

Lee Gwozdz

Lee Gwozdz is known and respected throughout the United States for his work in the area of children's choirs. He serves as Director of Music for Corpus Christi Cathedral, Corpus Christi, Texas, where a thriving music ministry embraces singers in grades one through twelve as well as adults. He is highly sought after as a clinician for children's voices and conductor of children's choir festivals. Renowned Children's Choral Clinician Helen Kemp states "*Lee has become one of our country's leading church musicians. His exceptional work at Corpus Christi Cathedral is exemplary. His expertise, enthusiasm, wit, and imagination will help children want to **Sing a New Song** with accuracy, beauty and joy!*"

A native of Ft. Worth, Texas, Lee is the son of the late Dr. Feliks and Eugenia Gwozdz, both survivors of WWII Nazi Concentration Camps. Known as Ft. Worth's "Von Trapp Family" – Lee and his four siblings would frequently present musical programs with their parents at many civic events throughout the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex. A graduate of Texas Christian University, Lee received degrees in Music Education and Organ Performance. He honed his skills in the area of all-level vocal music education as a student of the late Dr. Ruth Whitlock, and studied one-on-one with Helen Kemp and John Yarrington through the Chorister's Guild Leadership Training Program. Personal mentoring in choral skills combined the best of Lee's experiences with Paul Salamunovich, Mike Kemp, Ronald Shirey, Lara Hoggard, Bev Hensen, and his colleague at the Cathedral for the past 17 years – Gregory Labus.

In addition to his choral skills, as a student of TCU organ professor Emmet Smith, Lee had the opportunity to study for two summers in master class sessions with Jean Langlais, Maurice Durufle, Flor Peeters, Michael Schneider, Noel Goemanne, and Lady Susie Jeans.

Constantly engaged as a festival conductor and workshop clinician, Gwozdz's workshop presentations, primarily in the area of his work with children's choirs have taken place in over 100 cities throughout the United States. He has served as clinician for the National Choristers Guild summer seminars in both Grand Rapids and Kansas City. In 1987, he was chosen to conduct the 500-voiced choir for the Papal Mass held in San Antonio. In 1993, he served as conductor of the Papal Mass held in Denver, conducting over 700 young singers for the International World Youth Day Festival.

On a lighter note, Lee played for the Texas Rangers Professional Baseball Team, coached by Billy Martin, in the *Sport's Organist Position* at Arlington Stadium. As Sports Organist for the Ft. Worth Texans Hockey Team – his music helped to inspire the team to Adam's Cup Victory in defeating the Dallas Black Hawks.

"When I first met Lee Gwozdz, he was a young lad of eleven years. I was leading a workshop for directors of children's choirs and Lee was there to observe my work with the demonstration group. Already a fine musician with experience in an excellent boy's choir, Lee seemed to grasp every idea, especially the visual devices used to encourage legato singing, vitality, focus of attention, tone, and anything I used to capture interest and to get audible results from visual images. It takes profound thought to invent ways to enable children to want to learn. Lee has that gift."

Helen Kemp

Professor Emeritus of Voice and Church Music
Westminster Choir College of Rider University