May 8th, 2016
Seventh Sunday of Easter

As the closing concert of our CHORAL AMERICA season approaches, I want to share some thoughts regarding the repertoire for the evening and why these pieces were chosen. In our October concert, we led with Leonard Bernstein’s *Chichester Psalms*—a staple of American choral tradition—and included works by Samuel Barber and the late Stephen Paulus. The PASSION concert in March featured works written in recent decades by two living composers who were able to join us.

On Wednesday, May 11th, we will present *Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs*, an *a cappella* cross-section of American choral music. African-American and Jewish composers will be represented, as well as works by five female composers, four of them our contemporaries. We felt tasked to produce a concert that somehow mirrored the diversity of this great nation we call home.

It is an understatement to say that America’s art music owes an enormous debt to the European masters. There would have been no Bernstein, Copland, Barber, or Glass, without Bach, Handel, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, and Schubert, and many others. But American music possesses an additional ingredient that has profoundly influenced composers on both sides of the pond: jazz. This hybrid of art music and popular sensibilities began evolving during the late 19th-century in the less desirable parts of cities, and spent the first three decades of the 20th-century embarrassed by its surroundings, finally coming of age during the Great Depression and World War II. One of the primary sources that gave birth to jazz was the African-American Spiritual. When we sing *Let us break bread together* on Holy Thursday and *Were you there* on Good Friday, we are partakers in the tradition of the spiritual.

In 1867, an anthology called *Slave Songs of the United States* was published. It contained 136 songs, many of them focused on religious topics. These became known as spirituals. The spiritual was more than a way to express frustration or maintain dignity in the face of intolerable circumstances. It was also a straightforward method of communication about practical matters, such as how and when to escape the plantation and where to go once you’d left. Spirituals were replete with coded language, mentioning specific landmarks—trees, rivers, fields, and fences—that would point the way to freedom. The spiritual—and this would probably be a great surprise to the slaves who improvised them—became a powerful undercurrent in all of American music, classical and popular.

Included in this concert are six pieces from the African-American tradition by noted composers Bobby McFerrin, Harry T. Burleigh (himself the grandson of a slave), Adolphus Hailstork, and Hall Johnson. Songs such as *Deep River*, *Sometimes I feel like a motherless child*, and *Ain’t got time to die* are messages to us from a time and place not so distant from our own, a world in which exploitation, greed, poverty, and willful ignorance crushed an entire population.

As a nation, we still need those messages, we have far to go, and I am convinced that music can help us evolve. But it can also help us celebrate the fact that in all of human history, no civilization has successfully assimilated as many cultures—while allowing them to retain essential defining characteristics—as ours. I certainly do not mean to minimize the horrors of colonization and slavery. This is our original national sin, and many future generations will go about the work of untangling the webs of hatred and racism that still cause so much suffering. The rise of xenophobia, the belittling of women in the workplace and in pop culture, and the demeaning of our LGBT friends are clear signs that the work is not nearly done. But this is why we sing these songs. Our hope is that in joining our voices with those long gone, whose blood was spilled in the fields, and with those suffering around us now, we can take their prayers and cries into our hearts. We now belong to them, and they to us. One human family. And in doing this, God willing, we can all begin to heal.

— K. Scott Warren
Director of Music Ministries
**Parishioners and Friends of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish are cordially invited to attend LifeWay Network’s Spring Fundraiser**

**Event Towards New Life: Walking Together Towards Freedom**

Thursday, May 19th
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM in Wallace Hall

*Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served.*

This event supports LifeWay Network, which collaborates to combat human trafficking through safe housing and education.** Tickets: $150

Visit [www.lifewaynetwork.org](http://www.lifewaynetwork.org) to register and pay online, or mail payment to LifeWay Network, Inc., PO Box 754215, Forest Hills, NY 11375

**Volunteers Needed for Build Project**

Saturday, May 21st
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers for an upcoming build project. The project is likely to be in Staten Island as part of Habitat’s ongoing effort to assist families with the restoration of homes affected by Hurricane Sandy.

All volunteers must be 16 years of age or older.

If you would like to volunteer, and can commit to participating for the full day, please email Peter Wood at PeterWoodNYC@aol.com

**Offering of Letters Campaign for Bread for the World**

Saturday, May 21st & Sunday, May 22nd
In the Narthex after all Masses

The focus of this year’s letter-writing campaign is to urge members of Congress to increase funding for the nutrition and health of mothers, infants, and children.

Members of ISJ will be in the Narthex after each Mass to assist parishioners with their letters.

