



# Grace Notes

*A publication of Metropolitan Music Ministries, Inc.  
MAY 2010*

## *President's Corner*



*Diann Back*

Charlotte is unique in that it's blessed with many wonderful not-for-profit organizations. These organizations stepped up to provide food and shelter during this past winter's extremely cold winter. They also helped with heating bills and clothing. They exemplified the scripture, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). I have no doubt that these groups will continue to find ways to help people

who struggle to cope with the current economic crisis.

I have no doubt that Metropolitan Music Ministries (MMM), a not-for-profit, will continue to support the spirits of those in need in our community. This group of dedicated musicians and its supporters bring sacred and secular music and inspirational programs to the Uptown Homeless Shelter, Rebound, long-term care facilities, and to many individuals in our community who may be unable to attend church regularly. I like to think that MMM works to create small blessings in our community. The volunteers give pats on the back, hugs, and gifts of music and programs to people throughout the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area. Over the years, those small blessings have added up! Just imagine, since MMM was founded on October 7, 1984, over 426,210 individuals have received blessings from over 10,081 MMM programs and projects!

Former National Geographic photographer Dewitt Jones remembers that his mother always told him to start each day with "a full cup". Following his mother's advice, Jones urges us to start each day by being thankful for our small blessings - a parking space, a crackling fire, a great meal, a glorious sunset, the melody of our favorite hymn, hot soup, cool shade, the distant peal of church bells, and so many other small gifts that we often take for granted. MMM volunteers start each day with an overflowing cup that enables them to touch the lives of those whose spirits need comforting.

I'm honored to be a member of MMM and truly proud of all the volunteers who share their love of music with others in so many ways, including the MMM Annual Service and the MMM scholarship program. Thanks to all the volunteers who gladly share their "full cups" with others.

Sincerely, *Diann P. Back*

## *From the Past Chairman of the Board*



*Martha Iley*

### **"Remembering Bryce: Behind the Scenes Servant"**

In the summer of 1978 my husband Bryce and I were driving toward the Florida Keys when I told him about my Call to Ministry. While this was surprising news to him, he took a few minutes to ponder what he had just heard. His response: "If God has something special for you to do, I will help you in every possible way." Somehow, I already knew

what he would say. He assumed that the Call was for him also. It was several years after that before Metropolitan Music Ministries was initiated. However, through all of the steps to that point, and through all of the development stages for the ministry, he helped, encouraged, and supported for as long as he lived. How blessed I was to have had such a wonderful helpmate! Since his Homegoing in November of 2009, I have often thought of a verse he highlighted in his Bible, "Many waters cannot quench love..." (Song of Solomon 8:7). Even now, in my mind I can picture his sending us a message: "Stay strong in the faith. Be faithful in ministry. Keep singing."

Since many of you knew him and realize the impact he had on MMM, I wanted to share a little story with you.

### **THE LAST ROSE... A Love Story**

Bryce delighted in bringing me flowers from our yard. He brought gardenias, magnolias, camellias, and occasionally roses. We had only one rose plant, a backyard fence climbing bush that was erratic in its blooming times. Regardless of the month of the year, he would often say, "This may be the Last Rose of Summer." During his last months his legs became frail, and he had to use a walker. One day I missed him. He was not in the house. As I frantically looked for him, I glanced out the kitchen window. There he was at the fence having made the long journey down there painfully with his walker, cutting a rose for me! On November 22, the day after his funeral, my daughters and I were standing in the kitchen. Stephanie looked out the window, and she saw the glimmer of color on that rose bush. She hastened out to cut it...truly the Last Rose of Summer.

Thanks to God for Bryce, my dear husband with the Servant Heart.

Grace and Peace, *Martha Strawn Iley*

## 2010 Church Music Scholarships Awarded

Metropolitan Music Ministries continues its fourteen year tradition of supporting deserving undergraduate and/or graduate students pursuing degrees or having an interest in church music. The ministry sent scholarship applications to 85 colleges in North and South Carolina. Consequently, twelve students from eight universities competed for Church Music Scholarships on April 10th at St. John's Baptist church. Much appreciation goes to the committee members Nancy Armstrong, Diann Back, Angela Forde, Lisa Siao (Chair), Julia Souther (Voice Sub-Chair), Vel Turner, Carole Whittington (Piano Sub-Chair), and Ginger Wyrick (Organ Sub-Chair) who assisted with auditions and provided refreshments.

