

**For Immediate Release
April 28, 2010**

**PASTORAL MUSICIANS TO SING OF “HOPE AND HARMONY”
AT NATIONAL CONVENTION IN DETROIT**



The sounds of harmony will combine with a message of hope when more than two thousand Catholic church musicians, clergy, liturgists, and other pastoral ministers are expected to gather for the thirty-third annual convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) in Detroit, Michigan from July 12 to 16.

The theme of the convention, “Hope and Harmony,” represents a wish and a challenge – to proclaim harmony in the face of discord and division and to sing hope in the face of fear and uncertainty. Five major addresses during the convention will deal with various aspects of the convention theme, including the keynote address by Sister Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ, recipient of this year’s prestigious *Jubilate Deo* Award. Other major speakers include former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer, Dr. Steven Janco, Dr. John Witvliet, and writer Melissa Musick Nussbaum.

The NPM convention is being held in the Motor City for the first time since the fourth annual convention in 1981. Planners were impressed with the marvelous convention facilities in downtown Detroit and the warm invitation extended by the Archdiocese of Detroit. Convention participants will celebrate “hope and harmony” in a city that has been deeply affected by the recent economic downturn but where civic and church leaders look to a hope-filled future.

The NPM National Convention features more than 150 educational sessions, daily sung prayer, five plenum addresses, high-quality musical performances, new music showcases, and exhibits by music publishers and other business partners. Detroit Archbishop Allen Vigneron will preside and preach at the Eucharistic celebration on Wednesday evening, the high point of the entire convention. Three in-depth institutes will be offered during the convention on chant, handbells, and choral leadership. Pre-convention events include a music education morning, two music ministry leadership retreats (one for youth only), master classes, clinics, intensives, and tours of area churches and organs.

A special focus of this year’s convention is preparation for the new English translation of the Mass expected to be implemented during 2011. Convention participants will evaluate four finalists in the competition sponsored by NPM for a new Mass setting. There will also be workshops on catechesis and music for the new *Roman Missal*, along with ample opportunity to examine new resources produced by a variety of publishers.

For complete information about the 2010 NPM National Convention, visit the NPM website, www.npm.org, or phone the NPM office at (240) 247-3000.



The **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS** fosters the art of musical liturgy. NPM members serve the Catholic Church in the United States as musicians, clergy, liturgists, and other leaders of prayer. NPM's 8,000 members receive a bimonthly magazine, *Pastoral Music*; a twice-monthly e-mail newsletter for members called *Pastoral Music Notebook*; the weekly e-mail service *Sunday Word for Pastoral Musicians*. NPM provides ongoing formation for musicians and clergy through annual conventions, educational institutes, and events in 70 diocesan chapters. The Association also provides certification programs for cantors, organists, and directors of music ministries.

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