

JOHN BERTALOT

Director of Music: Trinity Church, 33 Mercer Street, Princeton N.J., 08540, U.S.A.
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Adjunct Associate Professor: Westminster Choir College
Special Commissioner: Royal School of Church Music



*"I regard John Bertalot's coming to Trinity Church, Princeton,
as the most important event in American church music
since the arrival of T.Tertius Noble
at Saint Thomas' Church, New York, in 1913!"*

*Dr. Alec Wyton,
past President of the American Guild of Organists*

JOHN BERTALOT succeeded James Litton in 1983 at Trinity Church, Princeton, where he directs one of the most ambitious Episcopal choir programs in the U.S., and specializes in teaching choir members to read music. His professional-standard choir of Men, Boys and selected Girls numbers 60, his Girls' choir numbers 40 (from 8 through 18) and his volunteer Adult choir numbers 40. The choirs have recently issued their first CD comprising 17 anthems, from Schütz through Britten, which were recorded, live, during services and concerts in Washington National Cathedral, in Trinity Church and Princeton University Chapel.

"I want to tell you how overwhelmed I am by the quality of music-making at Trinity Church. I must express my appreciation of you and your work as one of the cultural treasures of our state. I can't begin to tell you how honored and proud I am that my children can be a part of this program; I am sure it is currently their finest educational experience of any type."

Dr. James Scott, Chairman of the Music Department, Rutgers University, N.J.

Bertalot founded THE PRINCETON SINGERS shortly after he arrived in Princeton, a 29 mixed-voice choir whose members come from as far away as Philadelphia to rehearse in Princeton. They have been rated as one of the top chamber choirs in America today. Sir David Willcocks said, after conducting them, that they were *"as responsive as a Rolls Royce!"* The Singers were featured as the celebrity guest choir for the annual conferences of the Association of Anglican Musicians at Yale in 1988 and at Princeton in 1993. They toured England in 1988, singing in three cathedrals and also in Windsor Castle.

In 1992 a senior producer from the BBC came to America to record two hour-long programs by the Singers which were relayed throughout Great Britain on BBC Radio 3. Only one other American choir has been similarly honored by the BBC in recent years.

Dr. Roy Massey, Organist and Master of the Choristers of Hereford Cathedral, said of one broadcast, "It was a superb performance...a tour de force. Wonderful blend, intonation, chording and vowel colour together with unaffected musicality in every note."

In 1994 the Singers make their second English Cathedrals tour, performing at the international Hereford Three Choirs Festival and at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Westminster Abbey and Gloucester, Liverpool and Blackburn Cathedrals.

"[The Princeton Singers are] simply the finest group of singers in the country...out performing the Tallis Scholars."

Dr. Owen Burdick, Director of Music, Trinity Church, Wall St., NYC.

Bertalot is much in demand as a clinician throughout the U.S. and beyond. He has lectured and directed residential choir courses at Canterbury Cathedral and Westminster Abbey; the Crystal Cathedral, Los Angeles; Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, Trinity Church, Wall Street and for the R.C. Archdiocese of New York.

He recently directed residential courses for choirmasters and singers at Washington's National Cathedral, Denver Cathedral, Colorado, and at the University of Wisconsin and has many other workshops booked for several years ahead, including residential courses for the Choristers' Guild and also the Royal School of Church Music.

He has made four successful tours of South Africa where he lectured at four universities, conducted concerts of his own music, appeared on national radio and TV, conducted massed choir festivals and led workshops for choir directors and school music teachers. Further tours of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand have been scheduled for 1995 and 1996.

*"John Bertalot
is recognised as one of the leading choirmasters in the world."*

*Edward Worster, T.V. Producer,
South African Broadcasting Corporation, Johannesburg.*

Choral directors who have attended Bertalot's workshops have written:

"Your workshop gave me the tools I needed to stretch my children further than I ever dreamed possible. You are a wonderful role model for all church musicians!"

"The course was everything I dared hope for, and more. I can't imagine how we could have covered more ideas in such a short period of time; and I certainly would never have guessed that the presentation would be so entertaining."

"I learned more from you in that short week than at college and working in the church music field for years. You've made choirtraining an adventure to try rather than a feat to fear."

