

The Schola's Quarter Notes



The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific®

Q2 2020 – Q4 2021
Issue #4

The Schola's 45th Anniversary

Back in Action in Time to Celebrate!

By Fr. Ted Ley, SM

Not only have we made it through the worst of the pandemic; we've come out stronger! After a challenging summer, our future is broader and brighter.

By last July, due to the pandemic, we needed both a new choir school location and a new home church for the adult Schola. These needs, right before our 45th anniversary on October 8th!

Hope, clear advice, wise directions came from Mr. Steve Johnson of Catholic Schools Collaborative with whom we had already been associating for some time. Others now came to our aid, including the then-Superintendent of Catholic Elementary Schools, Dr. Tony Galla; key professional...

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Special points of interest

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- Distance Learning
- Learn how to Contribute

The Schola's 45th Anniversary, cont'd

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Fr. Ted Ley, SM

and ministerial friends; and two persons very important to us in our recent years: Bishop David O'Connell of the San Gabriel Pastoral Region; and the Pastor of Assumption Church, Franciscan Father Arturo Lopez, OFM. All ultimately has gone well.

Thanks to Father Arturo, we have resumed our use of the two room studio on the school campus of Assumption. Our teenage Ambassadors are active again, a Catholic youth group devoted to Music. The children of the now-

closed Assumption day school, who wish to remain in the touring concert choir, Escolanía Pacífica are rehearsing in the studio, weekday evenings. We are helping the Sisters maintain the campus, who use the facility for the Parish School of Religion. From time to time, the Schola will provide the parish a Festive choir of adults and youth.

We were invited to consider Immaculate Conception School. We met its dynamic principal, Ms. Heather Murphy-Garcia. Our Choirmaster, Vicente Bastidas is now teaching there. Immaculate Conception, an inner-city school that is also cosmopolitan, is in a quiet quarter near Downtown. At ICS we are resuming the teaching of Basic Music Skills and Choral Development, but also Instrumental Music instruction, supervised by our Classical Guitar teacher, Julio Maldonado; and related Communications and tech activities including college-type campus broadcasting and our FCC-licensed student amateur radio club, KN6GLA.

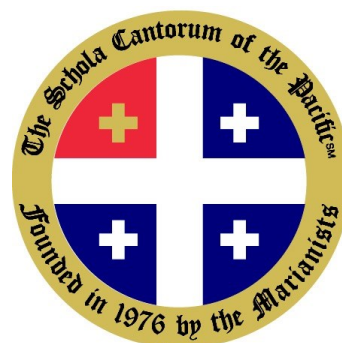
Front Page Photo: Mr. Vicente Bastidas teaching on-site at Immaculate Conception School in Los Angeles.

Had this chapter in the Schola's history ended this way, we would have breathed a thorough sigh of relief and gotten back to work. But more good has come about. From our summer's discernment we realized we could do more, could benefit more schools, more students. More children could have Music in their elementary and middle school years, in a way that would last them all their lives, which isn't happening enough in American Education in general today.

In this edition of Quarter Notes, we are happy to announce that we are initiating, with the help of Catholic Schools Collaborative and the endorsement of local Catholic educational leaders, a gateway program of Catholic Music Education, what we are calling our Colloquium Cantorum - a musical cooperative of parochial schools receiving the services of The Schola Cantorum of the Pacific®. We will teach Basic Music Skills and Sacred and Liturgical Music in these schools as a cooperative for regional opportunity. The more interested students from these schools can then enter our advanced ensembles functioning out of our Boyle Heights studio. We have something for each age-group - our children's touring concert choir, the

Escolanía Pacífica; our Classical Guitars and Strings; the teenage choral youth group, the Ambassadors, and for teachers interested in advancing their own knowledge of music, our adult Schola Cantorum. At this writing, twelve schools are very interested. All want to implement from the earliest grades, Basic Music Skills, and then more. We hope to engage the creativity of the staffs and teachers while forming a regional Catholic music educational community.

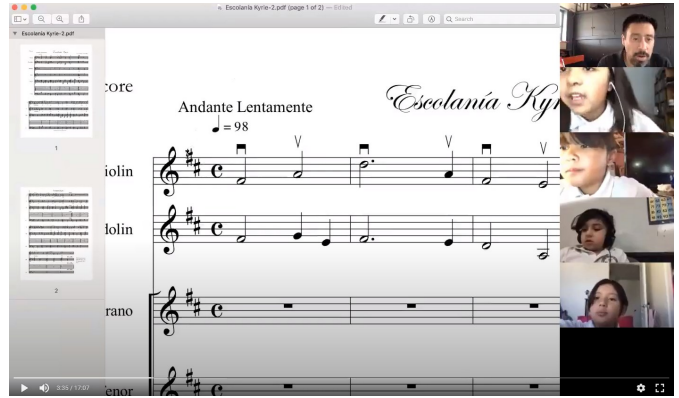
On Sunday, January 9th at Old Mission San Fernando, a combined ensemble concert will commemorate our 45 years of Sacred Music "From Gregorian to Gospel," and the Schola's Music Education of youth. We re-enter regular activity with greater understanding, stability and promise. We will ever be thankful to all who have guided us into this all-the-brighter future.



