

You are among a select group of singers invited to join others interested in sacred Renaissance polyphony *February 22-24, 2013* for a weekend singing the music of Cristóbal de Morales (ca. 1500-1553), Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611), and Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599). The occasion is the 22nd year for the Dallas-Fort Worth area **Renaissance Polyphony Weekend.**

There are two major changes associated with this year's singers' retreat, *which will again be led by Dr. William Mahrt of Stanford University.*

First: The retreat, co-sponsored by the Walsingham Society of Christian Culture and Western Civilization, will be held at Church of the Holy Cross, 4052 Herschel Avenue in Dallas, the society's headquarters. (For information on the society, go to <http://walsinghamssociety.com>.)

Second: This 2013 singers' retreat will conclude with a Vespers service instead of a Mass, because it has by necessity been scheduled during Lent, when complete polyphonic Masses are not sung.

RPW participants will sing the Vespers service at 3 p.m. Sunday the 24th, in the sanctuary of Church of the Holy Cross, where rehearsals will also be held.

About the Vespers

Vespers was widely sung in polyphony during the Renaissance; there is an extensive body of Spanish Renaissance music for it. In addition to music by Morales, Guerrero, and Victoria, we will sing a few pieces by lesser-known Spanish composers.

Most of the music arises out of the chant, incorporating chant melodies and modes into the polyphonic music. The shape of the service begins simply and grows in complexity until its centerpiece, the Magnificat.

Vespers are different from the Masses we have usually sung. In the Mass, the music



is a substantial complement to a sacramental service which takes place at the altar. In Vespers, the music is the whole liturgical service.

The choir is arranged antiphonally. That is, it is divided into two groups, seated facing each other at the front of the church and answering back and forth.

The Vespers consists of a variety of kinds of music:

- simple antiphons in Gregorian chant,
- chanting of psalms in simple Gregorian psalm tones
- chanting of psalms in falsobordone (harmonized psalm tones), the predecessors of "Anglican chant"
- elaborated psalm settings, originating in falsobordone but approaching full polyphony
- a polyphonic hymn: an elaborate metrical chant alternating with full polyphony
- the Magnificat, the ultimate polyphonic work of the Vespers
- the Marian antiphon, sung in chant or elegant polyphony

Logistics

Retreat check-in (with coffee) is at 6:30 p.m. Friday, February 22, at Church of the Holy Cross, 4052 Herschel Avenue, Dallas TX 75219; followed by a 7:30 p.m. rehearsal. Rehearsals continue at 9 a.m. Saturday (coffee at 8:30), and conclude with wine and cheese at about 4 p.m.

It is possible not to attend all of the sessions and still sing the Vespers on Sunday afternoon, February 24. There will be a Sunday morning rehearsal at a residence near the church, but participants with church music commitments need not attend it.

After a 1:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon rehearsal at Holy Cross, we will sing the vespers at 3 p.m.

Further details will be provided in a welcome letter to participants.

All music will be rehearsed and performed *a capella*. Participants need not be professional singers, but should be proficient readers with a good sense of pitch.

Enrollment, housing, meals

Housing is not available through the workshop, but area participants can open their homes to singers. Please note if you need accommodations.

Fee for the retreat is \$95; student scholarships are available. Meals are on your own.

Please return your reservation along with the \$95 participation fee as soon as possible. Refunds for cancellations will be made until February 15, 2013.

Dr. William Mahrt

Dr. William Mahrt teaches musicology at Stanford University, Stanford, CA, where he directs the Early Music Singers.

His scholarship centers upon the performance of Medieval and Renaissance music and its relation to liturgy and to music theory. He has also written on music and poetry in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, on Gregorian chant and on the music of Guillaume de Machaut, Orlando di Lasso, and Johannes Brahms. He gives workshops on chant and Renaissance music around the country.

Dr. Mahrt also directs the St. Ann Choir in Palo Alto, CA, which regularly sings Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony in liturgical performance. He is president of the Church Music Association of America and editor of its journal *Sacred Music*, the oldest continuously-published music journal in the United States. His book, *The Musical Shape of the Liturgy*, was published this year. For an article on Dr. Mahrt, go to <http://www.stanfordalumni.org/news/magazine/2003/marapr/showcase/noteworthy.html>.

Renaissance Polyphony Weekend Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
E-Mail _____

My vocal classification:

soprano alto
 tenor bass

Registration limited to ten singers per classification.

I need housing _____

My roommate(s): _____

I would like to stay in a home _____

I would like information on area hotels
and motels _____

I can provide housing for _____ people in my
home.

Please send me _____ additional brochures for
the Renaissance Polyphony Weekend.

Please send a brochure to _____



Please return this form along with a check
for \$95.00 to:

Renaissance Polyphony Weekend

Susan J. Scheib

9215 Forest Hills Blvd., Dallas TX 75218-3632

E-mail: sjscheib@yahoo.com

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Renaissance Polyphony Weekend 2013

A Spanish Vespers

music of Cristóbal de Morales,
Tomás Luis de Victoria,
and Francisco Guerrero

February 22-24, 2013

Church of the Holy Cross, Dallas

*under the auspices of the Walsingham Society
of Christian Culture and Western Civilization*

Leader: Dr. William P. Mahrt
Stanford University, Stanford, California