
Joseph H. Mello



Joseph Mello has been the Director of Music at Christ Church since January, 1979. Under his direction, the Christ Church Choir has grown to average around 25 singers. In addition to singing each Sunday and Holy Day, the choir has presented concerts to the parish and community at large including the Requiems of Brahms, Fauré and Rutter, Handel's Messiah, Vivaldi's Gloria, Mendelssohn's Elijah and many works by Haydn, Mozart, Britten, Parry and Stanford. The Christ Church Choir was selected to sing at three diocesan conventions and two installations of bishops of Newark. Mr. Mello has performed as a baritone soloist throughout the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area.

Joseph Mello was the choral director at Kittatinny Regional High School in Newton, New Jersey for thirty-six years, retiring from public school teaching in June, 2011. Previously, he taught choral music at Northern Highlands Regional High School in Allendale, New Jersey. He is a graduate of Glassboro State College where he studied conducting with Professor Clarence W. Miller. He subsequently studied conducting with Dr. Michael Mendoza and Dr. Doreen Rao. His choirs have performed widely on the east coast from Florida to Canada; in California, and were featured on the NBC *Today Show*.

Mr. Mello has conducted the New Jersey All-State Chorus, the All-North Jersey Regional High School Chorus, the New Orleans (La.) District Festival Chorus and the All-Cape Cod and Islands Festival Chorus in Falmouth, Massachusetts. In 1986, Mr. Mello was selected to receive the New Jersey Governor's Recognition Award and was also named the 1986-87 Sussex County (NJ) Teacher of the Year. In 1990, he was the recipient of the Governor's Award for Arts in Education Distinguished Leadership Award. In 2007, he was awarded the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award by the Yale University School of Music at their International Symposium on Music Education in the Public Schools in May, 2007. In 2010, Mr. Mello was named New Jersey's Master Music Teacher and received a Governor's Award for Master Music Teacher the same year.

Mr. Mello served for thirty years on the New Jersey Music Educators Association Board of Directors and was elected president for a two-year term in 1987 and again in 1999. He has served as coordinator of the New Jersey All-State Chorus, Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble. He is a Life member of MENC: The National Association for Music Education and the American Choral Directors Association. He is currently serving the American Choral Directors Association on the Eastern Division Conference planning committee.
