



12 Saint Charles Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
April 23, 2019

National Association of Pastoral Musicians  
Attention: NPM National Committee for Chapters  
962 Wayne Avenue, Suite 210  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4461

Dear Committee Members:

This letter represents a nomination of the Rapid City Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians for 2019 NPM Chapter of the Year. A little background about our chapter might help you to know us better.

Rapid City is located in western South Dakota, commonly referred to as West River, that is, west of the Missouri River, which roughly divides our state in half. The West River area covers 43,000 square miles. South Dakota is considered a frontier state, meaning we have a population density of six or fewer people per square mile, amounting to 882,235 people in the entire state, with most of that number living East River, i.e., east of the Missouri River.

The Diocese of Rapid City encompasses the West River area, and there are 30,7000 Catholics in 88 parishes in this expanse (12.8% of the West river population). Rapid City is the largest city in the diocese and has three parishes, a Jesuit Mission and a Newman Center within its city limits. We change meeting locations for our quarterly meetings, taking into consideration the time of year (blizzards etc.), the type of program and driving distances (travel time as long as three hours one way).

Now that you know a little about our Chapter's demographics, we'll address the information you've requested for the Chapter of the Year nomination.

#### CHAPTER INFORMATION

Name: Rapid City Chapter

#### Co-directors:

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#### NOMINATION SUBMITTER NAMES:

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## NOMINATION CRITERIA

### Provide Programs

- April 6, 2019, St. Michael's Church, Hermosa, SD  
"How to Get the Most Out of Your Electronic Keyboard," "Seasonal Planning Group Discussion," "Funeral Music and Worship Aids/Tips for Leading a Successful Funeral Choir"
- January 26, 2019, St. Rose of Lima Church, Hill City, SD  
"Leadership Skills for Music Ministers," Psalm Suggestions for the Lent and Triduum," "Panel Discussion on Goal Setting and How It Helps Us Get Things Done," "Sage on Stage"
- October 6, 2018, Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, SD  
St. Cecilia Awards Luncheon, featured presenter Dr. Tom Porter on "Small & Rural Parishes—Doing the Basics Well," "Resources for Communities, Small in Number and Large in Faith"
- May 5, 2018, Calvary Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD  
"Festival of Hymns" featuring interdenominational choirs
- March 3, 2018, Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City, SD  
"Sacred Visual Arts," "GIA Reading Session," "Leading from the Keyboard," "Stage on Stage"
- January 27, 2018, St. Isaac Jogues Church, Rapid City, SD  
"Successful Approaches to Music Ministry in a Bilingual and Multicultural Environment," "Demonstrating the New NPM Website in Real Time," "Compiling, Formatting and Publishing Worship Aids with Copyright Permission," "Sage on Stage"
- October 7, 2017, St. Therese of the Little Flower Church, Rapid City, SD  
St. Cecilia Awards Luncheon, Concert featuring six groups, "Poetry and Sacred Word in Liturgical Music"
- July 22, 2017, Blessed Sacrament Church, Rapid City, SD  
Featured presenter Leah Sedlack on "Beauty in Liturgy"
- April 1, 2017, St. Joseph's Church, Spearfish, SD  
Featured presenter Dr. Nancy Roberts on "Achieving A More Beautiful Vocal Sound Through Good Production and Health" and "Psalm Resources Beyond 'Response and Acclaim' "

### Publicize Chapter Work

The Rapid City Chapter publicizes its work in these ways:

- Submits articles to the "Chapter Happenings" section of *Pastoral Music* magazine and routinely appears in that publication
- Advertises its upcoming programs in the Rapid City Diocese newspaper, the *West River Catholic*
- Summarizes its past programs in the Rapid City Diocese newspaper, the *West River Catholic*
- Advertises upcoming programs featuring nationally known presenters on PSAs and newspaper ads
- Mails fliers to parishes and individuals outside of our catchment area featuring nationally known presenters

### Maintain Elected Chapter Director and Core Committee

The Rapid City Chapter Board identifies these elected and appointed roles:

#### Elected

- Co-directors (2)
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Programming Coordinator (pending)

#### Appointed

- Prayer Coordinator
- Hospitality Coordinator
- Membership Coordinator
- Publicity Coordinator
- Member at Large
- Historian
- Newsletter Editor
- Web Master
- Facebook Coordinator

