The New Master Chorale 2013
Michael L. Bower, Director

The Cathedral Singers 2006



HANDBOOK
2026-2027!

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

This publication is a **2026/2027** 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, sighting 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 "Requeim" in St. Agnes Cathedral, which appeared on WLIW! 2019-2020: Began with a Bang! A Grand Christmas Concert which aired on Television on Christmas Day. Then Covid –19 came. A Dedicated group of singers continued to meet and rehearse in a safe way over this Past Year. For 2021-2022: we had many GREAT and healthy successes for the 2021-2022 Season!! The Hallmark Christmas Concert in St. Patrick's Cathedral in December, The Choir Festival Concert in St. Agnes on June 26, and the Performance of the National Anthem at Citifield on August 4! 2022-2023 Season: Handel's "Messiah" in December and Mahler's "Symphony No. 2" in June! 2023-2024: The Glorious Christmas Concert in December, and Bach's Magnificat (BWV 243) and Vivaldi's "Gloria (RV589) on May 5, 2024! In 2025, the Choirs went to sing in Paris, France as part of a 10 July Concert Tour, performing in St. Augustin, La Madeleine, Notre Dame, Versailles, and the American Church. 2026: an Astounding performance of Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9!"

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 21st Century choral 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.

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 (350th 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 10th Anniversary Remembrance of 9/11 at St. Agnes Cathedral, and sang on the 10th 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 a concert of the South Shore Symphony. 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. Again for the 2020-2021, these wonderful and brave artists (along with the assistance of Members of the Master-Chorale) continued to carry the lions' share of the Choral Work due to Covid Situations.

For the 2021-2022 Season, Faure's "Requiem" on November 2 (along with members of the MasterChorale 2013, and Cathedral Chorale), The Hallmark Christmas Concert in St. Patrick's Cathedral in December, The Service of Tenebrae on Wednesday Night of Holy Week, The Choir Festival Concert in St. Agnes on June 26, and the Performance of the National Anthem at Citifield on August 4! 2022-2023: Tomas Luis de Victoria's "Missa pro Defunctis a 6," on November 2, Victoris's "Missa O Quam Gloriosum," and again at the Tenebrae Service (motets of Purcell, Lotti, and Allegri). 2023-2024: **"Missa pro Defunctoris a 5 voci!"** (SAATB).

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 Renneckar 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 75th 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. In June/July he took The Choir of Men and Boys on a singing tour to Washington, D.C., and in August taught a choral conducting seminar at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. In 2010, 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 the Fall of 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 direct 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!

2021-2022: Bower played organ concerts in St. Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco; St. Rose of Lima, Massapequa, presented Faure's "Requiem" on All Souls Day, took 80 singers from the Cathedral Choirs to sing the Christmas Concert at St. Patrick's Cathedral; conducted a Choir Festival in Houston, Texas in March; performed Saint Saens's "Symphony No.3," produced the Diocesan Choir Festival in St. Agnes on June 26; visited the Ambassador of the United States to the Holy See, Italy; performed on the organ in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City; and took 400 Singers and Family Members to Citifield to perform the National Anthem on August 4!

2022-2023: Presented the Cathedral Choirs, Orchestra and Soloists in a December production of Handel's "Messiah," prepared the Choirs for a production Mahler's "Symphony No. 2," and performed an organ concert on the famous German pipe organ in St. Paul's Cathedral, Pittsburgh. 2023-2024: Directed the Cathedral Choirs, and played the Organ for a Special Eucharistic Mass and Procession in St. Patrick's Cathedral, presented the Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra in a Christmas Concert, and a Performance of Bach's "Magnificat!" (BWV 243) & Vivaldi's "Gloria!" RV 589, and directed a 100 singers in the National Anthem at Citifield on July 30! July of 2025, he led 100 singers and 150 more people on a 10-Day Concert Tour to Paris, France, where the groups had many successful performances! 2026: Beethoven 9th on 29 May!

The New Master Chorale 2013
And the Cathedral Singers
2026- 2027 Schedule

(Please note that items on this schedule are subject to change)

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

Work at Home to prepare for the Christmas Concert in New St. Patrick's Cathedral for December 17, and the Spring Concert in Olde St. Patrick's Cathedral for May 1, 2027!

