

## Awards Committee Sets New Plans for 2003

Several improvements in our Ministry of Music Awards are slated for the coming year, according to VP Kevin Samblanet, chairman of the Awards Committee.

The biggest change, he said, will be that the awards will be divided into two categories: first, for congregations up to 999 in size, and second, for those of 1,000 or more. In the past, honors have tended to go to the larger organizations, in part because they have bigger budgets and larger pools of musical talent to draw from. Creating two divisions for awards will help to level the playing field.

Another important change will be to close the nominations earlier in the year (by the first of July instead of mid-July). This will give the judges time to perform their work and announce the honorees by the first of September instead of mid-September. The purpose, Mr. Samblanet explained, is to give congregations more time to plan and prepare an awards ceremony. Most of them, he said, like to surprise their ministers of worship with the award, and they need as much advance notice as possible to create a fitting ceremony.

A few minor changes are also planned. The complete 2003 rules will be announced via the news media early in February. Also, the rules and the entry form will be published on our website.

## WHY Religious Music Week?

Three good reasons...

1. To focus national attention each year on the importance of music in worship.
2. To salute the musicians in each congregation who give of their time and talents year round to provide music for our religious services.
3. To encourage and motivate our musicians to reach out into the community, drawing ever more people to the worship of God.



Kevin McBeth, director of music ministries at Manchester United Methodist Church, Manchester, Mo., was one of the top 10 honorees in the Ministry of Music Awards Program for 2002. Kevin, at right above, is receiving his Award of Distinction from Gary Ford, chairman of music ministry. The Manchester choir is at extreme right.



## Radio, TV media urged to help local congregations 'reach out' with music

Are religious radio and TV stations throughout the country playing the music of local churches? Can broadcasters do more to help the churches in their listening areas "reach out" into the community?

That's the concern of our national program called "Reachin' Out." We want to get more radio and TV stations to broadcast the religious music of the churches in their localities.

It's a simple goal but one that is often overlooked, says Trustee Lynn Kinkaid. "There are many fine musical groups in every part of the country," he points out. "Many of these choirs, bands and choral groups have tapes and CD's of their work--but they rarely get a chance to be heard beyond their own congregations.

"We're suggesting that all religious radio and TV stations use National Religious Music Week to showcase the talents of the performers in their areas," Lynn says. "It will give these groups an opportunity to be heard--and thereby draw more people into church. It's also good for the media, because it is certain to increase their number of local listeners."

Each station is urged to invite

area congregations to submit CD's or tapes of their music. These musical selections can be broadcast throughout the week at a time of the station's own choosing. There can be several half-hour programs during the week, or numerous five- or 10-minute segments--or they may be aired as special features on a particular radio or TV personality's daily program.

"It's up to each station to decide their own programming," Lynn concluded. "We don't care how they do it...just so long as they offer a chance for each voice to be heard. It will make Religious Music Week much more meaningful and attract more people to our worship services."

Celebrate Religious Music Week Sept. 21-27, 2003

## Now's the time!

Make sure that Religious Music Week, September 21-27, is listed on your congregation's calendar this year. The time to do it is...right now!

Also, it's not too early to begin planning how you will celebrate the week. For a dozen or more ideas on the subject, check our website.

See the "Get Involved" page at [www.religiousmusicweek.com](http://www.religiousmusicweek.com).

# Award of Distinction Winners found in many different parts of the country

The top ten winners in our 2002 Ministry of Music Awards program represented churches in nine different states. These Award of Distinction recipients include, in alphabetical order:

**Thomas Donald Brown, West Allis, WI,** First UMC of West Allis. He has led this congregation's music and education programs for 25 years, with more than a dozen singing, bell and instrumental groups. His biennial Lenten Musicals take some 75 youths into many communities, sharing God's word and their faith. "It is a tribute to him that our youth will give so much of their time to share in this important ministry."

**Joe Pat Cox, Montgomery, AL,** Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church. Mr. Cox has the distinction of serving as minister of music for 50 years at the same church. His music department produces three major music festivals each year; some 350 persons participate in the Easter and Christmas specials. In addition to his music, he leads a Bible study group and teaches Vacation Bible School.

**Karen Kraft Chraska, Flower Mound, TX,** Trietsch Memorial United Methodist Church. Karen strongly believes in evangelism; in the past five years her Chancel Choir has performed at Carnegie Hall, and the Senior Youth Choir has toured Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana and Texas. She has served with mission teams traveling to Africa and Mexico, and has been a spiritual leader in Texas prison facilities.

