

## 2023 Pueri Cantores Festival Season Wrap Up

**Greetings Pueri Cantores family:** 

Our March 25th grades 4-12 Festival in Houston marked the conclusion of our very robust and inspiring <u>2023 Festival Season</u>. We held 14 festivals this February and March (up from 8 in 2022) across the country - from Southern California to Boston- which involved more than 2,000 young singers from 130 different schools and parishes.

After a tumultuous few years due to COVID and slowly starting things back up last year, I'm thrilled to say that AFPC is finally graduating from a state of survival and moving toward a state of thriving. With the addition of four new festival locations to our 2023 schedule (San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Milwaukee, and a High School Festival in Houston), we'll also be adding several new festivals to our roster in 2024. Our goal to expand our services, festivals, and resources and reach more Catholic youth across the U.S is becoming a reality!

The mission of Pueri Cantores and our Festivals is, through sacred music, to educate and engage young people in their faith and in the arts, and through them, enrich the lives of their families and communities. AFPC believes that the young people are the future of Our Church, and in order to keep them engaged in their Catholic faith, we must nourish their souls and wellbeing through enriching experiences within the Church.

The Pueri Cantores Festival is designed for this very pursuit. Singing and music is one of the most enjoyable and effective ways to participate in the Mass and become more deeply involved in the faith for years to come. It not only fosters personal holiness and promotes individual faith formation, but it also evangelizes and catechizes those we sing in the presence of. At our Festivals, the 'Pueri Cantores' or 'young singers' that participate in the event become evangelizers. They not only catechize themselves, but they also evangelize their peers, families, choir directors and music teachers, congregations, schools, churches, and communities, uniting us all as one family of faith. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Federation of Pueri Cantores, and the thousands of children and youth across the country involved in this ministry, we offer our *most heartfelt gratitude* to all of our host churches, conductors, organists, volunteers, participating choirs, parents, and all those who helped make these Festivals possible this year.

We are working diligently to create an exciting and meaningful 2024 Festival Season for our members and singers. I hope we can look forward to having your choirs join us next year! Dates and locations will be announced soon.

Please enjoy the slideshow below with photos and videos from our entire 2023 Festival Season.

