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G. Mitchell Hagler, Editor

From the President's Desk



Diann Back

Dear MMM Friends,

I work at Central Piedmont Community College, and part of my job is to develop professional and personal workshops for our faculty and staff. One day, a colleague suggested that we create a personal improvement workshop based on a book entitled *The Book of Awesome* by Neil Pasricha. It sounded like an interesting project, so I bought the book and read the following from the book's front flap, "Sometimes it's easy to forget the things that

make us smile. With 24/7 news cycle reporting that the polar ice caps are melting, hurricanes are swirling in the seas, wars are heating up around the world..., it's tempting to feel that the world is falling apart. But awesome things are still around us—sometimes we just need someone to point them out." After reading these comments, I was hooked on the project! The book comes from a blog that Pasricha started to help himself get out of a mild depression. Each day, he decided that he would write about a daily happening that we often take for granted that is worth a smile or a chuckle. The tremendous responses to his blog became the heart of *The Book of Awesome*.

Isn't it fun to lick the batter off the beaters of a cake mixer? Do you remember how much fun it is to open a new box of crayons? What a great feeling it is when all the socks from the dryer match perfectly! It's great to find money in an old coat pocket! Remember how good it feels to get out of your car and stretch at the highway rest stop. Isn't it great to get a note in the mail from MMM with actual handwriting on it? Finding a parking place that lets you pull through—easy in and easy out—is always good! Hearing someone smile over the phone is really nice, too. It's fun to solve the Wheel of Fortune puzzle before the contestants on the show! These are just a few of the small things that make us feel good, but we tend to overlook them in the rush of our daily lives.

Because MMM volunteers regularly visit health care facilities in our community without fanfare doesn't mean each visit isn't an awesome event—it is. Because MMM organizes monthly church services for Rebound without public recognition doesn't mean that each service isn't awesome—it is. The MMM Annual Service is always awesome. It's awesome that MMM awards scholarships to deserving college students who aspire to use their talents to serve our Lord.

Thank you for your gifts of time, talent, prayer, and financial support that contribute to MMM's "awesomeness".

Sincerely, *Diann P. Back*

SERVICE RECORD

Cumulative October 7, 1984—April 30, 2012

Number of Services, Programs, Meetings, and Projects:

10,845

Number of Times an Individual Participated in Ministry Work:

31,980

Total Known Audience:

448, 851

From the Past Chairman of the Board



Martha Hley

THE FIFTH VOICE

In barbershop quartet circles, a strange legend has persisted over the years. It is the belief that when voices blend in a certain way, the singers hear a "fifth voice." It makes one wonder where and how, beyond traditional four-part harmony, that voice would fit in. Something so mysterious and wonderful must surely come from heavenly sources!

We do know that when the church is at worship, congregational singing can take on a dimension that is beyond explanation. It is as though God Himself is singing along with us. In Romans 15:9, Christ is pictured as ministering to Jews and Gentiles by singing hymns. In Zephaniah 3:17, God encouraged His people with a vision of future glory. He promises, through the prophet, to "quiet them with His love...and rejoice over them with singing." Could it be that God is continually fulfilling that promise through music?

Seminary Professor Reggie M. Hidd wrote an article entitled, "Why Song Matters in the Mission of the Church." He wrote: Jesus united us to Himself in the glorious communion He has enjoyed for eternity with His heavenly Father. He resides within us to heal the broken places and to refresh cauterized hearts. He sings us into a new mode of existence. When we imagine Jesus singing nations into submission to His rule, our hearts come joyfully under the sway of a love that is infinite and powerful."

Music and song can open the imagination to the world of the spirit. Writer Anne Lamott was drawn to the gospel music coming from a ramshackle building with a cross on top. She described how the "glorious noise of the singing wore down all the boundaries and distinctions that kept me so isolated." Felix Mendelssohn did not write sacred music until he heard Bach's *Passion According to St. Matthew*.

The "Fifth Voice" cannot be easily explained. And yet our experiences in ministry cause us to know that God moves in mysterious ways. Modest efforts can become magnified and blessed when humbly joined with the Presence. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace, *Martha Hley*

New MMM Board Member

MMM welcomes Brenda Porter-Dewitt to its Board. Brenda and husband Jim have two children, Maurice T. DeWitt and James E. DeWitt III. Her college connections include North Carolina A & T University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Brenda is the Handbell Choir Director and also the Assistant to the Director of Music and Arts at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. A retired CMS administrator in Human Resources, Brenda is a member of the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble, the Handbell Musicians of America, Delta Sigma Theta sorority and the NC Association of Educators. We are glad to have this talented individual join us.



Brenda Porter-Dewitt

ANNUAL SERVICE SCHEDULED

Mark your calendars for the 27th Annual Service of Sacred Music scheduled for September 30, 2012, 6:00 p.m. Providence Baptist Church, Charlotte. A partial list of participants is noted here; a complete program will appear in the September newsletter.

