

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Christopher Holman, PhD

Director of Music

Humankind encounters beauty in many and various ways. For some, it is in the splendor of nature; for others, it is family life. Music can also help us glimpse eternity. Experiencing masterpieces composed to the glory of God is the heart of this Sacred Music Series, which presents the Catholic Church's treasury

of music in concerts, services, and meditations.

We begin with Johann Sebastian Bach's arguably greatest achievement, the *Mass in B Minor*, performed in concert with baroque orchestra for the first time in Cincinnati in many decades. In October, we encounter Hubert Parry's introspective *Songs of Farewell*, composed near the end of his life as he wrestled with his own mortality. Maurice Duruflé's luminous *Requiem*—built upon the Gregorian chants we sing every Sunday at St. Gertrude Parish—will be heard within the medieval Dominican Rite Mass, accompanied by members of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

The beloved traditions of Advent Lessons and Carols and Handel's *Messiah* crown our celebration of Advent and Christmas. New this year, our annual Prayer Service for People with Health Issues will include Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, a joyful setting of 18th-century poetry by Christopher Smart, composed from texts he wrote while confined in a mental institution. During Lent, join us for Sergei Rachmaninoff's transcendent *All-Night Vigil*, one of the greatest achievements of Russian Orthodox sacred music. Our Choral Tenebrae during Holy Week will feature Allegri's devastating *Miserere mei*, sung by three choirs positioned throughout the church. Just after Easter,

violinist Zachary Carrettin returns with a meditation on the glorious mysteries of the rosary, joined by harpsichordist Christopher Holman. The season concludes with Fanny Mendelssohn's rarely performed *Oratorium*, featuring soprano Olivia Knutsen in Bach's jubilant cantata *Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen*.

Through these concerts and liturgies, I invite you to encounter beauty, discover the riches of the Church's musical heritage, and, above all, draw closer to the God to whom this music has been offered for centuries. Whether you are a lifelong lover of sacred music or joining us for the first time, we look forward to welcoming you.

With gratitude,



Christopher Holman

