

Liturgical Music Colloquium Points to Ideal

April 12, 2006, Washington, D.C. -- Gregorian Chant has been called the most beautiful music this side of Heaven. But as Pope Benedict XVI and the Second Vatican Council have emphasized, it is also integral to Catholic liturgical life and should be heard and experienced with wide participation in every parish.

The Church Music Association of America is working to bring about this ideal with its Summer Music Colloquium, June 20-25, 2006, held at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

The Colloquium features instruction in chant and the Catholic sacred music tradition, participation in chant and polyphonic choirs, nightly lectures and performances, along with daily celebrations of liturgies in both English and Latin at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



Attendance is open to anyone interested in improving the quality of music in Catholic worship. Professional musicians will appreciate the rigor, while enthusiastic volunteer singers will enjoy the opportunity to study under an expert faculty.

Attendees also benefit from camaraderie with like-minded musicians who share their love of the liturgy of the Church.

It is the CMAA's 16th annual colloquium. Growing awareness and appreciation of chant and its solemnity has generated particular excitement about the conference this year.

"The greatest need of liturgy today is the restoration of the sense of the sacred," writes CMAA President William Mahrt of Stanford University. "Music has a principal role, since it expresses that sense of the sacred and sustains it through time."

The faculty for the week includes Professor Mahrt, who is also the new editor of the quarterly journal *Sacred Music*, chant instructor Amy Zuberbueler (Ward Center, San Antonio, Texas), schola conductor Scott Turkington (Stamford, Connecticut), music professor Kurt Poterack (Christendom College), choirmaster Horst Buchholz (Denver Philharmonic Orchestra), and the eminent Church musician Fr. Robert Skeris (Ward Center, CUA).

The cost of the conference, which includes room, board, and materials, is \$485. A special day rate is available for \$50. You can register online at www.musicasacra.com or write The Ward Center, Catholic University, Washington, D.C. 20064. contact: skeris@cua.edu