**Rev. James Steven Harter, Colorado Springs, CO,** First UMC of Colorado Springs. Reverend Harter's chancel choir represented the U.S. at the Intl. Church Music Festival in Switzerland in 1999 and at Coventry, England, in 2000. A perfectionist, it is said, "He challenges and encourages each musician to do more than they think they can...he believes God deserves the very best we can offer."

**Jody Wayne Lindh, Dallas, TX,** University Park United Methodist Church. Mr. Lindh has served this congregation for 32 years. He leads choirs of all ages from Cherub to Adult, numbering more than 250 voices. His Chancel Choir toured the UK in 2001 and performs a major choral work each year with instrumentalists from the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. He has

published many anthems for church choirs.

**Dr. Robert McBain, Jackson, MS,** Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church. In four years Dr. McBain has infused new life into the music program, attracting children, youth and young adults as well as seniors. The televised Sunday service reaches tens of thousands of viewers. Dr. McBain's annual Palm Sunday concert includes a 240-voice regional choir and 68-piece orchestra.

**Kevin McBeth, Manchester, MO,** Manchester United Methodist Church. Under Kevin's direction the Chancel Choir has undertaken outreach programs at St. Louis suburban and inner-city venues as well as in Kansas City, Chicago and Nashville. The choir made its third appearance at Carnegie Hall in November. "He has made giving our time and talent to music ministry both fun and challenging," said the nominator.

**Sue Nimmo, Lakeside Park, KY,** Immanuel United Methodist Church. Under Sue's leadership the number of choirs has grown from two to 10, with

## "A wonderful vision"... musicians laud Awards program

Our Ministry of Music Awards program, now entering its third year, has drawn praise from religious leaders in all parts of the country. "I think it's a wonderful vision your organization has," said one writer from Orlando, FL. And another from Savannah, GA, added, "We wish you continued success in honoring these deserving religious music leaders."

**The key to our success,** says the Rev. Ray Jones, one of the founders of our Alliance, is that we are giving well deserved recognition to a special group of people who often receive little credit for their work. "By and large, these are some of the most underpaid, underpublicized and underappreciated men and women in our society," he said. "If you don't mind a pun, you could call them the 'unsung heroes' of our worship service."

The Ministry of Music awards were initiated to help achieve one of the main objectives of Religious Music Week, which is to provide a means of expressing thanks to musicians for creating outstanding music programs within their places of worship. By

some 20% of the congregation regularly participating in the music ministry. She makes each rehearsal not only a time for practice but a worship opportunity. In the 1980s Sue raised money for handbells and now leads three adult handbell choirs.

**Gayle Andrews Sullivan, Nashville, IN,** Belmont United Methodist Church. Gayle seeks to "teach the Bible through music," and involves the entire congregation. She also ensures that all music during the worship services relates to and enhances the scripture and sermon. An extra feature of her work is a week-long summer Music Camp for children in the community.

**Kevin Thomson, Fort Mill, SC,** Fort Mill Church of God. Under his leadership this church of 950 members now has five choirs, four praise teams and an orchestra as well as numerous groups and soloists. The church has recorded two CD's in the past three years. The nomination said that "All our musicians have grown spiritually because of our wonderful, dedicated and devoted leader."

*Celebrate Religious Music Week Sept. 21-27, 2003*

## **Other winners on Internet**

See a list of our 2002 Award of Merit and Certificate of Recognition winners on our website. Go to the Music Awards Section at [www.religiousmusicweek.com](http://www.religiousmusicweek.com).

**focusing on the accomplishments** of these men and women, we seek to encourage and support the work of all religious music leaders.

Many of the men and women who have nominated their music ministers appreciate our efforts. Said one nominator in Carlsbad, NM, "**Cherry was** simply overwhelmed by the award. We can't thank you enough for making it all possible." The sentiment was echoed by another nominator in Conover, NC, who said, "Thank you for the opportunity to honor such a special person." From Lakeside Park, KY, "We are very, very, **VERY appreciative!**" From Baltimore, MD, "Our Archdiocese sent faxes [about our award] to each of the 500 priests in the country and it is up on their Web site. So we are very pleased." From Akron, OH, "It was a tremendous surprise [for the honoree] and she was overwhelmed. Thanks so much for the award and your ministry." And from Colorado Springs, CO, "Bless you for the work you are doing in spreading God's word through music."