### *Congratulations 2010 Church Music Scholarship Winners!*



*Julia Byrd,  
The Cheryl Elise Iley Lindstrom  
Church Music Scholarship  
in Piano winner, 2010*



*David Brinson,  
The Richard Vansciver  
Church Music Scholarship  
in Organ winner, 2010*



*Colin Ruffer,  
The Martha Strawn Iley  
Church Music Scholarship  
in Voice winner, 2010*

The Cheryl Else Iley Lindstrom Church Music Scholarship in Piano was won by Julia Byrd, a student of Dr. John A. Cheek, Lenoir-Rhyne University and daughter of Kerry and Angela Byrd of Connelly Springs NC. Julia accompanies her church's worship team and provides music for other congregational events. Dr. Cheek writes in his recommendation letter that "In a time when the intrinsic values of classic music are lost on many, Julia labors to bring the joys and sorrow of the music to her audience, and thus does a great service." The MMM Judges for this category were Dr. Robert Frazier and Dr. Michael Letinen.

The Richard Vansciver Church Music Scholarship in Organ was won by David Brinson, student of Dr. Timothy Albrecht, Emory University, son of Earl and Renda Brinson of Matthews NC. David serves two Presbyterian churches in Georgia and previously served as Director of Music Ministries at Matthews Presbyterian Church. David writes in his essay that "I feel that this opportunity to serve as a leader in church music has greatly enriched my life, given me more focus, shown me what I need to improve on and led me to a closer relationship with God, all of which has made me a better graduate student." The MMM judges for this category were Dr. Adam Ward and Gay Pappin.

The Martha Strawn Iley Church Music Scholarship in Voice was won by Colin Ruffer, student of Dr. Jerry Helton, Winthrop University, son of Barbara Rogers of Clover, SC. Colin serves as music director for Mt. Holly United Methodist Church in Rock Hill SC. Colin writes in his essay, "I continue to spread my love of the Lord through song, and it will be a part of my life forever. When one cannot find words for what they are trying to say...it's time to sing! The MMM judges for this category were Bob Pritchard and Alisa McCain.

All the winners have been invited to participate in the Annual Celebration of Music in Worship Service on September 26, 2010. We look forward to having these talented and accomplished musicians join us in the fall.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**25th Annual Celebration of Music in Worship**  
**Sunday, September 26, 2010, 6:00 pm**  
**Providence Baptist Church**  
**4921 Randolph Road, Charlotte, NC 28211**



## *25th Annual Celebration of Music in Worship "A Song of Life"*

The twenty-fifth annual Celebration of Music in Worship Service will be held at 6:00 pm on Sunday, September 26, 2010 at Providence Baptist Church. Pre-service music will begin at 5:40 pm. The theme is "A Song of Life" taken from Psalm 104:33, "I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live." The organist will be Diann Clark, and Dr. Luther Wade will serve as liturgist. David Hines, Dr. Martha Iley and Ginger Wyrick will alternate as conductors for the various corporate musical pieces. Clergy members Dr. Al Cadenhead, Rev. Ron Riley, and Rev. Judah L. Jones along with MMM President Dr. Diann P. Back will be participating in the service.

This year MMM welcomes the following choral groups and musicians to this evening of sacred musical worship: The Concert Choir of Charlotte Children's Choirs, directed by Sandy Holland; Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble, directed by Cedric Meekens; Johnson C. Smith University Choir, directed by Bruce Thompson; Providence Baptist Church Adult Ensemble, directed by Carey Cannon; and the Providence United Methodist Church Choir, directed Dr. Adam Ward.

The Choir of Directors, under the direction of guest conductor Dr. Ray Sprague will also be performing. Richard Spangler, John Harding, Patti Lutz, and Mac Willet will make up the Brass Ensemble. The 2010 MMM scholarship award winners will also perform during the service.

