

Greetings to all. We bring you our annual newsletter, *Cantemus*, reporting on the past year's activities, as well as upcoming events and news to note.

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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.



Fourth Annual Colloquium participants in front of Christ The King Cathedral of Hamilton.

Fourth Annual Colloquium of The Gregorian Institute of Canada

August 13-16, 2009 | McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

The occasion was a rare one: musicologists and performers participating in the same event; theory and practice united throughout one hot and intensely busy weekend, under the common theme of Gregorian chant. People came from Canada, the United States and Europe to share their knowledge and passion, to learn from one another, sing, and weave bonds of friendship.

On Thursday, August 13, 2009, Hamilton Schola Cantorum offered a charming mini-concert of plainchant at McMaster University's Convocation Hall, inaugurating the Fourth Annual Colloquium of the Gregorian Institute of Canada, "Traditions in Western Plainchant."

continued on page 2



Pascale Duhamel giving a workshop.



Juan Carlos Asensio Palacios giving a lecture on old Spanish chant.

During three days of intense activity, conference papers and practical workshops were presented concurrently, with more than fifty registered participants attending one or the other session. All participants appreciated the high calibre of the presentations, particularly those of our two special guests, musicologist Joseph Dyer from the United States, and Juan Carlos Asensio Palacios, director of Schola Antiqua of Spain. Many participants also came to sing, sometimes very early in the morning, at various liturgical offices led either by the Cantualis Choir of Kitchener/Waterloo, or by the members of Hamilton Schola Cantorum.

One of the colloquium's high points was undoubtedly the Gala Concert presented at Hamilton's Christ's Church Anglican Cathedral by Montreal's Schola Saint Grégoire, directed by Juan Carlos Asensio. A selection of works chosen from a wide range of plainchant traditions, interspersed with well-chosen organ pieces performed with distinction by Stillman Matheson, delighted the audience.

Other memorable events during this extraordinary weekend were the Saturday banquet, which provided an ideal occasion for socializing and enjoying a huge meal, and Sunday mass, which was sung in Hamilton's majestic Christ the King Cathedral. Once the mass had ended, it was finally time to say goodbye, but not without one last group picture on the steps of the cathedral.



Opening concert with Hamilton Schola Cantorum.



Gala Concert at Christ's Church Cathedral: Schola Saint Grégoire and J.C. Asensio listening to organ music performed by Stillman Matheson.

Exhibition: Chant in Colonial Canada

During GIC's Fourth Annual Colloquium, an exhibition from the Rare Books and Manuscripts collections of Library and Archives Canada illustrated the importance of plainchant in Colonial Canada. It is now possible to visit this exhibition on the GIC website: www.gregorian.ca.

In colonial Canada, liturgical chant was essentially confined to New France and naturally grew out of liturgical practices prevalent in 17th-century France. In the early days of the colony, religious orders in the city of Quebec, such as the Jesuits, Ursulines and Hospitalières Sisters, established institutions where plainchant was developed. In Montreal, the musical activities of the Notre-Dame parish, founded in 1683, and those of the Sulpician Order, which established the Seminary of Saint-Sulpice, played an important role in allowing liturgical music to flourish. The French organist Jean Girard arrived in 1724 with several music books, including one that was later discovered in the archives of the Sulpicians in Montreal and became known as the *Livre d'orgue de Montréal*. In 1750, the Sulpician Poncin came to Montreal, bringing a copy of the *Messe Bordeloise*, which became immensely popular in the colony. Finally, female religious communities such as the Sœurs de la Charité (Sisters of Charity, or the "Grey Nuns") and the Congregation of Notre-Dame played a seminal role in the development of musical practices tailored to the devotional needs of the Catholic faithful in New France.

Except for the pages from the *Livre d'orgue de Montréal*, which is preserved at the Bibliothèque et archives nationales du Québec, the digital reproductions in this exhibition were taken from the liturgical chant books found in the Rare Books and Manuscripts collections at Library and Archives Canada. They reflect many of the aforementioned liturgical origins and particularities of chant practice in colonial Canada from the 17th century to the end of the 19th century.

