

# A History of the Choir of St. Michael and All Angels Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico Part One of Two

*God created the world in six days, and on the seventh day he rested... Now it is rumored that He spends weekends in Cuernavaca with its singular climate. Some inhabitants of Mexico and others visiting from its neighbor across the border agree with God. – Alfonso Reyes*

And members of the Choir are convinced that He visits the choir loft of St. Michael and All Angels every Sunday of His weekends.



The Church of Saint Michael and All Angels is an English-speaking parish within the Diocese of Cuernavaca of the Anglican Church of Mexico, *Iglesia Anglicana de México*. The congregation is comprised of English speakers from all over the world, mainly from the US, Canada, and the UK, as well as many bilingual Mexican nationals. St. Michael's offers a service with communion, in English, every Sunday at 10:45 am and on certain other important days of the Anglican or Mexican calendar. There is also an afternoon Spanish language service in the same church every Sunday directed to a Mexican congregation. St. Michael's is located on Calle Minerva #7 at the corner of Minerva and Eros, Colonia Delicias, Cuernavaca, Morelos.

***Choral music is not one of life's frills.*** It's something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community, and our souls. You express, when you sing, your soul in song. And when you get together with a group of other singers, it becomes more than the sum of the parts. All those people are pouring out their hearts and souls in perfect harmony, which is kind of an emblem for what we need in this world, when so much of the world is at odds with itself just to express, in symbolic terms, what it's like when human beings are in harmony. That's a lesson for our time and for all time.

And musical excellence is, of course, at the heart of it. But even if a choir is not the greatest in the world, the fact that they are meeting together has a social value. It has a communal value. ***A church or a school without a choir is like a body without a soul.*** We must have soul in our lives. And everybody who has sung in a choir says that they feel better for doing it. That whatever the cares of the day, if they maybe meet after a long day's school or work, that somehow you leave your troubles at the door. And when you're sitting there, making music for a couple of hours at the end of the day, that's the only thing that matters at that moment. And you walk away refreshed. You walk away renewed. And that's a value that goes just beyond the music itself.

The music is at the heart of it, but all these other values just stand out as a beacon. Our politicians need to take note...do they ever! And those who decide education and church budgets just need to remember it's not a frill. It's like a great oak that rises up from the center of the human race and spreads its branches everywhere. That's what music does for us. And choral music must stand as one of the supreme examples of it.

– *From an interview with John Rutter*



## HOW IT BEGAN...the early years from 1996

St. Michael and All Angels Parish's English-speaking congregation was first located in downtown Cuernavaca on Calle Degollado. There was a basic music program with a professional organist and a small choir led by Beryl Boddy that dissolved in the early 1990's. The new music program began to develop as members of the congregation longed to hear more music-filled services again. Steve Spencer and Harriet Edmond were part of this early effort. Andrea Carr was hired to put together a choir for Easter and Christmas in 1996, in 1997 and for Easter in 1998. These seasonal choirs were the foundation for the permanent choir which began in 1999. This is the history of the Choir of St. Michael and All Angels under the direction of Andrea Carr from 1999 to the present.

Who is Andrea Carr? Having grown up in Mexico City, from 1964 through the 70's, her family attended Christ Church on *Artículo 123* and her father, Bill Carr, was very involved in the church. Andrea studied piano with Claire Jordan Svecenski (graduate of the early Julliard) as of the age of 8, and her intense interest in music led her to join the Senior Choir at Christ Church from 1976 -77. This was her first serious choral experience, and at age 15 she was the youngest member.

Continuing with music, Maestra Andrea Carr was trained at McGill University in Montreal, earning a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Music in Performance (Piano). She continued at Concordia University in Advanced Performance Studies and after 10 years of accompanying numerous choirs, worked as organist and choir director for four years at the Montreal West Presbyterian Church. She returned to Mexico and settled in Cuernavaca in 1994, first living at her family's house on Subida a Chalma, close neighbor with Steve and Georgia Spencer.

Her former husband, Greg MacIntosh, was involved in musical theater productions at local private schools, and with John and Stephanie Stelly. A Talent Show was organized within the community with Gigi Freeman and many others. Andrea was the pianist for most of these productions, and so she came in contact with members of St. Michael's when it was still downtown.



