



**AMERICAN FEDERATION  
PUERI CANTORES**

*The Vatican based official student choral  
organization of the Catholic Church.*



December 2021

**AFPC Newsletter**

Vol. 13, Issue 3

## 2022 Pueri Cantores Festival Season

The 2022 Festival season is just around the corner, and we are thrilled to offer 12 Pueri Cantores Festivals to Catholic school and parish youth choirs around the country! Please see the 2022 Festival Schedule below to find a Festival near you, or choose a festival location as your next travel destination for your choir!

We are excited to once again be able to bring hundreds of Pueri Cantores choristers from around the U.S. together again to unite in song, peace, and prayer! Give your singers the opportunity to be part of one of the most memorable and enriching singing experiences of the year by including these special events in your 2021-22 choral education plan!

Individual Festival brochures, repertoires, and downloadable music can be found at [www.pcchoirs.org](http://www.pcchoirs.org). MP3 practice recordings are available to participating choirs. Register your choir today!

Be a part of this enriching and inspiring return to singing!



## 2022 Pueri Cantores Festival Schedule

### Greater Omaha

High School (grades 9-12)  
Friday, February 11, 2022  
St. Mary Church, Norfolk, NE

### New England Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)

Saturday, March 19, 2022  
Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston, MA

### South Florida Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)

Saturday, February 12, 2022  
St. Luke Church, Palm Springs, FL

### Southern California

Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)  
Saturday, March 19, 2022  
Christ Cathedral, Garden Grove, CA  
Bishop Kevin W. Vann, Celebrant

**Phoenix** Treble (grades 4-8)  
Saturday, February 19, 2022  
Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ

**Houston** Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)  
Saturday, March 5, 2022  
Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Houston, TX

**Chicago** Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)  
Saturday, March 12, 2022  
Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, IL  
Bishop Joseph N. Perry, Celebrant

**Mid-Atlantic** Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)  
Saturday, March 12, 2022  
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Baltimore, MD  
Archbishop William E. Lori, Celebrant

**Fort Wayne-South Bend**  
Mixed Voice (grades 4-12) (Closed Registration)  
Friday, March 25, 2022  
St. Pius X Church, Granger, IN  
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Celebrant

**New York** High School (grades 9-12)  
Friday, March 25, 2022  
Church of the Blessed Sacrament, New York, NY

**New York** Treble (grades 4-8)  
Saturday, March 26, 2022  
St. John Nepomucene Church, New York, NY

**Pittsburgh** Mixed Voice (grades 4-12)  
Saturday, March 26, 2022  
St. Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA  
Bishop David A. Zubik, Celebrant

Professional Development Credits available for participating school conductors.

Visit [www.pcchoirs.org](http://www.pcchoirs.org) for individual Festival brochures, repertoires and additional details.

Thank you again for supporting Pueri Cantores on



GIVINGTUESDAY

Together we raised **\$10,825**

Your gift will help us continue to enrich the lives, faith, and education of young singers across the U.S through sacred music!



## Upcoming AFPC-NCEA Webinar

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

### Cultivating Diversity and Inclusivity in Youth Choral Programs

Thursday, February 10th  
4pm EST / 3pm CST / 1pm PST

[Register Here](#)

Engaging with a diverse community requires partnerships, active listening, learning curves, reflection, and action. How can we make choir and musical activities appealing and inclusive for students of diverse backgrounds during such formative years, and how do we retain their involvement through elementary, middle, and high school? In this webinar Dr. Marcela Molina discusses how-through creative programming-choir programs can attract students from various backgrounds, along with strategies for recruitment and retention.



Dr. Molina has been affiliated with the Tucson Girls Chorus since 2006, first serving as Artistic Director and taking the helm as Executive Director in 2011. Under Dr. Molina's guidance, the Tucson Girls Chorus has grown significantly in program and community engagement.

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Dr. Marcela Molina holds degrees from Westminster Choir College and the University of Arizona. She has contributed articles to *Antiphon*, *Teaching through Performance in Choir, Volume 2* and the upcoming book *Choral Reflections: Insights from American Choral Conductor-Teachers*. She was named 2019 Choral Director of the Year by AzACDA, and she often serves as a clinician and guest conductor for choral festivals. Dr. Molina has served on the board of the Arizona Choral Directors Association as well as standing committees for ACDA Western Division. She currently serves on the board of Chorus America.

