



# The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific®

Choirmaster Vicente Bastidas with Schola and Escolania in concert last December 16th, in the City of Riverside Festival of Lights.

## The Schola's Quarter Notes

Q1 2019

### A Modern Choir School

by Fr. Ted Ley, SM, DMus

Once many years ago a choir school went on pilgrimage to Rome and sang for the Pope. Their singing was very beautiful. The Holy Father whispered to an aide next to him, "Where are they from?" The aide replied, in Latin, "They are English" - "Sunt ANGLII." The pope answered in Latin, "No, they are ANGELI" - Angels! Perhaps that choir was from Cambridge, because the choir of King's College there is said to have today the most beautiful children's choral tone in the world.

Choir schools today carry on a tradition begun over a thousand years ago when, during the so-called "Dark Ages," something happened that was truly bright and promising: the monasteries of Western Europe founded the first real schools. Some of them became famous for Music, the first choir schools.

The oldest existent choir school is near Barcelona, Spain, the "Escolania" of the Monastery of Monserrat. "Escolania," in the regional Catalan language means, "choir school."

And so, our four-and-a-half year old choir school, in the historic Spanish district of Los Angeles, has the name, Escolania Pacifica, linking it also to our sponsoring adult choir, The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific.

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#### Special points of interest

- Watch our Festival of Lights Performance on Facebook.
- Make Donations on Amazon Purchases through AmazonSmile.
- Summer trip to Ely, NV with the Escolania of Assumption School.
- Pictures from our events.



*Assumption and Escolanía in Boyle Heights, "A Catholic Magnet School in the Communication Arts," in more ways than one.*

### Festival of Lights

Did you miss our Christmas performance at the Festival of Lights? You can still watch it on our Facebook page. Moving forward, we will be live streaming our performances, which will be recorded and saved on our Facebook page.

Keep updated through our Schola website, [www.pacificschola.org](http://www.pacificschola.org), and our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheScholaCantorumOfThePacific/>

### *A Choir School for our Times, Continued from Page 1*

The founding of our Escolania is certainly a "pipe dream" come-true; the pipes being the choristers' young voices piping in very high register, notes with a tone uniquely that of children, a very special and universally beloved choral tone. And if it is oft-times "heavenly" in its sound, it is also often uniquely cheerful; for, children love to sing!

All the students of Assumption School in Boyle Heights, are members of the Escolania, boys and girls, pre-K through Grade Eight. They are now receiving a thorough Music Education centered on Sacred and Classical Choral Music but including popular and folk repertoire, and the study of such supportive instruments as Classical Guitar, Violin, Mandolin, Flute, Drums, Keyboard and String Bass.

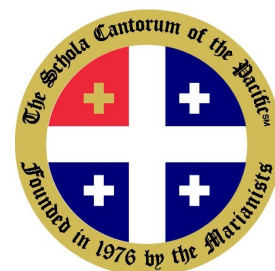
Enthusiastically co-sponsored by the staff and faculty, clergy and leadership, of Assumption Parish and School, the Escolania also derives keenly from the spirit of the Society of Mary, the Marianists, whose ministries are especially for children and the disadvantaged. Boyle Heights, being one of Los Angeles' oldest neighborhoods, is not without the serious needs of an inner city district, including better schools and family and child safety. Escolania Pacifica provides something special to the young people for their school's "claim to fame:" While the Escolania sings, "From Gregorian to Gospel," it is also developing as a concert specialization, the Music of Old Spanish California, a unique cultural contribution

among schools in the Southland. Already the concert ensemble of the Escolania has performed with the adult Schola Cantorum of the Pacific. Now the Escolania looks ahead to stage its own Spanish zarzuela-type musicale, "Fandango en Nueva California," enacting a fiesta in the style of Early California with authentic music of the epoch.

We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic school family, Assumption, for our Escolania. Our school parents are wholeheartedly in support of the Escolania. Our hope is that in only a few years our choir school will be able to stand alongside some of the world's finest choir schools, and like them, prepare self-confident young people to become successful leaders in many fields, motivated by their experience at Assumption School. This hope is summarized in the lyrics to the school Alma Mater which the children sing in choir school style in three parts:

*"We love Assumption School. Together we're at home. We learn, we pray, and win in every way. The Queen of Angels' arm will keep us safe from harm, as joyfully we run in the footsteps of her Son, until the greatest victory in life is won: To give the love of Jesus' to everyone."*

-Fr Ted Ley, SM





*We are now on Amazon Smile.*

## Make Donations on AmazonSmile

By Julio Maldonado

Have you heard of AmazonSmile? It is a simple and automatic way for you to support The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific. Every time you shop on smile.amazon.com, a portion of your purchase will be donated toward your favorite charitable organization. This is an easy way for you to contribute to our mission by making purchases that you would normally make on Amazon. So what do you need to do to set this up?