"It was a thrillingly stimulating experience...truly a life-changing event for me."

"I was inspired by your dedication, passion, enthusiasm and humor."

"That week spent with you has not only enabled me to become a better choirmaster; it has truly made me a better person. You have such enormous gifts and the ability to share those gifts with others. More importantly though, you are able to share not only your gifts, but your very self. I can count on one hand the people I have met who are able to accomplish this feat."

*"You are, without doubt, one of the finest teachers
I have ever had the pleasure of knowing."
Dr. Ronald Arnatt, past President, A.G.O.
and head of Church Music, Westminster Choir College.*

JOHN BERTALOT'S compositions are currently issued by more than twelve leading publishing houses in America and England, and a number of his choral works have been recorded by leading English, American and South African choirs. He has been commissioned to compose choral and orchestral works through 1996.

He is currently publishing two books which will reveal many of the secrets he teaches in his workshops; the first, **"FIVE WHEELS TO SUCCESSFUL SIGHT-SINGING- a practical approach to teaching children and adults to read music"** was published by Augsburg Fortress in June 1993, together with a **video** of Bertalot actually teaching four children to sight-sing. The second book, **"Everything you've wanted to know about choir-training, but weren't taught at music college"** will be published in 1994, together with a collection of **"REAL MUSIC for children's choirs"**, edited by Bertalot, comprising music from Byrd through Mozart to present day composers.

(The Drakensberg Boys' Choir has been called the finest boys' choir in the world)

"You, John, are the best choirtrainer that I know.

*You worked tremendously hard with the boys for three days
and brought them up to a standard we've not known yet.*

No wonder you are in such demand throughout the choral world!"

Christian Ashley-Botha, Director: Drakensberg Boys' Choir of South Africa.

Before coming to the U.S. Bertalot was Director of Music of Blackburn Cathedral in England and also Senior Lecturer (*Associate Professor*) at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, where he specialized in teaching choir training, composition and music history. His volunteer cathedral choir of men and boys was rated as 'second to none' in England, and it made frequent broadcasts for the B.B.C. alongside professional cathedral choirs. His Blackburn Bach Choir won national acclaim when it was rated by the B.B.C., for two years in succession, as the finest mixed-voice amateur choir in Great Britain.

Bertalot studied at the Royal College of Music, London, (with **Harold Darke**), Lincoln College, Oxford, (with **Egon Wellesz**), and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, (with **Boris Ord**, director of the famous King's College choir, **Thurston Dart** and **Patrick Hadley**). He won organ scholarships to all three colleges.

His first professional appointment was as Director of Music of St. Matthew's Church, Northampton, England, where he followed **Alec Wyton**. He was succeeded by **Michael Nicholas** (now at Norwich Cathedral) and **Stephen Cleobury** (now at King's College, Cambridge). At Bertalot's invitation **Benjamin Britten** (who composed **"Rejoice in the Lamb"** for St. Matthew's) agreed to be Patron of the St. Matthew's Concerts Society which Bertalot founded - a series which happily continues to this day.

THE
Maryland State
BOYCHOIR

"Turning Boys into Musicians"

September 19, 1993

Mr. John Bertalot
Trinity Church
33 Mercer Street
Princeton, NJ 08540

Dear John:

I have just finished reading **5 Wheels to Successful Sight-Singing**. The only word which comes to mind is BRAVO!

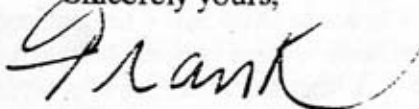
Your witty and endearing personality shines through every page. As I read the book (non-stop), I fondly remembered a week-long workshop which you gave at Westminster Choir College...several years ago.

You are indeed a master in the field of choral training. And as I have tried to model my own techniques after you, I have been met with incredible successes. Most importantly, I have found my success in the concepts of *teaching one thing at a time* and *working with small groups*. IT REALLY WORKS!

I am presently working with two young people (one of high-school age, and the other in his mid-twenties) who are aspiring to become choir directors. Your book was mandatory reading for them.

Thank you for taking the time to put your knowledge onto the printed page. **5 Wheels to Successful Sight Singing** makes most other books on the subject obsolete.

Sincerely yours,



Frank T. Cimino