



Grace Notes

A Publication of *Metropolitan Music Ministries, Inc.* ✧ September, 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT, Dr. Diann Back

A number of my friends are simplifying their lives by giving away or selling some of their belongings.

While I admire them for their willingness to give up material possessions, I am not at that point in my life yet.



As I look around my home, I see a story in so many things. For example, I have my husband's first baby garment made from a feed sack by his grandmother. Some years ago, I had it framed under glass to keep it from deteriorating. In another room, I have a working treadle sewing machine, a gift from my maternal grandmother. Yet another room contains a bench made by my dad, a master carpenter. In a bedroom, I have my fraternal grandmother's picture of the guardian angels.

The list goes on to include a cross-stitch Christmas sampler made from a pattern given to me by a lovely neighbor in Shorewood, Illinois, pictures of my husband's grandparents, cooking gadgets found as we cleaned family homes after the deaths of our parents, and recipes for some of our favorite dishes handed down from grandparents to parents to children. Just as these items bring back memories to me, so music touches our souls and reminds us of stories associated with the past.

On Sunday, September 24, at 6:00 p.m., Metropolitan Music Ministries will host its Annual Service at Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. Every year, this event contains music that touches our hearts and stirs our memories. This year is no exception. Make plans to attend the 2017 Annual Service and be prepared to let the instrumental numbers, congregational hymns, and anthems remind you of the stories of God's guidance, mercy, and love in your life.

FROM THE FORMER CHAIRMAN, Dr. Martha Iley

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

In the early days of Metropolitan Music Ministries, we chose this scripture for our ministry theme. Over the years we have enjoyed sharing our music and the Gospel message with others in the community. Indeed, it has been, and continues to be, an outreach filled with high moments, and sometimes poignant times as well.



Some years ago, I was privileged to provide Bedside Music for residents in a local nursing home. I would go from room to room with my guitar or autoharp and sing familiar songs with the people. Recently, I was thinking of that experience, recalling little "vignettes" from those days.

I remember Mrs. A, a southern lady personified. She always greeted me with her Methodist Hymnal open and a list of page numbers for hymns that she wanted to sing. There was a dear blind woman who kept track of the days of the week by reference to "Music Lady Days."

The nurses told me about a frail but spirited lady who had a musical past. She was said to have been able to "tear up a piano" as she played by ear, always in the key of C. One day she requested that the nurse roll her down to the music room so she could hear me play the piano. She wanted me to play her favorite piece, "12th Street Rag." She sat by me on the piano bench. It so happened that I was struggling with a personal problem that day, although I was smiling at her and playing a light-hearted tune. Somehow, in spite of the loud, jazzy music, she sensed my sadness. I became aware that she was gazing at my face intensely. At the end of the song she reached over and patted my arm. I was deeply touched and comforted by her concern. What a priceless gift! A week later I read her obituary in the paper.

I remember seeing a man sitting in his wheelchair in the hall by a pay phone. Day by day, he was waiting for someone to call him.

As I walked into Mrs. K's room, I was shocked to see her hooked up to numerous medical devices. Her daughter said, "Mama's in a coma. I doubt if she could hear you, but why don't you sing something anyway, just in case." So I sang, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus." Mrs. K was very still. There was no movement, not even a tremor. But suddenly, we noticed a tear rolling down her cheek. She heard!

Ah, Memories! *"My servants sing for joy of heart."* Amen.

2017 ANNUAL SERVICE DIRECTORS

Rev. Timothy Paul Hill joined the staff of Providence Baptist (Charlotte) in August, 2014 as Minister of Music. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Anderson College (SC)



and a Master of Worship Studies from the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies. Under his leadership, the Providence Sanctuary Choir has presented numerous major works

for choir and orchestra. His musical tastes are as varied as his talents using old hymns, contemporary choruses, and even bluegrass when he plans worship. From children's hand bells to youth choirs to ensembles to senior adult groups, Tim's passion is contagious as he seeks to actively engage the congregation in worship. Tim has directed the Carolina Men's Chorus and assists in coordinating the "Festival by the Sea," an ecumenical youth music festival involving choirs from across the Southeast. He is a decorated teacher, youth chorale conductor and actor. We welcome Tim and the Providence Sanctuary Choir to the MMM Annual Service.

