in my parish.

... As we continue "Singing Through the Mass in a Year," I am delighted to present a brief history and some practical questions for gaining a deeper awareness of the *Gloria in excelsis*. May this enhance your ministry as a cantor within this incredibly joyous part of the Mass. [\(Continue Reading\)](#)

Tips and Tools: Ministry



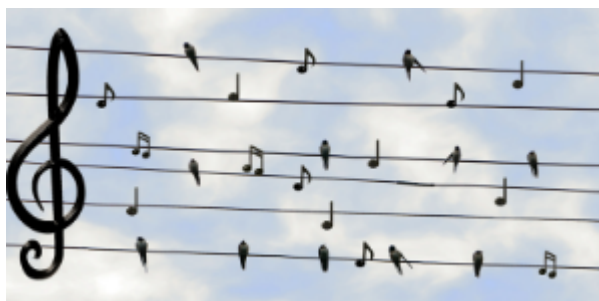
Tips and Tools: Musical

Making the *Gloria* ... Glorious

by Barbara Stahl Leyden

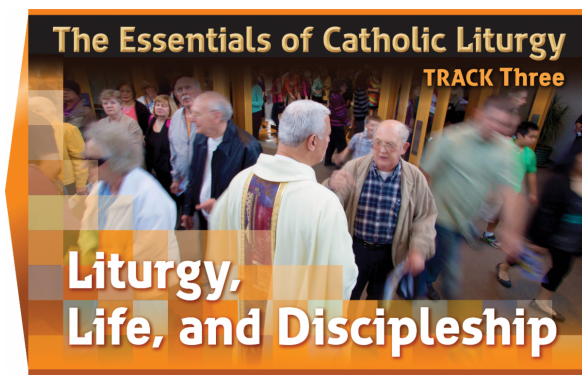
The *Gloria* is an ancient hymn in which the Church, assembled in the Spirit, praises and prays to the Father and to the Lamb. The text is chock full of wonder, awe, truth, and joy, but sometimes we musicians overlook or lose some of that excitement. The glorious hymn can become tedious. Prayerful and expressive phrasing makes

this hymn come alive for both us and our assembly. If your assembly still requires leadership at the microphone while learning a new setting, clear and expressive diction by the cantor and dynamic contrast by both singer and instrumentalist are of the utmost importance to proclaim this hymn with joy and life. [\(Continue Reading\)](#)



Formation Opportunities

The Essentials of Catholic Liturgy: Track Three



Registration for Track Three of *The Essentials of Catholic Liturgy* is open! This six-week virtual course begins on **Monday, January 23, 2023**.

In partnership with the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, Liturgy Training Publications offers *The Essentials of Catholic*

Liturgy—a series of foundational courses perfect for music directors and music ministers. Track Three: Liturgy, Life, and Discipleship, explores the way our faith call us into action and how to bring the liturgy into our daily lives.

Contact events@ltp.org for questions or visit [LTP's website](https://www.ltp.org) for more information.

Register for the Essentials of Catholic Liturgy: Track Three

Save the Date for our Newest Webinar: Liturgical Calendar - Music Deep Dive



Join Patrick Nisbet (Creative Ministry Resources, Liturgy Help) on **January 28th, 2023** from **8pm-9:30pm EDT** for a live, deep dive into the Planning Calendar's music resources for pastoral musicians. In this session we will explore:

- How the Planning Calendar makes suggestions for each Sunday and major events;
- How to refine the search based on composer and hymnal;
- How to create your own playlists and explore additional music resources.

The Planning Calendar is included in the membership fees for Standard and Premium NPM members. This 60-minute webinar will be followed by a 30-minute Q&A session. This session is an exclusive NPM membership benefit at no additional cost to all NPM members.

Registration for this event opens January 5 via [NPM's website](#). Save the date and join us to make the most out of this excellent resource!



Merry Christmas!

Congratulations to **Basic Cantor Certificate** (BCC) recipients
Patricia J. Coppola of Bay Shore, NY, and Joseph C. Cruz of Las Vegas, NV!

If you are seeking opportunities to learn and grow as a cantor, the Cantor Certificate Committee welcomes the opportunity to work with you! Visit [Cantor Certificate Programs – NPM](#) to find out how to begin the new year with a great goal of becoming the best cantor you can be.

Dr. Gail Hartin

Cantor Certificate Committee Chair

Certificate Program Testimonial: The BCC Process is highly valuable!

by Jennifer Davis

Orland Park, IL

I am a firm believer that learning is a lifelong journey. There is always something new to discover about your talents, calling, and even yourself. The BCC process emphasized this concept! While I have sung at mass since I was very young, I learned many new insights into the role of the cantor, how best to prepare, and how to help the assembly deepen their relationship with God through musical worship. The NPM Basic Cantor Certificate process was highly valuable, as I received feedback from professionals invested in my continued growth as a cantor. I encourage others who are considering this process to listen to the call!

Have you visited our Facebook page lately?
“Like” us [@npmcantors](#)!



Find Certificate recipient news, prayer resources, and the Newsletter preview! Respond to our polls about the latest trends in the ministry of cantors around the country.

Musings on Music

“How I wept, deeply moved by your hymns, songs, and the voices that echoed through your Church! What emotion I experienced in them! Those sounds flowed into my ears distilling the truth in my heart. A feeling of devotion surged within me, and tears streamed down my face — tears that did me good.”

St. Augustine

Conf. 9, 6, 14: PL 32,769–770, quoted in CCC 1157



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