27 ***Happy Birthday Maestro Michael Bower!***



October

4 Sunday
7:00 OPENING OF OUR CONCERT SERIES!
Gail Archer, Organist in Concert.



18 Sunday 6:30-8:30 PM MASTER-CHORALE/Cathedral Singers Rehearsal! At the St. Agnes Cathedral Music Room*
***OPENING REHEARSAL!!!/*Rehearsal Room St. Agnes Cathedral Location ~ Wine and Cheese Party as well!**

November

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

26 Thursday Happy Thanksgiving!
8:00 AM Warm-ups
9:00 AM Thanksgiving Day Mass, televised live on Catholic Faith Network.



29 Sunday 6:30—8:30 PM to be held at St. Agnes Cathedral. Final Piano Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Concert (at "New" St. Patrick's Cathedral on Thursday, December 17!),

December ***Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah to All!***
Please note the Scheduled Rehearsals and Performances! And there may be some additional Christmas Caroling Events!

4 Friday Evening Concert at Olde Westbury House and Gardens!

10 Thursday 5:30/6:30 Dinner/ 7:00 PM/ 8:00-10:00 PM Dress Rehearsals in the St. Agnes Music Room/Parish Center/Cathedral for Prelude Service & Midnight Mass/Christmas Day Mass.



16 Wednesday ?7:30—9:30 PM? Time TBD Orchestral/Choir Dress Rehearsal in St. Patrick's Cathedral for *Christmas Concert!*



17 Thursday 7:00 PM Concert in the St. Patrick's Cathedral: *Christmas Concert!*



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

25 Friday 10:00 AM Warm-ups for 11:00 AM Mass!

January 2027! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

17 Sunday 6:30-8:30 Rehearsal

21 Thursday 7:30 PM Solemn Mass! ?Rehearsal at 6:30? Solemnity of St. Agnes

February
6 Saturday Westminster Choir College: 6:00 Concert in St. Agnes Cathedral!!!

15 – 19 Happy Winter Vacation for Some People!

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

March
Happy Passover/Easter Week. ' BEST TO ALL, AND YOUR RELIGIOUS SERVICES/OBSERVANCES. **Special Singing for Holy Week Masses. – Please inquire!**

March (con't)

4 **Thursday 7:00 PM Rehearsal for Chrism Mass**
ALL SINGERS ARE WELCOMED!!!



18* **Dress Rehearsal for Holy Week Masses!**
5:30/6:15 Dinner/7:00, 8:00 PM Start-Times — Please inquire!

23 **Tuesday: 4:00 PM Chrism Mass!, warmups at 2:45.**

24 Wednesday CATHEDRAL SINGERS "ONLY" TENEBRAE:
7:30 PM PARA-LITURGY-More info, and Rehearsal TBD.

25 8:00 PM **Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper,**
warm-ups at 7:00 PM.

26 Good Friday CATHEDRAL SINGERS and Schola Cantorum FOR GOOD FRIDAY:
3:00 PM LITURGY, Rehearsal at 1:30.

27 Great Easter Vigil at 8:00 PM. Cathedral Singers & Master-Chorale!
28 Easter Sunday 11:00AM Mass-Cathedral Singers & Master-Chorale!
Rehearsal for ALL at 10:00 AM



April
29 Thursday 7:00-7:45 **Rehearsal**
PIANO DRESS for Olde St. Patrick's Cathedral !

May
1 Saturday 3:00-9:00
Rehearsal, Dinner, Concert!!! At Olde St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City!

Rehearsal for Deacon Ordination on Thursday, 13th or 20th. TBD

22 **Deacon Ordination** **11:00 AM Mass**
9:45 Warm-ups

June
Rehearsal for Priest Ordination on Thursday, 10th or 17th. TBD (possibly June 3rd)*

12 or 19? **Priesthood Ordination** **11:00 AM Mass**
9:45 Warm-ups

END OF THE REGULAR CHOIR SEASON
July/August

Singing the National Anthem! Possibly at Yankee Stadium!