

THE MARQUAND READER

October 21 – October 27, 2008

This Week at Marquand

Tuesday 10/21: *An African Hymn Festival*
led by Prof. Patrick Matsikenyeri of Africa University in Zimbabwe.

Wednesday 10/22: *A New Setting of Sung Morning Prayer*
composed and led by John Tirro.

Thursday 10/23: *A Service of the Word*
with graduating student Rahiel Tesfamariam, preaching.

Friday 10/24: *Community Eucharist in the manner of Saint Gregory of Nyssa*
with Bill Goettler, Assistant Dean for Assessment and Ministerial Studies, preaching,
and Julie Kelsey, Assistant Dean of Student Initiatives, presiding.

Monday 10/27: *A Service of the Word*
with graduating student Melissa Matthes, preaching.



Patrick Matsikenyeri – An Introduction

By Patrick Evans, director of Chapel Music

On Tuesday, October 21, we will be led in an African Hymn Festival by Patrick Matsikenyeri, known to many as the “grandfather of African church music.” Patrick has served as founding director of the choir at Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe, has led music for regional and international gatherings of the World Council of Churches- especially the – Eighth Assembly in 1998 in Harare, and has been actively involved in the Global Song Movement, working with the United Methodist Church’s General Board of Global Ministries to share songs from Zimbabwe and other parts of

Africa in arrangements and recordings which have great integrity from the sending culture, but which are also accessible to the receiving culture.

C. Michael Hawn writes of Patrick in chapter 5 of his important book “*Gather into One: Praying and Singing Globally* – “The Spirit of Ngoma: Patrick Matsikenyeri and Indigenous Song in Zimbabwe.”

“While he has traveled internationally over the past thirty years to lecture and teach about indigenous music in the churches of Zimbabwe, he has seldom lived more than an hour’s drive from his tribal homeland, where he has built his family home, cultivated relationships over 6 decades, and where his extended family live and farm

together. It is from this powerful sense of community that Patrick's songs, and the way he invites communal singing of them, comes into fuller understanding.

Patrick is a Shona, the major tribal group in Zimbabwe, and his father bears the title Father of the Nation, or Nyzmazha – a person who advises the chief and is an intermediary between the chief and the people. The father of the tribe is the first to hear of the death of the chief and eventually installs the chief's successor. It is the position of tribal father that Patrick will assume upon his father's death."

Ngoma literally means drum, but also song, dance, and healing community. The idea that drumming, singing, dancing, and healing are interconnected is at the heart of *ngoma*. Working with Patrick for two weeks in Uganda in 2007, I experienced *ngoma* as we were both part of a team working with pastors and church musicians from Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. The depth of Patrick's work and ministry was powerful, and I have hoped to bring him to Marquand since that time.

Patrick's voice, if classified into Western opera categories, would be that of a basso-profundo, bass-baritone, with Italian tenor high C's – that is to say, it is uncategorizable. His heart and warmth are similarly immeasurable. I hope that you will join us in chapel this Tuesday at 10:30 and experience *ngoma* for yourself.

We will also have a lunchtime discussion with Patrick in the chapel from 12:30-1:20 on the same day. Food will be provided – please sign up with james.aveni@yale.edu, so we know how much lunch to order.

New Sung Morning Prayer – A Reflection

By John Tirro

For me, the Invitatory or Venite – the invitation to praise – is intimately connected to the call to ministry. As we sing the 95th psalm, we read ourselves into the history of Israel, called and led through the wilderness as a living witness to God's power and promise. I had been privately praying the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer from the Roman Catholic *Liturgy of the Hours* for a year when I wrote this. I had just begun to commute from Knoxville to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and I was overjoyed to be part of a community that prayed the office together. I was so happy that I wanted music to celebrate, then stand in awe, then celebrate again, and as I sat at the chapel piano, that's what I tried to express. Worship in Marquand gives me that same joy and sense of connection to God's praying church. "Come, let us sing to our God!"

Mark Miller's "All My Days" is a great way to enter further into praise, with all the joy and energy of an early Jacksons tune. Having been an undergrad here with Mark, I enjoy it all the more. What a wonderful blessing and homecoming, to meet again in this place, in this way!

