

Happy 2008 to all GIC members! In this issue of *Cantemus*, we take a look back at several chant highlights of 2007. Wishing you all happy chanting throughout 2008.

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The Gregorian Institute of Canada (GIC) undertakes research and education to promote the study and performance of Gregorian and other Western chant repertoire in Canada. GIC is a not-for-profit corporation, licensed and authorized to provide official tax receipts for donations in support of its mission. Founded in 2004, GIC is a non-denominational association. GIC is affiliated with the School of the Arts, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.



Chanting the sequence "Lauda Sion," members of the Gregorian Institute process to the chapel on the campus of the University of Michigan.

Pilgrimage to Kalamazoo

In May 2007, at the International Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the Institute's schola re-created "In Festo Corporis Christi," the First Vespers of Corpus Christi, as first instituted in 1246. This music was selected to coincide with the publication by Penn State Press of the manuscript – Paris Bibl. nat. lat. 1143 (BnF 1143). BnF 1143 is a small manuscript of 38 folios devoted exclusively to the service (Mass and Office) for Corpus Christi. It is of central importance to the study of this feast, because it is the earliest source to transmit all of the texts and most of the music of *Sacerdos in aeternum*, the Roman service usually attributed to Thomas Aquinas that formed the basis of all later services. The concert, which was very well received, was presented by members from Quebec and Ontario, who had a wonderful time performing. Following the singing, there was a round-table discussion. In attendance were many notable international musicologists who have established connections with some of the members of the Gregorian Institute.

William Oates

GIC Returns to Kalamazoo

For the second consecutive year, GIC will sponsor a session at the International Congress of Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, May 8 to 11, 2008. In addition to performing, the Institute will sponsor a three-paper session on dialects of Western Chant (Sarum, Old Spanish, Old Roman, etc.). The GIC Schola, including members from Chicoutimi, Montreal, Toronto and Hamilton, will present a concert of Later Medieval Devotional Song in Honour of the Blessed Virgin.

For more information, please contact the GIC at oates@gregorian.ca.

W.O.

News Bites



- In January 2007, the Ritual Choir of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, including two of our GIC directors, travelled to sing in St. Joseph, Missouri. The concert presented was very well received, with perhaps 300 in attendance.
- On April 21, 2007, the GIC Schola presented a concert at St. Luke's Anglican Church, Hamilton, featuring the first Vespers of Corpus Christi and the four Marian Antiphons.
- Jean-Pierre Noiseux, a member of GIC's board of directors, gave a paper at the sessions of the Cantus Planus International Study Group, which were held from July 11 to 16, 2007, in Zürich, Switzerland. His paper, entitled «Le Tonaire de dom Pothier et la genèse du Liber Gradualis» was also presented in English in Quebec City on November 4, 2007, as part of the American Musicological Society Annual Meeting.

Gregorian Institute Colloquium: July 2007

On July 27 to 29, a group of 25 enthusiastic chant lovers trekked to Ottawa for the Gregorian Institute's annual Colloquium. Our destination was the beautiful and quiet Maison de Notre-Dame-de-la-Providence, run by the gracious Sr. L. Dupuis. The facilities were spotless and food plentiful for the hungry chanters, but music was on their minds.



On Friday evening, after a quick annual members meeting, some of us were introduced to the Sarum usage and learned a bit of the history of this dialect of Gregorian chant. Others attended an introduction to Gregorian chant workshop led by Rob Castle. After the workshops, William Renwick taught the music of Sarum Compline. We then proceeded to actually sing Compline in the chapel at the Maison. The chapel was just the right size for our group and the acoustics excellent, resulting in a moment of profound peace while singing the evening office.

Early Saturday morning, many arose to sing Lauds led by Jean-Pierre Noiseux. After breakfast, we attended workshops/practices, led by Stephanie Martin and then by Lawrence Harris, on the music of the Mass for Sunday. After lunch, various choirs spent some time practising for that evening's concert and last-minute neume bashing. Then Jean-Pierre Noiseux gave a presentation on chant resources. A summary of these resources is now included on the Links page of the GIC website.

Breaking out into two groups, some folks attended the Introduction to Chant by Rob Castle and some learned the music of Sarum Vespers with William Renwick. The group then reconvened to have coffee and attend the second workshop by Lawrence Harris on the music of the Mass.