David M. Hines, Dr. Martha S. Iley, and Ginger G. Wyrick will direct. Dr. Luther Wade will again serve as narrator and Dr. Matthew C. Manwarren, organist.

Dr. Katherine S. Kinsey will direct a Choir of Choir Directors from a number of Charlotte area churches. In addition, at this date, the following choirs have scheduled: Pfeiffer University Concert Choir, Joseph Judge, director; Providence Baptist Children's Choir, Debra Wallace, director; Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church Choir, J.L. McDaniel, director; and St. Luke's Missionary Baptist Church Choir, D.J. Boyd, director. In addition to the choirs, a brass ensemble and timpani will provide additional music.

MMM's 2012 scholarship winners will also participate: organist Cristiano Pessoa and vocalists Cody Greene and Caleb Hopkins. Also participating will be Rev. Dr. R. Alton Cadenhead, Jr., Senior Pastor, Providence Baptist Church; Dr. Diann Back, MMM President; and Angela Forde, MMM Chaplain.

CLEM: A WAY TO GIVE BACK



Carol Clem

With a mother who was church pianist and accordionist, a father who sang in a men's quartet on the radio, and a sister who was a church soloist, it is no wonder that Carol Clem's life is filled with music.

Carol graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Music Education with special emphasis on strings. She moved to Charlotte in 2003 when her husband James was transferred with the Billy Graham Association, a ministry he has worked in for thirty-four years.

Wasting no time, Carol became active in Covenant Baptist Church and, as she says, "The Lord and I founded Elm Lane Music School." The school serves youth and adults with a comprehensive music program consisting of lessons in piano, voice, guitar, brass, woodwinds, percussion and strings. Sacred and secular music is taught. The school also offers Suzuki Music classes for parents and children from birth to four years old. Carol retired in 2011 but continues to teach cello and violin lessons at the school. The school is presently staffed with thirteen teachers and nearly 200 students.

An outgrowth of the Elm Lane Music School is Dolce Strings and Company, a group of Christian teachers and advanced students from the school who play for weddings and special events. Carol coordinates this group which provides an outreach into the community and also an opportunity for the teachers and students to play together in small ensembles. It also gives people an opportunity to work with a Christian vendor.

No doubt it was her parents' stressing the importance of volunteering that has influenced Carol to give so much time to volunteering her talent. She is a cello mentor at CMS and uses music to encourage residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She believes that music is not only enjoyable for the residents but also calming and can bring back memories to those who struggle with remembering. She says, "I am so blessed by the people as they respond to my cello programs."

MMM is fortunate to have Carol Clem on its Board because in her daily life she sees volunteering as a blessing. More importantly, she uses her talent as an opportunity to touch others with music and God's love.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

One of the ways MMM carries out its mission is to provide scholarships to students who are interested in pursuing sacred music as a career.

The process starts early when the Auditions Committee, chaired by Lisa Siao with assistance from Ginger Wyrick, emails applications to colleges and university music departments in NC and SC. The email announces the auditions and includes a poster along with the three scholarship applications. Contact information is made available to speak with someone directly on the committee or to visit the website for more information on MMM. The emails are sent to music department administrators, applied teachers, and choral directors. We are also dependent on word of mouth solicitation by former winners among their student colleagues, teachers of former winners, members of the MMM board of directors, and our supporters.

Church music applicants must select three audition pieces from six categories: art song, aria (opera), aria (oratorio), spiritual or old American hymn, contemporary, and baroque. Organ applicants must select a hymn and two works of contrasting styles: a work composed in the Baroque/Classical period and a post-classical work. In addition they explain in writing and in an interview with the judges why they have chosen their career path.

This year the auditions were held at St. John's Baptist Church, a facility that provides ample warm-up rooms for vocalists and organists. Although the weather was drab and rainy, the applicants were enthusiastic and well prepared.

Your contribution to Metropolitan Music Ministries will place you in one of the following levels of support. Contributions are cumulative within each calendar year.

Friend	\$ 1-24	Sustainer	\$ 50-99
Supporter	\$25-49	Benefactor	\$100-499
Patron	\$500 and above		

General Fund \$ _____ Scholarship \$ _____

Thank you!

May we list your name in our Annual Report? Yes No

I am interested in volunteer opportunities.

Any gift to Metropolitan Ministries, Inc. may be made in Honor or Memory of Family or Friends.

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT FOR \$ _____

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Congratulations Scholarship Winners



Cody Greene



Cristiano Pessoa



Caleb Hopkins

LINDSTROM SCHOLARSHIP

Wingate University sophomore Cody Ryan Greene is the winner of the Cheryl Iley Lindstrom Church Music Scholarship. A student of Dr. John Blizzard, Cody has taken first place sophomore men in the National Association of Teachers of Singing as well as two years in the NC Honors Chorus. He is also a Choral Scholar with the First Baptist Church of Monroe.

