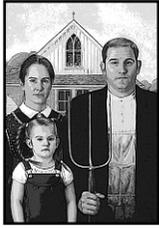


ART ADVENTURE | SAM DALKILIC-MIESTOWSKI



A rebirth of interest in Gregorian chants

With Thanksgiving approaching, families and friends across the region will begin planning their holiday hustling and bustling, shopping for food, and for many families going to church. With the variety of churches in Northwest Indiana, many forms of music are used, ranging from the traditional contemporary popular music.

One of my favorite kinds of music has always been traditional sacred music.

Gregorian chants are used by the Roman Catholic Church. They are always sung in Latin.

The chants are named for Pope Gregory I (The Great). Pope Gregory was born in Rome around 540 and died around 604. He served as Pope from 590 until his death.

Although his exact contributions are unknown, it is believed that he ordered and supervised a collection of music and distributed it over a liturgical year in an arrangement which has since become known as the Gregorian chants.

Another term often used for the Gregorian chant is Plainsong.

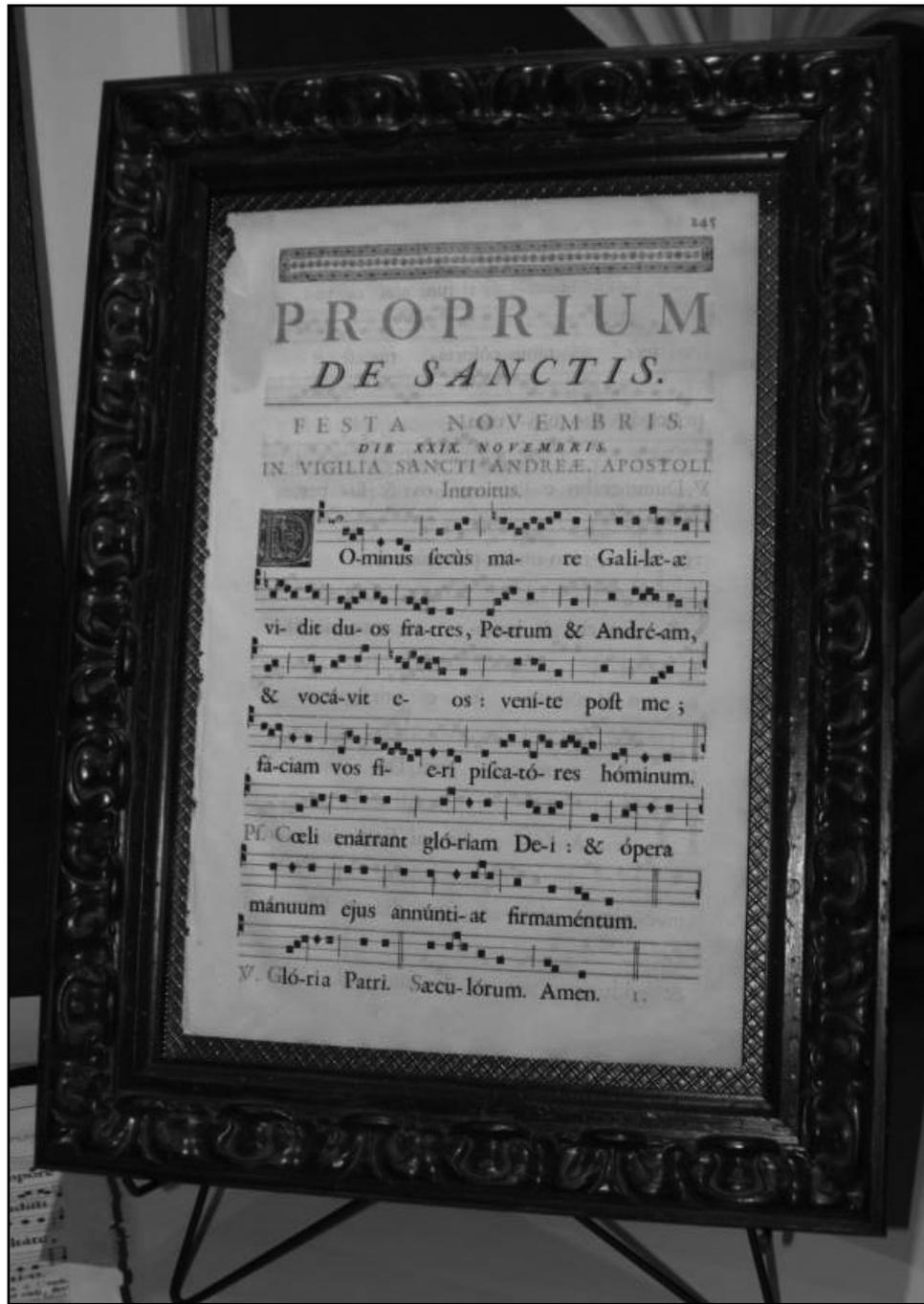
Gregorian chants comprise a large body of music consisting of around 3,000 chants. The earliest surviving chant books were written around 900.