In the fall of 1998, St. Michael's moved to a new location on Minerva #7 near the Anglican Bishop's offices at Minerva #1 in Colonia Delicias. At this time Andrea was asked to play the organ on Sundays every two weeks, since the Church still had a commitment with the aging *Profesor* Landeros, its long-standing organist. Andrea had directed the temporary earlier choirs in which Steve Spencer always had a role, so with the help of Harriet Edmond and Carol Hopkins another such choir was organized for Christmas 1998.

In January 1999, Carol Hopkins was key to suggesting that the Choir become permanent and so it was. Andrea began playing every Sunday and worked with a regular, organized and supported choir as of that time. The Choir recently celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1999-2019), meaning that in the current year of 2022 it has been in existence for 23 years and continues.

The Choir has been through many changes as for the first few years, it rehearsed on Wednesday evenings at the Stellys' house on Calle Libertad, Col. Carolina. When this became impossible because of the work schedules of key choristers, they changed to the All-Sunday plan at the Church with pre-service and post service rehearsals.



Andrea's main occupation was teaching piano, voice and ear training at the School of Music at La Salle University in Cuernavaca and the *Centro Morelense de las Artes*, where she also directed their choirs. She retired from the La Salle Music School's Coordinator position in 2011, but continued musically with academic work, teaching, coaching, accompanying, as well as founding the *Agrupación Coral "Deo Gracias"*, a community choir which is described later in this history.

The priests in charge of St. Michael's during these times played important roles in support of the music program.

- Rev. William Derby (1994 - 2004)
- Rev. Gillian Ball (1998 - 2007)
- Rev. Tamara Newell (2007 - 2012)
- Rev. Gregory Bufkin (2012 - 2015)
- Visiting ministers: Rev. Bruce Coggin, Rev. Tim Hoyt, Rev. Edward Harrison, Rev. Norma M. Barr, Rev. Douglas Carter, Rev. Sarah Shirley
- Rev. Douglas Carter (Feb 2017 - current)

*Sing, then. Sing, indeed, with shoulders back, and head up so that song might go to the roof and beyond to the sky. Mass on mass of tone, with a hard edge, and rich with quality, every single note a carpet of color woven from basso profundo, and basso, and baritone, and alto, and tenor, and soprano, and also mezzo, and contralto, singing and singing, until life and all things living are become a song.*

– Richard Llewellyn

The Choir was made up of music lovers of many nationalities including Americans, Canadians, Mexicans, British, Germans, Kenyans, Chileans, and others of a variety of skills and talent. The intention was to encourage others to join the Choir and learn singing skills and a large repertoire of sacred music. The Choir performed at the Church of St. Michael almost every Sunday at the morning service. With time it was

hoped that the choir would offer concerts of sacred music elsewhere; however, the small numbers made this virtually impossible.

*It is not you that sings, it is the Church that is singing, and you, as a member of the Church, may share in its song. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

Early members of the choir at varying times included: (\*deceased, *que en paz descansen*)

Sopranos: Carol Hopkins, Lorna Mozer\*, Gretchen Hallman, Patricia Diane Bridger, Patricia Edelen, Patsy McCann Davis, Brigitte Gutbrod, Rosemary Gall, Ana Rosa MacIntosh-Carr, Rhonda Tranks, Stephanie Stelly, Cynthia Sargeant\*

Altos: Edith (Chula) Nicholson\*, Harriet Edmond

Tenors: Bob Roberts, Walter Gutbrod, Tomás Miranda Ortiz

Basses: Steven Spencer (soloist), James (Jim) Papp (soloist), Rick Valenta

Visiting artists in early years included Laurie Sanders and Claudia Salinas (violin), Joseph Alcorn (viola), Emilio Palacios (flute).

*Chula Nicholson to Harriet Edmond—I don't think I can sing. I have a frog in my throat. From Harriet—Don't worry. We'll keep you anyway!*

#### CONCERTS PRESENTED

- ❖ Special service of music, prayer and meditation, May 14, 2000, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter
- ❖ Choral Concert for St. Cecilia's Day, November 23, 2002  
St. Cecilia is the patroness saint of music in the Anglican Church
- ❖ Coro del Centro Morelense de las Artes, December 24, 2003, Dir. Andrea Carr
- ❖ *Concierto coral de música sacra* I will sing unto the Lord, March 27, 2004
- ❖ *Concierto coral de música sacra* Alleluia, April 9, 2005
- ❖ Coro De La Salle, December 9, 2005, Dir. Andrea Carr
- ❖ Memorial Service for "Chula" Edith Nicholson, June 27, 2005. Chula had been



the most enthusiastic, encouraging and consistent member of the choir since it was formed in 1998. It was for Chula that choristers pulled together to sing some of her favorite anthems. It was the largest choir ever assembled, and the experience was wonderful. After that time, the choir struggled, but gifted choristers gathered again to continue the music ministry.