The Gregorian Institute of Canada and McMaster University gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Library and Archives Canada in the research and design of this exhibition, and in the writing and translation of the texts that accompany it.

Jean-Pierre Noisieux



François de La Feillée, *Messe musicale du sixième ton, à laquelle il convient de joindre un serpent avec le chœur* (Paris : A. Poitres et se vend à Paris par J.T. Herissant, 1751). Library and Archives Canada. MT860 L3.

15 Years of Gregorian Chant by Schola Saint Grégoire of Montreal

It all began in June 1994. At the instigation of Jean-Pierre Noiseux, a small group of Gregorian chant devotees assembled to sing mass in the chapel of the Carmelite Brothers Convent in Montreal. In late fall of the same year, namely the third Sunday in Advent, the group, reinforced with a few additional singers, performed again in the same Carmelite chapel and returned thereafter to sing mass once every month for a number of years. That experience was the true beginning of the adventure.

Thanks to the kindness and encouragement of Father Jean Primeau, a clerk of Saint Viateur, and that of his successors, from the time the Schola was founded its members were able to meet regularly in the St-Viateur-d'Outremont



From left: A. Vadeboncoeur, J.P. Noiseux, M. Quesnel, P. Cartier and Juan Carlos Asensio Palacios (August 2009).

parish quarters to rehearse Gregorian chant and study the musical notation of medieval manuscripts. Since 1999, the Schola has participated in the Eucharist at St-Viateur-d'Outremont Church every second Sunday of each month, from September to May.

Whether they perform in liturgical or concert settings, Montreal's Schola Saint Grégoire specializes in Gregorian chant and related liturgical repertoires, such as Milanese, Beneventan and Old Hispanic chant, as well as liturgical dramas, plainchant and more.

Schola Saint Grégoire has participated in liturgical celebrations in churches across Quebec, and has performed a great number of spiritual concerts in Canada and abroad. The ensemble has taken part in "Événements Arts Sacré" at Montreal's Centre de Créativité du Gesù; "Espaces spirituels" at St-Viateur-d'Outremont Church; "Concerts Spirituart" at Montreal's Saint-Baptiste Church; "Festival de musique sacrée de l'Outaouais"; "Messes estivales" at St-Dominique Church in Quebec City; "Journées du chant grégorien à l'abbaye de Clervaux" in Luxemburg; "Festival du Monde Arabe de Montréal"; the Festival of Gregorian Chant at Toronto's Church of St. Mary Magdalene; and the ninth "International Gregorian Festival of Watou" in Belgium.

The current members of Schola Saint Grégoire are Étienne Bovo, Pierre Cartier (occasional cantor), Isaiah Ceccarelli, Jean-Pierre Noiseux (director), Martin Quesnel (solo cantor), Alain Vadeboncoeur (second solo cantor), and Rudolph Villan.

Jean-Pierre Noiseux

Highlight performances by Schola Saint Grégoire

- 2009: Great Music of Western Chant Traditions (Milanese, Beneventan, Old Roman, Old Hispanic and Gregorian chant, and Plainchant in New France), a concert directed by Juan Carlos Asensio Palacios (director of Schola Antiqua of Spain), presented at the Fourth Annual Colloquium of the Gregorian Institute of Canada (Hamilton).
- 2005-2006: L'Office des XI mille Vierges (or Office of St. Ursula).
- 2003-2004: Le Cercle de l'extase, a meeting of Gregorian Chant and the Sufi music of the Whirling Dervishes of Alep (Syria), a production of the Montreal Arab World Festival.
- 2003-2004: La vie de Jésus (spiritual concert).
- 2002: Epiphany Mass (Plainchant in Montreal as it was sung around 1900), for the centenary celebrations of St-Viateur-d'Outremont parish.
- 1999: Psaumes de la haute reconnaissance (Gregorian Chant and poetry by Pierre Mathieu)
- 1997-1998: Le jeu de l'Étoile (Liturgical drama for Epiphany from the 11th century).