***Catch up on our latest webinar here:***

Reassessing, Renewing, and Rebuilding Youth Choral Programs

Dr. Richard Robbins  
University of Minnesota Duluth  
NCEA/AFPC Webinar  
November 4, 2021 – 1:00pm EDT

**NCEA**  
National Catholic Educational Association

**AMERICAN FEDERATION  
PUERI CANTORES**  
www.pcchoirs.org / 714-633-7554

## Meet the Singers



"My name is Isaac Robinson and I've been in the choirs at St. Rita for 4 years now. I am now in the Jubilate Deo Choir. I've learned a lot about what notes are, and where they are on the staff. Choir has strengthened my voice and sight reading along with my relationship with God by allowing me to serve and praise Him. My favorite part about being in choir is when we sing songs that I know and have sung in choir before, like "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" or "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Right now, my friend is teaching me how to play piano, and I plan on pairing that skill with my experience in choir." - Isaac, age 12

"My name is Max Robinson and I have been in choir at St. Rita for four years and I am a member of the Jubilate Deo Choir. Choir has been a great experience for me because I have learned to read music, about posture, the parts of the Mass, and the names of the notes. I enjoy musical theatre and choir has helped me with my singing. My favorite part of choir is the music because we get to sing many beautiful songs. I look forward to the next time we will be singing at Lessons and Carols and on Christmas Eve." - Max, age 10

[Sign up your singer to be featured in a future AFPC newsletter.](#)

## Choir Organizational Tip

### Recruiting Choristers in the School

As fate would have it, I began teaching vocal music in our parish school in the fall of 2020. Our previous music teacher had agreed to take up a new teaching position a couple of weeks prior to the national Covid shutdowns, and in the uncertainty of the times our principal felt it best to wait to hire a replacement until we knew whether or not vocal music would be allowed when school began again.

The following August we received word that under certain restrictions vocal music was to be allowed, but this good news didn't leave sufficient time to hire a new teacher, so I agreed to step in for the interim and one year has now turned into two.

What began as a lot of extra work has now turned into a graced-filled time of getting to know so many more children as well as their parents and teachers, deepening my understanding of the child's learning process AND greatly increasing the number of singers in the Schola Cantorum. I have shamefully recruited since my first day teaching and what began as a slow trickle has now turned into a small snowball beginning its descent down the hill, which I hope will one day become a large ball rolling down a mountain.

This semester I welcomed 10 probationer girls and 5 probationer boys, which might not sound like a large number, but they are all proficient with basic rhythms and solfege from their time in school, which has increased their learning speed in the choir. I have also had a number of older students ask to join (Yes!) as well as a dozen or so who are now on the fence. This is very different from years past when I asked the music teacher for names of good singers and then would have to call all of their parents and convince them during a two-minute phone conversation to allow their children to give the choir a try. Recently the choir's "mother" and "keeper of the robes" informed me that we have officially run out of robes in certain sizes-a good problem to have!

I realize that it is impractical as well as impossible for many of my colleagues to teach music in their parish schools, but if there is a way for you to assist the music teacher on a regular basis, I guarantee you that as students get to know you, your chorister recruiting and retention will increase and make your life much easier. I encourage each of you to give it a try!

## Bucket Drumming Karate

Through a chance conversation last fall I learned about Bucket Drumming Karate, and after introducing it to my classes, my students immediately took to it, improving their rhythm reading drastically.

As the name implies, students drum on 5-gallon buckets, which are cheaper than real drums (fortunately our classroom already had a full set of real drums so I chose to continue using these), and make their way through rhythms of steadily increasing difficulty from White Belt to Black belt. The teacher can note their progress on wall charts or even give out actual pieces of colored rhythm to correspond to the level of the belt they have achieved—however simple or elaborate one chooses to make it. There are also an incredible amount of free resources online, just google *bucket drumming karate*.