## The Friends of St. Michael's

*Then the singing enveloped me. It was furry and resonant, coming from everyone's very heart. There was no sense of performance or judgment, only that the music was breath and food. - Anne Lamott*

On Jan 1, 2002, a significant and wonderful addition to the music program was made. *The Friends of St. Michael's*, an organization dedicated to the support of a Sacred Music Education program in Cuernavaca, undertook to develop a choir for the performance of sacred music at the Church and elsewhere. *The Friends of St. Michael's* was a registered Canadian charity. Founding Directors were Eric Bierman, Ivan Mozer, Margaret del Río, John Ball and the Rev. Gillian Ball. They provided all the financial support of the music program for many years. *The Friends* supported the choral director Andrea Carr to teach and direct various permanent and seasonal residents of Cuernavaca and surroundings to sing and perform Anglican sacred music.

The needs of the program were many, including the purchase of new sheet music, organ repairs, and the hiring of additional performers for special occasions. This program was managed and financed independently from the Church, while at the same time the Choir performed at the Church. Funds were raised with regular solicitations by mail or personal contact. All funds collected went to support the development of the Choir and the music program. St. Michael's parishioners gave generously, as both the Choir and music programs were greatly appreciated. With the

*Music, once admitted to the soul, becomes a sort of spirit,  
and never dies. – Edward Bulwer Lytton*

passing of several founding members, the *Friends of St. Michael's* was ended in 2013. The Church assumed full financial responsibility for the music program in 2014 with an ongoing commitment.



## LATER YEARS After 2006

Needs of the Choir continued as in this example of a request made in January 2007

1. The Baldwin organ badly needs maintenance and repair of the volume pedal. As it turns out, the previous technician Sr. Mario Muñoz has passed away, so we need help locating another technician.
2. On Christmas Eve the lighting was so poor in the Choir loft that it was a real struggle, and the violinist could not do her best under those conditions. The congregation that sat upstairs was almost in total darkness. Switches need to be repaired and spotlights added.
3. We need a small bookshelf in the loft so that hymnals and other materials are not left in constant disarray on the pews.
4. Steve Spencer kindly donated his piano several years ago, and it did not receive the repairs needed after the mice in the Church Hall ate and damaged many of the felts and hammers. These repairs are requested so that it may be used. Furthermore, the piano bench needs repair as it feels as though it will break at any minute.
5. Regarding concerts and fundraising music events, the situation is very difficult. The music program has basically lost steam with the dwindling numbers and the malfunctioning organ. We need to renew our efforts.

*After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.*

- Aldous Huxley



## A FINE NEW ORGAN 2007

Early performances of services of anthems and prayers were conducted when the organ was located on the ground floor before the choir loft was built. This old organ was a Baldwin III and rapidly malfunctioning when it was moved upstairs. Many of

the organ companies which were once so popular had left Mexico all together. This led to the idea of buying a new organ, as there were no technicians to be had for repair on the old ones. One very old man came to work on the Baldwin, but it was obvious that it was beyond repair. In 2007 it was amazingly replaced with one of the finest organs in the state of Morelos, a Quantum by Allen Organ Company. The purchase of the new organ was researched by Jim Papp and Steve Spencer. **It was funded by donations through the extraordinary efforts of Steve and Jim. They deserve congratulations for pursuing this project with such a fine outcome.** Andrea was included in the final decisions after a visit to various Allen organs newly installed in the *Estado de México*, as well as in the placement of the instrument, the speakers and the extensive voicing done by Aram Basmadjian.

After the final voicing, St. Michael's hosted the Inaugural Organ Recital in August 2008 presented by Aram Basmadjian, one of the most accomplished young organ virtuosos in the United States. He was the Special Projects Manager of the Allen Organ Company and managed the custom organ department. The program included *Sinfonia* by Johann Sebastian Bach, *Romanza* by Edvard Grieg, *Roulade* by Seth Bingham, *The Lost Chord* by Sir Arthur Sullivan, *Sketch in D-flat Major* by Robert Schumann, *Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C* by Bach, *Scherzo* by Louis Vierne, *Londonderry Air* Traditional, *Intermezzo from Symphony No. 6* by Charles-Marie Widor.

