

A note from Liza Calisesi Maidens, *Director of Music*:

In just a few short months as the new Director of Music, I already feel a part of this warm, welcoming, and vibrant community. My time with each ensemble in the Music Department has been life-giving and meaningful. Likewise, it's been a joy getting to know so many of the members of St. John's outside of the Music Department; and while we may not have had the chance to converse on a deeper level outside of the 8am or 10am service, I look forward to doing so in the coming season.

It's essential to the Music Department at St. John's, its members, and me that we continue and grow the long standing tradition of great music. In efforts to expose the church to the greater community of musicians and professionals, I am pleased to offer the **Music Scholar Program at St. John's**. This program will provide outreach to young musicians with a vocal/choral and piano/instrumental skill-set and desire for a meaningful church music experience. **Starting this weekend and next, we look forward to welcoming two students from Eastern Michigan University to take part in the Music Department at St. John's for the remainder of the academic year.** The Music Scholars look forward to assisting with rehearsals, participating on Sundays and additional feast days, helping build a Youth Music Program, concertizing throughout the year, and contributing to the overall life of the Music Department and community of St. John's.

Not only does this type of program serve the community of St. John's by enhancing worship throughout the year and forming relationships with nearby academic institutions, but - speaking from my own experience - it profoundly shapes a young musician, providing a host of opportunities they cannot find in any other setting. Likewise, some of the most kind, interested people in my own education were so often connected to the church I was serving as cantor, section leader, music scholar, etc...I thank you in advance for your warm welcomes to these bright students and I sincerely thank Priest Lisa, the SJP Vestry, and the members of the SJP Music Department for their continued support and energy towards the Music Department at St. John's.

MUSIC SCHOLAR BIOS:

Jacob Carroll, *tenor/baritone*

Jacob Carroll, from Roseville, Michigan, is in his second year at Eastern Michigan University for his undergraduate degree Vocal Performance with an Organ minor. In his solo singing, his main focuses are on French Song, particularly works written by Maurice Ravel and Olivier Messiaen. His musical interests are all aspects of the choral experience - choral singing, conducting, and arranging/composition. He is excited for the opportunity to take part in the Music Department at St. John's!

Steven Brancaleone, *piano*

Steven Brancaleone, from Chesterfield Township, Michigan, is currently attending Eastern Michigan University for his Masters in Music Performance. He has also received his Bachelor degree in music at Eastern Michigan University in 2016. During his free time, he listens to various music and reads the corresponding scores, to grasp a better understanding of the history surrounding it. His other interests includes accompanying other solo instruments and events. Steven is looking forward to expanding his church music knowledge and repertoire, as well as working with the choir at St. John's.