Moving quickly from there to sing Sarum Vespers, we had dinner and left for Ottawa. The concert that evening at the church of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus in Ottawa was attended by almost 100 locals. We started with some singing of a number of familiar pieces of Gregorian chant by the Chorus Ecclesia, led by Lawrence Harris. Then it was Sarum Schola's turn to sing some very intriguing and little-known pieces from the Sarum repertoire. After a short break, we returned to listen to an interesting variety from Schola Magdalena, including some by Hildegard von Bingen and G. Dufay. This was, of course, followed by celebrations by many choir members at a local pub.

The next morning started with Lauds. After breakfast, we reviewed the music of the Mass, led by Stephanie Martin. Next, participants enjoyed perusing a display of books of chant and manuscripts. Finally, we returned to Ottawa for the exciting moment of singing full Gregorian Mass at St. Theresa's Church, celebrated by Fr. Creurer. After Mass, a number of attendees went to a local restaurant for lunch before starting the trip home.

It was an intense weekend at which I'm sure everyone learned new things about Gregorian chant, formed new friendships, and enjoyed beautiful singing. Deo Gratias!

William Oates

2008 Colloquium

The Gregorian Institute of Canada has already started to prepare the 3rd edition of its annual Colloquium, which will be held August 22 to 24, 2008, at Saint-Benoît-du-Lac Abbey in Quebec. The theme will be the Centenary of the Vatican edition of the Graduale Romanum (1908). More details will be available soon at www.gregorian.ca.

Una Voce: Le Choeur Grégorien du Saguenay

Three years have passed since we mourned the death of Father Raymond Tremblay, who served at Chicoutimi Cathedral. We were astonished when, some time after his death, his executor announced that the deceased had left a large sum of money to the Cathedral's choir with the purpose of developing and promoting Gregorian chant. The Cathedral Choir Foundation was thus created on May 24, 2006, in order to carry out Father Tremblay's last wishes.

On February 24, 2007, a Day of Gregorian Chant Training was organized with the invaluable collaboration of Jean-Pierre Noiseux, music director of the Schola Saint-Grégoire in Montreal, and the equally essential participation of Raymond Laforge, who was later appointed music director of our group. Over 50 participants registered for the event, and at the end of the day, 31 men and women asked to become members of Chicoutimi Cathedral's new Gregorian chant choir.

A 10-member schola of male voices with some training and experience in Gregorian chant was thus formed; at present, it meets once a month, joining the rest of the choir the following week to provide support.

The new choir has already performed on four occasions during Mass celebrations at the Cathedral, and has received several requests to perform in other parishes in the diocese of Chicoutimi.

After consultations with members, the choir decided on a name: Le Chœur grégorien de Saguenay Una Voce.

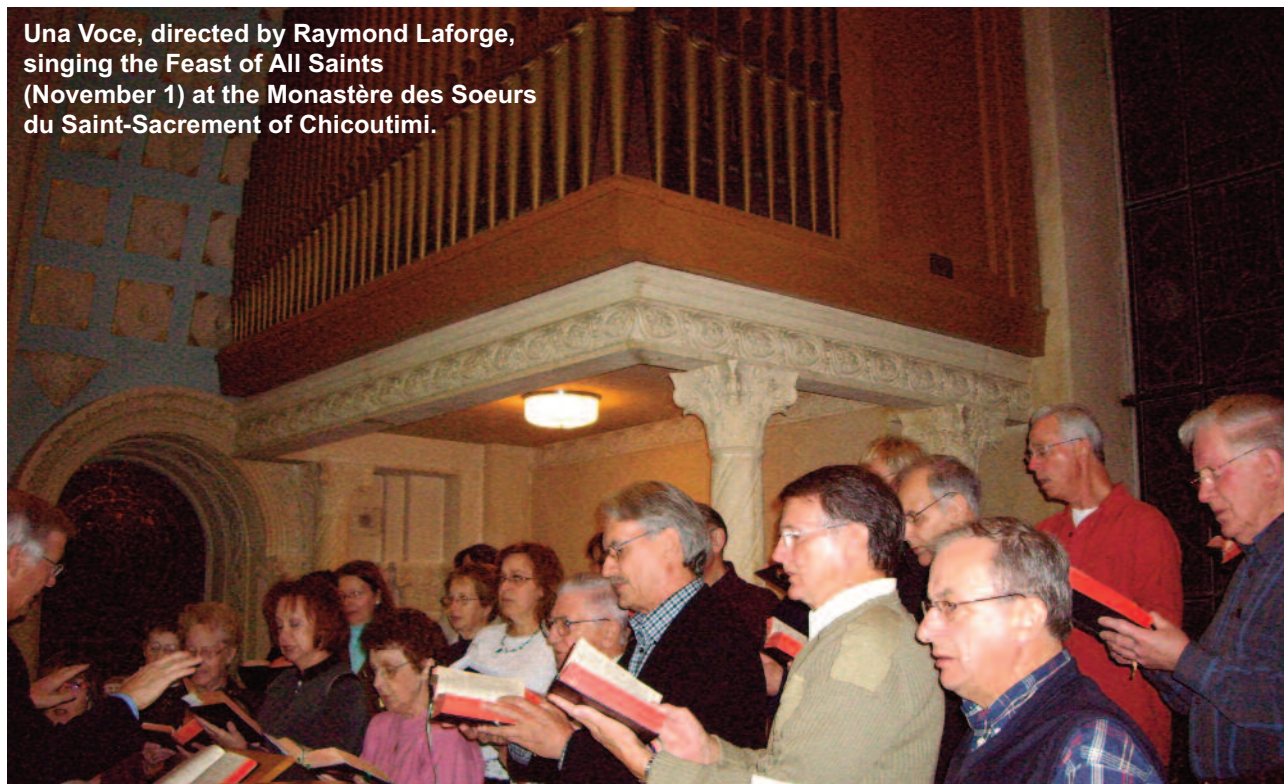
Since Benedict XVI's Apostolic letter on Roman liturgical practices before the 1970 reform, dated May 7, 2006, our aim, in collaboration with the various pastoral teams in our community, is to blend Gregorian chant into the current liturgy.