*Patricia Bridger to the Choir and Andrea —I have to rest my voice!*

## Choir Members from 2006 to present

Members of the later Choir at varying times included:

Sopranos	Susan Kirago, Isabel Peralta, Mariela Sandoval, Carol Hopkins, Yolanda Fernández, Patricia Edelen, Patricia Bridger, Patti Holloway, Julie Rogers, Leia Hi-Bridger
Altos	Ellen Macdonald Almazán, Harriet Edmond, Liz Robinson, Kay Godfrey
Tenors	Juan José Contreras, Roberto Zárate, Gabriel de la Cruz (bursary), Juan Antonio Ortiz (paid), Benjamín Aguilar Pascoe, Peter Severson, Chris Dávila
Basses	Steve Spencer (soloist), Ian Thomas, Jorge Bredeé, Tony Hommerding, Jim Papp (soloist)*, Roberto Newell, Alejandro González, Kim Hansen

*\*Jim Papp played an extraordinary role in helping with a deeper education of sacred music, as he has a M.M. in Choral Direction and*



*studied Liturgical Music at L'Institut Catholique de Paris, France. Jim generously donated much organ music, anthem collections, and sung Psalms, while the Choir also sang Jim's compositions and arrangements.*

Visiting Guest Instrumentalists during these years

Sandi Schwarz (violin), Laurie Saunders (Rodríguez) (violin), Priscila Chaves (flute), Luis Ángel Ballesteros cello

Guest Singers: Rosemary Alvino, Juan Antonio Ortiz, Benjamín Aguilar.

Visiting Guest Organists: Aram Basmadjian, Juan Carlos Chávez, John S. Stump, Keith Griggs

Guest choirs: Coro del Centro Morelense de las Artes, Coro De La Salle and Agrupación Coral Deo Gracias, all conducted by Andrea Carr

Choral groups conducted by: Abraham Tinoco, Esaú Flores, Ángel Alonso Salgado.

From Andrea –

*2007 has brought renewed energy and enthusiasm up in the choir loft and though we are few in number, we sound like many thanks to the great voices I am privileged to work with.*

Many of St. Michael's parishioners had favorite hymns or anthems, and the Choir made a special effort to sing these often. A treasure of Tip Newell was *In The Garden*, and the Rev. Tamara Newell requested *Order My Steps* by Glenn Burleigh and purchased the music so that it could be performed. Another piece which was often requested for celebration of life services was *On Eagles' Wings* by Michael Joncas.

*Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy. Music is the electrical soil in which the spirit lives, thinks and invents. – Ludwig van Beethoven*

Few concerts were presented during this period, and the following letter, sent March 10, 2010, to the Friends of St. Michael's, explains the reason.

The Choir only rehearses on Sundays and has not had weekday rehearsals on a regular basis for at least four years. Weekday rehearsals are necessary for a concert. For the last three years we have focused on enriching and changing the service music, thereby increasing both quantity and quality. The Sunday practices are barely adequate to prepare. We have several new choristers with limited choral skills who are learning "on the job" as it were. Finally, the concerts in the past were held together basically with both Andrea's and Jim Papp's vocal skills. Unfortunately Jim was assaulted some years ago, injuring his voice, thereby undermining the great support he has been. Furthermore, Andrea's low vision is gradually deteriorating and she has great difficulty now playing and singing, mostly because she must memorize either the words or the music. Her diminished field of vision is a great problem in leading the few sopranos of the current Choir.