In my classroom each child arrives to find a drum at his place with the instruction that he must use the drum responsibly or lose it for a certain amount of the class. I choose the quietest student to attempt the next belt level and if the student is successful, all the others play a gentle drum roll to congratulate him. This allows all the children to play their drums at regular intervals and they tend to pay attention better because they want to know if they get to beat on their instruments. Then I repeat the process.

I test students on rhythms that we have spent time on in class, so the vast majority pass their levels the first time through. If a child struggles I take a few minutes to help him and give him encouragement for next time. Children who in the past have taken no interest in music usually want to keep up with the group, and after not passing a level the first time through, try much harder the second time and usually succeed. Bucket drumming has become quite popular and because I consider it to have so much “bang for the buck” I gladly do it two to three times a month. The younger children love passing each new level and the older students just like drumming, although be prepared for loud classes (thankfully my principal doesn’t mind the noise!).

A Couple of Online Resources:

<https://guybbrownmusic.weebly.com/getting-started.html> (great introduction)

<https://www.regiscatholicschools.com/documents/BUCKET-DRUMS-KARATE.pdf> (easier levels for younger children)

Choir Organization Tip brought to you by Lucas Tappan

Director of Liturgy & Music

Most Pure Heart of Mary Church, Topeka, KS

## Outreach Initiative: Hispanic Ministry and Evangelizing the Underserved

AFPC's core mission is to evangelize and transform children's lives by bringing them closer to their faith through the study and performance of sacred music in the liturgy. Thanks to the generous support and partnership of **Our Sunday Visitor Institute**, AFPC launched a new initiative over the past year to include outreach to rural and under-served urban populations, as well as, responding to the lack of sacred choral music in the Spanish language.

The inaugural rural festival will take place next February in the Archdiocese of Omaha, NE and will include Catholic high school choirs reaching farm communities in a 100-mile radius. AFPC intends for this pilot program to serve as a model for similar future events around the country, in both rural and under-served urban locations.

AFPC also commissioned 3 Latino composers to create a body of sacred choral music in the Spanish language for liturgical and concert use for the Church. These pieces will soon be included in our Pueri Cantores Choral Series published by GIA Publications, and AFPC is thrilled to be debuting Carlos Zapién's new setting of "Ave Maria" at the 2022 Phoenix Festival. Please enjoy watching the video below of the St. Bernard of Clairvaux Choristers rehearsing the piece in preparation of the Festival Mass next February.



## International Pueri Cantores Advent Festival

The International Federation of Pueri Cantores and Pueri Cantores India have been hosting an ongoing online Festival on each of the Sundays of Advent, which includes a live 45-minute presentation featuring Pueri Cantores choirs around the world and the Lighting of the Advent Candles. You can catch up on all the broadcasts [HERE](#). Learn more about the 18th Annual Festival of Sacred & Religious Music "True Encounters" [HERE](#).

[Tune in to the live stream of this Sunday's presentation HERE.](#)



**ADVENT 2021**  
**Nov 28 | Dec 5 | Dec 12 | Dec 19**  
**& Christmas Day (Dec 25)**

A 45 min presentation on each day featuring FIPC Choirs - Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain, Sri Lanka, USA

**WATCH LIVE ON YOUTUBE: 3PM - GMT**  
 9 AM - MEXICO | 10 AM - USA | 1 PM - BRAZIL | 4 PM - CET & CONGO  
 5 PM - RWANDA | 8:30 PM - INDIA & SRI LANKA

Witness the live Lighting of the Advent Candle on each Sunday by all participating countries led by Fr James Conlon  Nov 28, Fr Dr Marius Linnenborn  Dec 5, Fr Hugo Osvaldo Vargas  Dec 12, Fr Aniceto Pereira  Dec 19 followed by global Choral Presentations

**Together let us create a global Advent Wreath**

   puericantoresindia | [www.puericantores.in](http://www.puericantores.in)

## Job Postings



**Benjamin T. Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art**  
**Associate or Ordinary Professor in Sacred Music, Program Area Head,**  
**and Director of Choral Studies**

The Department of Music Performance in the Rome School of Music, Drama, and Art at The Catholic University of America seeks an experienced Choral Conductor as a tenure-track Professor to head the Sacred Music area in the Department of Music Performance. We seek candidates who understand, are enthusiastic about, and will make a significant contribution to the mission of the University, which can be found here: <https://www.catholic.edu/about-us/at-a-glance/index.html#mission>.