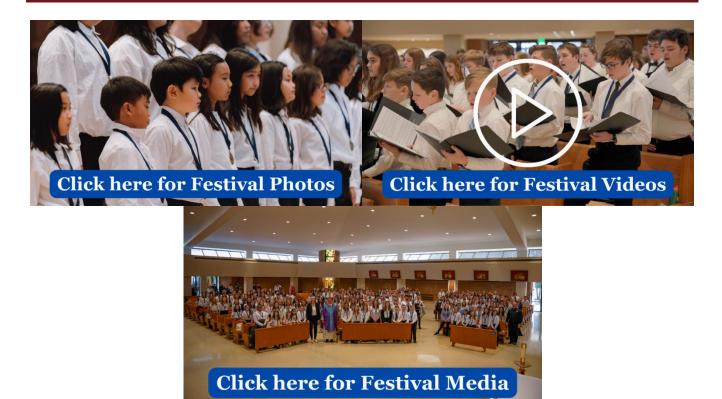
God Bless,

Jane To. Frence

Paul French, President American Federation Pueri Cantores



## 2023 Festival Season Photos/Videos/Media



## 2023-24 Pueri Cantores Rome Congress

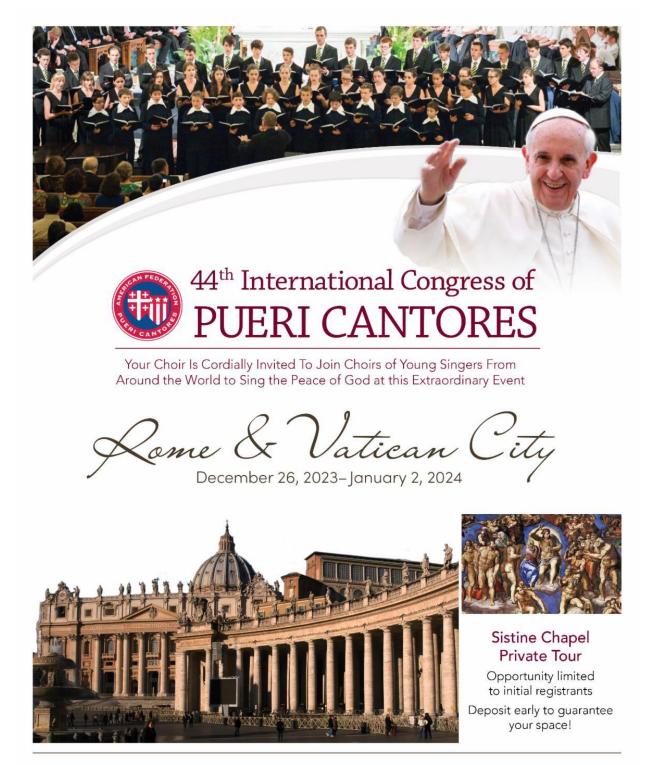
## Join us for the 44th Pueri Cantores International Congress in Rome December 26, 2023 - January 2, 2024- <u>it's NOT too late to register!</u>

This extraordinary week-long celebration is part pilgrimage and part choral festival that traditionally occurs every five years, bringing together Pueri Cantores choirs from around the world to participate in many thrilling liturgies and concerts. The Congress culminates with thousands of Pueri Cantores choristers singing for the Papal Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on January 1, 2024 (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God), with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, presiding.

The interest and planned participation for the 44<sup>th</sup> International Congress in Rome has been phenomenal over the past several months. **Over 800 travelers, including Pueri Cantores choristers, their families and friends have signed up for this oncein-a-lifetime event, and there's still time to register!** 

Currently 18 choirs will represent the American Federation, coming from coast to coast (California, Arizona, Texas, Nevada, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Maryland) for this extraordinary experience. Please consider joining us at this magnificent weeklong celebration of sacred music, fellowship, and fun. The Eternal City, the Vatican, and all the splendors of Italy await you. We hope to see you there!

Click on the brochure below to learn more about the Congress and contact David O'Brien at Corporate Travel at <u>dobrien@ctscentral.net</u> or 734-223-3348 to start planning for this once-in-a-lifetime experience!





41780 W SIX MILE ROAD, SUITE 100, NORTHVILLE, MI 48168 P: 866.466.2202 | F: 313.565.3621 | CTSCENTRAL.NET **Please note that in order to be admitted to the 44th Pueri Cantores International Congress, all travelers** <u>must</u> register with <u>Corporate</u> <u>Travel</u>, the exclusive travel provider for the American Federation of Pueri Cantores. AFPC contracts a sole travel partner for each International Congress to ensure that:

- Participants have access to <u>all</u> Rome Congress events
- The latest Rome Congress information from the International Federation of Pueri Cantores is efficiently and swiftly communicated to participants
- The movements of the American participants happen in a unified and safe fashion
- Congress pricing for our singers and their families is as economical as possible

## **Meet the Singers**



Hayden H.

Age: 11 Years in Choir: 1 St. Bernard of Clairvaux Youth Choir Scottsolale, AZ

What do you love about singing and being in choir?

I love singing in the childrens choir because it helps me grow more with Christ, and I get to sing for Him.

Why do you enjoy participating in Pueri Cantores Festivals?

I went to the 2023 Phoenix Festival where we sang for Bishop Olmsted at the Mass. I loved participating in the festival because I got to meet some new friends and I got to see some friends I had not seen for a while too.

What else would you like to share about yourself and your choir experience?

Being in choir helps me make new friends and my singing is improving all of the time. There are lots of kids at choir and we all sing and praise God...and He loves us all.







Carol U. Age: 10 Months in Choir: 7

St. Vincent de Paul Choir Phoenix AZ

What do you love about singing and being in choir? I like to sing and it makes me feel closer to God.

How has singing and being in choir strengthened your faith? Because the songs we sing are dedicated to God and I feel them from my heart and I share my Catholic faith with my family and friends.

Why do you enjoy participating in Pueri Cantores Festivals?

My choir participated in the 2023 Phoenix Festival. It was my first experience at a Pueri Cantores Festival and the first time I sang with more choirs than just my own. Everyone was very friendly and sang very good. I want to keep practicing the music and sing better so I can participate again next year.