Kevin Gray has served as Minister for Worship and Music at St. John's Baptist (Charlotte) since September, 2014. Prior to St. John's, he has served in this same role with various churches in South Carolina. Kevin is a graduate of Winthrop University. He has taught as a chorus teacher on the middle school, junior high school and senior high school levels as well as on



the collegiate level as the director of the Winthrop University Jazz Voices. Kevin is a published composer and has composed music for choirs throughout the Carolinas and the

nation. In the life and ministry of St. John's, Kevin leads the congregation in worship planning and design. He directs the Chancel Choir and the Youth Choir and coordinates all other initiatives of St. John's related to

music ministries, arts events and worship support. MMM is pleased to have Mr. Gray and the St. John's Baptist Church Choir as worship participants in our 2017 Annual Service.

Dr. Reginald M. Houze is Director of Music and Arts at Weddington United Methodist Church. He is a uniquely gifted and versatile artist, best known for the charisma he brings to the podium. His spirited interpretations and penchant for inspiring rich sonorous tapestries of color are a



result of his commitment to technical precision and dynamic musicianship. A native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Dr. Houze studied piano and began ensemble

conducting in elementary school. Later in his youth, he became co-founder and music director of the Hattiesburg Junior Pops Orchestra, a government funded organization that served a tri-county area providing young musicians with an unparalleled opportunity for artistic expression. He holds the bachelor of music degree in Sacred Music from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master of music degree in Vocal Performance and Music Theatre from the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University. In 2005, he was awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in instrumental conducting from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Houze completed additional conducting study in master classes at the Eastman School of Music with the Eastman Wind Ensemble, the Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music and The Hartt School of Music. During his career, he has held conducting appointments at several universities across the country including Clemson University, Angelo State University in Texas, The University of Southern Mississippi where he was Director of The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band, and at Anna Maria College in Massachusetts as Music Department Chair and

Conductor of Ensembles. Recent successes include musical collaborations with Douglas Yeo, former principal bass trombonist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Christopher Johnson, organist at New York City's Riverside Church. A frequent guest conductor and adjudicator, he has conducted ensembles and given clinics in a number of states. MMM welcomes Dr. Houze and the Weddington UMC Church Choir to our Annual Service.

D'Walla Simmons-Burke has held teaching positions in Georgia, South Carolina, and presently at Winston-Salem State University where she is the Director of Choral and Vocal Studies for the Department of Music. She is the founder of four of the five choral ensembles at WSSU. Simmons-Burke's choirs have recorded and produced nine



recordings and a collaborative DVD with one of the recordings. Under Simmons-Burke's baton, her choral ensembles have performed for and/or with regional and national dignitaries such as President George W. Bush; Kweisi Mfume; former North Carolina Governor James Hunt; Maya Angelou; Dick Gregory, Patti Austin; Maria Howell; President of Liberia - Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; Harry Belafonté, and Pope John Paul II, to name a few. She has been the recipient of several teaching awards and many community service and performance awards for her national achievements in music. As a conductor, Simmons-Burke has appeared as a guest conductor and adjudicator for several high school and middle school All-State/All-County festivals and collegiate choral festivals and workshops. She is often sought after as a sacred music and/or multicultural music clinician/lecturer and soprano. We are honored to have Ms. Simmons-Burke as the Guest Conductor for the MMM Annual Service's Choir of Choral Directors.

Joseph Judge (baritone) - Director of Choral and Vocal Music and Assistant Professor of music at Pfeiffer University - has performed



numerous operatic and musical theater roles, Oratorio concerts, and recitals in the United States and Europe. Mr. Judge has performed with Opera Carolina, The Charlotte Symphony, The

Charlotte Philharmonic, Colorado Lyric Opera, and Colorado Lyric Theater Festival, The Boulder Philharmonic, The Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, and The Union Symphony. Mr. Judge received a B.A. in Music Education from Pfeiffer College, where he studied voice and conducting with Dr. Richard Brewer and his M.M. in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Colorado, under the tutelage of Dr. Barbara Doscher. Judge serves as Director of Music Ministries at Central United Methodist Church in Albemarle, NC and is the Musical Director for the Piedmont Choral Society of Concord.