**Responsibilities:** As a research institution, Catholic University expects its faculty to be productive in teaching, research, and service. The primary responsibility of the position involves managing all aspects of the undergraduate and graduate degrees that reside in the sacred music program, advising undergraduate & graduate majors, teaching courses in the sacred music curriculum including graduate conducting courses, functioning as the director of the CUA choirs, and working with the department chair & staff to recruit students into the Sacred Music degrees. As a pontifical University established by the Bishops of the Catholic Church, the head of Sacred Music at Catholic University is expected to maintain preminent programs in Sacred Music that engender attention at the national and international level.

**Qualifications:** Qualified candidates will possess: a Ph.D/D.M.A. in music, a minimum of five years of collegiate teaching experience, significant experience as a choral conductor, expertise in the music of the Catholic Liturgy, and demonstrated administrative abilities. Preferred qualifications include experience playing/teaching the Organ and experience leading a professional or collegiate choral program.

**Appointment:** Full-time, tenure-track appointment at the rank of Associate or Ordinary Professor to begin in August 2022.

**Application:** To apply, please send the following to Dean Leary Warsaw, [learywarsaw@cua.edu](mailto:learywarsaw@cua.edu)

- *Cover Letter*
- *A Curriculum Vitae*
- *Three letters of recommendation*
- *A Statement of Teaching Philosophy*
- *A one- to two-page personal statement indicating how your research, teaching, and service will make a distinctive contribution to our [University's mission](#) and to the vision of Catholic education outlined in the Apostolic Constitution on Catholic Universities [Ex Corde Ecclesiae](#).*
- *A Statement of Diversity*
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**Application Deadline to submit is January 10, 2022**

The Catholic University of America is the national university of the Catholic Church and was founded as a center of research and scholarship.

**The Catholic University of America is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

Do you have a job posting for a choir director, music teacher, or worship leader position at your church or school? AFPC would be happy to advertise the position through our extensive communication channels. Just email the job description with contact information to [info@pchoirs.org](mailto:info@pchoirs.org).

## Pueri Cantores in the Media

Click on the images below to read the full articles about Pueri Cantores in the *National Catholic Reporter* and *Florida Catholic*.



# Pueri Cantores youth choirs worldwide make joyful noise unto the Lord

Sep 7, 2021

by [Patricia Lefevere](#)



The Feb. 29, 2020, Pueri Cantores Youth Choral Festival & Mass was held at St. Vincent de Paul Church and DePaul University, Chicago, Ill. Nineteen choirs from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan participated. About 70,000 children from over 30 nations identify and sing as Pueri Cantores, or Little Singers. (Courtesy of American Federation Pueri Cantores)

The joyous strains of youthful voices singing some of the Catholic Church's most beautiful Masses, anthems and hymns were silenced over the past two years by the coronavirus pandemic.

But rejoice! Music fills the air once more as children return to school and prepare concerts in local churches as well at festivals in cathedrals and basilicas at a dozen locations across the nation.



**FLORIDA**Catholic  
PALM BEACH DIOCESE

Monday, November 15, 2021 | e-edition

## Choir members reminded to consider 'spiritual purpose' of singing

- [William Cone, Florida Catholic Media Staff](#)
  - Nov 11, 2021



**PALM SPRINGS** | Being a church minister in the era of COVID-19 is complicated, but especially so for music ministers and choir directors. Fears related to spreading the disease and tools used to block its transmission can make their work more challenging. Add to that the increased absences of choir members because of the pandemic and the trials can become extreme.

Richard Robbins, director of choral activities at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, understands what they've been going through. He has worked as an educator and church musician for many years and

knows well the problems of music directors, and even more the people who direct youth choral programs.

He was featured Nov. 4, 2021, on a webinar in cooperation with his university and the American Federation Pueri Cantores, a Catholic international student choral organization that presents youth choir festivals across the United States. The title of the webinar was “Reassessing, Renewing and Rebuilding Youth Choral Programs.”

“It really is an unprecedented time for music directors, for teachers, for choral directors in modern history,” Robbins said. “So, I want you to know that I’m coming at this from



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