

# Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir Newsletter

## From the Director

Greetings, friends of the Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir!



I'm writing to you with great excitement about the coming year! In the fall of 2017 I will begin serving as Director of the Women's Liturgical Choir, so I'd like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself. For the past two years, I have been serving as the Assistant Director of the Liturgical Choir and have come to know the WLC through our many collaborations, as well as through their ministry. I am struck by the strength of this group as demonstrated by their high musical standards, camaraderie, diversity, concerts and albums. The dedication of their alumni is further evidence of the vitality of the WLC family! I look

forward to continuing in this tradition and exploring new ways in which we might live out our faith through our work together.

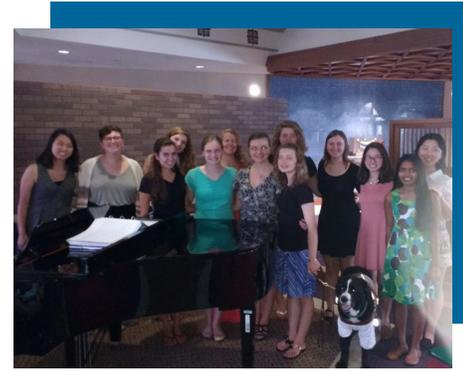
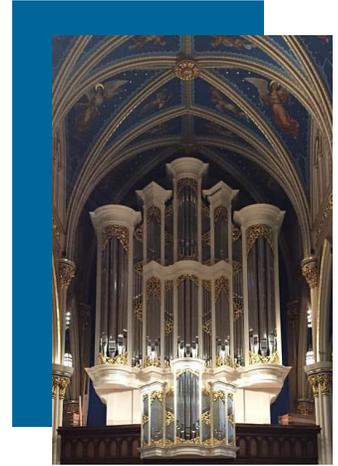
My love for sacred music and the Church began with my Catholic education and was nurtured during my time at Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School in Marine City, Michigan, as I studied with Mr. Daniel John Susan. During my undergraduate years, I focused on organ and vocal performance at Oakland University and as a guest student at the Hochschule für Kirchenmusik in Herford, Germany. Before coming to Notre Dame, I spent six years in Bloomington, Indiana working on my Masters and Doctorate in Organ and Sacred Music at Indiana University. Over the years, I've served in Lutheran, Anglican and Catholic churches in both the United States and Germany. The many experiences I've had have greatly influenced my approach to sacred music here at Notre Dame.

The opportunity to devote my energy to the Catholic mission which we serve at the University of Notre Dame has been a profound blessing in my life. My goal is that we may all work towards this same mission as we touch the lives of those we encounter on campus and as we travel together.

Saint Cecilia, pray for us!

Peace,

Patrick Kronner



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### Special points of interest

- Order our newest CD, *Cantica!* Ordering instructions on page 9
- Check out highlights from our first tour to the Pacific Northwest! Page 3
- See a note about our directing shifts on page 8

# Year in Review

## 2016-2017

### Fall 2016

8/23—Opening of the School Year Mass

8/27—Beginning of the Year Dinner

*To welcome our new members, the officers put together a choir Olympics.*

9/18—Vespers

11/19—Virginia Tech Concession Stand

11/13—Vespers

12/3—First Mass with Murdy Family Organ

12/3—Evening of Spiritual Reflection with Prof. Lawrence Cunningham

*In place of our annual fall retreat, Prof. Cunningham gave a talk on the use of the word "heart" in the Bible.*

12/4—Advent Lessons and Carols



### Spring 2017

1/19—Murdy Organ Dedication Dinner

*We were honored to sing for a special dinner honoring the donors of the new Basilica organ, the Murdy Family*

2/18—Junior Parents Weekend Mass

2/19—Vespers

2/26—Vespers

3/11-3/17—Pacific Northwest Tour

*We had an amazing time on our tour of Seattle, WA and Portland, OR over spring break!*

3/22—Memorial Mass for Travis McElmurry

3/31—Stations of the Cross

5/6—End of the Year Dinner



*"Being in Women's Liturgical Choir helps me better understand the process of Catholic mass and gives me a deeper appreciation of everything that goes into it--the music especially! Being in this choir has really helped me deepen my perspective of the Catholic faith especially from a music point of view." -Sheridan Foy, '18*

## Pacific Northwest Tour



This spring break, we embarked on the choir's very first visit to the Pacific Northwest! We began our tour in Seattle, Washington, where we sang a mass at St. James Cathedral. We then traveled further south to Tacoma for a joint rehearsal with Pacific Lutheran University's women's choir, the University Singers. We also got a tour of the Paul Fritts & Company Organ shop, where the Basilica's new organ was built! We finished our time in Washington with a concert at St. Philomena Catholic Church in Des Moines, WA.