### Encourage Supportive Relationship with the Diocese of Rapid City

The Rapid City Chapter encouraged this relationship by:

- Asking the bishop to attend our annual St. Cecilia Fall Meeting, specifically to commission NPM musicians
- Inviting diocesan priests to present at our programs
- Requesting parish priests for their input regarding NPM programming and other related topics
- Inviting the pastor of the parish holding the quarterly meeting to welcome the NPM meeting attendees (to include inviting the priest to participate in the entire day's activities)
- Asking for and receiving Rapid City Diocese Office of Worship financial support to secure national presenters for program

### Exhibit National Membership and New Rapid City NPM Membership

The Rapid City Chapter addresses membership by:

- Extending meeting invitations to any and all previous meeting attendees (Catholic or not)
- Identifying strategies for increased membership
- Informing and encouraging members regarding national membership
- Completing a process of filling a Recruitment Coordinator position as well as deanery sub-chair recruiting positions
- Provides outreach, training, and educational opportunities to musicians in neighboring states, where NPM chapter presence is either minimal or non-existent, as well as to musicians across our own state, who find greater support for their ministry from our chapter than in their diocesan NPM chapter.

### Provide Member Communications

The Rapid City Chapter demonstrates this function by:

- Publishing and mailing approximately 400 Rapid City Chapter quarterly newsletters to Rapid City Diocese liturgical musicians and interested others
- Emailing members and interested others about upcoming chapter meetings as well as non-NPM diocesan liturgical music events

- Posting about upcoming and previous chapter events on the Rapid City Chapter Facebook site (National Association of Pastoral Musicians Rapid City Chapter)
- Maintaining updated Rapid City Chapter website (npmrc.org) containing information on awards, newsletters, handouts, past events, resources, pictures and NPM link

#### Provide Recruitment and Education Programs

See Provide Programs, p. 2

#### Meet Significant Challenges to Chapter Development with Success

In 2020, the Rapid City Chapter will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Like many chapters, the Rapid City Chapter has experienced challenges during its history. The Chapter has met these challenges by recruiting talented and dedicated leaders, offering varied and creative programs (often featuring nationally recognized liturgical musicians, composers, and leaders), awarding and acknowledging the laity and clergy as well as the seasoned and the young for their service and commitment to enhancing our Catholic liturgy through music.

#### Demonstrate a Strong Representation of Chapter Members at National Conventions

The Rapid City Chapter is well represented at NPM Conventions by:

- Jacqueline Schnittgrund, current Rapid City Chapter Programming Coordinator, current ex officio member, consultant and advisor for the National Committee for NPM Chapters, co-author of National Association of Pastoral Musicians Chapter Manual (revised 2016); former member of the Council of Chapters (1999-2009), former Co-chair and Chair of the National Committee for NPM Chapters and NPM Chapter Leader of the Year (2012, 2014)
- Tammy Schnittgrund, current Chair of Cantor Steering Committee and former member of NPM Council (2006 – 2010, 2013 – 2018)

#### Communicate Closely with the National Committee for Chapters

The Rapid City Chapter is fortunate to have Jacqueline Schnittgrund as a founding member of the Rapid City Chapter, current chapter board member and force in the national leadership of NPM. Given Jackie's decades of local and national level experience, we are kept current with chapter information.

#### File Reports and Maintain Current Board Members Listing

All reports are completed and filed as requested by national leadership. The Rapid City Chapter maintains a current roster of its board members and their contact information, submitting this information to NPM national offices at least annually. Additionally, we maintain a database of Rapid City Diocese liturgical musicians, updating this list on a regular basis.

The needs of our diocesan music ministers are as wide-ranging as our prairie diocese. As we approach the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rapid City NPM Chapter, we are proud of the growth and accomplishments of our chapter. We are dedicated to providing continued outreach, support, and learning opportunities to all musicians within and beyond our diocese, in our shared desire to draw our parishioners into a closer relationship with God through our liturgical music.

Thank you for your consideration for the 2019 NPM Chapter of the Year award.

Carman Timmerman and Bonnie Josten  
Co-Directors, Rapid City NPM Chapter