

Concert "Along the Way: Songs of Pilgrimage"  
St. Martin's Chamber Choir

Below are excerpts from recent email newsletters from Tim Krueger, Artistic Director.  
StMartinsChamberChoir.org

I promised a complete list of composers and works for our upcoming November concerts entitled "**Along the Way: Songs of Pilgrimage**," so here they are. **A caution, however:** You will likely not recognize any names. This is not a concert one attends because of familiarity with the material, or even the consolation of knowing that, recognizing composers, you are guaranteed of hearing something you like. It is a concert that features mostly Medieval and Renaissance choral works by composers who lived in towns that are along the route (hence "Along the Way"), and who would have seen many pilgrims walking through their towns and cities, on their way to Santiago de Compostela. The music follows the route of the pilgrimage, and will be interspersed with inspiring readings by Gene McCullough, local pilgrimage guru and veteran.

———— PROGRAM ————

**Entrance:** [Recording] Bells of Santiago

**Reading: Pilgrim Blessing** *modified from the Codex Calixtinus, c. 1140*  
*Congraudeant catholici, Magister Albertus, Codex Calixtinus*

**Journey's Outset**

**Reading (Heritage)** from "Path of Miracles" by Robert Dickinson

**Azpeitia** (*village near San Sebastián*)

*Kyrie and Gloria from the "Missa de Nuestra Señora", Juan de Anchieta*  
(1462-1523)

**Reading (Contemporary)** Gene McCullough

**Pamplona/Bilbao**

*Audi benigne, Juan Crisóstomo de Arriaga (1806-1826)*

**Mid-Journey**

**Reading (Heritage)**

**Burgos**

*Hortus conclusus, Francisco de Ceballos (d. 1571)*

**Reading (Contemporary)**

**León**

*Oy comamos y bebamos, Juan del Encina (1468-1529)*

**Palencia**

*De la Virgen, Antonio de Cabezón (1510-1566)*

**Journey's End**

**Reading (Heritage)**

**Santiago de Compostela**

*Regina caeli, Andres de Villalar (c.1530-c.1593)*

*Agnus Dei from the Missa "in exitu Israel", Diego de Pontac (1603-1654)*

**Reading (Contemporary)**

*O vos omnes, Diego de las Muelas (1698-1743)*

## Pilgrimage Fulfilled

### Reading (Heritage)

*Adoramus te, Claudia Francesca Rusca (1593-1676)*

**Exuent:** *Dum Pater familias* walking chant, *Anonymous, Codex Calixtinus, c. 1140*

I met with Gene McCullough recently to hear several options for the readings he will be doing during the "**Along the Way: Songs of Pilgrimage**" concert. He had compiled two sets as options for me to choose from (a historical set and a modern set). They were all magnificent, and a couple of them, I don't mind saying, ended up causing a tear to quiver along the edge of my eyelids! One was outright funny; and all were very well-written. I liked them all so much, I decided to include them all -- so, seven readings rather than four (they're all short -- 30-90 seconds each), and they will alternate between historical readings from older sources about the Camino, and reflections of his own on the modern experience of pilgrimage, and what it has come to mean to many millions of Santiago pilgrims over the ages.

And Gene is also doing the pre-concert lectures for this concert, *at all three!* They'll each begin about an hour or hour and fifteen minutes before concert start, and run about 30 minutes. (See the list of concerts below for specific times.)

Gene regaled me with his many connections to the Camino, and there were so many that I soon lost track of them, even though I had hoped to cite some of them here. He and his wife Rosann have done the Camino (or portions thereof) three times; and have served as hosts at pilgrim hostels eight times. He is the co-chair of the local chapter of a national organization that seeks to unite devotees of the Camino in the U.S., and also serves as their webmaster. But beyond all these things, Gene has the soul of an artist (despite a career as an engineer), and everything he says or does is well-crafted, and I couldn't be more touched and excited to have him not only read the readings during the concerts, but to give the pre-concert lectures.

The music (in case you've missed the last couple *Weeklys*) is almost all Spanish Renaissance music, by composers who were active in towns and cities along the route of the pilgrimage, like Pamplona, Burgos, Léon, and Santiago de Compostela itself.

Here are the performances:

- Friday, Nov. 8, 7:30pm - St. Paul Community of Faith, Denver, Pre-concert talk 6:30
- Saturday, Nov. 9, 7:30pm - St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Denver, Pre-concert talk 6:30
- Sunday, Nov. 10, 3:00pm - Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wheat Ridge, Pre-concert talk 1:45

Reserve tickets in advance through [StMartinsChamberChoir.org](http://StMartinsChamberChoir.org); or by calling the SMCC office at (303) 298-1970. Tickets also available at the door, but as each venue is rather intimate (especially St. Andrew's on Saturday night), there is a higher chance of selling out than most SMCC concerts.