

You are among a select group of singers invited to join others interested in sacred Renaissance polyphony *February 21-23, 2020* for a weekend singing the music of Jacob Handl, (in Latin, Jacobus Gallus, in English, James Rooster). The occasion is the *28th year* for the Dallas-Fort Worth area Renaissance Polyphony Weekend.

This year's singers' retreat will again be led by **Dr. William Mahrt** of Stanford University. But there are some other important changes to take note of:

First, the retreat will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 1210 W. Belt Line Road, Richardson.

Second, instead of a Mass, the workshop choir will sing, in concert, a comprehensive collection of motets for the church year by the Renaissance composer, Jacob Handl.

About the motets

Jacob Handl was born in Slovenia in 1550, and had his early education in a Cistercian monastery there. He served the Prince Bishop of Olomouc and then the Hapsburg court in Prague. He died in Prague in 1591. In his short life he composed more than 500 works; his major collection is the *Opus musicum* (Prague, 1586–1591), consisting of nearly 400 sacred motets for four to twenty-four voices; the collection is organized according to the church year, and the texts mainly pertain to Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Passiontide, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, the Blessed Virgin, and various other saints. The workshop will sing a variety of works from this collection.

Handl's music is characterized by a sensitive setting of texts in a variety of styles, from simple homophony to imitative styles of great variety, including pieces in double-choir arrangement. His works call for a variety of techniques of repetition, great dynamic variety from very soft to very loud and, on occasion, intricate rhythmic declamation of the text. They range from serious penitential pieces to



ecstatic jubilation and every degree between.

Handl's most famous work is *Ecce quomodo moritur justus*, a work whose text-declimation surpasses every limitation of measure bars in most interesting rhythms; Johannes Brahms taught it to his choir. Another is *Duo Seraphim*, a double-choir motet on the text of Isaiah which describes two Seraphim crying out each to the other, "Holy, Holy, Holy"; this text has been the scriptural incentive for antiphonal singing. Yet another is the Communion antiphon for Pentecost, *Factus est repente*. This setting begins by recalling the striking Gregorian melody for the feast day, but quickly develops into vivacious and intricate counterpoint and chromatic harmony, with striking rhythmic alleluias. The workshop will sing these pieces, as well as a variety of pieces for the entire liturgical year.

Logistics

Retreat check-in (with coffee) is at 6:30 p.m. Friday, February 21, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 1210 W. Belt Line Road, Richardson TX 75080; followed by a 7:30 p.m. rehearsal. Rehearsals continue at 9:00 a.m. Saturday (coffee and bagels at 8:30 a.m.), and conclude with wine and cheese at about 4:00 p.m. There is excellent parking at the church.

It is possible not to attend all of the sessions and still sing the concert on Sunday afternoon. A Sunday morning rehearsal is optional for participants with church music commitments.

After a 1:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon rehearsal at St. Luke's, we will sing the concert at 4:00 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.

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 10, 2020.

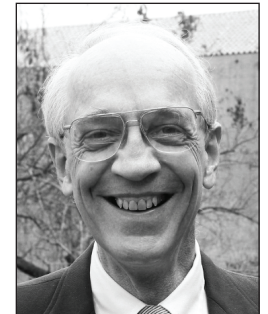
Dr. William Mahrt

Dr. 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 in 2012. 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 2020

Motets for the Church Year
Jacob Handl (Jacobus Gallus)

February 21-23, 2020

St. Luke's Lutheran
Church, Richardson

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