**In 2014, more than 48 million Americans lived in households that struggled to put food on the table.**

**Moving? Please don’t forget to notify your church. This information helps us to keep our database current.**

**For your convenience**

To reach the Giving page on the parish website, scan the **QR Code** at left.
MUSIC

SUNDAY, MAY 22ND
3:00 PM

Rejoice in the Lord!
A Music Ministry Celebration
Sunday, May 22nd
3:00 PM

The Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, Parish Community Choir, Wallace Hall Choir, Canticum Sacrum, and Children's Choirs join forces in gratitude and joy.

FREE WILL OFFERING.
NO TICKETS NECESSARY.

Tickets for all concerts are available online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.

SOCIAL MEDIA CHURCH OF MERCY

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, May 9th (Seventh Monday of Easter)
Acts 19:1–8    Psalm 68    John 16:29–33
8:30 MEM Jordan Thomas Bayer
12:10 MEM Emilio Dancel
5:30 MEM Ronald J. Donacik

Tuesday, May 10th (Seventh Tuesday of Easter)
Acts 20:17–27    Psalm 68    John 17:1–11a
8:30 MEM James Johnson
12:10 MEM Charles Griffith
5:30 MEM Deyanira Giraldo Bocanegro

Wednesday, May 11th (Seventh Wednesday of Easter)
8:30 MEM The Choix & Gordon Families
12:10 MEM Charles Griffith
5:30 MEM Glenn Pallen

Thursday, May 12th (Seventh Thursday of Easter)
8:30 MEM John & Nora Reilly
12:10 MEM Joan Marvin
5:30 MEM Chuck Gerber

Friday, May 13th (Seventh Friday of Easter)
8:30 MEM Loyola Smith
12:10 MEM Peter Collins
5:30 MEM Michael Piccolo

Saturday, May 14th (St. Matthias)
8:30 MEM The Francis R. Lyons Family

Sunday, May 15th (Pentecost)
Acts 2:1–11    1 Corinthians 12:3b–7
Psalm 104    John 20:19–23

THANK YOU!

Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul thank all the donors who participated in the recent Blood Drive.

Out of 30 registered donors, 22 life-saving blood donations were collected, which will positively affect 63 lives in NYC.

The New York Blood Center can only achieve their lifesaving mission with your help and the thousands of donors who take the time to give.

“...from Christ means being close to him, being close to Jesus. Jesus stresses the importance of this with the disciples at the Last Supper, as he prepares to give us his own greatest gift of love, his sacrifice on the cross. Jesus uses the image of the vine and the branches and says, Abide in my love, remain attached to me, as the branch is attached to the vine. If we are joined to him, then we are able to bear fruit.”

— Pope Francis, The Church of Mercy
Volunteer Opportunity. The Community of St. Egidio is looking for volunteers for their activities in Manhattan, including preparing and distributing food to homeless men and women and visiting a nursing home on the Upper East Side. If you are interested, contact Paola at 646-765-3899 or at santegidiosa@gmail.com

Lecture Series: The Jubilee Year of Mercy — A Faith Formation Experience with Dr. Bernie Swain. Tuesday, May 17th – Thursday, May 19th, 7:00 PM. The Church of St. Monica, 413 East 79th Street. This series will examine mercy's place in our daily lives, focusing on the questions "What does 'Merciful Like the Father' really mean?" and "How can we 'evangelize by attraction'?" Dr. Bernie Swain is a noted theologian, author, and parish consultant. With over 40 years of pastoral ministry experience, Dr. Swain is also the author of Liberating Leadership, which analyzes collaborative ministry, and has written for a variety of publications, including Atlantic Monthly, Commonweal, Harvard Theological Review, and Miami Herald.

Lecture: Not Born Bad — The Catholic Truth About Original Sin. Saturday, May 21st, 6:00 PM. New York University, Catholic Center, Washington Square South, 238 Thompson Street. Presented by Archbishop J. Augustine Di Noia, O.P., Adjunct Secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Reception to follow. This event is free but registration is required. To reserve tickets, visit cardinaleganlecture.com or call 914-502-1859.

Interested in Becoming Catholic? If you feel attracted to the Catholic faith, we want you to know about a program at the Parish will begin in the Fall. A group will meet here during the year to inquire into the Catholic faith, to come to know Jesus through the Gospels, and to pray and to prepare for the Easter Sacraments. This process is also open to those Catholic adults who have not received the Sacraments of First Communion or Confirmation.

For more information, contact Maureen Fullam at 212-288-3588 or email church@stignatiusloyola.org

Music Information: (212) 288-2520 Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org