On our third day of tour, we crossed to border into Oregon and spent time exploring the city of Portland, ending the day with a choir dinner in the tour director's home! We also got a tour of our sister school, the University of Portland, which was also established by the Order of the Holy Cross. While in Portland, the choir had the amazing opportunity to serve the homeless in the area with the community of Saint Andre Bessette Catholic Church, as well as sing a mass there. Our tour was completed with a concert at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Lake Oswego, OR.

The choir would like to thank the communities of St. James, St. Philomena, Saint Andre Bessette, and Our Lady of the Lake for giving us the chance to spread our music ministry. We would also like extend our appreciation to the Notre Dame Clubs of Greater Seattle and Portland for providing homestays and sponsoring us during our stay in the Northwest. Thank you for helping make our tour so amazing and successful!

*-Sheridan Foy, Tour Director*



*"One of my favorite parts [of tour] was volunteering at St. Andre Bessette. It was a really cool opportunity to reflect on what we are called to do and to take the mission of the choir and put it into action."*

*-Theresa Rice, '20*



## Pacific Northwest Tour

**Our concert repertoire consisted of four sections and featured 2-, 3-, and 4-part pieces from a variety of composers both classical and modern**

Laudate Dominum—*Marc-Antoine Charpentier*  
Fairest Lord Jesus—*Healey Willan*  
Let All the World in Every Corner Sing—*Healey Willan*  
Jesus Christ the Apple Tree—*Andrew Carter*

Ave Verum Corpus—*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*  
Tantum Ergo—*Gabriel Fauré*  
O Bone Jesu—*Richard Derring*  
Ave Verum Corpus—*Gabriel Fauré*



Alma Redemptoris Mater—*Josef Rheinberger*  
Inclina Domine—*Josef Rheinberger*  
Ave Regina Coelorum—*Josef Rheinberger*  
Ave Maria—*Vernan Williams*



We Praise Thee O God—*Healey Willan*  
Lord Make Me an Instrument—*Jonathan Willcocks*  
The Lord Bless You and Keep You—*John Rutter*  
God Be in My Head—*John Rutter*  
For the Beauty of the Earth—*John Rutter*  
Alma Mater—*Casasanta/O'Donnell, CSC*

*"My favorite part [of being in WLC] has been just getting to know everyone and making friends who also share a passion for music." -Natalie Weber, '20*

## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Greetings, Fellow Songbirds!

Your beautiful hearts and voices are forever cherished by the WLC family! I hope that our alumnae are in good health and are continuing to use their gift of liturgical song beyond the Notre Dame community. As the 2016-2017 president of WLC, I am honored to share the highlights of our musical ministry this past year with you. This has been an exciting year filled with new opportunities, from transition of directorship to singing with the Murdy Family Organ at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

During our first semester, in addition to singing “with full heart and voice” at the Saturday vigil masses and following home football games at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, we released our first CD in the past fifteen years! I am excited to share *Cantica* with you. Thank you to the members of our choir who put in hours of focus during our recording sessions last year; our finished project is truly glorious. Please visit our website, [wlc.nd.edu](http://wlc.nd.edu) for more information on purchasing CDs. Additionally, after months of voicing and tuning the Murdy Family Organ in between rehearsals, daily masses, and the like, the WLC was the first Basilica choir to sing with this beautiful instrument at mass mid-November. I highly encourage you to visit campus to witness its power and beauty firsthand. Finally, 2016 came to a bittersweet end for the WLC, as we said goodbye to our beloved Director of the past seven and a half years, Daniel Bayless. We showed our gratitude for his hard work through a goodbye party, celebrating how the membership and repertoire of the WLC has grown over the years. We wish him all the best in his future musical endeavors!