Cody says that he has struggled to decide on his music major but after prayerful consideration he has decided on a BA in Music. "It was clear that I was being called into the music ministry field. I grew up in the church, singing in choir and performing solos." Cody believes that God gave him a sign to continue to his love and passion for Christ and share Him through his love of music.

He is excited to continue his education at Wingate and "I am very eager to see what God has in store for me in the music ministry field. This scholarship will help me continue my education and help me obtain my career goals.

MMM wishes Cody Godspeed in his search.

VANSCIVER SCHOLARSHIP

This year's Richard VanSciver Church Music Scholarship in Organ is Cristiano Pessoa, a native of Brazil who is now a graduate student at East Carolina University.

In Brazil the organ culture is practically nonexistent. For example in Rio de Janeiro with its nearly eight million people, there are only about ten organs. So Cristiano wanted to play the organ in his Catholic church because he was passionate and interested in playing "what I consider to be the authentic liturgical instrument."

Using a small organ at his school, he began practicing. Later he had the opportunity to take real organ lessons at East Carolina University as an exchange student. When he returned to Brazil he became the organist of the Benedictine Monastery and played on the oldest organ in South America.

Now Cristiano is back at East Carolina for graduate studies with his eye on a degree in sacred music/organ. He is also serving the First United Methodist Church in Washington, NC.

MMM salutes Cristiano as he contributes to the organ culture on two continents.

MARTHA STRAWN ILEY CHURCH MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Caleb Hopkins, a junior at Furman University was selected to receive the Martha Strawn Iley Church Music Scholarship. Caleb's home is in Greenwood, SC. His voice instructor is Dr. Bruce Schoonmaker. An honor student, Caleb is also the recipient of the Herring Church Music Endowed Scholarship. He is a Furman Scholar and has been chosen three times as a soloist with the Furman Oratorio.

Caleb writes that "I have always felt a special connection to sacred music, and church music has been an outlet through which I have been able to make a spiritual connection to God." He adds that music "plays an irreplaceable role in my worship each week both as a participant and listener."

Last summer Caleb worked at Passport, Inc., an ecumenical camp for youth with a mission emphasis. He plans to return this summer as worship coordinator and will be in charge of leading nightly worship. At Furman he plans to pursue a joint degree that would allow him to receive both a Masters of Music and a Masters of Divinity.

MMM is proud to be a part of Caleb's music career.

A FAVORITE OF MANY

Carol Clem's favorite hymn and a favorite of many is "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" by Thomas O. Chisolm. Chisolm wrote the poem in 1923 about God's faithfulness over his lifetime. Chisolm sent the song to William Runyan in Kansas, who was affiliated with the Moody Bible Institute and Hope Publishing Company. Runyan set the poem to music, and it was published that same year by Hope Publishing Company and became popular among church groups. The Biblical lyrics reference Lamentations 3:22. The song was exposed to wide audiences after becoming popular with Dr. William Henry Houghton of the Moody Bible Institute and Billy Graham who played the song frequently on his international crusades.

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee,
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not,
As thou has been, thou forever will be.*

Refrain:

*Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!
Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above;
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

(Refrain)

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own great presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.*

SCHOLARSHIP JUDGES



Dr. Adam Ward

This year MMM was fortunate to have two well-known area musicians judge the scholarship competition, Dr. Adam M. Ward and Monty Bennett.

Those who attended last year's Annual Service will remember Dr. Adam Ward as the director of the Choir of Directors. The previous year he brought the Providence United Methodist Church Chancel Choir to perform. Prior to coming to Providence, Adam served as Director of Music and Organist at First United Methodist Church in Salisbury. He has also served as Staff Accompanist at Catawba College, Director of the Concert Choir of Salisbury and Director of the Rowan Salisbury Choral Society. Adam says that "My biggest musical influences have been my childhood piano teacher, Paulette Wise, my college organ teacher, Robert Burns King and my college choral director, Bill Carroll." He holds degrees (BM, MM and DMA) from UNC-Greensboro in organ performance. "My favorite piece of music: hmmm... there are so many, but I LOVE the Requiems of Mozart and Duruflé."



Monty Bennett

Having been hailed as "one of the country's top young concert artists" by the Baldwin Organ Company, R. Monty Bennett began musical studies at an early age in his native California. A graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara, he was a student of Dr. James Welch, with whom he studied organ, carillon and harpsichord. Mr. Bennett has performed around the world as an organist, accompanist and conductor. He has served at Ebenezer Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, Calvary Church and Friendship Missionary Baptist Church both in Charlotte. Mr. Bennett is the Music Director at Temple Israel, Charlotte and the Organist of First Presbyterian Church, Salisbury, NC. He also serves as carillonneur for Christoph Paccard Bellfoundries of Charleston, SC. An active member of The American Guild of Organists from the age of 13, Mr. Bennett holds the Colleague certification of the AGO.

www.metromusicministries.org



"... my servants sing
for joy of heart."
Isaiah 65:14



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