CD Recordings

- Chant bénévénitain de la Pentecôte (Schola Saint Grégoire SSG-001) – out of stock
- Le Cercle de l'extase (Atma classique ACD2 2361)

Schola Saint Grégoire will present a Pentecost concert on Saturday, May 22 at 8 p.m. in St-Viateur-d'Outremont Church, Montreal (free admission with a suggested freewill offering of \$10 or \$20)

Contact

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Schola Saint Grégoire in concert at the Chapel of the Ursulines of Quebec City (2006).



Third Journées grégoriennes de Montréal

Presented by the Gregorian Institute of Canada, in collaboration with the St-Viateur-d'Outremont parish, the Third "Journées grégoriennes de Montréal" will be held May 21 to 23, 2010, at St-Viateur-d'Outremont Church. Chant workshops will be offered for all levels, as well as concerts featuring Scholastiques Neumatiques (female voices) and Schola Saint Grégoire (male voices).

Workshops for beginners will be led by Alain Vadeboncoeur, director of Ensemble Virga of Montreal; intermediate and advanced workshops will be led by Pascale Duhamel, director of Scholastiques Neumatiques of Montreal, and by Jean-Pierre Noiseux, director of Schola Saint Grégoire of Montreal. The week-end will end with the singing of Mass for Pentecost.

For complete details, see the GIC website: www.gregorian.ca. Information and pre-registration: journeesgregoriennes@gmail.com; phone 514-880-9712.

News Bites

GIC Goes Back to Kalamazoo

The Gregorian Institute of Canada will be sponsoring two sessions at the 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 13 to 16, 2010, at The Medieval Institute of the Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The sessions are The Liturgical Office of Saint Thomas Becket: Current Research Projects, and The Liturgical Office of Saint Thomas Becket: Chant Selections (A Performance). The Congress is an annual gathering of over 3,000 scholars interested in Medieval Studies. It features over 600 sessions of papers, panel discussions, round tables, workshops and performances. There are also some 90 business meetings and receptions sponsored by learned societies, associations and institutions. The exhibits hall boasts nearly 70 exhibitors, including publishers, used book dealers and purveyors of medieval sundries.



Pedestrian bridge across Glodsworth Pond, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo

Important contribution by Neil K. Moran

Neil K. Moran of Toronto has revised and translated Constantin Floros' book *The Origins of Russian Music - Introduction to the Kondakarian Notation*, published by Peter Lang (Frankfurt am Main, Berlin, Bern, Bruxelles, New York, Oxford, Wien), 2009. Mr. Moran has also contributed a chapter on "Relationships between Latin, Byzantine, and Slavonic Church Music." For more information: www.peterlang.com.

Una Voce Gregorian Choir of Saguenay, Quebec

Since September 2009, the 28 male and female choristers of the Una Voce Gregorian Choir of Saguenay have been singing mass once a month at Christ-Roi Church in Chicoutimi. Una Voce will host the Gregorian Institute of Canada's Fifth Annual Colloquium August 12 to 15, 2010, in Chicoutimi.

Hamilton Schola Cantorum

Hamilton Schola Cantorum (HSC) now sings the full Gregorian chant ordinary and propers for the Tridentine Mass at Saint Mary's RC Church in Hamilton, Ontario, on the first and third Sundays of the month at 2:30 p.m. HSC also sings on the fifth Sunday of the month at St. Lawrence RC Church. For further information about HSC, please visit www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~renwick/hsc.htm.

Festival of Chant, Toronto

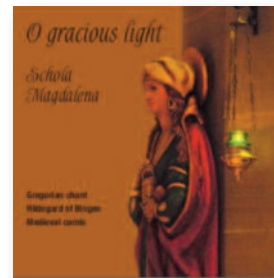
The Fourth Annual Festival of Chant at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene took place on the weekend of November 21 and 22, 2009.

An afternoon concert on the 22nd featured the Ritual Choir, Schola Magdalena, and organist Andrew Adair. For more info about music at the church: www.stmarymagdalene.ca.



Schola Magdalena launches its first CD, "O gracious light"

Last May, Toronto's Schola Magdalena released its first CD. Called *O Gracious Light*, it features Gregorian chant, works by Brigit of Sweden and Hildegard von Bingen, and medieval polyphony by Guillaume Dufay. The CD is available for purchase online at <http://cdbaby.com:80/cd/scholamagdalena>. For reviews of the CD and photos from the launch party at St. Mary Magdalene's, visit www.scholamagdalena.ca.