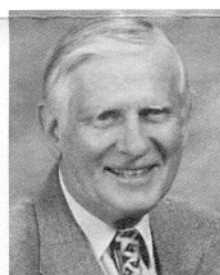
# Meet the judges...

These National Advisory Board members have served as judges for our Ministry of Music Awards

## Kenneth Osbeck

A veteran of World War II with 27 months service in Europe, Ken Osbeck returned to the U.S. to earn a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan in 1950. After 35 years of teaching at the Christian college level in Grand Rapids, he retired from Cornerstone University as Professor of Church Music and Fine Arts.

During this period of nearly four decades he also served as music director in seven area churches as well as with the Children's Bible Hour, Radio Bible Class, and Youth for Christ.



Ken is best known for having have 15 of his books on Christian music published by Kregel Publications of Grand Rapids. One of those books, "Amazing Grace--366 Hymn Stories

for Daily Devotions," has been a best seller since its release in 1990.

Ken and his wife celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2001; they have four grown children. Since retiring, the couple (she is a former drama teacher at the college) have presented approximately 600 dramatized hymn story programs to church and civic groups throughout the Midwest. They have also been invited to give programs and workshops in the Philippines in 2001 and again last year.

## Dennis Cole

Deacon Dennis E. Cole joined our National Advisory Board last year. He is chairman of the Chicago Area Gospel



Announcers Guild and a gospel radio announcer for WSSD Radio, where he coordinates his own religious radio program. He is currently attending The Moody Bible Institute, pursuing

an Associate Degree in Biblical Studies, and is a member of the Cosmopolitan Church of Prayer, serving as Co-Chairman of the Deacon-Trustee Board.

Deacon Cole is former president of the Chicago Mass Choir, having led the Mass Choir in performances in Dakar, Goree Island and Gambia, all in West Africa. He is founder of the Nu City Ministry and co-host since 1975 with Dr. Charles G. Hayes on WYCA Gospel Cavalcade.

He is also a member of the United Gospel Industry Council, the Gospel Music Association, the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, the AARC Gospel Music Awards Committee, the Advisory Staff of Gospel Flava Magazine, and the National Gospel Announcers Guild.

## Bobbye Y. Evans

Bobbye Evans graduated with honors from Phillis Wheatley High School, where she played in and conducted the symphonic and stage bands. While attending St. Mary's University she was hired by Southwestern Bell as a long distance operator. She later transferred to AT&T as an electronics technician and retired in 2001 with 33 years of service.

Bobbye is the third of five generations to attend the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in San Antonio, TX. She sings in and has directed three of the church choirs. She also is a director of the 250-voice Community of Churches for Social Action (CCSA) Mass Choir and has



sung with numerous community choirs throughout the city and state. Her gospel music column appears on the Texas Gospel Announcers Guild's website at [www.texasgag.com](http://www.texasgag.com).

Bobbye is the Executive Secretary and a Board Member of the Texas Gospel Announcers Guild, made up of 250 radio announcers, musicians, and others. She is a much sought-after worship leader and gospel music clinician, helping in seminars and workshops all over the country.

## Marilyn Keiser

Dr. Marilyn Keiser is professor of music at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, where she teaches courses in sacred music as well as applied organ. In 2002 she was

honored to become a Chancellor's Professor of Music. She is also is Director of Music for Trinity Episcopal Church in Bloomington. Prior to Indiana U., Dr. Keiser was director of music at All Souls Parish, Asheville, NC, and music consultant for the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina.



Marilyn attended Illinois Wesleyan University, graduating with a Bachelor of Sacred Music degree. She graduated summa cum laude from Union Theological Seminary with a Master of Sacred Music degree and earned her doctorate degree there in 1977.

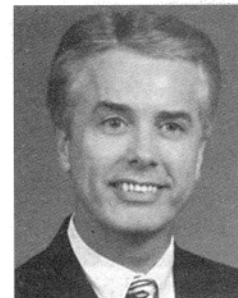
In constant demand as an organ recitalist and workshop leader, Dr. Keiser has appeared throughout the United States in concerts sponsored by churches, colleges and chapters of The American Guild of Organists. She has also appeared as featured artist in concerts in England, France and Brazil.