Visit smile.amazon.com. If this is your first time visiting the website, you will be prompted to search for your favorite nonprofit charity. Search for "The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific" and you will quickly see our logo. If you have already selected an organization, then when you visit smile.amazon.com you will be greeted with the usual Amazon front page. You can change your organization by selecting "Supporting" right underneath the search bar.

Alternatively, you may visit our unique link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-4321261>

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your subtotal minus rebates or coupons. It's important to know that these donations are made by AmazonSmile Foundation, so these donations are not tax deductible by you. However, it's a great way to passively make donations on purchases you were already going to buy. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com and there is no additional cost to you or to The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific.

We are happy to provide more options for you be part of our mission. There are now three ways to support us at home: Mail a check to our P.O. Box, PayPal (<http://www.pacificschola.org/donations/>), and now AmazonSmile.

Thank you for being part of our journey as we continue to provide a free music education to the youths.

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## FAQs

### Where does the adult choir sing?

The adult choir is currently at St. John Chrysostom Church in Inglewood. We sing the 11:30am mass on most Sundays with practice at 10:00am in the annex room. If you would like to see our full schedule, you may view it on our website:

[www.pacificschola.org](http://www.pacificschola.org)

### Is the Schola looking for more choristers?

We welcome everyone who wants to sing with us. Please, reach out to us if you are interested in singing. You may reach us at

[general@pacificschola.org](mailto:general@pacificschola.org)

### I'd like to follow the Schola on social media. Where does the Schola post updates?

The Schola has accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We are currently looking for volunteers to help us manage our social media sites and upload original content from our concerts and masses. See below for our social media links.

#### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/  
TheScholaCantorumOfThePacific](http://www.facebook.com/TheScholaCantorumOfThePacific)

#### Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/  
pacificschola](http://www.instagram.com/pacificschola)

#### Twitter:

[www.twitter.com/PacificSchola](http://www.twitter.com/PacificSchola)



Above: The Schola adults and Escolania students visiting Sacred Heart Catholic Church, summer 2018 in Ely, NV.

Below: Vicente Bastidas, assistant choir director, conducting the Schola adults and Escolania students at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Ely, NV.





Above: The Escolania students performing their Christmas Program at Assumption School in Boyle Heights on December 9, 2018

Below: The Schola adults and select Escolania students performing at the Riverside Festival of Lights' Main Stage on December 16, 2018.



## Summer Trip

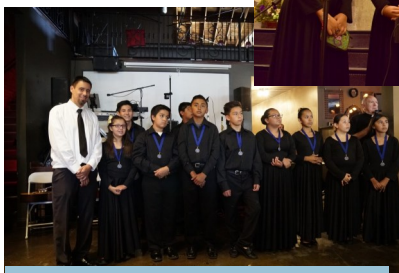
*By Isaac Valencia*

My trip to Ely, NV is a trip that I will never forget. This amazing experience started last year when I got invited to go with the Escolania Pacifica to perform at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Ely. Father Ted had us practice for quite some time to make sure we performed at our best.

Many of the activity we had at Ely became some of my favorite moments in life. One of them being our visit to the Lehman Caves, located at the Great Basin National Park. The geology of these caves were very interesting to see since many of the rocks differ in texture. I also enjoyed the stargazing at night. Seeing Mars, Saturn, and the moon with the telescope was an enjoyable sight to see. We even saw a shooting star pass by.

However, my favorite part of the trip was our concert at the church. Showing what we had been practicing for the Ely community was very rewarding since we all had worked hard to do our best. My solo piece was nerve wracking because it was the first time I played outside California and after playing the piece I felt proud of myself.

Overall, the drive to Ely might of have taken about 9 hours but it was worth the drive. The people from Ely were very welcoming and attentive to us and I hope we get invited again.





## The Schola Throughout the Years



The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific

P.O. Box 171

Wrightwood, CA 92397-0171

The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Our mission is to preserve and develop the future of the Catholic Church's music by providing a music education to our youths and continually improving our choral tone and quality.

## Our First Newsletter: The Schola Quarter Notes

Thank you so much for your support throughout the years.

We are happy that we are able to share with you our current activities.

In this first issue of the Newsletter, you will find the following topics and stories:

- The Choir School in Boyle Heights
- Facebook Page and Festival of Lights Performance
- AmazonSmile and PayPal Donations
- An Article from one of our guitar students about our Summer Trip
- Select Pictures from our Events

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of the Pacific

P.O. Box 171

Wrightwood, CA 92397-0171

Phone: 310-864-8433

E-mail: [general@pacificschola.org](mailto:general@pacificschola.org)

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of the Pacific®