

## FULL BIOGRAPHY

**Charles Quintin Sullivan** has been active in Milwaukee's cultural scene since founding the Sullivan Chamber Ensemble (later the Sullivan Ensemble) in 1971. This semiprofessional collective of singers and instrumentalists presented more than 200 performances of over 120 programs of choral and orchestral music ranging from chant to avant-garde, in performances ranging from solo recitals to full-scale choral/orchestral ensembles, before disbanding in 1982. An active collaborator, the Ensemble worked with groups including the Milwaukee and Waukesha Symphony Orchestras, and provided significant performance experience to area students, as well as valuable exposure for professional singers and instrumentalists in the area. Among its honors, the Ensemble performed for the National Convention of the American Choral Directors in 1978, the same year Sullivan was named the Milwaukee Jaycee's Outstanding Artist of the Year. During that time he also incorporated Kaleidoscope Artists Management, Ltd, to help local performers and potential presenters find each other.

Sullivan got his start as a conductor and organist while still in grade school in his hometown of Kendall, Wisconsin. Since that early start he has continued to serve in music and liturgy roles in churches of multiple religious traditions in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Washington, and Massachusetts, including diocesan leadership positions in Minnesota and Ohio. He has initiated and led multiple children's choir training programs, including formation of the first children's choir to sing with the Milwaukee Symphony in its (then) new Performing Arts Center in 1973, and he has planned and conducted major choral events for the Brookfield Schools and for the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. He has taught in both secular and religious-affiliated education programs at all levels from kindergarten through graduate level, including an appointment at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus (OH) and the UWM Professional Theatre Training Program.

From 1979 to 1982 Sullivan served as Interim Director during the formation of IMPAC (Independent Milwaukee Performing Arts Companies), working as liaison between six performing arts companies (including the Sullivan Ensemble), the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Milwaukee County, on a collaborative project to repurpose Milwaukee's Lincoln High School as Lincoln Center for the Arts. During that same period he became Director of Music at Plymouth Church, where he founded the Plymouth Chorale.

From 1985-1992 he was Executive Producer/Director of the highly successful liturgical drama productions at The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, presenting multiple sold-out staged performances of the Medieval *Play of Daniel* and Britten's *St. Nicolas*. The only interruption in his participation in the Milwaukee arts scene over the past 50 years was for his appointment as Director of Music for the Catholic Cathedral and Diocese of Columbus (OH) from 1992 to 1999, where his duties included conducting a professional choir and managing a concert series that included members of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra, as well as performances at the Columbus Art Museum and as part of the Lancaster (OH) Festival.

Shortly after returning to Milwaukee in mid-1999, he was invited to take on leadership of Early Music Now (Milwaukee's internationally recognized presenter of Medieval, Renaissance, and early Baroque artists). Serving as Executive and Artistic Director until his retirement from that organization in 2017, he successfully expanded the scope of the organization's programming, outreach, organizational stability, and international recognition. His active involvement in church music programs has continued during these years, currently serving a long-term appointment as Chapel Musician at St. John's On The Lake in Milwaukee. He is a long-time member of the American Guild of Organists, having served various leadership roles in the Columbus (OH) and Milwaukee Chapters.

Sullivan's education includes degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the Wisconsin College-Conservatory of Music, with additional studies at the College of St. Benedict, St. John's University (MN), and the New England Conservatory of Music. His training as a conductor includes work with Kenneth Schermerhorn and Roger Wagner, as well as with Fiora Contina and John Nelson as recipient of a fellowship to the Aspen Institute's advanced conducting seminar in 1976.

The founding of **Musica Sacra** signals Sullivan's continuing commitment to exercising his broad background and creative energies to expand the perception and advance the cause of the performing arts in the Milwaukee community.