The WLC rang in our second semester with a dedication dinner performance for the donors of our new organ, the Murdy Family, including Dawn Marie Murdy, a former member of the WLC! Circling around an upper floor of the Main Building, the choir of angels’ harmonies in “God Be in Our Head” resounded throughout the golden dome. During our spring break tour, the WLC brought our musical ministry to the Pacific Northwest for the first time, traveling to Seattle, WA and Portland, OR. We were warmly welcomed by all of the parish communities at our concerts and daily masses through outstanding attendance. We also enhanced our traveling experience this year with volunteer work at St. Andre Bessette Parish and a visit to the Paul Fritts & Company Organ Builders’ shop, where our very own Murdy Family Organ was constructed! Thank you to all ND alumni and new friends of WLC who hosted us and traveled to see us perform.

In the latest and brightest WLC news, I am excited to announce that following a rigorous interview process, we have selected our new director, Patrick Kronner. We will be welcoming him into our WLC family at the start of the fall semester. I hope you enjoy learning more about him and future of the WLC in his formal introduction provided in our newsletter.

In the midst of change, our WLC family came together to maintain dedication and a pursuit of liturgical music excellence. I would like to first offer a special thank you to our interim director, Dr. Andrew McShane, without whom our choir could not have continued to grow this year. Further, our choristers value the leadership of our graduate assistants, Michael Plagerman and Daniel Schwandt, who provided us with flawless accompaniment as well as creative vocal warm-ups to hone our technique. Lastly, I applaud the dedication and talents of this year’s WLC officer board. As I graduate this spring, I am confident that I leave behind me eight outstanding underclassmen who will continue to uphold WLC’s commitment to providing beautiful musical ministry and compassionate fellowship in the years to come.

The WLC treasures the support that we receive from you, our alumnae, family, and friends. We are so grateful to those of you who have touched our choir with your voices in years past, as well as those who continue to offer assistance for our musical ministry. “May the Lord Bless You and Keep You!”

In harmony,  
Alyssa McBride

## Graduate Students



**Michael Plagerman** completed his undergraduate studies in organ performance at Pacific Lutheran University where he studied with Dr. Paul Tegels. While at PLU, Michael served as the director of music and choir director at Prince of Peace LCMS, as well as the student conductor of the PLU Chapel Choir and as president of the Choir of the West. He has been a recitalist and Biggs fellow with the Organ Historical Society, the Tacoma chapter of the American Guild of Organists, St. Paul's Cathedral, Yakima, and St. James Cathedral, Seattle. Michael is currently in his second year of the Master of Sacred Music program at the University of Notre Dame where he studies organ with Dr. Craig Cramer. He also serves as Director of Music and Liturgy, organist, and choir director at St. Jude Parish, South Bend.

**Daniel Schwandt** is the Cantor (Director of Music) of Immanuel Lutheran Church-ELCA in the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago. For twelve years he served as the Cantor to the Seminary Community at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and is currently pursuing graduate studies in sacred music at the University of Notre Dame. He holds a degree in church music from St. Olaf College and has served congregations in Wisconsin and the Twin Cities. He has been principal musician for numerous national church-wide assemblies of the ELCA, regional and national conventions of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and for gatherings of the American Guild of Organists. He served on the National Council of the Organ Historical Society and is in demand as a leader of hymn festivals and service-playing workshops. His compositions are published by Augsburg Fortress and MorningStar Music.



## The Officer Board

### 2016-2017

<b>President</b>	Alyssa McBride
<b>Vice President</b>	Vinolin Anbalagan
<b>Secretary</b>	Megan Wilson
<b>Treasurer</b>	Alexandra O'Connor <i>Fall</i> Kristen Chua <i>Spring</i>
<b>Liturgical Commissioner</b>	Megan Reilly
<b>Tour Director</b>	Sheridan Foy
<b>Alumni Relations</b>	Leanne Van Allen <i>Fall</i> Robin Seay <i>Spring</i>
<b>Librarians</b>	Leanne Van Allen Vinolin Anbalagan

### 2017-2018

<b>President</b>	Vinolin Anbalagan
<b>Vice President</b>	Sheridan Foy
<b>Secretary</b>	Jacqueline Santa Ana
<b>Treasurer</b>	Leanne Van Allen
<b>Liturgical Commissioner</b>	Megan Wilson <i>Fall</i> Madeline Link <i>Spring</i>
<b>Tour Director</b>	Robin Seay
<b>Alumni Relations</b>	Natalie Weber
<b>Librarians</b>	Leanne Van Allen Jacqueline Santa Ana

*"The women of the WLC have been such a great and supportive community for me during my time at Notre Dame. I honestly can't imagine my Notre Dame experience without Women's Liturgical Choir! From singing at the Saturday vigil mass to our weekly rehearsals, Women's Lit has been a staple to my Notre Dame experience."*

*-Megan Wilson, '19*

## Social Events

*This year we began a new tradition of having an outside social event every month to foster choir community. The events were generally themed for the season, and featured food, fun, and friends galore!*



This year, in order to introduce our new members to WLC, the officers revived an old tradition and put together a welcome skit. Inspired by the Rio Olympics, we hosted our own choir tetrathon. The skit was a fun, goofy way of welcoming our new members and outlining choir expectations. We handed out gold medals to all of our new members because to us they are all winners.

