

Carillons, Children's, Teen, Sanctuary & Augmented Choirs

As I write this column I am still on a high after conducting our 20th annual choir concert on June 12. I was totally exhausted Sunday evening but I kept waking up during the night hearing all the different anthems that were sung and rung. Finding that "off" switch was impossible. I was so proud of my Chapel Carillons' presentation of "Hark, the Glad Sound" by so smoothly incorporating choir chimes and handbells. Brian Morgan on the solo trumpet and Bill Luko on the organ assisted the Chancel Carillons on a dynamite rendition of "Holy, Holy, Holy." My Tower Carillons took my breath away conducting "A Mighty Fortress." All of our handbell ringers are truly amazing.

Suzanne Oram, our Cherub Choir Director, was not able to be at the concert, but I was so pleased that Stephanie Melin and Alisha Crowley directed these little ones as if Sue was there at the piano. My adults in the Sanctuary Choir want to know why they can't sing fun songs like "Hippo Song." Nice job, Cherubs! Christian Carrara and Tiffany Letts, my assistants, have done a beautiful job with the Children's Choir this year. Both of their anthems concluded with the audience singing along. Having Hans Formon and Gary Reebe on percussion and bass guitar was a really nice touch on "I Just Wanna Be a Sheep."

As most of you know, I am thrilled that we reached the magical number of 20 in the Teen Choir, including four young men. It was a joy to hear "The Journey" sung in two parts: women and men. Thanks to Bill Markwalt and Mike Bunk for providing just a tad more support on this anthem. It was lovely.

As for my Sanctuary Choir, these singers provide music just about 10 months a year on a weekly basis. They present almost 50 anthems a year. They ended the first set of the concert with "The Great Commission." This anthem tells us to, "Go and preach the gospel! Go into the world and tell the good news!" Ladies and gentlemen of Holy Cross, this is what we all need to do right in our own backyards! I know the finale of the concert, "The House We Build for the Lord," was one of those mountaintop experiences for me. Looking from left to right seeing Bill at the organ, Brian on the trumpet, seeing the Teens join the Sanctuary Choir and looking over at the Carillons ready to ring was overwhelming! I will never forget that sight and never forget that sound. It was awesome. The bottom line is that all of these *volunteers* make up one of the finest, if not *the* finest, music programs in our NJ Synod. Thank you and thanks be to God!

Bill and I would like to thank the choirs for their generosity with their gifts. The gifts are really not necessary, although truly appreciated. The best gift any of you can give us is yourself. Continue to be a part of the music program. Recruit new members! Just keep on doing what you are doing for the Lord. You are all gifts from God.

Last but not least, handbell ringers please don't forget our get together at my house on Wednesday, June 29. Any prospective ringer for next season is invited to attend. Please call me at 732-270-8514.

I hope everyone has a great summer. I am already at work planning for next year. See Bill or me about signing up to provide music during the summer at our services.

Jean A. Heidorn