Last July, our music director, Raymond Laforge, attended the Gregorian Institute of Canada's Symposium in Orléans, Ontario. He was elated to work with such specialists as William Renwick, William Oates, Jean-Pierre Noiseux, Stephanie Martin, Rob Castle and Lawrence Harris. He found it a most stimulating and highly gratifying event.

News of the Institute's upcoming symposium at the Abbey of Saint-Benoît-du-Lac in August has certainly elicited much enthusiasm from Una Voce members, and a sizeable delegation is planning to attend.

The future is looking up for our group, and we will be pleased to share news of our activities with the readers of *Cantemus*.

*Raymond Laforge, music director
Ghislain Girard, president
(translated by Rachelle Taylor)*



Journées grégoriennes at Saint-Viateur Church, Montreal

Montreal's first Journées grégoriennes will take place April 12 and 13, 2008 at Saint-Viateur Church in Outremont (Montreal). This is an initiative of Jean-Pierre Noiseux, a co-director of the Gregorian Institute of Canada and director of Montreal's Schola Saint-Grégoire. Saturday's activities will begin with the singing of Terce, followed by Gregorian chant workshops led by Jean-Pierre Noiseux and Alain Vadeboncoeur. On Saturday evening, the Schola Saint-Grégoire and the Ensemble Virga will join forces in a concert entitled "Christus resurgens." On Sunday morning, all participants will be invited to join in singing Mass for the fourth Sunday in Easter. Registration is free of charge for all. More information will be available soon on the Institute's website at www.gregorian.ca and on the Schola Saint-Grégoire website at www.scholagreg.org.

Jean-Pierre Noiseux, translated by Rachelle Taylor



Stained glass window in Saint-Viateur Church, Montreal

Music of the Sarum Office: Progress Report

Music of the Sarum Office is an Internet publication of the Gregorian Institute of Canada. Its objective is to make available for study and performance the entire text and music of the Sarum Breviary as it existed in the time of Henry VIII. Publication began in January 2006, with the Kalendar, the Venitane, the chants for Psalm 94 at Matins, the Toni Psalmorum, and the first part of the Psalter, Sunday at Matins-Lauds. The remainder of 2006 saw the completion of the weekday psalter for Matins-Lauds, as well as the music of Prime, Terce, Sext and None. In 2007, the Psalter was completed with the music for Vespers and Compline, the Penitential Psalms and the Litany. In addition, the proper of time for Advent was published.

To date, comprising the front matter, the psalter, the Venitane and Psalm Tones, and the beginning of the Temporale, about 700 pages have been published; the anticipated total is 4,000 to 5,000 pages. December 2007 saw a revision of the psalter and of the Temporale for Advent, to include accents for all the text, facilitating accurate performance. This update will also include, for the first time, CANTUS numbers for each musical item, allowing fast reference to the master list of chants of the Office, found on the CANTUS website, University of Western Ontario.

The next installment of this project will follow in January 2008. This will be the Christmas cycle, up to and including the Feast of the Circumcision. By the summer of 2008, the Temporale should have progressed up to Septuagesima.

We regretfully announce that Dr. Hélène La Rue, director of the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford University, and a member of the Advisory Board of this project, died recently. We are grateful for her willingness to support this project.

