

Maestro Dr. Jennifer Pascual, Director
The Saint Patrick Cathedral Choir



Dr. Jennifer Pascual was appointed Director of Music at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City in 2003. She is the first woman to hold this position, one of the most prestigious sacred music appointments in the United States. Jennifer earned a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Organ Performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY where she studied with David Higgs and taught undergraduate theory courses. She holds a Master of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the Mannes College of Music in New York City where she studied with Nina Svetlanova and studied organ privately with Mc Neil Robinson. She received the Bachelor of Music Degrees in Piano and Organ Performance, *magna cum laude*, and Music Education from Jacksonville University in Florida where she studied with Mary Lou Wesley Krosnick and William Saunders and taught both organ and piano in the University's Continuing Education Department. She was on the Artistic Staff of the Boys Choir of Harlem, Inc. from 1994 to 2003. She has served as an organist and choir director in the Dioceses of St. Augustine, FL and Rochester, NY, and the Archdioceses of Newark, NJ and New York City, NY, and has served at three Roman Catholic Cathedrals. Dr. Pascual served as Professor and Director of Music of St. Joseph's Seminary and College in New York from 2007 to 2014. She currently serves as the Director of Music of the New York Archdiocesan Festival Chorale.

Dr. Pascual is a member of the American Guild of Organists, Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians, Liturgical Organists Consortium, EastWest Organists, Chair of the NY Archdiocesan Music Commission, and National Association of Pastoral Musicians. She is a frequent recitalist and clinician at national conventions. She was a finalist in the 1990 Florida First Coast Piano Competition, performed Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto with the Jacksonville University Community Orchestra in 1993 while also a French Horn player in the orchestra, performed in the 1995 Bach Aria Festival in New York, was the featured

organist in the 2004 and 2012 International Bamboo Organ Festivals in Manila, and was the first American in 2013 invited to perform in the VI Royal Christmas International Festival in Moscow and the regions of Russia as well as serving as a juror during the 2014 Organ Festival at the Catholic Cathedral in Moscow. In 2015, she was one of the dedicatory organists for the first pipe organ installation in the Far East Russian Federation. Dr. Pascual is a recipient of the Paderewski Medal and Theodore Presser Award. Jennifer has performed in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Israel, Italy, the Philippines, Russia and the United States.

As the Director of Music, Dr. Pascual had the privilege of overseeing all of the liturgical music for His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI's visit to New York in 2008 in addition to conducting music for the Masses at St. Patrick's Cathedral and Yankee Stadium and the Ecumenical Service at St. Joseph's Church. She conducted the St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir for President Bush at the White House for National Day of Prayer. In December 2008 Dr. Pascual was named a Dame of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, papal recognition of service to the Church. She also conducted in performance twice during that Christmas season at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. In April 2009, Dr. Pascual conducted all of the music for Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan's installation liturgies. The New York Archdiocesan Festival Chorale, under Dr. Pascual's direction, travelled to Rome and Vatican City in 2009 to sing for the Pallium Pilgrimage of Archbishop Dolan as well as the 2012 consistory in which he was created a cardinal. The New York Archdiocesan Festival Chorale has also travelled to and performed in Austria, Germany, Ireland and Israel and the Philippines under her direction. In 2010, the St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir was the only American choir invited to participate in the *IX Festival Internazionale di Musica e Arte Sacra* in Rome and Vatican City. In September 2015, Dr. Pascual conducted both the New York Archdiocesan Festival Chorale and the St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir and orchestra during the Mass at Madison Square Garden celebrated by Pope Francis. She also conducted the music for Papal Vespers at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

With the broadcast of live Mass from St. Patrick's Cathedral on The Catholic Channel, SIRIUS/XM 129, the St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir which she conducts can be heard from 10:15 – 11:30 a.m. on Sundays from September to June. She also hosts a radio talk and music show called "*Sounds from the Spires*" broadcast on the same channel, Saturdays, 1:00am – 2:00am and 11:00pm – 12:00am and Sundays, 6:00am – 7:00am and 5:00pm – 6:00pm (all Eastern times). Her *Organ Music & Gregorian Chant*, *Christmas Music for Organ and Trumpet* and *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (choir) CDs from the Cathedral of St. Patrick on the JAV label are available at www.pipeorgancds.com. Jennifer is also an organist on the World Library Publication 8-CD recording of *Psalms and Ritual Music*.

Dr. Pascual was one of the first individuals Christopher Hyland sought advice from, before ultimately commissioning Maestro Vella to compose the body of music fostering Peace and Unity to be performed at St. Patrick's Cathedral on November 9th, 2016. He specifically commissioned the opening piece of the concert, "A Call to Peace", to be performed by Dr. Pascual on the Great St. Patrick's Organ with French Horns and Timpani.

The Saint Patrick Cathedral Choir

The St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir, directed by Dr. Jennifer Pascual, is predominantly a liturgical choir, and the heart of the music program at North America's most prominent Roman Catholic cathedral.

Acclaimed former music directors include Pietro Yon and Charles Courboin. Established in its present form by John Grady, the Choir is made up largely of volunteer singers and a small professional group and prepares music from every era for many liturgies and other special events throughout the year. These include the 10:15am Mass each Sunday (from the first Sunday after Labor Day until the Solemnity of Corpus Christi), the annual A City Singing at Christmas and Irish Heritage concerts, and the nationally televised Midnight Mass for Christmas.

In its liturgical role, the Choir has performed for many heads of state and the Secretary General of the United Nations, and with soloists such as Renée Fleming and Placido Domingo. In 1995, the Choir sang for His Holiness, Pope John Paul II at the Mass in Central Park and the recitation of the Rosary at St. Patrick's Cathedral. During the April 2008 Pastoral Visit to New York by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, the choir sang for Masses at St. Patrick's Cathedral and Yankee Stadium and an Ecumenical Prayer Service. In September 2015, the St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir sang for His Holiness, Pope Francis, for Evening Prayer at St. Patrick's Cathedral and Mass at Madison Square Garden.

With the founding of the Friends of Music under John-Michael Caprio, the choir expanded its concert activities and has performed with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Wroclaw Philharmonic, members of the Vienna Philharmonic on PBS, the New York Philharmonic under Leonard Bernstein, and at events for the Richard Tucker Music Foundation. The Choir has recorded several CDs and has been featured on the BBC's popular "Songs of Praises" television series, Nippon Television, NBC's "Today" show and ABC's "Good Morning America."

In May 2008, the Choir had the distinguished honor of performing for President George W. Bush at the White House for the National Day of Prayer.

In October 2010, the St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir traveled to Rome and Vatican City as the only choir from the United States invited to participate in the *IX Festival Internazionale di Musica e Arte Sacra* and also performed, once again, for Pope Benedict XVI.