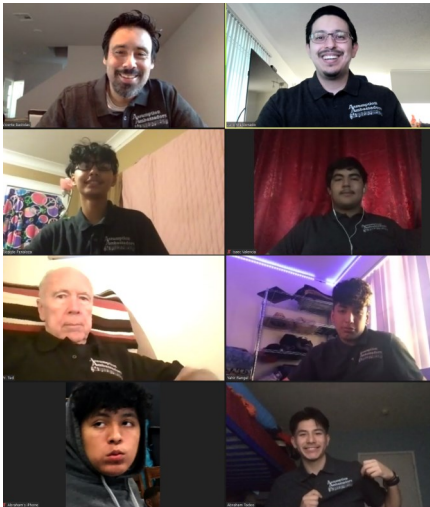
Photos...



The Schola adult members meeting through Zoom



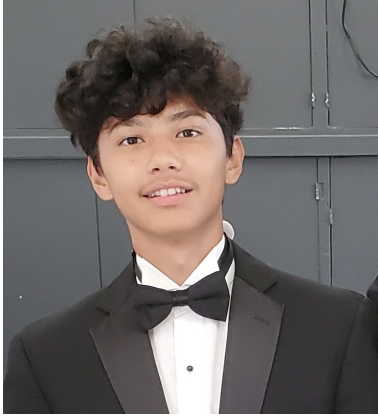
Mr. Vicente Bastidas distance teaching during the pandemic



The Assumption Ambassadors meeting through Zoom with their new polo shirts.



Diamond Anniversary Mass at Assumption



*Ricardo Peñaloza,
Assumption alumnus*

*“From Gregorian
To Gospel”*

Lately we have used this slogan. But while we do the earlier spirituals in the unaccompanied *a cappella* form that is our specialty, our later gospel numbers have been accompanied.

This year, online and then live, we rehearsed an *a cappella*, "Every Time I Feel the Spirit," a gladly-added 45th Anniversary addition to our *a cappella* repertoire.

Assumption Ambassadors

By Ricardo Peñaloza

My experiences in the Assumption Ambassadors is an experience that I will never forget. This choir/ youth group does fun, enjoyable, and productive activities; for example, we sing, go on trips, and, most importantly, have fun. I've been in the Assumption Ambassadors for four years, and so have my friends. My favorite trip we've been to so far was going to Nevada to sing for a church. We had many fun memories, such as going to a restaurant and Yahir jokingly insisting on a toast, and Abraham had to go for him. It was so funny. The Assumption Ambassadors is just starting, too, as we have new members and still want more. We have many more plans for this year and the years to come.



Boat Trip with the Assumption Ambassadors and Rocco Fasone, 2019.



Snowboarding Trip with the Assumption Ambassadors and Bob Montana, 2020.



Successful Distance Learning and Communication

By Julio Maldonado

Who knew this pandemic would have lasted as long as it has? Yet, despite the uncertainty and social distancing, The Schola managed to meet, communicate, and plan throughout the year. Zoom and MS Teams became a new, regular method of communication and productivity. Thanks to this technology, The Schola was able to continue teaching music to students through distance learning.



Julio Maldonado

In particular, I was able to continue teaching classical guitar through Zoom. First, it allowed me to share the sheet music and music lessons directly on the student's screen. Then, when needed, I could demonstrate how to play a particular passage on the left hand with the camera aimed directly on the guitar's fretboard. In my opinion, it was a powerful method to teach guitar and will be a method that I will incorporate for future lessons. An added benefit is that the time saved in commuting will let me schedule more classes throughout the week, where commuting and scheduling would be difficult or impossible.

Guitar lessons will be hybrid moving forward with in-person classes on weekend mornings and several timeslots available on weekdays through Zoom. I could not be happier with our achievements and successes over the past year.

Contribute

Volunteer

Please, consider joining our adult choir. We currently meet and rehearse at Assumption School in Boyle Heights for future planned programs and concerts. We are always looking for more singers.

Donations by mail

Checks may be mailed to:

“The Schola Cantorum
of the Pacific”

P.O. Box 171,
Wrightwood, CA 92397

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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.

The Schola's Quarter Notes, Issue # 4

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 Issue #4, you will find the following topics and stories:

- The Schola's 45th Anniversary
- New photos from this past year
- An article from one of our students, Ricardo Peñaloza
- Distance Learning and Our Successes
- Learn how you can contribute

Celebrent Te Populi, Deus
May the Peoples Praise You, O Lord

The Schola Cantorum
of the Pacific

P.O. Box 171

Wrightwood, CA 92397-0171

Phone: 310-864-8433

E-mail: general@pacificschola.org

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