The sacred truths and teachings of our Catholic faith are more easily perceived when the liturgy is replete with beauty. Thus, the ministry of beauty in worship is special importance, because beauty provides man an impulse to worship. Of the liturgical arts that captivate man’s senses music is perhaps the highest art. Sacrosanctum Concilium declares: “The musical tradition of the Universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art” (n. 112). Sacred music must therefore be true art, “otherwise it will be impossible for it to exercise on the minds of those who listen to it that efficacy which the Church aims at obtaining in admitting into her liturgy the art of musical sounds” (Tra le Sollecitudini, Pope St. Pius X).

Music that has a sense of prayer, dignity, and beauty helps transport modern man, so weighed down by worldly concerns, to a place of contemplation, where he can hear the voice of God. Sacrosanctum Concilium thereby insists: “The treasure of sacred music is to be preserved and fostered with great care” (n. 114). The nine choirs and two orchestras of St. John Cantius in Chicago hope to fulfill this desire of the Council Fathers in fullest measure. Not only do the musicians fill the Temple of God with beauty of sacred music, but the choirs are ambassadors, spreading love of God through the beauty of the treasury of the Church’s sacred music. Through the many musical recordings offered by the sacred musicians of St. John Cantius, many souls, who might never dare set foot in a church to pray, are perhaps drawn into a spirit of prayer through the beauty of sacred music.
The Chicago Gargoyle Brass and Organ Ensemble, which has been on a tear commissioning new compositions and arrangements for their unusual instrumentation, will give the Chicago premiere of an organ and brass arrangement of late-Romantic French composer Felix Guilmant’s “Symphony No. 1,” Op. 42, for organ and orchestra. Arranger is New England-based composer Craig Garner.

Plan to attend the program, “French Connections: Music of Guilmant, Ravel, and Widor,” at St. John Cantius on Saturday, April 30th at 7:30 p.m. It includes Garner’s organ and brass arrangement of Maurice Ravel’s impressionistic “Pavane for a Dead Princess”; Charles-Marie Widor’s “Salvum fac populum tuum” (“Save our people”), Op. 84, for brass, drum, and organ; and French Baroque composer-organist Louis Marchand's “Grand Dialogue in C” for solo organ.

Concertgoers will also hear Carlyle Sharpe’s “Prelude, Elegy, and Scherzo,” a Chicago Gargoyle commission that received its world-premiere recording on the Gargoyle's critically acclaimed debut CD, “Flourishes, Tales and Symphonies,” released in December on the MSR Classics label.

Ensemble artists will include trumpet players Lev Garbar and Andrew Hunter, horn player Renée Vogen, trombonist Ian Fitzwater, tuba player Phil Bessette, and percussionists Joe Beribak and Michael Schraft. Organist will be Philip Klocekner, a lecturer in music at the University of Chicago and associate university organist at Rockefeller Chapel. Get advance tickets ($15, adult/$10, seniors & students/$5, youth) at www.cantius.org. Call 1-800-838-3006.

**“The Kid”**

**Sunday, April 10th—3:00 p.m. Showtime**

**Church Hall, St. John Cantius**

Enjoy this 1921 Blockbuster Film

Featuring Charlie Chaplin & Jackie Coogan

Photoplay Organist, Jay Warren, of Chicago’s Silent Film Society will accompany the film on our 1925 Wurlitzer Theater Pipe Organ

$10.00 — Adult & $5.00 — Kids 12 and Under

Order Tickets—www.Cantius.org or Call: 1-800-838-3006

Order Tickets at:

www.Cantius.org
Sunday Afternoon Organ Recitals

Lunch & Recital
$20, adult, $15 seniors
$5, youth 6-18
www.cantius.org
Call 1-800-838-3006.

2:00 p.m. Lunch
Join us after 12:30 pm Mass
in the Café San Giovanni

3:00 p.m. Recital
Organ Music for a Sunday Afternoon

Richard Spotts
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Sunday, March 6, (Laetare)

Sergio Orabona
Stuttgart, Germany
Sunday, March 13

Corrado Cavalli
St. John Cantius, Chicago
Sunday, April 24

William Schlueter
Wheaton, Illinois
Sunday, May 1

Richard Spotts

Sergio Orabona

William Schlueter

Corrado Cavalli
The annual “Raffle Fundraiser” fundraiser of the Patrons of Sacred Music supports the choirs and orchestras at St. John Cantius as they make their musical offering before God. If you need raffle tickets or have questions contact Fr. Scott A. Haynes, SJC, at music@cantius.org or call 312.243.7373 x 111.

On Saturday, June 4th, all are invited to the Church Hall of St. John Cantius to attend the Raffle Drawing as we thank God for helping us raise the funds we need “to restore the sacred” through music.

Before the Raffle Drawing, family and friends will also enjoy the classic 1916 film “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea,” accompanied by Jay Warren of Chicago’s Silent Film Society on our Wurlitzer Theater Pipe Organ. Get tickets at www.cantius.org, call 1-800-838-3006 or get tickets at the door.

We hope you will support this modest effort to make it a great success! I thank you in advance for your support and interest. May God bless the sacrifices you make to assist us in restoring the beauty of our Catholic faith through sacred music.

Fr. C. Frank Phillips, C.R.
President of A.M.D.G.