

Katie Houts
*Choristers Guild
Sacred Choral &
Curriculum Editor*



Katie Houts is the sacred choral and curriculum editor for Choristers Guild. Since 2013, Katie curates and edits sacred choral anthems, collections, musicals, curriculum, and teaching resources; she also serves on the faculty of the Choristers Guild Institute. She studied music at Wartburg College, where she majored in church music (organ) and religion. She has served in ELCA, UCC, and UMC congregations as director of music, worship curator, organist, and children's choir director.

Katie is a published composer, professional accompanist, and a frequent clinician at sacred conferences throughout the country. She currently serves on ACDA's National Committee for Composition Initiatives, working to support and champion the work of living choral composers.

Katie is based in Salt Lake City, where she leads choral ensembles throughout the community, including Rise Up Children's Choir, Utah's premiere contemporary vocal performance group for ages 6-18. She conducts RUCC's intermediate ensemble, Rise Up Ignite, and is the assistant director and accompanist for the advanced mixed children's choir. She also teaches music and directs the 5th and 6th grade choirs at Wasatch Charter School (Holladay, Utah).

Michael Burkhardt



Internationally known for his innovative and inspiring hymn festivals and for his creative work with children, Dr. Michael Burkhardt is in frequent demand as a clinician, recitalist, and hymn festival leader throughout the U.S. and abroad.

He is currently director of worship and the arts at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Livonia, Michigan, director of worship and the arts for the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA, and artistic director of the Detroit Handbell Ensemble. From 2001-2007 he served on the faculty of Carthage College (ELCA) in Kenosha, WI, as director of choral activities, college organist, and artist in residence.

Michael is a graduate of Carthage College. He earned his master of music degree from Southern Methodist University, and his doctor of musical arts degree from Arizona State University.

He has performed and led seminars at both national and regional events for the American Guild of Organists, the Hymn Society, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts, and the American Choral Directors Association. He made his symphonic hall debut in 1999 at the Meyerson Symphony Hall in Dallas, Texas, and has made four performance-teaching tours to South Korea and Singapore.

Michael is author of Part-Singing Global Style, a resource focusing on sequential part-singing techniques in treble arrangements of global pieces. He also authored Singing with Understanding, a curriculum utilizing the great hymns, folksongs and spirituals of the Church to share faith stories and teach the elements of music and worship. He is composer of two settings of the Eucharistic liturgy, A New Song and Missa St. Andrew, as well as numerous organ improvisations, choral octavos and handbell compositions.

Tom Shelton



Tom T. Shelton, Jr. is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he earned both a bachelor of music education and master of music in choral conducting. He is assistant professor of sacred music at Westminster Choir College. Focusing on children's and youth music, he teaches classes in conducting, sacred music, music education and coordinates and conducts the Neighborhood Children's Choir Program. In addition, he is the director of music for children's and youth choirs at Princeton United Methodist Church.

Mr. Shelton has a passion for music education in all areas: church, school and community. He taught middle school choral music in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County for 18 years. During that time he was selected teacher of the year for both Atkins Middle School and Kernersville Middle School. In 1999 the North Carolina Music Educators Association presented him with the North Carolina middle school music teacher of the year award.

Mr. Shelton is active with the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), serving as the president from 2017-2019. Other ACDA leadership positions have included southern division president (2011-2012), national R and S chair for Middle School/Junior High Choirs (2007-2009) and North Carolina President (2005-2007).

Mr. Shelton has conducted festivals and honor choirs in 20 states as well as Hong Kong. He has conducted choral festivals at Carnegie Hall, honor choirs for the Central Division ACDA and Southern Division ACDA, as well as all state choirs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina and South Carolina. He is the series director for the Music for Young Voices Series with GIA Publications and has over 40 compositions published by Choristers Guild, Colla Voce Music, G. Schirmer, GIA Publications, Heritage Music Press, Hinshaw Music Company, Santa Barbara Music Press, and Walton Music.

Conference Site
Richmond's First Baptist Church
2709 Monument Ave
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Conference Hotel
Holiday Inn Express Midtown
2000 Staples Mill Rd
Richmond, Virginia 23230

REGISTER TODAY



*If you have questions about the
Institute, contact us at
institute@choristersguild.org*

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CHORISTERS GUILD INSTITUTE
JULY 21-24, 2025
Richmond, Virginia





The Choristers Guild Institute is a three-year training program for leaders of children's and youth choirs (K-8) in churches and church schools. Each summer, participants receive four days of intensive instruction and mentoring from a faculty composed of outstanding teachers and clinicians. Alumni sessions are also available for those who wish to continue expanding their skills.

The training process is designed to strengthen directors' musical and instructional skills and to equip them to effectively integrate children in worship. Graduates of the program become part of a close and supportive nationwide network of Institute alumni.

Core Classes

- Choral Methods
- Pedagogy
- Conducting (Beginning-Advanced Levels)

Special Topics

- Recruiting and Retention
- Visuals for Teaching
- Alexander Technique
- Solfège
- Rules of Music
- Seasons of the Church Year
- Hymnody with Children
- Classroom Management
- Teaching Children to React to Conducting Gestures
- The Changing Voice

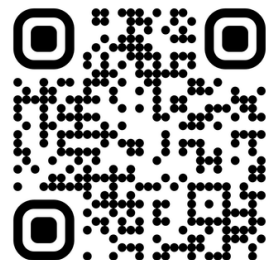
Repertoire

- Reading Sessions
- Repertoire-Based Classes

Worship

Experience daily worship services with children and youth in mind, using creative ideas for child/youth-led worship, including, yet moving beyond, the anthem.

