

# A NEW ROLE FOR THE ISM AT BATTELL CHAPEL

by Martha Highsmith

YALE IS HOME TO THE COUNTRY'S oldest campus church. Founded at the petition of a group of students in 1757, the University Church, now meeting in Battell Chapel, has experienced much change over more than two and a half centuries, but its purpose remains the same: to meet the religious and spiritual needs of the Christian community at Yale. Two years ago, the President and Officers of the University decided that Yale should study its religious life initiatives for the purpose of creating the most vibrant programs of spiritual formation available in higher education. President Levin invited a distinguished group of clergy, chaplains, and educators from a variety of backgrounds, representing Christian—both Protestant and Catholic—Jewish, and Muslim traditions to help the University envision how it could support more



jointly in the ISM, the Divinity School, and the School of Music, have stepped forward to join the worship staff at Battell in the roles of Director of Chapel Worship and Director of Chapel Music, respectively, supported by the Institute. During the upcoming year, all of us will be working with the congregation to fashion an ecumenical liturgy for the Church. The intention is to

provide an inclusive and warmly welcoming worship environment for Christians in the University community; to increase student participation in the Church, and to make University Public Worship at Battell an increasingly vigorous and vibrant part of University and New Haven life. They will do this by drawing from a variety of Christian worship traditions, introducing new forms of liturgical action, expanding the congregation's musical repertoire, and increasing the use of global hymnody as part of worship. The changes in worship are accompanied by an increased emphasis on student leadership in the Church, a reinvigorated program of outreach and mission involving students, and continuing attention to issues of social justice.

Worship life in the University's Church is experiencing ongoing renewal as it is in Churches across the country. And it is also a celebration of the enduring purpose of the Church—an affirmation of the actions in 1757 of a small group on campus whose legacy now reaches into the twenty-first century.

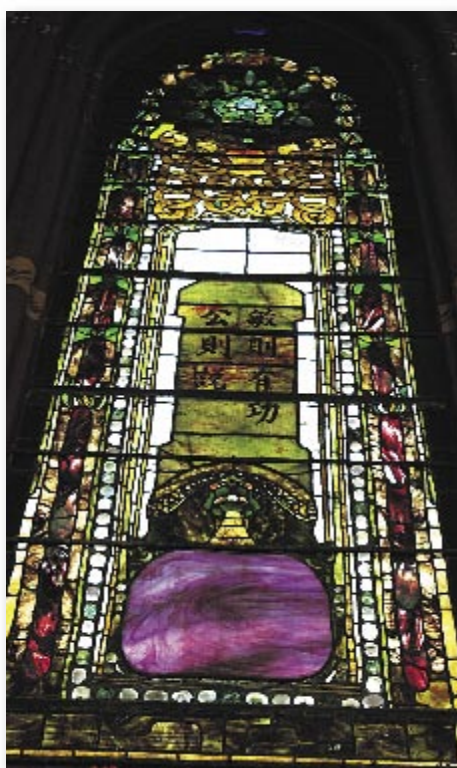
Martha Highsmith is Deputy Secretary of the University and Associate University Pastor.

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ambitiously the full range of religious beliefs on campus. A particular emphasis for the Committee was advising on how to strengthen Christian worship life on campus. One of

the recommendations was that the University draw on its special strengths, including faculty and students at the Divinity School, the Institute of Sacred Music, and the School of Music, for assistance with University Public Worship at Battell.

Siobhán Garrigan, Assistant Professor of Liturgical Studies and Assistant Dean for Marquand Chapel, appointed jointly in the ISM and Yale Divinity School, and Patrick Evans, Senior Lecturer in the Practice of Sacred Music, appointed



## CHRIST'S PASSION IN CONTEXT

IN 1983, ONE OF THE INSTITUTE'S founding benefactors, J. Irwin Miller, said in the Hugh Thomas Miller Lecture at Christian Theological Seminary:

“No single power of humanity, nor all our power, can describe and make fully real the whole Gospel of Christ. But in our efforts to do so, neither can we neglect, nor ignore, nor set aside any of our skills, so great is our need to transmit this unimaginable treasure which we have.

Every art of ours, the art of building, of painting, of composing, of writing, of speaking, can add uniquely and significantly to our understanding of the Gospel and of God's ways. And when we neglect even one of these arts, we diminish the power of the Lord in our lives.”

In honor of J. Irwin Miller's memory and in keeping with his philosophy, in April the Institute will present a symposium, flanked by performances of Bach's two Passions, centering on the Passion in its theological, historical, and artistic contexts. Members of the Miller family will be in attendance. Yale Schola Cantorum, conducted by Simon Carrington, will perform the *St. John Passion* (1725 edition) and Marguerite Brooks will lead the Yale Camerata in a performance of the *St. Matthew Passion*.

### Theological, Historical, and Artistic Considerations of the Passion

**Saturday, April 8, 4 – 8 pm**

Includes refreshments

Linsly Chittenden Auditorium, 63 High Street



**ADELA YARBRO COLLINS**  
on Passion narratives  
in the Gospels



**JAIME LARA**  
on the Passion in  
the visual arts



**GUY ERWIN**  
on the Passion in the  
Middle Ages and early  
Lutheranism

### Also preconcert talks on the Bach Passions

**Saturday, April 1, 7 pm**

Collection of Musical Instruments,  
15 Hillhouse Avenue



**MARKUS RATEY** on the  
*St. John Passion* of J. S. Bach

Followed by performance of *St. John Passion* (1725 version),  
8 pm, St. Mary's Church



**Yale Schola Cantorum**  
Simon Carrington, conductor, with  
soloists from the Yale Institute of  
Music and School of Music graduate  
voice program

**Sunday, April 9, 2pm**

President's Room, Woolsey Hall

**DANIEL MELAMED**

*Staffing the St. Matthew Passion Then and Now*  
(Tangeman Lecture)

Followed by performance of the *St. Matthew Passion*  
of J. S. Bach, 3 pm, Woolsey Hall

**Yale Camerata**  
Marguerite Brooks, conductor,  
with orchestra and soloists



PHOTO CREDITS Photo of Guy Erwin, courtesy of Guy Erwin; Photo of Adela Collins, Michael Marsland; All others Robert A. Lisak