William Renwick

Second Festival of Chant Presented at St. Mary Magdalene's, Toronto

On November 24 to 25, the second Chant Festival was held at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto. The Saturday symposium commenced with a Gregorian Mass at 10 a.m., followed by lunch, which was provided by the church. Afternoon sessions included a history of chant led by Rob Castle, as well as an excellent presentation on singing the neumes, by Jean-Pierre Noiseux.

The Sunday afternoon concert at 4:30 featured the Ritual Choir of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene (both the men and the women), the Sarum Schola, the Chant Club of St. Mary Magdalene's, and the five-voice women's group Schola Magdalena. More than 150 attended the concert. Rob Castle, cantor of St. Mary Magdalene's and organizer of the festival, was presented with a gift at the reception afterward, in thanks for all his work. He later e-mailed his thank-you to all chanters, and shared this comment received by Andrew Macrae of the Ritual Choir:

"I attended your Festival of Chant this afternoon, and I can't tell you how much I enjoyed it. 'Enjoyed' isn't even quite the word. I all but inhaled the music. Really, my breathing picked up the rhythm of the chant, and I felt more rested and relaxed than I have in weeks. It was tonic. Balm. Thank you so much for all your hard work - and the work of your colleagues."

For more information on chant at St. Mary Magdalene's, visit www.stmarymagdalene.ca

✠ The Church of St Mary Magdalene ✠

Festival of Chant

CELEBRATING THE GLORY OF GREGORIAN CHANT



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2007 AT 4:30PM
General Admission \$10, Students/Seniors \$5
Tickets available at the door or call 416.531.7955 for more information
Church of St Mary Magdalene, 477 Manning Avenue, Toronto

PERFORMANCES BY
The Ritual Choir of the Church of St Mary Magdalene / Schola Magdalena
Sarum Schola / St Mary Magdalene Chant Club / Organist Andrew Adair

CHANT SYMPOSIUM
Saturday, November 24, 2007 from 10am to 4pm / Registration Fee \$15
To register for this full day event, please contact Rob Castle at 416.531.7955

 www.stmarymagdalene.ca



Members of the Ritual Choir, Chant Club, Sarum Schola and Schola Magdalena participated in the second Festival of Chant at St. Mary Magdalene's.



ABOVE Schola Magdalena in front of the statue of St. Mary Magdalene. From left: Stephanie Martin (director of music, St. Mary Magdalene's), JoAnn Dawson, Janet Nahabedian, Kathryn Smith, Julia Armstrong (photo by Andrew Macrae).

BELOW Schola Magdalena's first performance, St. Theresa's Church, Ottawa, during the GIC Colloquium (photo A. Macrae).



New Women's Chant Group: Schola Magdalena

After being invited by the Gregorian Institute to participate in the 2007 Colloquium concert in Ottawa, the five of us were overwhelmed by how well we were received. We decided we had a good thing going and should make it official. Being based at St. Mary Magdalene's, Toronto, an Anglo-Catholic parish long renowned for its liturgical and musical traditions, we decided on the name Schola Magdalena, in honour of the patron saint of the church.

Our concert in Ottawa featured Gregorian chant, music of Hildegard of Bingen and Saint Birgitta of Sweden, as well as three-part polyphony based on chant, notably Dufay's "Ave Regina Coelorum." Its striking medieval harmonies elicited excited response from listeners who had never heard any Dufay.

Our next appearance was Sept. 29, during Nuit Blanche, Toronto's second annual all-night arts festival. We were one of the "acts" performing in the all-night music program at St. Thomas's Anglican Church, another High Anglican parish in our deanery. By the time we went on at 9 p.m., the crowd was large. The beauty of chant, sung in the semi-darkness of the candlelit church, really captured the listeners. Most remained for our entire 30-minute program, and we received a standing ovation.

At the invitation of David Hall, a GIC board member and organist and choirmaster of the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Chapel, we headed to Waterloo, Ontario, on October 5. It was enjoyable to perform our program again. The parents of our director, Stephanie Martin, live in Waterloo, and kindly treated us to a light supper (including pumpkin chiffon pie!) beforehand. It was unseasonably warm, so we enjoyed dinner on their deck.

Thanks to Stephanie's leadership, we have been exploring more Hildegard, Saint Birgitta and three-part medieval music. We performed the charming medieval carol "Ecce quod natura" at St. Mary Magdalene's Advent Evensong, Carols and Benediction Dec. 16. We recently recorded some of our repertoire and are submitting an entry to the CBC Radio Competition for Amateur Choirs.

Julia Armstrong