In his Apostolic Constitution of 1990, Saint John Paul II wrote: “A Catholic University, as any university, is immersed in human society... Imbued among its research activities, therefore, will be a study of serious contemporary problems in areas such as the dignity of human life, the promotion of justice for all, the quality of personal and family life, the protection of nature, the search for peace and political stability, a more just sharing in the world’s resources, and a new economic and political order that will better serve the human community at a national and international level.”

The 18th century composer Joseph Haydn wrote: “At the thought of God my heart leapt for joy, and I could not help my music’s doing the same.” Haydn’s words speak not only to his own spiritual experience but of a rich understanding that music transforms everything that it touches.

This year’s series will welcome composers, performers, liturgists and activists who invite us into the Divine Dance.

Let All Things Their Creator Bless
September 28, 2017
Protestants and Catholics Singing Together: Rich Traditions, Challenging Future
Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB
A celebration of how musicians have been ecumenical and shared resources across traditions ever since the Reformation. But what does that mean today, in a rapidly changing and ever more secular society? What does our ecumenical celebration of the Reformation mean for our futures?

October 19, 2017
Liturgical Music 2.0: The Future of Liturgical Music in a Digital Reality
Rev. Ricky Manalo, CSP, PhD
Co-sponsored by the Liturgy Office Diocese of London
What is the forecast of liturgical music amid new media and individualized worship practices that occur outside of Sunday Eucharist? What can “the Nones,” those unaffiliated with any faith sect, teach institutional religions about liturgical music? This lecture will address this conversation within the emerging interdisciplinary academic inquiry of Media and Religion. How might we rethink our approach to liturgical music in a 2.0 world?

October 20 (FRIDAY) 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
for teachers, chaplains and faith ambassadors
October 21 (SATURDAY) 9:30 am - 3:00 pm
for parish members, musicians and choir members

Annual Christ the King Lecture
November 23, 2017
Participation: It’s Kind of a Religion with Me
Rory Cooney
In an era of deconstruction of art, sacred music in many churches has taken a particularly hard hit. When looking for an explanation, many have taken to blaming the medium for obscuring and even subverting its purpose, that is, communal worship. This talk will explore, through musical experience, a different perspective with a more hopeful outlook: that communal singing in church is both an instrument and a sacrament of conversion, and creates in action an image of the body of Christ.

January 18, 2018
shxwelitenelmh siwel: Moving beyond states of hunger
Dylan Robinson, Ph.D
Co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph
“shxwelitenelmh” is the Halq’emeylem adjective for settler or white person’s methods/ways. It comes from the noun “xwelitem” (settler), a word that more specifically means “starving person.” The word speaks directly to the historical encounter between xwélméxw (Stó:lō people) and newcomers to S’olh Temexw (Stó:lō territories) during the gold rush. In 1858 thousands of men arrived in a bodily state of starvation, and also brought with them their hunger for gold. “shxwelitenelmh” thus also more accurately means “a settler’s hungry orientation toward something.” Dr. Robinson will examine settler colonial states of perception as states of starvation, and asks mores specifically how settlers might decolonize the ways they listen.

March 1, 2018
The Breaths of Fragrance: The Art of Qur’an Recitation
Qutaiba Albluwi, PhD
Sponsored by the CIOML
The art of Quranic recitation remains the fountain from which flows the major themes of art in the Islamic tradition. An introspection of how Muslims recite their Holy Book sheds light into how they understand chanting and its role in expressing beauty and building harmony with the Divine, fellow creatures and the universe. This lecture examines how Quranic melodies contrasts with various classical and modern understandings of music.

March 22, 2018
The Voice of My Beloved is Knocking: Singing Jewish Prayer
Aviva Chernick
Co-sponsored by CIOML
Join singer, prayer leader and educator Aviva Chernick as she weaves together concert and prayer, study and sing along while exploring the musical voice in Jewish prayer. Aviva will transport her listeners with the meditative and transcendent character of her soulful singing. She will explore the relationships of breath/spirit, creativity/divinity, nature/renewal, as well as family and community in meaningful ways in this deeply heartfelt and personal offering.

Spring Concert - April 7, 2018
Chamber Choir
King’s University College
Chernick as she weaves together concert and prayer, study and sing along while exploring the musical voice in Jewish prayer. Aviva will transport her listeners with the meditative and transcendent character of her soulful singing. She will explore the relationships of breath/spirit, creativity/divinity, nature/renewal, as well as family and community in meaningful ways in this deeply heartfelt and personal offering.

Rory Cooney has been Director of Liturgy and Music Ministries at St. Anne Catholic Community in Illinois since 1994. From 1985 through 2014, he served as a team member with the North American Forum on the Catechumenate throughout the US, Canada, England, and Ireland, empowering ministers to grasp the vision of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Rory’s compositions, written over five decades since 1971, appear in hymnals and worships aids of Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Mennonite communities. He was the 2014 recipient of the Pastoral Musician of the Year award from the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (US). His articles have appeared in Pastoral Music and other periodicals.

7:30 p.m.
Joanne & Peter Kenny Theatre
Darryl J. King Student Life Centre
266 Epworth Avenue, London ON
kings.uwo.ca/campus-ministry