Mark your calendar now as you will not want to miss this extraordinary service!

### *MMM Welcomes New Board Members*

MMM is pleased to welcome four new members to the Board of Directors: Nancy Armstrong, Mitchell Hagler, Dr. Matthew Manwarren, and Velma Turner.

**Nancy Armstrong** is a native of Blacksburg, Virginia. She and husband Fred have a daughter Kim and a grandson Mason. A graduate of Queens University, the Armstrongs attend St. John's Episcopal Church. Nancy is a retired high school math teacher. She has special interests in music, sports, and especially the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte.

**Mitchell Hagler** recently retired from Central Piedmont Community College after 42 years in teaching and administration. He also worked for seven years in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Mitchell and wife Judy have two sons and two granddaughters with another grandchild on the way. Mitchell grows over 400 different daylilies in his Concord garden. He is a national daylily judge and a Master Gardener. The Haglers are active members of Cokesbury United Methodist Church.

**Dr. Matthew Manwarren** is a long way from his birthplace in Farmington, New Mexico. He received his undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University and his MM and DMA degrees from Cincinnati Conservatory. Matthew is Piano Professor at Winthrop University and is also organist at Myers Park Baptist Church where he is a member. Matthew enjoys reading, cooking, traveling, fine dining, and movies.

**Velma (Vel) Turner** hails from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Vel and husband Carl are members of Covenant Presbyterian Church. Vel received a BA from Hope College and a Master's Degree from the University of Central Florida. Vel is a retired high school administrator and Sharon Towers administrator. Vel is active in the Oratorio Singers of Charlotte and enjoys music, cooking, reading, and camping. At Covenant, she serves on the Bereavement Committee.

### *Dr. Ray Sprague, Guest Conductor*



*Dr. Ray Sprague*

As is the tradition of MMM, a Choir of Music Directors from local churches and organizations will be formed to sing as part of the Annual Celebration of Music in Worship Service on September 26. We are honored this year to welcome Dr. Ray Sprague as the guest conductor of this Choir.

Dr. Sprague is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Davidson College, where he conducts the Concert Choir and Chorale as well as teaching courses in music history. Dr. Sprague came to Davidson from the University of New Orleans where he was the Virginia Koch Professor of Music, Associate Chair of the Music Department, and Director of Choral Activities. He received a BA from Williams College, an MM in theory and composition from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, and a DMA in choral literature and performance from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Dr. Sprague is active as a clinician and adjudicator and is a member of the National Collegiate Choral Organization and a life member of the American Choral Directors Association

If you are a Choir Director and would like to join the Choir of Directors for the Annual service under the direction of Dr. Sprague, please contact MMM at 704-529-1616.

## *Music Calls Her*



*Ginger Wyrick*

No matter what Ginger Wyrick is doing at the time, the world of music is not very far away. And no matter the subject, sooner or later it comes back to music. This is because Ginger Wyrick is the professional's professional.

With her bright red hair, her trim body, and always the sparkle in her eye, Ginger is an MMM Director who chairs the organ scholarship committee and serves on the Annual Service Committee. She is currently the state president of the American Choral Directors Association and is a member of the Choristers Guild, the American Guild of Organists, and a number of piano teacher groups.

Ginger is currently an assistant professor of music at Queens University where she has taught since 1997. At Queens she is busy directing the Chamber Singers and leading them in concerts and an annual spring tour. She directs the Royal Showstoppers serving the university as "Entertainment

Ambassadors" also. In the classroom she teaches in the piano proficiency tract.

Since she was a little girl, Ginger has always wanted to play the piano, although she does not come from a musically talented family. "Music called me", she asserts. In high school she played flute and still does. At UNC-Greensboro, Ginger majored in music education with a concentration in piano/choral. She received a Master of Music degree with a focus on conducting, and a Master of Sacred Music with a focus on choral conducting from Southern Methodist University.

While in high school and continuing to the present, Ginger has served the local church. Since 1995, she has served the Charlotte region as a substitute and interim organist/director. She also assists churches in transition between leadership by assisting music search committees through the process. To do this, she has to stay familiar with all Protestant worship styles.

