

South bound

Krystopolski leaving st. George's episcopal Church to start next chapter in Miami

BY BILL BUELL *Gazette Reporter*



Andrew Krystopolski, music director at St. George's Episcopal Church in Schenectady's Stockade neighborhood, poses in front of the church's refurbished organ.

BILL BUELL/ GAZETTE REPORTER

Andrew Krystopolski is about to head off on another great adventure.

It was eight years ago that the Wilmington, Delaware native started a new chapter in his life by taking the position as music director at St. George's Episcopal Church in the Stockade neighborhood of Schenectady. This Sunday, Feb. 25, Krystopolski will say goodbye with a special musical offering at 3 p.m. at St. George's. The church's choir and some very talented guests, under Krystopolski's direction, will perform a version of Gabriel Faure's Requiem. St. George's new music director, Brendan Dumas, will be at the organ.

"I am passing the baton to my successor, so I'm bringing together more than 30 musicians I've worked with in the area," said Krystopolski. "Working here has been a great opportunity for me. It's been wonderful, and this is a good way for me to say goodbye."

Krystopolski showed up at St. George's in 2010, a single man who was a bit guarded about his private life. He leaves for Miami early next month with his husband, Kevin Grace, and the support and best wishes of

what he thinks is everyone in the St. George's community.

"I have been embraced, both me and Kevin, by this church, with open arms," said Krystopolski. "I felt very comfortable from the moment I came here. You hear horror stories sometimes when you go to a new

place, about personality clashes and other things, but St. George's has been a perfect fit. I really grew to love this congregation and I'm going to miss them."

KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN

While Grace is taking over as executive director of the Miami Learning Experience, an organization that offers schooling for adults and children with Down Syndrome. Krystopolski isn't quite sure just yet what he'll be doing.

"I'm going to keep my options open," said Krystopolski, who says he probably will start by looking for work as a music director in a church. "But I'm a pretty resourceful guy, so we'll see what happens. I'm not afraid. I'm looking forward to it."

Krystopolski, who wanted to express his thanks to former St. George's pastor Paul Blanche and current rector Matthew Stromberg for their help, said his time in Schenectady has been special.

"Paul was always supportive and Father Matt has been wonderful," he said. "It was always easy to talk to them about something. They were always available, and we were allowed to live right here on the property. Kevin became a member at St. George's and actually served on the board."

Joining Krystopolski and the St. George's Choir in Sunday's musical offering will be Anne Marie Baker Schwartz (violin soloist), Carlinda Kaldicott (harpist), Christopher Trombley (baritone soloist) and Kali Rose Moran (soprano soloist).

"We've had the opportunity to make some fantastic music here at St. George's," said Krystopolski. "I'm also very proud of the refurbishment of the organ that we did in 2014. It was a \$45,000 project, and the church and the musical community came through with great grassroots efforts to raise all the money that we needed through donations."

Krystopolski's successor grew up in the Albany area going to the Cathedral of All Saints in Albany where his parents are still members. Dumas is an accomplished musician as well as a choir director, and has most recently performed with the Men and Boys Choir at the Cathedral of All Saints. Dumas will take on his role as Director of St. George's Music Ministry on March 1.

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ANDREW KRYSTOPOLSKI departing music director at st. George's