Frank E. Williams is the Founder/Director of the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble. A native of Gastonia, North Carolina and educated in the public schools there, Mr. Williams holds music degrees from Johnson C. Smith University and the UNC-Charlotte. He has also done additional study at UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC Greensboro, Winthrop University and the Interlochen Arts Academy in Interlochen, Michigan. His teaching career began in the public schools of Gaston County and then Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. He went on to teach at Central Piedmont Community College where he became the Department Head and Assistant Dean of Visual and



Performing Arts, and was Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities and Department Chair at North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina. Mr. Williams was also an Instructional Specialist for Fine Arts with the Richmond Public Schools. Mr. Williams has served as a clinician in a number of states and has adjudicated choral festivals throughout the southeast and in Kansas City, Missouri. He has conducted the Intercollegiate Music Festival Chorus at Norfolk State University, the North Carolina All State and Honor Choirs, and in 1991

was invited to conduct the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at Temple Hall in Salt Lake City, Utah. In 1979, Mr. Williams founded and conducted the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble, a community based ensemble of African American singers. Mr. Williams has served as Minister of Music or Director of Choral Activities at a number of North Carolina and Virginia churches and most recently as Director of Music at the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia. We welcome Mr. Williams and the Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble to the 2017 MMM Annual Service.

Metropolitan Music Ministries Annual Service

Sunday, September 24, at 6:00 p.m.



Providence Baptist Church
4921 Randolph Road
Charlotte, NC

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Newsletter

Editor: Debra L. Grosch
Layout: Jane Crutchfield
Contributors: Diann Back, Martha Iley
Addresses: Wilna Eury
Website: Carol Clem

Service Report

(Cumulative October 7, 1984-August 31, 2017)

Number of Services, Programs, Meetings and Projects	12,369
Number of Times an Individual Participated in Ministry Work	37,123
Total Known Audience	495,558

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	\$ 24-49	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 \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

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Mail to:

Metropolitan Music Ministries
PO Box 12736 * Charlotte, NC * 28220-2736

BOARD SPOTLIGHT



MMM welcomes a new Advisory Board member, Eric William Knight. Eric is no stranger to the ministry, having participated in our Annual Service as an instrumentalist. He comes from Pittsburgh, PA. Eric is a semi-retired music teacher, teaching at Howren Music in

Huntersville. He and his wife, Marcia Ann, are members of Rama Presbyterian in Huntersville, where he has served as deacon and elder. Eric's musical interests include performance in trumpet, viola, cello, piano, and directing hand bell choirs. The ministry is honored that Eric has joined us in this leadership role.

SAVE THE DATE! February 10, 2018

Make your plans now for the return of Dolce, our annual musical variety show and dessert fundraiser, benefitting our scholarship program.

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



Metropolitan Music Ministries, Inc.
PO Box 12736
Charlotte, NC 28220-2736
704-529-1616

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



METROPOLITAN MUSIC MINISTRIES, INC.

cordially invites you to the
Thirty-second Annual Celebration of Music in Worship

A Service of Sacred Music

Sunday, September 24, 2017 – 6:00 pm

Providence Baptist Church
4921 Randolph Road
Charlotte, North Carolina

Dr. Martha S. Iley and Ginger G. Wyrick, *directors*

Diann Clark, *organist*

Dr. Luther I. Wade, *reader*

Ginger Wyrick, *flute*

Brass Quartet: Richard Spangler, Eric Knight, D. Mac Willet, Patti Lutz

Kent E. Love, *timpani*

Choirs and Directors

Charlotte Contemporary Ensemble
Pfeiffer University Concert Choir
Providence Baptist Church Choir
St. John's Baptist Church Choir
Weddington United Methodist Church Choir
Choir of Choral Directors, with guest Conductor

Frank E. Williams
Joseph D. Judge
The Rev. Timothy P. Hill
James Kevin Gray
Dr. Reginald Houze
D'Walla Simmons-Burke

Accompanists

Diann Clark, Dr. Elizabeth Harrison, Noel Lance, Judith Porter,
Dr. Robert Ridgel, Dr. Gregory T. Thompson, Nia Williams, Ginger Wyrick

Clergy and Lay Participants

Dr. Diann P. Back
The Rev. Dr. Lee Canipe
The Rev. Judah L. Jones
The Rev. Dr. David S. Melton

President, Metropolitan Music Ministries
Senior Pastor, Providence Baptist Church
Chaplain, Metropolitan Music Ministries
Senior Pastor, Providence United Methodist Church

Participating 2017 MMM Church Music Scholarship Winners

Madison Blake, *pianist*, Cheryl Iley Lindstrom Scholarship
Tiffanie Briggs, *vocalist*, Martha Strawn Iley Scholarship
Baker Lawrimore, *organist*, Richard VanSciver Scholarship
Madeline Smith, *music therapy*, Joshua David McLean Music Therapy Scholarship

Reception following the service – All are welcome
For more information, visit MMM's website at www.metromusicministries.org
Or call 704-529-1616, MMM Office