

Michael McKay has recently moved to Winnipeg from Wolfville, Nova Scotia where for the last nine years he has been Head Accompanist at Acadia University. In the last three years of holding this position, he focused his energies on the School of Music's Music Theatre program, where his skills as a composer/arranger and improviser in many musical styles were put to full use.

Michael holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Acadia University (with a major in Piano Performance and Theory/Composition), as well as a Master of Music degree from the University of Toronto (with a major in Piano Performance). As a pianist he had competed often at the (then) CIBC National Music Festival, placing third in the Piano division in 1993; and has made various guest appearances as soloist with the Chebucto Symphony, St. Andrew's Festival Orchestra, and the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra. More recent ventures (which we shall soon encounter) involve the marriage of spoken word and piano music in lecture-recitals and a genre which Michael has recently created, the "liturgical recital" where sacred readings and liturgical action are combined with sacred music to powerful effect.

While studying in Toronto, Michael became resident Composer/Arranger and Music Director of the Ancient Comic Opera Company, devoted to the adaptation of the plays of Aristophanes as comic operettas. The ACOC's smash hit *Clouds* was the sleeper hit of the Fall of 1995 and all of 1996, earning Michael a nomination for Best Musical Score at the 1996 Dora Mavor Moore Awards. Michael's theatrical work has involved composing/arranging (and sound design), choreography, and singing/acting in various companies in Wolfville and Toronto.

In the Church Music world, Michael has been Organist/Pianist at the Smith's Cove United Baptist Church, Bass Section Lead at the Willowdale United Church and the Wolfville Baptist Church, and Music Director at Gordon Providence Church and St. Andrew's United Church, and now Organist/Pianist at First Presbyterian Church here in Winnipeg.

Michael McKay **August 16th, 2007**

In Honour of St. Hyacinth

Today is the Feast of St. Hyacinth, the thirteenth-century Polish Confessor, and namesake of the town of St-Hyacinthe in Quebec, the home of the organ builders, Casavant Frères.

Hyacinth was a Pole, born of noble Christian parents at the villa of Kamin in the Bishoprick of Breslau. He was enrolled among the canons of Krakow and excelled them all in his singularly devout way of life and in his learning. At Rome, he was received into the Order of Preachers by its founder, St. Dominic; and to the end of his days, his virginity intact, he held to the perfect rule of life which he had learned from St. Dominic. He was sent back to his own country and built six monasteries of his Order. It is unbelievable how much he accomplished by preaching the word of God and by the innocency of his life, made illustrious by numerous miracles. Among these is this particularly remarkable miracle: he crossed over the river Vistula near Visograd when it was in flood, taking his companions with him, not by boat but on his cloak spread out over the waters. He persevered in his wonderful way of life for nearly forty years after his profession. On the day of the Virgin's Assumption in the year of salvation 1257, he gave up his soul to God. He was numbered among the Saints by Clement VIII.

From the Office of Sext...

- Hymn: Flor Peeters, Nunc Sancte Nobis Spiritus
- Antiphon: Anonymous, Fidelis Servus et Prudens (Plainchant)
- Psalm: Louis-Antoine Dornel, Versets du 3e Ton
- Antiphon: René Vierne, "Fidelis Servus et Prudens"
(Antienne du 3e Mode)
(from Les Vêpres du Commun des Saints)
- Responsory: Michael McKay, "Os Justi Meditabitur Sapientiam"

"Iste Confessor"

- Verse 1: Plainchant
- Verse 2: Girolamo Frescobaldi
- Verse 3: Jean Titelouze
- Verse 4: Alexandre Guilmant
- Verse 5: Healey Willan