The musical notations are quite different from what one sees today. The notes referred to as neumes were initially written as curves, hooks, and dashes.

By the 13th century the neumes changed to squares. Some neumes stood for a single pitch while others signified three or more pitches.

Most music has been written on a five line-staff since the 13th century. Gregorian Chants are written on a four-line staff, which was devised by Guido D'Arezzo in the 11th century.

When sung, one syllable may be a single note or a sin-



gle syllable sung to a group of 20 notes or more. Singers treat a given chant melodically and rhythmically in a variety of ways, according to liturgical position.

A soloist or choir sings the chants without accompaniment.

The chants do not contain any musical time signatures. The rhythm is referred to as free rhythm.

It imitates the rhythm of ordinary speech. The recited Latin words of the chants themselves usually came from the Bible, often the Book of Psalms, and from prayers and other sources. During the last decade,

the chants have enjoyed a rebirth of popularity. The Steeple Gallery has a vast selection of original Gregorian Chants which were printed in 1763.

If you enjoy the history of musical notation, please make a point to visit the gallery and thumb through some of these rare finds.

Do you know of a local artist living in the Crown Point, Cedar Lake, and Lowell area? If so, we'd like to write about him or her. For more information email samowner@sbcglobal.net or visit www.thesteeplegallery.com.

LOWELL, CEDAR LAKE

Sewer plant needs improvements

BY KITTY CONLEY
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CEDAR LAKE — On Sept. 30 a rare joint meeting of the town councils of Lowell and Cedar Lake was held to receive information on the management of the sanitary sewer plant that serves both communities.

The councils gathered to consider the possibility of applying for a low interest-rate loan that may not be available for long.

A low interest rate and the availability of grant money may stimulate a growing interest in making improvements to the plant now. There are two options for plant improvement that would cost a total of between \$6 and \$9.6 million in construction costs.

The council did not vote on anything, but requested their joint consultant Mark Downey of Commonwealth Engineering to provide them with documentation on funding possibilities.

According to Downey, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management has changed its formula for figuring sewer capacity. By these new standards, for dry days the plant will not reach capacity for about nine and one-half years, or close to 2020. Right now each community has available to them sewer taps totaling 1,935.

But the plant is not capable of properly treating sanitary sewage in the 50 to 60 days per year of wet weather. At present, overflow is going into holding ponds that can contaminate natural waterways. With the federal mandate requiring separation of storm and sanitary sewage approaching in 2014 something needs to be done.

The councils gathered to consider the possibility of applying for a low interest-rate loan that may not be available for long.

Downey suggested an additional treatment system be added to the plant to do just that. It would be a mechanical option for wet weather that would expand the utilization of processes that would be tripped automatically in wet weather.

In 2009 the towns had submitted a request for federal stimulus money to do the project, but did not receive the money.

Downey told the elected officials that the state has between \$80 and \$110 million that had been allotted for Indianapolis sewer improvements now available for use, as soon as possible, in the rest of the state.

Indianapolis is selling its utility to a semi-private corporation and until that is completed cannot receive for any grant funding.

Therefore IDEM's financial arm is taking another look at the funding requests made in 2009. According to Downey the two communities have time to get all of the paper work in 2010 figures, before submitting their update.

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