

**The New Master Chorale 2013**  
**Michael L. Bower, Director**

**The Cathedral Singers 2006**



**HANDBOOK**  
**2020-2021!**

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And Librarian to this Choir

**The New Master Chorale Founded 2013**  
**And the St. Agnes Cathedral Singers Founded 2006**

This publication is a **2020/2021** resource for our membership. It provides Schedules, Calendar of Events and a Membership Directory. Address information should be kept **CONFIDENTIAL TO THE GROUP!**

**Performance Dress Code For Concerts:**

Ladies: Concert Performance Gown

Gentlemen: Black Tuxedo

**For Liturgical Events:**

Choir Vestments provided through St. Agnes Cathedral Music Department

**Musical Scores**

**Master Chorale 2013:** Presently, the Cathedral Music Department will provide needed scores, which may be collected after performances/events. Doreen Baldwin, is keeping a library of the Music here at St. Agnes for us!!

**The Cathedral Singers;** The Cathedral Singers should keep their scores in a library at home, and prepare them for rehearsals and events.

Secondary copies may be available at the Music Offices as needed.

### **The New Master Chorale 2013**

Since my arrival from Princeton, in 1984, I've had the good fortune of meeting many, many wonderful people here in New York. Amongst these folks are a group of exceptional professional singers, who enjoy the art of singing in a group: making Great Choral Music! While, these singing friends come from various Communities of Faiths, we find a commonality in singing the Great Music of History.

The group was founded in the Fall of 2013 and is comprised of some of the finest choral singing artists in the New York Area. The MasterChorale made its debut in June of 2014 performing Brahms's "A German Requiem" (Ein Deutsches Requiem). The goal of the group is offer an opportunity for the singers to gather, work on their craft (singing, sight reading, learn choral techniques from Maestro Bower) network with other professionals in the New York Area, and enjoy each other's social company!

2014-2015 projects included: performing with the Cathedral Choirs in a Christmas Concert on December 12, a solo debut concert on May 31, and a Concert Tour to Ireland/England. The 2015-2016 season featured a performance of Handel's "Messiah" in December and a Residency at Carnegie Hall in April. 2016-2017 Season: events included a 9/11 Memorial performance of John Rutter's "Requiem," a concert at St. Francis Xavier Church, NYC, and Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9." 2017-2018 Season: SeptemberFEST, the Christmas Spectacular with Fr. Charles Mangano and Laurie Mangano, and the Concert Tour to Germany, Austria, and Prague, which included a performance of Mozart's "Requiem" in St. Stephen's Cathedral, with Gerald Wirth and the Vienna Boys Choir. The 2018-2019 Season included a spectacular performance of the "Requiem" in St. Agnes Cathedral, soon to be appear on WLIW! 2019-2020: Grand Christmas Concert which aired on Television on Christmas Day.

**The Cathedral Singers** ensemble was founded on August 21 of 2006. The group is composed of eight/PLUS singers from the Cathedral Music program which includes the professional cantors and the section leaders from the Cathedral's Choir of Men and Boys and the Cathedral Chorale.

The singers are marvelous soloists who also have a tremendous love for ensemble singing. This ensemble specializes in a cappella music from the "Golden Age" of Renaissance choral music to 21<sup>st</sup> Century works. Repertoire includes the great sacred music of the Church as well as Elizabethan madrigals and stunning arrangements of American and European folk songs.

Members of the Choir have studied and worked with notable ensembles and conductors, including the Tallis Scholars, Chanticleer, Anonymous 4, The Westminster Choir, Robert Shaw, John Rutter, Joseph Flummerfelt, John Scott, Stephen Cleobury, Daniel Moe, and Timothy Brown.

The Cathedral Singers made its debut in December of 2006, appearing on Telecare (Long Island Diocesan Television Station). They have also performed at a benefit concert for the American Cancer Society at St. Joseph's Church, Garden City, and at the Lynbrook Library Performing Arts Hall. Each Good Friday, the Cathedral Singers performs the famous Vatican Motet "Miserere Mei" of Allegri and "Hear My Prayer" of Henry Purcell.

Other engagements have included the Cathedral Chorale Long Island Festival, September 11 Memorial Concert at Molloy College, St. Rocco's Church Glen Cove, All Souls Mass in the Cathedral, and the Conference of Cathedral Music Directors.

The ensemble performed with Lutenist Sir Christopher Morrongiello (350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Town of Freeport, Long Island), performed at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C., and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance of 9/11 at St. Agnes Cathedral, and sang on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert of the Dedication of the Cathedral's new pipe organs.

In 2012, The Cathedral Singers released two selections on a new professional recording along with the Chorale and Schola Cantorum, and in 2013, showcased their exquisite choral arts at the South Shore Symphony Concert. 2013-2014 Season: the group was featured with Maestro Bower's Choirs of Men, Teens, and Boys performing Mozart's Missa Brevis, K 259 (the Organ Solo Mass). This Outstanding Group carried the Music for Holy Week and other Special Performances for March—August of 2020, as the larger choirs were not able to gather, because of Covid-19.