This tireless music cheerleader recently worked with CMS music teachers to help them with curriculum development. This year she served as the guest conductor of the CMS Elementary Honors Choir working with 150 fourth and fifth graders to present a concert. Her reputation has earned her an invitation to Germany to conduct a concert in honor of the 250th anniversary of Queen Charlotte's coronation. She has also traveled to Bulgaria to conduct the Vidin Philharmonic in a performance of Elijah by Mendelssohn.

If she is not playing or conducting, Ginger is busy writing and editing books and curriculum resources for Abingdon Press.

And her personal life? Ginger is married to Richard Hipp, an avid runner and applied software developer. They enjoy hiking and vegetable gardening.

MMM, high school and college youth, the faith community, and all who love music are fortunate for the energy, talent, and commitment of Ginger Wyrick.

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## *With Sympathy and Thanks*

MMM extends sincere condolences to Catherine Stout Cannon, one of the co-founders of MMM who recently lost her husband, Joe. Catherine became involved along with Rebecca Echerd and Martha Iley in getting groups to perform in nursing homes. This was the start of a ministry that this year celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Catherine started taking piano lessons when she was eight and is still working full-time in music as pianist/organist at Southside Baptist Church in the Sedgefield area of Charlotte. She also writes musical arrangements for the young girls of the church. She lives in Matthews.

MMM is indebted to the calling of these three women. Martha continues as Past Chairman and is the driving force behind the Annual Service. In the September newsletter, we will have an update on Rebecca Echerd.



*Catherine Stout Cannon,  
one of the three founders of MMM.*

## O Zion, Haste

One of the congregational hymns that will be included in the Annual Celebration of Music in Worship Service is "O Zion, Haste" written by Mary A. Thomson in 1868. Born in London in 1834, she later came to Philadelphia. Her husband was a librarian and the couple had several children. She wrote about 40 hymns, some of them published in the hymnal of the Episcopal Church in 1892. She died in 1923.

Mary Thomson wrote "O Zion, Haste" while she was nursing one of her children with typhoid fever and used the tune by James Walch that she knew. This hymn was published in 1894 and first appeared in The Methodist Hymnal of 1905. The scriptural basis for this hymn probably came from several sources, possibly Isaiah 40:9-11 or the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18-20. O Zion, Haste is a hymn written by a homemaker with a strong sense of commitment to Jesus, with an understanding of God's presence in the life of every person, and with knowledge that every follower of Christ can and should participate in God's mission. ~ *From God's Mission, God's Song by Joyce D. Sohl, 2006.*

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Board member Andrew Cole and his wife Elizabeth on the birth of son Elijah Andrew Cole who was born at 10:07pm on February 9, 2010 at Presbyterian Hospital. Eli came into this world at 8lbs, 5oz and 20 inches long.

*Alas for those that never sing,  
But die with all their music in them!  
~ Oliver Wendell Holmes*

## MMM Requests Your E-Mail Address

In an effort to improve communication and to be as effective as possible with resources, MMM requests you submit your e-mail address for future mailings and announcements to:

[MMGraceNotes@aol.com](mailto:MMGraceNotes@aol.com)

### Grace Notes May 2010

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Publisher: Rev. Bill Englebreth  
Contributors: Dr. Diann Back,  
Dr. Martha Iley, Lisa Siao

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  
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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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Mail to:

**Metropolitan Music Ministries**

**PO Box 12736**

**Charlotte, NC 28220**

## MMM OFFICERS AND BOARD—2010

### Founders:

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Dr. Martha S. Iley  
Catherine F. Stout

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Dr. Gregory T. Thompson  
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Catherine D. Youngblood

### Ex-Officio Director:

Leslie H. Miller, *Attorney at Law*

## Service Record of Metropolitan Music Ministries, Inc. Cumulative October 7, 1984 - May 1, 2010

Number of Services, Programs,  
Meetings and Projects:

**10,125**

Number of Times an Individual  
Participated in the Ministry Work:

**29,852**

Total Known Audience:

**427,318**

*For news, features,  
and calendar events  
visit the MMM website:  
[www.metromusicministries.org](http://www.metromusicministries.org)*



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