## PROGRAMS and CONCERTS PRESENTED

- ❖ Spring Concert "Sing a New Song to the Lord", March 30, 2007, 6 pm. A beautiful program of choral pieces and four solos and duos by Andrea Carr, Jim Papp and Steve Spencer. There were well loved old favorites such as *Simple Gifts* and *In the Garden*, as well as modern anthems like *People Need The Lord* and *Family of Faith*.
- ❖ "Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness, Good Friday", April 6, 2007, 6:00 pm. A service of readings and music with the Choir, soloists and congregational participation. Some of the finest choral music ever composed uses the Story of Christ as its theme and evokes both the sadness, tragedy and glory more profoundly than mere words ever could. This will be a heavenly expression of this most important story here on earth.
- ❖ Inaugural Organ Recital, August 2008, Aram Basmadjian, guest organist
- ❖ Choral Concert "In Memoriam", Coro De La Salle, dir. Andrea Carr
- ❖ "Arias y Canciones", Rosemary Alvino, mezzo soprano and Coro De La Salle
- ❖ Special Service in Spanish with the Bishop, March 17, 2012, St. Michael's Choir

- ❖ *Agrupación Coral Deo Gracias*, directed by Andrea Carr, performed many choral Concerts from 2012 until 2019
- ❖ St. Michael's Choir, Service at Parroquia San Miguel Arcángel, our sister church in Acapantzingo, February 3, 2014
- ❖ Organ Recital with guest organist John S. Stump, April 25, 2014
- ❖ Christmas Concert with guest organist John S. Stump, December 18, 2014
- ❖ Trio Concert with Sandi Schwarz, violin, Luis Angel Ballesteros, cello, and Andrea Carr, piano / organ, July 1, 2017
- ❖ Two Organ Recitals with guest organist Keith Griggs. The second recital was on February 15, 2019
- ❖ There were several choral recitals with director Abraham Tinoco as well as graduation recitals of student choral conductors from the *Centro Morelense de las Artes*, namely Esaú Flores and Ángel Alonso Salgado.
- ❖ Voice Recital of Contemporary Mexican Composers by Gabriel De La Cruz, tenor, and Andrea Carr, piano, March 23, 2019

*Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife. - Khalil Gibran*



## Deo Gracias 2012

This community choir of mixed voices was founded by Andrea Carr in August 2012, from the void left by the disintegration of the university choir *Coro De La Salle*, which Andrea had to give up when she was released on a disability pension. Despite her waning vision, the new chorus emerged as a community effort, hosted by St. Michael and All Angels Parish, wishing to extend its outreach to the greater community of Cuernavaca.

The Church agreed to lend the new choir the Community Center room and in exchange the choir would present a concert at St. Michael's once a year. The choir was intended for all ages and provided some additional classes in Sight Singing and the enhancement of vocal skills.

There was an immediate response of 20 choristers, some of whom were Church choir members, while others were students or ex choristers from the university and some entirely new. There was a wonderful multicultural mix of people of all ages, religions, and from all walks of life. They were enthusiastic to learn and ready to make friends, and the first concert was held four months on December 7, 2012, at St. Michael's with 25 members.

With that experience, this choir expanded to rehearsals twice a week, greater numbers and a greater commitment to learn an extensive repertoire of choral works which led to at least two concerts each semester, some held at St. Michael's or other venues. The choir finally got its name and began making donations to the Church quarterly in thanks for the use of such perfect installations.

Through the choice of both sacred and secular works, classical and modern, Andrea has deepened her musical ministry through an enlightened attention to artistry and poetry that enriches choristers and audiences alike. This has been the true extension of this ministry which at times has overflowed further into the release of social grief and tension by providing musical prayer and renewed hope. Such an example was the 2015 performance of the Choral Suite "The Armed Man; a Mass for Peace" by Sir Karl Jenkins.

With a large turnover of choristers leaving and others joining, Deo Gracias has touched many hearts and has grown into a true community of friendship. Its concerts have enriched many people's lives in and outside the Church community and has provided valued vocal and sight-singing instruction to the many St. Michael's choristers who sang in both groups.

Sadly, the pandemic of 2020 put the group's singing on hold, however they continued with singing projects through audio material and a choral workshop which has kept the community strong.

Members of St. Michael's who participated at various times in rehearsals and performances included:

Sopranos      Patricia Edelen, Susan Kirago, Mariela Sandoval, Isabel Peralta,  
                         Yolanda Fernández

Contraltos Harriet Edmond, Ellen Macdonald-Almazán, Kay Godfrey, Leticia Tayabas  
Tenors Juan José Contreras, Gabriel de la Cruz, Jim Papp  
Basses Steve Spencer, Ian Thomas

Concerts included this original benefit concert held at St. Michael's. Twice yearly concerts continued until the pandemic shutdown.