Dr. Keiser has given lectures and workshops in church music for all of the major denominations, specializing in music for small churches. She is also the author of a publication entitled "Teaching Music in Small Churches."

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## Bob Morrison

Having served on church staffs since 1967, Bob Morrison is presently minister of music at the First Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. In 2001 he won an Award of Distinction in our Ministry of Music Awards program, and last year he served as a judge.



Bob was graduated from Jacksonville State U. in 1972, and in 1974 received an M.C.M. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to moving to Florida, Bob served churches in Anniston, (Continued. see "Judges." back page)

## Judges ... (contd. From page 3)

AL; Gadsden, AL; Gunter, Texas; AL; and Cullman, AL.

Bob has traveled extensively in the U.S. with both his youth and adult choirs, performing classical, spiritual, hymn. In 2002 he won the Paul Bobbitt Achievement Award in Florida anthems, and contemporary music. Other tours have taken his choirs to England, France, the Netherlands, Latvia, Russia, Scotland and Sweden...as well as Canada and Mexico.

Bob has served on the Executive Council of the national SBCMC, and he frequently leads choir leadership conferences throughout the U.S., especially in the area of Youth Choirs.

Bob's wife Annette is in every way a co-worker with Bob, serving as the church's music administrative assistant.

Celebrate Religious Music Week Sept. 21-27, 2003

## May Schwarz



Now in her third year as one of our National Advisors, May Schwarz has twice served as a judge for our Ministry of Music awards. An Associate in Ministry in the ELCA, she is

Professor of Church Music and Director of the Master of Arts in Church Music program at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio.

May has served dean of the Columbus Chapter American Guild of Organists and national vice president of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. She holds Master of Music and Master of Theological Studies degrees and has studied organ in Germany, England, Switzerland and Belgium.

In addition to serving Lutheran, Episcopal and United Church of Christ congregations in Ohio, she has performed in Rome, London, Tokyo, Manila, Erlangen, Germany, and most recently in Sweden.

Under her guidance church Music at Trinity Lutheran Seminary has become a distinct discipline in theological education rather than an "embellishment to worship."

According to May, "The pastoral musician is much more than a musical technician; he or she is a leader in the church's mission."

## Vicki Pappas

Dr. Vicki Pappas is currently National Chairman of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

She began her involvement in church music in Buffalo, NY in 1963, as a member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Choir and co-director of their Junior Choir. In 1974 she moved to Bloomington, IN to complete her doctoral studies at Indiana University and now works there. She is a member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Parish of Indianapolis, where she sings in the choir and teaches hymnology in the Church School program.

Vicki also served as president of the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians in the 1970's, and has remained active in that regional group. She is currently an officer and member of its Executive Board. She co-developed the National Forum's "Hymns of the Orthodox Church" instructional series and in 1989 worked with the Archdiocese and GoTelecom to create a national videotape on "Choirs of the Future." In 1988 she was awarded the St. Romanos the Melodist Medallion for her outstanding national contributions to church music.

At Indiana University Vicki is Director of the Center for Planning and Policy Studies at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community. She also teaches in the University's School of Education.

## Other Board Members

Other members of our National Advisory Board include:

**Dr. Delton Alford**, Executive Director, Dept. of Music Ministries, Church of God, Cleveland, TN.

**Richard Botton**, Cantor Emeritus, Central Synagogue, New York City, NY.  
**David R. Davidson**, Music Director, Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX.

**Carl P. Daw, Jr.**, Executive Director, The Hymn Society in The U.S. & Canada, Boston, MA

**Doug Lawrence**, Minister of Worship, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, Menlo Park, CA

**John J. Limb**, Publisher/CEO, Oregon Catholic Press, Portland, OR .

**Chuck Spearman**, Chairman, Missouri Gospel Announcers Guild, St. Louis, MO

## Leading Foundations Aid Religious Music Week

In addition to the many individuals and organizations that support National Religious Music Week, two large and well respected foundations have given us substantial help. We were pleased to receive \$3,500 from the **Barnitz Fund of Bank One** and \$2,000 from the **Hamilton, OH, Community Foundation**. The Hamilton foundation also gave us another \$2,500 in 1999.

"We look upon our contributions as an important way to help a very worthwhile organization grow," said John Guidugli, Community Foundation president. "Religious Music Week has rapidly attained national stature. We are proud to help get it going and growing!"

Other donors include:

### \$25 to \$99

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