Halloween took place on a Monday this year so we held a costume contest at rehearsal! Many people participated, and Angela Lim took first place for her missing person on a milk carton costume. We also had an outside social event where we made milkshakes, listened to spooky music, and played Apples to Apples (a choir classic).



To fight off that South Bend winter blues, we had a hot chocolate social in the middle of January. We were able to sample our vice president's famous homemade hot chocolate while listening to our various CD's and enjoying one another's company.



In February, we celebrated our female friendships in the spirit of the season with our very own "Galentine's Day" celebration. We made friendship bracelets and watched Parks and Recreation, the show that inspired the event. Berries, fresh-baked cookies, and lots of laughter finished out the evening.



## Retreat

As you know, this year has been a big year of change and improvisation for WLC – Fall Retreat notwithstanding. Due to complications with our usual venue and planning for the Fall Retreat, we were unable to hold it this year. However, I'm happy to say that we were able to work this setback to our advantage!

In the Fall Retreat's stead, we gathered after mass one evening during Advent to reflect with Dr. Lawrence Cunningham, a Notre Dame Theology professor and WLC fan. Dr. Cunningham offered his thoughts on the heart. In the Bible, which uses the word hundreds of times, the heart is the home of the soul. Dr. Cunningham left us with the suggestion that we take a moment each day to ask ourselves, "How is my heart today?"

Too tied to our beloved retreat to give it up, we will also hold a Spring Retreat before the end of the semester. Holding the retreat later this year will have the added benefit of giving all members who joined partway through the year a chance to experience it with us! We are blessed to have this opportunity to mix up our usual mode of operations.

*-Megan Reilly, Liturgical Commissioner*

## Choir Graduates

*Thanks to our graduates for all your hard work and fun times in Women's Lit! We wish you all the best in the future and hope you'll come back to visit!*

*Alyssa McBride*



"I look forward to serving in one of the health professions, with a focus on mental health care."



*Deyan Zeng*

"In the next year I will work here as an attorney if I can pass the bar exam."

## A Note of Acknowledgement



Last semester we said good-bye to our director of seven years, Mr. Daniel Bayless. The women of the Women's Liturgical Choir greatly appreciate all of the hard work and enthusiasm that Daniel brought to rehearsals, performances, and other events. We wish Daniel all the best in his new position at St. Mark's Episcopal Church and School in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, and sincerely thank him for all he did for our choir.

While the search for a new director was on-going, Dr. Andrew McShane, Director of Music at the Basilica as well as director of the Liturgical Choir, stepped in as our interim director. Andy was the director of the Women's Liturgical Choir previously so his returning to direct our choir for this semester was a perfect fit. We all wish to thank Andy for stepping in and allowing our choir to continue performing, as well as for his all-around support of our choir.



## From the Officer Board

Special thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir this year. With your support we've been able to fulfil our mission of bringing sacred choral music to the University community both here on campus and around the country. Our music ministry would not be the same without your generous support. Gifts to the University may be directed to the Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir endowment by contacting the University's Development Office.

**Development Office**  
**1100 Grace Hall**  
**University of Notre Dame**  
**Notre Dame, IN 46556**  
**(574) 631 7164**

We are excited to announce the arrival of our newest CD, *Cantica*, recorded in 2016! It features many beloved WLC classics as well as some new pieces from a variety of musical styles and eras. It is available for \$20 through the ND Student Shop, a link to which can be found on the recordings page of our website, [www.wlc.nd.edu](http://www.wlc.nd.edu). We hope you enjoy listening to *Cantica* and our other recordings as much as we enjoyed making them!

With sincerest thanks,  
The WLC Officers Board



## NOTRE DAME WOMEN'S LITURGICAL CHOIR

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Thanks to all the members of WLC who provided photos for this year's newsletter!