**Michael L. Bower**, Conductor and organist, continues to enjoy the privilege of directing this wonderful group of talented musicians here on Long Island! A native of Floyd, Virginia, he began formal piano lessons at age six and was playing for Sunday school services in his home church by 12. He began teaching himself to play the organ at age 13 and held his first position as church organist at Zion Lutheran Church in Floyd at age 15.

Mr. Bower received his Bachelor's Degree Magna Cum Laude in Sacred Music and Organ Performance from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, where he studied organ with Donald McDonald, harpsichord with Mark Brombaugh, and conducting with Joseph Flummerfelt. He was a three-time recipient of the William and Mary Rennecker merit scholarship. During his undergraduate years, Mr. Bower pursued additional organ study with Marilyn Keiser of Indiana University and boys choir training with James Litton, Director of the American Boys Choir, Princeton and Gerre Hancock, St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York. He was also a member of Donald Allured's Concert Handbell Choir.

In 1985, he was appointed Associate Director of Music for St. Agnes Cathedral. At this time, he assisted Christoph Tietze in the development of a professional music program, including multiple choirs. He founded the Cathedral Girls Choir and trained the probationer group of the Boys Choir. In 1987, Bower continued specialized studies in organ and boys choir training with Stephen Cleobury at Kings College, Cambridge, and conducting with John Rutter at Clare College, Cambridge, England.

Michael earned his Master's Degree with Honors in Organ Performance from Manhattan School of Music in 1992, where he studied organ with John Walker, Baroque continuo with Kenneth Cooper, and conducting with Amy Keiser. At graduation, Bower received the John Cerovalo award for his outstanding performance of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. He has also done graduate work in liturgy at Notre Dame University and the National Pastoral Musicians Institute. Bower has performed organ recitals on the East Coast, the Mid-West, Germany, Austria, Italy, France, and England. He has performed on the organ at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and with the Long Island Choral Society of Garden City, New York. Bower also performed Ned Rorem's "Quaker Reader" in a concert at Columbia University as part of a festival celebrating the composer's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1998. Michael is featured on the Christmas CD of the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys

released in December 2002, playing five solo organ selections. He has been a regional workshop clinician in choral vocal production, boys choirs, and organ performance.

Michael's duties at St. Agnes Cathedral include directing the 75-voice Choir of Men and Boys, the 80-voice Cathedral Chorale (Adult), and the Schola Cantorum (16-voice a capella ensemble), and the Cathedral Singers (extremely vocally gifted octet ensemble of the Cathedral's professional singers). Most recently, he has created the Diocesan Boys Choir of Rockville Centre. Mr. Bower has prepared and conducted the Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra in performances of many choral masterworks including Handel's *Messiah*, Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Haydn's *Harmoniemesse*, and Mozart's *Requiem*. He has also toured with the Choir of Men and Boys to sing at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York City, The White House, and the Cathedral Basilica of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. In 1998, he prepared the Cathedral Chorale for a performance at Carnegie Hall conducted by John Rutter. In 2000, Michael prepared the Chorale and other Rockville Centre choral singers for a Millennium performance of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. Michael was the Dean of the Nassau County Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Chair of the International Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians, and past member of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission of Rockville Centre.

Other projects of Mr. Bower include recording at the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College for Pipedreams Radio Broadcast in October 2004, playing Widor's *Opus 42 Symphony in g minor* with the South Shore Symphony of Rockville Centre, and performing on the famed Cavaillé Coll organ at the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris, in July of 2005. In 2007, he performed a solo organ recital at Westminster Abbey, London. In January of 2008, he hosted the Conference of Cathedral Music Directors of the United States and Canada at St. Agnes Cathedral and presented a number of choirs and soloists in concert. That February, he performed Samuel Barber's organ concerto *Toccata Festiva* with the South Shore Symphony and Schola Cantorum. More recent events include taking The Choir of Men and Boys on a singing tour to Washington, D.C., teaching a choral conducting seminar at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. Five years ago, he founded a new Diocesan Boys Choir of 45 select young singers and performed organ concerto works at St. Peter's Church, Citicorp Center in 2011. In 2011, he prepared and conducted the Cathedral Choirs in a performance of John Rutter's *Requiem*, and recorded a new Christmas CD with the Choir of Men and Boys and Diocesan Boys Choir. In 2012, he took 100 singers from the Cathedral Choirs and Diocesan Boys Choir on a 10-Day Tour of Italy (July of 2012).

In 2013-2014, projects including taking a select ensemble of 60 singers from his marvelous choirs to perform in the Hallmark Christmas Concert at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Fifth Avenue, New York City, presenting the Brahms *Requiem* and Mozart *Mass*.

The 2014-2015 Season saw the GREAT SUCCESS of the Christmas Spectacular Concert in St. Agnes, and the Choirs Concert Tour to Ireland/England of July 2015!

