



Growing in Faith Through Music

MUSIC MINISTRY CONTINUES TO EXPAND ITS REACH AND IMPACT at the Catholic Center. More and more students are becoming involved in our Sunday choirs and ensembles, bringing together singers, string players, pianists, drummers, horn players, and many more gifted musicians who lead our assembly in worship.

This year saw the launch of a unique partnership between the Catholic Center and the USC Thornton School of Music with the creation of the Music Ministry Intern position. This position, filled by sophomore Fabricio Meza, allows for a student from the Thornton School's choral music department to work side by side with Music Director Joe Bazyouros, in an effort to give real world experience and application to complement studies in the classroom. Fabricio has been directing the 9:00pm schola choir for the entire academic year and has assisted at many other Catholic Center liturgies.

USC has long been known as a place of rich diversity. To further that enrichment, the Catholic Center brought in different forms of liturgy in order to expose our students of the depth of beauty that can be found throughout our community and the world. In January, students organized the celebration of the Extraordinary Form of the Mass, also commonly known as the Tridentine mass. This liturgy, celebrated completely in Latin, is an existing form of the Roman Catholic Rite that is still done in various communities. In April, the Center was pleased to welcome the Gospel Choir from the African American Catholic Community

for Evangelization. Their choir, which is about 30 members strong, blew the roof off of Our Savior Church at the 5:30pm Sunday Mass!

Another wonderful partnership began this year with the American Federation Pueri Cantores. This organization promotes choral music in Catholic schools across the country. Partnering with the Catholic Center, we were pleased to launch the first Southern California Catholic High School Choir Festival. Eight Catholic high schools from across Los Angeles

and Orange County came together for a day of music and fellowship. They also had the opportunity to learn about the Catholic Center and take tours of USC. Several

of them ended the day hopeful that one day they would become Catholic Trojans!

Finally, we were pleased to welcome several guest artists to the Catholic

Center. Audrey Assad, a nationally known Catholic songwriter and singer, gave a beautiful evening concert back in February. Students are still talking about her amazing voice and uplifting songs. Vox Femina, an all-female choral ensemble, gave a free concert for the community in March. And finally, we welcomed Ensemble Vocatrix, who gave a remarkable performance of St. Hildegard von Bingen's morality play *Ordo Virtutum*.

Music Ministry continues to thrive at the USC Caruso Catholic Center, and there are incredible things on the horizon for the 2016-2017 academic year! 

