

MARQUAND READER

Volume 8, Issue 5: Week of October 25, 2010

A newsletter furthering the educational mission of Ecumenical Daily Worship at YDS.

THIS WEEK IN MARQUAND

Services begin at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome!

Monday, October 25: *Morning Worship* led by Evangelical Fellowship

Tuesday, October 26: *A Quaker Friends' Meeting*

Wednesday, October 27: *Sung Morning Prayer*, "Beyond All Praising," a new setting by Colin Britt, Acting Director of Marquand Chapel Music

Thursday, October 28: Graduating student Blake Scalet preaching

Friday, October 29: *Community Eucharist*, led by Yale Black Seminarians

Quaker Meeting

By Freddie Ghesquiere and Caitlin Scott

This Tuesday in Marquand, we will worship in the style of a Quaker Friends' Meeting, At a Quaker Meeting, Friends sit in silence, in expectant waiting. It is not necessary for you to close your eyes or bow your head...it is not necessary to say or do anything. Anyone who feels inspired to do so may speak, or read, or recite, or sing, either by sitting or standing. People in their first Quaker Meeting may feel intimidated about if and when and how they should contribute. "The call to minister," as we term it, is perhaps best described as a tugging at the heart, the feeling that you need to say something. When that feeling is strong, it's best to give in to it, no matter what it is you're moved to say, and your words will probably turn out to speak to the condition of at least some other people in the room. When our time is up, the person sitting head of Meeting shakes hands with those on either side, and everyone else does the same. Then we can all depart, making as much noise as we want to.

So why do Quakers worship in such an odd way? It is related to our only real doctrine or theology, which is that there is that of God, or an inner Light, within every person, waiting for recognition and expression.

A query or an advice is a verbal ministry that occurs within the context of silent worship. This question acts as a prompt of the spirit as individuals are called in to a humble listening, to the force of their

*"Every stage of our lives
offers fresh opportunities.
Responding to divine
guidance, try to discern the
right time to undertake or
relinquish responsibilities
without undue pride or guilt.
Attend to what love requires
of you, which may not be
great busyness."
~ New England Yearly
Meeting*

personal experience and to the testimony of their neighbor.

Queries are a reminder of the insights Friends share as a community, insights that take root in the rich wisdom of Friends before and insights that form in the very moment of meeting for worship.

It is for our comfort and discomfort that queries are raised, as we commit to a transformation in God that requires attention to our gifts as individuals and our responsibilities to community. The diversity of our gifts compels us to speak what we know to be true in our personal lives and to learn from others, for it is truly through the guidance and challenges of the spirit that we can hope to encounter deeper joy in God's service.

"Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness."

—New England Yearly Meeting

Beyond All Praising: a new setting of Sung Morning Prayer

By Colin Britt

This week, we begin a new cycle of Sung Morning Prayer services. In keeping with the wonderful Marquand tradition of singing from a broad and diverse musical palate, this setting includes music from across the globe and spanning 12 centuries. Several of the hymns and songs will be very familiar to returning students and faculty, but we also are introducing a handful of new gems that will hopefully further enrich the Marquand song canon.

We open the service with a chant from the 9th century, "Veni creator spiritus." Commonly attributed to the Benedictine monk Rabanus Maurus, this is one of the most well-known and popular chant melodies of the entire repertoire, and is sung regularly at numerous occasions within the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. The text and tune have been arranged and set by many composers, including Mahler, Hindemith, Penderecki, and Duruflé. Its inviting and lyrical phrasing set a beautifully contemplative tone to our service.



We re-introduce old favorites, such as Isaiah Jones' gospel setting of "Fill My Cup," John Bell and Graham Maule's delightful arrangement of the Caribbean "Halle, Halle, Halle," and the Sacred Harp tune, "Christians, We Have Met to Worship." These exciting songs were among my

favorites from last year, and for me, they exemplify the contagious joy and energy that singing in Marquand brings to each of us.

Some of the most beautiful liturgical music I have ever encountered comes from the Russian Orthodox tradition. To name only a few, many of us are familiar with Rachmaninoff's Vespers, and the Rimsky-Korsakov setting of the Lord's Prayer is already a Marquand staple. This week, we introduce another Russian setting, this one by Nikolai Kedrov, Sr. It is simpler, more contemplative than many other settings, and the gentle way in which slight harmonic tensions are introduced and released is profoundly moving. I hope that everyone will enjoy learning this new setting as much as I have.

For our psalm, we venture even further east, to the Siberian province of Tuva. We sing an adaptation of Psalm 96, set to an arrangement of a traditional Tuvan folksong, "Kongurei." Among other traits, Tuvan music is recognized internationally for the use of throat singing, one particular variant of the musical technique known as overtone singing. This unique and eerily beautiful technique isolates specific pitches within the overtone series (which forms the building blocks of all types of audible sound, not the least of which is music). Though foreign to many Westerners, overtone singing is quite common in many East Asian and sub-Saharan cultures, and will hopefully add a transcendent luminous quality to our singing.

The title for this cycle comes from the Michael Perry text set to the hymn tune *THAXTED*, by Gustav Holst. While not a particularly well-known hymn, the melody is quite familiar in the classical music world from the Jupiter movement of Holst's "The Planets" (Opus 32). For me, this is one of the most transcendent melodies in both spheres—the gradually ascending contours bring us ever higher, as we exclaim a truly extraordinary text: "O God, beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end." These remarkably humble yet exhilarating words, paired with this soaring melody, epitomize to me the reason we sing to God.

For something new, for something familiar, for something beautiful, for something meditative, and, perhaps, for something transcendent, please join us for this new cycle of Sung Morning Prayer. We need your presence and your voices to make it work!

The Marquand Reader is edited by the chapel staff and issued every Monday when classes are in session. It highlights the week's services and other special opportunities and events. Additional articles by the Chapel Staff and the faculty in Liturgical Studies will explore historical, liturgical, and denominational topics, in order to further the educational goals of Marquand Chapel. Contact one of the chapel staff if you have any suggestions, comments, or questions.

The Marquand Chapel Team:

Adele Crawford, *Interim Dean of Chapel* * Colin Britt, *Acting Director of Chapel Music*

Christa Swenson, *Liturgical Coordinator*

Kyle Brooks, Christian Brost, James deBoer, Alex Peterson, *Chapel Ministers*

Mark Miller, *Gospel Choir Director* * Michael Sansoni, *Chapel Choir Director*

Nat Gumbs, Benjamin Straley, Noah Wynne-Morton, *Organists*