❖ *Presentación del Ensamble Musical CantARTE y de la nueva Agrupación Coral DEO GRACIAS, Bajo la dirección de la Mtra. Andrea Carr* December 17, 2012  
Selections included *Aria, Panis Angelicus, Alleluia de Exultate jubilate, Caro Vere, Ave María, The Prayer, Te quiero dijiste, Hasta mi final, O Holy Night, Jubilate Deo, Pavane, El Señor, Adoramuste, And the Gloria from The Messiah, La barca de oro, Quiéreme, Go down Moses, Va pensiero, Swingle Bells V, Schedrifka y Pastores de Belén*

*The role of music in our culture is most crucial, because music is the art most sacredly capable of helping us get in touch with the deepest passions and compassion, and deepest understanding of ourselves. – Ethan Hawke*



## RENEWAL

Another change came about with approval from the Vestry in May of 2016 to the Choristers of St. Michael and all Angels Parish

After 17 years of music ministry at St. Michael's, our congregation acknowledges that the music in our worship is an important aspect of our existence, and we would like for this to continue and grow in quality.

As a result, the Vestry and the Rev. Tamara Newell are in favor of:

1. Officially finishing our choral season on the second week of June.
2. Choristers will have to re-audition to be in the next season with the choir, demonstrating moderate vocal and aural skills, as well as a working sight reading capacity.
3. The auditions will take place in the second half of August on a 1 - 1 basis.
4. Choristers with few skills are encouraged to take some lessons in the summer



- to improve their vocal, reading, rhythmic, aural and sight singing skills.
5. Choristers may informally take part in summer services with pre-service rehearsals whenever these are possible.
  6. \*The Vestry is reviewing the possibility of hiring up to two choristers from September to May to assist our music program. These are to be serious, skilled music students who need to gain valuable practice and would receive a minimal stipend in support of their studies. (This was put into effect.)



\*And so our first bursary student was found. Gabriel de la Cruz was hired and sang as lead tenor in the Choir, while furthering his musical education from 2017 to 2020. Not only did he become a beloved member (Choir members swore he had the look of an angel when he sang!), but he also used his St. Michael's experience to further his musical career under his professional name of Gabriel Delác. Gabriel has won awards for

compositions of sacred music and presented a concert of contemporary Mexican composers at St. Michael's in March 2019, with Andrea as the pianist. He continues to spearhead other music projects within Mexico.



## 2020 TO CURRENT – NOT THE FINALE!

When the current worldwide pandemic began in March of 2020, all church services were prohibited along with any large group gatherings. St. Michael's valiantly adapted to this situation by making video transmissions of the Sunday service available to the parish. An important part of these videos was through the music of both organ and voice provided by Andrea Carr, and it was quite moving for parishioners to receive its inspiration. When Morelos moved to a lower level of viral infection, both the Mexican government and the Anglican Bishop authorized in person services, but with careful spacing, required masks, and limited numbers. When this began, the choral singing of the congregation was augmented by Choir members who sang from downstairs, interspersed in the congregation.

There was a plan put in place to offer Christmas music for December 2021. Andrea invited all Choir members to return for participation and rehearsal during Advent. There were special precautions put in place for the members to sing from the choir

loft. This was especially poignant, as Gabriel was returning for at least one service. Gabriel's father, a medical doctor, had recently died from Covid after treating many patients with the virus. Most of the Choir members returned with anthems on Advent Sundays, a joyful service of Lessons and Carols, and on Christmas Eve.

Current to this writing in early March 2022 Morelos has returned to the "green" level of infection. Choral singing has begun again and plans for Easter are being made. Harriet Edmond often made this comment after a rehearsal which needed fine points tuned and pondering how the Choir would perform, "*We shall overcome.*" And indeed Andrea Carr and the Choir of St. Michael and All Angels **shall**.

*Why music?*

*Music is a science, mathematical, a foreign language, history, and physical education. Music develops insight and demands research. Music is all these things, but most of all, music is art. That is why we teach music. Not because we expect you to major in music, not because we expect you to play or sing all your life, but so you will be human. So you will recognize beauty, so you will be closer to an infinite beyond this world, so you will have something to cling to. So you will have more love, more compassion, more gentleness, more good – in short, more LIFE.*

*Respectfully compiled by Kay Godfrey, a grateful alto, and with much assistance from Andrea Carr, March 19, 2022*

*Please continue to the separate Part Two which includes a gallery of photographs*