<u>Click here to sign up your child to be featured in a future AFPC newsletter.</u>

## **AFPC-NCEA Webinar Series**

for Conductors of Catholic Student Choirs, Worship Leaders and Classroom Teachers, Elementary through High School

### Catch up on our latest webinar here:



<u>Click here to watch our archived AFPC-NCEA webinars.</u> Stay tuned for one more webinar next month!

## **Pueri Cantores Alumni Spotlight**



I have been singing in church ever since I was a little kid. My mother was the organist and children's choir accompanist at St. Ignatius of Loyola in Spring, TX for many years, which is where I started singing. Throughout my youth, my choir sang regularly at Choristers Guild Festivals around the Houston area, and it wasn't until I was in 12th grade in 2010, that Pueri Cantores had their inaugural festival at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Parish in downtown Houston. I remember being super excited to finally go and be a part of a Catholic choir festival! It was also very exciting because the Co-Cathedral was brand new at the time, and

I had never sung there before. My children's choir at the time had 24 singers that year, which was a mix of high school, middle school and elementary students. We greatly enjoyed our time at the festival that year, and wish it had been around for us graduating people a bit earlier, as we would have loved to have been a part of it for many more years.

My time singing with the Music Ministry at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church, which in total has now been 24 years, with 18 of those years being a Cantor as well. My upbringing in Sacred Music will always be special to me and more enhanced because of the opportunity to sing with Pueri Cantores.

After graduating high school, I attended Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX and majored in Child Development with an emphasis in Child Life, and received my minor in Music with an emphasis in Voice. There, I was a part of the Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Joni Jensen, and I loved being a part of choir in college! I also took voice lessons and continued my pursuit and passion for music. I was a Cum Laude graduate and pursued my certification as a Certified Child Life Specialist and am now working as a Special Education Teacher in Klein ISD.

For the past two years, I have been a member of Cor Jesu Choir at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in downtown Houston, under the direction of Dr. Crista Miller and Mr. Patrick Schneider. I absolutely love my new parish home and being able to sing with such a magnificent choir! I think it is an incredible gift to be able to share the love of Christ with others through music. Cathedral Musicians have such a huge role to play within the Mass, and I am beyond blessed to be an integral part.

-Kathryn Allen, Pueri Cantores Alumnus Singer 2010

Are you a Pueri Cantores Alumnus Singer? Email **<u>info@pcchoirs.org</u>** to let us know what you are up to and to join our alumni network!

# **Join our Monthly Sustainers Program!**



AFPC's mission is to educate and evangelize young Catholics across the U.S through sacred music, thereby cultivating their passion for the arts, nurturing their personal and spiritual wellbeing, and developing a relationship with God and the Church that they will carry all their lives.

AFPC's work is made possible through the support of individuals like you who see the value in this apostolate and are committed to seeing it continue. Please prayerfully consider becoming a Monthly Sustainer to help us enrich the lives of thousands of children and families for years to come.

Click here to become a Monthly Sustainer



### **From the International Federation of Pueri Cantores** Learn about Pueri Cantores Choirs across the globe!



Foederatio Internationalis Pueri Cantores | April 2023 | Issue 0

### **Message from Jean** Henric, President FIPC

Jean Henric President FIPC





Message from Mn. Jaume Gené, Councilor, Pueri

### Cantores, Catalana





### FIPC President's visit to Visite mission du Canada président FIPC au Canada



Rome 2023/24

## Click here to download a pdf of the FIPC April newsletter.

## **CMI** Partnership



The American Federation Pueri Cantores (AFPC) and Church Music Institute (CMI) are pleased to partner in our shared ministry and resources. Aligned by our commitment to the transformational power of music, and the rich liturgical repertoire of the Roman Catholic

Church, this partnership makes available the vast resources of CMI's online choral library numbering over 17,000 titles. The searchable database employs over a dozen criteria assisting choir directors to both new and historic choral works appropriate for any season, feast, voicing, text, language, accompaniment, duration, etc. Learn more about CMI HERE.

Access to this curated music library is via an annual membership, whose fee is dramatically reduced for current members of AFPC. Please email **info@pcchoirs.org** for the discount code to obtain the \$35 annual membership rate. Click **HERE** for CMI's online membership form.