Maestro Bower opened the Concert Year of 2015-2016 for St. Agnes with a solo organ recital, recorded on a new compact CD, produced and directed Handel's "Messiah," presented the Westminster Choir at the Madison Theatre of Molloy College, and took a select group of his Cathedral, Diocesan, and Master Chorale singers to perform in Carnegie Hall!!

2016-2017 Season: he directed the 9/11 Memorial Concert of Rutter's "Requiem" and other masterworks, prepared the Beethoven 9th Symphony choral parts, and performed Handel's "Opus 4, No. 4 Organ Concerto."

2017-2018: SeptemberFEST, Guest Conducting the Sistina Cappella, the Christmas Concert Spectacular, performing the Poulenc Organ Concerto, and taking the Choirs on Concert Tour to Germany, Austria, and Prague. Mozart "Requiem" im StephensDom, Wien!

2018-2019 Season: Conducting 100s of elementary and high school student singers in two choral festivals in New York City for the International Choir Organization Pueri Cantores!

2019-2020 Season: Organ Concert at St. Patrick's Cathedral, playing in the Dr. John Walker Master-Class, and conducting the Christmas Concert in St. Agnes Cathedral!



**The New Master Chorale 2013  
And the Cathedral Singers  
2020 - 2021 Schedule**  
(Please note that items on this schedule are subject to change)

**September**

Organization continues to prepare for the season, events, and music!

**We will attempt to gather and sing, contingent on Covid-19 situations.  
Please watch for information at it is posted!**

27 *Happy Birthday Maestro Michael Bower!*



**October**

18 Sunday 6:30-8:30 PM MASTER-CHORALE/Cathedral  
Singers Rehearsal! At the St. Agnes Cathedral Music Room\*  
**\*OPENING REHEARSAL!!!\*Parish Center/Cathedral/or Other Safe  
Location TBD**

**November**

8 Sunday 6:30-8:30 PM MASTER-CHORALE/Cathedral  
Singers Rehearsal! At the St. Agnes Cathedral Music Room! **\*Parish  
Center/Cathedral/or Other Safe Location TBD**

**\*The Cathedral Chorale Rehearses Every Thursday, from September to May—if your other group(s) are not meeting, you would be welcomed to attend. I intend to meet with this group, in larger spaces, i.e. the Parish Center, possibly the Lower Hall, or the Cathedral.**

**Please note that we will practice safe distancing, wear masks, and do temperature checks, to make sure no one has a fever.**



**Again, please note that these items are tentative, as per Covid-19 guidelines.**

November (con't)

26 Thursday Happy Thanksgiving to ALL!



December Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah to All!

13 Sunday 6:30—8:30 PM  
Final Piano Rehearsal for Christmas Concert at St. Patrick's Cath-



16 Wednesday 7:30—9:30 PM \* Time TBD  
Dress Rehearsal in St. Patrick's Cathedral for Christmas Concert

17 Thursday 7:30 Concert in the Cathedral  
6:30 Warm-ups Time TBD

10 or 17 Thursday 8:00-10:00 PM Dress Rehearsal in the Cathedral OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION for Prelude Service and Midnight Mass TENTATIVE



24 Thursday 10:30 AM Warm-ups OPTIONAL  
11:30 Prelude Service of Music & Midnight Mass

January 2021! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

16 OR 23 Saturday 5:00 PM Feast of St. Agnes Mass. Rehearsal at 4:00

17 Sunday 6:30-8:30 PM MASTER-CHORALE Rehearsal!  
At the St. Agnes Cathedral Music Room, **HOPEFULLY, or other safe location!** - with a vaccine provided to the World!

18 Martin Luther King Day

February

15 – 19 happy winter vacation for some people!

21 Sunday 6:30-8:30 PM MASTER-CHORALE Rehearsal!  
At the St. Agnes Cathedral Music Room.

March

7 Sunday 6:30-8:30 PM MASTER-CHORALE/Cathedral Singers Rehearsal! At the St. Agnes Cathedral Music Room

**March (con')**

**4 or 11 Thursday 7:00 PM Cathedral Singers Rehearsal for Chrism Mass  
OTHER SINGERS ARE WELCOMED AS WELL!!!**

**18\* Dress Rehearsal for Holy Week Liturgies!  
Cathedral Singers at 7:00.**

**25\* 8:00 PM Dress Rehearsal for Holy Week Liturgies—Please inquire!**

**April**

**Happy Passover/Easter Week**

**' BEST TO ALL AND YOUR RELIGIOUS SERVICES/  
OBSERVANCES**

**1, 3, 3, 4 Special Singing for Holy Week Liturgies.  
– Please inquire!**

**2 Good Friday CATHEDRAL SINGERS FOR GOOD FRIDAY  
3:00 PM LITURGY. Rehearsal at 1:30.**



**4 Easter Sunday 11:00 AM Mass—Cathedral Singers  
Rehearsal at 10:00 AM**

**May**

**Rehearsal/Performance Events TBD**

**June**

**Rehearsal/Performance Events TBD**

**End-of-the Year Party!!!TBD!!!**