Above: Schola Magdalena performed in May at the beautiful St-Viateur-d'Outremont Church in Montreal. Right: Participants in the Second Annual "Journées grégoriennes de Montréal" sang mass from the gallery at St-Viateur on Sunday, May 10, 2009.

Also in May, Schola Magdalena travelled to Montreal to participate in the Second Annual "Journées grégoriennes de Montréal." At the invitation of Jean-Pierre Noiseux, the group presented the Saturday evening concert, receiving a heartfelt standing ovation. The weekend featured chant workshops for all levels, and the whole group participated in mass on Sunday morning at St-Viateur-d'Outremont Church.



On January 23, at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene in Toronto, Schola Magdalena presented "This Winter Night: A Burgundian Mass & Procession for Candlemas," featuring chant, as well as works by Guillaume Dufay based on chant (Dufay is pictured at left in the illustration). Details of the program are available at www.scholamagdalena.ca.

Improvements to our Website

The Institute's website has recently undergone renovations: though its general appearance remains the same, the visitor will appreciate the new menus that improve navigation. Structural improvements now allow us to more rapidly update the contents of all website pages. Thanks to Andrew Macrae for this renovation work! We invite you to have a look and to become a regular visitor. The address is www.gregorian.ca.

New Membership Fees and a New Category of Members

As of July 1, 2009, GIC membership fees rose from \$20 to \$30 for regular members and from \$10 to \$15 for student members. While still remaining within a reasonable range, the new fee schedule allows the Institute to do more for its members and for the cause of Gregorian chant. Also since July 2009, the Institute has created a new category for institutional members at an annual fee of \$100. For more information and to become a member, please visit the Membership page of our site: www.gregorian.ca.



Servantes du Très Saint-Sacrement Monastery, Chicoutimi



Sacré-Coeur Church, Chicoutimi



Saint-François-Xavier Cathedral, Chicoutimi

Gregorian Chant in Honour of the Virgin Mary

GIC Fifth Annual Colloquium
August 12-15, 2010
Chicoutimi, Quebec

*Presented in collaboration with the Conservatoire de
musique de Saguenay and the Una Voce
Gregorian Choir of Saguenay*

The Gregorian Institute of Canada settled on the magnificent Saguenay region of Quebec as the site of its Fifth Annual Colloquium, to be held August 12 to 15, 2010 at the Servantes du Très Saint-Sacrement monastery in Chicoutimi. GIC has been working closely with the Una Voce Gregorian Choir (Saguenay) over the past few months to prepare the event, organized in collaboration with the Conservatoire de musique de Saguenay. The Colloquium program, the theme of which will be "Gregorian Chant in Honour of the Virgin Mary," will include practical Gregorian chant workshops open to all levels of experience, liturgical offices, concerts and, to conclude, Solemn Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Sacré-Coeur Church in Chicoutimi.

Our guest speaker will be Juan Carlos Asensio Palacios, director of Schola Antiqua of Spain and renowned musicologist. In addition, chant workshops will be led by Raymond Laforge and Guy Lemire, respectively director and assistant director of the Una Voce Gregorian Choir; Jean-Pierre Noiseux, director of Schola Saint Grégoire of Montréal; and Pascale Duhamel, director of Montreal-based Scholastiques Neumatiques.

Participants will be invited to sing the following monastic liturgical offices: Compline, Terce, Sext, None, and First Vespers for the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The opening concert, entitled "Louanges mariales" will be performed by the Una Voce Gregorian Choir under the direction of Raymond Laforge. The gala concert, devoted to the music of Hildegard of Bingen, will take place in the magnificent Saint-François-Xavier Cathedral of Chicoutimi. The featured performers will be the five-voice women's ensemble Schola Magdalena of Toronto, directed by Stephanie Martin.

Registration is now open and will close on July 11, 2010.
GIC extends a special welcome to chant beginners.

The complete program and registration form are available at www.gregorian.ca. For more information: igc.gic@gmail.com; phone 905-296-3429.

Register now!