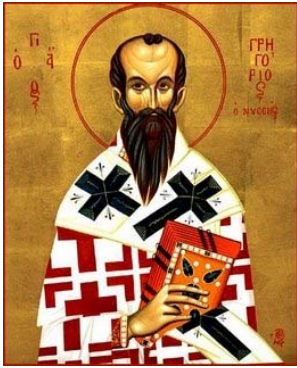
"Alleluia, Your Words Are Sweet" is a gentle, back-and-forth wave of sound, a warm welcome to the Word.

"Does Anybody Know Somebody" is a Christian 'work song', a cappella, with rhythm bubbling up to help us move in God's direction.

The oldest song in the bunch is "The Lord's Prayer." I had been working with the cherub choir at our church in Nashville, and I had just driven to New Orleans to sing the Malotte version at a friend's wedding. All the way down I practiced this beautiful but rangy piece, and on the way back I thought how good it would be if our kids had a version they could sing, with some of the same dynamic range, but with notes that come naturally to a child's voice. As I drove home, the music poured out, phrase by phrase. Some years later, I was delighted to discover that it worked for congregations. After all, a congregation, as a whole, has roughly the same range as a child.

One note about "Father." As the church explores new ways of referring to God, I hope we can begin to rehabilitate the concept of fatherhood, to affirm that fathering is not merely a creative or procreative act, but an ongoing, persistently tender relationship of love. This song begins as a lullaby and becomes more anthemic as it goes, entering – I hope – into praise of the deep power of God's gentleness.

Finally, "God of Justice (We Must Go)" is the first praise song I ever heard that put God and justice within a preposition of each other. Bravo, Tim Hughes! "Stepping forward, keep us from just singing. Move us into action. We must go!" Amen.



Gregory of Nyssa Eucharist

by Patrick Evans, Director of Chapel Music

We will celebrate Eucharist on Friday, October 24 by celebrating in the style of the Episcopal Parish of St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco, as we have done several times in previous years. For those who have not yet experienced a Nyssa Eucharist, you can look forward to a rich, fun liturgical experience which includes dancing around the table!

Gregory of Nyssa, one of the so-named Cappadocian Fathers along with his brother Basil of Caesarea and his friend Gregory Nazianzus. The three theologians were instrumental in constructing Trinitarian and Christological doctrine of the early church councils against Arianism. Gregory of Nyssa, like the other Cappadocians, were influenced by a revived interest in classical Greek philosophy, science, and literature, reflected both in their style of writing and in their use of Platonic and Aristotelian ideas; Gregory's writings were not as well-known in the Western church as they were in the East, but remain among the most influential early writings on apophatic theology, mysticism, spiritual progression and the ability and obligation of each to discover God's action in human life. He writes: "the one thing truly worthwhile is becoming God's friend."

The Episcopal parish of St. Gregory of Nyssa in San Francisco draws heavily on Gregory's optimism toward human creativity and agency, discovery, and spiritual progress, in developing a worship life which values ancient traditions, interaction, shared experience, inclusivity, and ongoing engagement with theological scholarship, dance, music and visual arts. For more information on St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, visit their homepage at www.stgregorys.org.

Marquand Lunchtime Roundtable Discussion

As part of our regular feedback structure, we have a few lunchtime roundtable discussions each semester, and the next one will be this Wednesday, October 22nd at 12:30 pm in the common room.

Bring your lunch and bring your questions, thoughts, and ideas for our ecumenical worship life in Marquand.

If you have questions, please contact Christa Swenson (christa.swenson@yale.edu).

MARQUAND CHAPEL TEAM

Chapel Ministers: [Jennifer Miller](#), [Sean Lanigan](#), [Meredith Coleman-Tobias](#), [Emily Scott Bloemker](#)

Organists: [Ahreum Han](#), [Josiah Armes](#), [Timothy Weisman](#)

Marquand Chapel Choir Directors: [Jonathan Richter](#)

Gospel Choir Director: [Mark Miller](#)

Chapel Administrative Assistant: [James Aveni](#)

Liturgical Coordinator: [Christa Swenson](#)

Director of Chapel Music: [Professor Patrick Evans](#)

Acting Dean of Chapel: [Professor Gordon Lathrop](#)

Dean of Chapel (*on sabbatical 2008-09*): [Professor Siobhán Garrigan](#)
