

Yale University

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December 22, 2010

St. Mary's Church
5 Hillhouse Ave.
New Haven, CT 06511

Dear Fr. Allen,

On behalf of my colleagues at the Institute, the members of Schola Cantorum and their guest conductor, James O'Donnell, I write to thank you most sincerely for your generous hospitality to us at St. Mary's.

Praying the choral vespers with you was one of the high-points of my time as director. It showed how this great repertoire can be sung in service to our Creator, it formed a stronger ecumenical link with those in attendance, and it provided an experience for our students which will be formative in their careers. I could not have been more delighted or grateful for this important opportunity, and I was particularly moved by your beautiful testimony to the Blessed Mary at our devotion to her.

To be permitted to make music in such a setting as St. Mary's is life-giving in every way, and it gives witness to our founding benefactor's vision "to discover the power of the arts and of the gospel in our lives." I have often shared with you how important it has been for me, personally, to gaze on the beautiful crucifix during the performance of the B Minor Mass, for example.

Thank you and thanks to your colleagues for generosity of spirit, for faithfulness of practice, and for sharing with us a vision for what music in the liturgy and be and do. This humble Lutheran stands with you in solidarity for the work you all do at St. Mary's. I hope we will be partners again in the future.

I send you all our very best wishes for a happy and joyous Christmas season.

Very sincerely,



Martin Jean
Director