**REGISTER
TODAY**



MONDAY JULY 21, 2025

12:00 - 1:15 PM

Registration
(luggage storage available)

1:30 - 1:45 PM

Orientation Meeting

1:45 - 2:25 PM

Vocal Modeling

2:35 - 3:15 PM

Choral Methods

3:30 - 4:15 PM

Pedagogy (Year 1, 2, 3)

4:30 - 5:15 PM

Conducting (4 levels)

5:30 - 5:55 PM

Worship and Announcements

6:00 - 6:50 PM

Meet and Greet Reception
(heavy hors d'oeuvres)

TUESDAY JULY 22, 2025

9:00 AM

Arrival at Richmond's
First Baptist Church

9:10 - 9:30 AM

Worship and Announcements

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Pedagogy (Year 1, 2, 3)

11:00 - 12:00 PM

Conducting (4 levels)

12:10 - 1:00 PM

Lunch (On-site)

1:05 - 2:05 PM

Choral Methods

2:15 - 3:00 PM

Special Topics A (Year 1, 2, 3)

3:10 - 3:55 PM

Special Topics B (Year 1, 2, 3)

4:10 - 4:50 PM

Mentor Groups (Year 1, 2, 3)

5:00 - 5:45 PM

Seminar

5:50 - 6:15 PM

Worship and Announcements

6:15 PM

Dinner (On your own)

WEDNESDAY JULY 23, 2025

9:00 AM

Arrival at Richmond's
First Baptist Church

9:10 - 9:30 AM

Worship and Announcements

9:45 - 10:45 AM

Pedagogy (Year 1, 2, 3)

11:00 - 12:00 PM

Conducting (4 levels)

12:10 - 1:00 PM

Lunch (On-site)

1:05 - 2:05 PM

Choral Methods

2:15 - 3:00 PM

Special Topics C (Year 1, 2, 3)

3:10 - 3:55 PM

Special Topics D (Year 1, 2, 3)

4:05 - 4:50 PM

Seminar led by Elizabeth Shepley,
Choristers Guild National President-
Elect and Helen Kemp Lecturer

4:55 - 5:30 PM

Reading Session with Katie Houts,
Choristers Guild's Sacred Choral and
Curriculum Editor

6:00 - 7:30 PM

Celebration Dinner with Elizabeth
Shepley, Choristers Guild National
President-Elect and Helen Kemp
Lecturer

THURSDAY JULY 24, 2025

9:00 AM

Arrival at Richmond's
First Baptist Church
(luggage storage available)

9:10 - 9:55 AM

Choral Methods

10:05 - 10:50 AM

Pedagogy (Year 1, 2, 3)

11:00 - 11:50 PM

Conducting (4 levels)

12:00 - 12:30 PM

Farewell Worship and Blessing

***Please note that all group meetings, classes, and worship services are required attendance for all Institute registrants.**

Students will attend classes appropriate with their year.

2025 FACULTY

Emily Floyd

*Choristers Guild
Institute Co-Director*



Emily Floyd is associate pastor for music and worship at the First Baptist Church of Asheville, North Carolina. There, she leads choirs and instrumental music and serves as a liaison to the Academy for the Arts (AFTA). She is especially passionate about awakening artistry in all singers and nurturing leadership in young singers.

Emily has served as a church musician in Presbyterian and Methodist churches in Florida, Illinois, and Georgia. She taught high school choral music in public schools in Florida and Georgia. She holds a music education degree (voice and piano) from Florida State University and considers herself a lifelong learner. Active in leadership roles for professional organizations, she is the president-elect for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and serves as the repertoire and resources chair for Music in Worship for the Southern Division of ACDA.

When not making music at FBCA, Emily enjoys conducting honor choirs and serving as a choral clinician for schools, church choirs, and choral festivals. She is a founding member of the Blue Ridge Consort, a professional chorus in Western North Carolina. Choirs under her direction have performed in 18 states and internationally at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice, St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, and Carnegie Hall in New York.

Karol Kimmell

*Choristers Guild
Institute Co-Director*



Karol, recently retired, served as the director of youth and children's music at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta, GA for 26 years, directing and developing choral and handbell choirs for PreK - 12th grade. She continues as co-director for Lutheridge Music Week in Arden, North Carolina, planning this conference for church musicians and serving as choral clinician for the youngest campers.

Before All Saints', Karol worked for 15 years as an organist, choir director, and pre-school music teacher in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia in Lutheran, Episcopal, and Presbyterian congregations and schools. Karol directed the elementary choruses at Atlanta's Paideia School and the North Carolina 2009 Sixth Grade All State Chorus. Her articles, anthem studies, and hymn arrangements appear in The Chorister and Augsburg Fortress' Sundays and Seasons and Prelude.

Karol is in demand as a choral clinician across the U.S. She has presented workshops for the National Conference for Sacred Music, Georgia ACDA, Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, FUMMWA, and Augsburg Fortress. She has served as a choral clinician for Youth Lutherans Sing, Lake Junaluska, Massanetta Springs, Bonclarken, Mabel Boyter Choir Camp, and regional choral festivals. Karol attended Wittenberg University and Lenoir-Rhyne University, receiving her bachelor of music education (organ) from Lenoir-Rhyne. She is certified in Orff Schulwerk, Kindermusik, Musicgarten, studied voice at the Mannes School of Music and sang with the Riverside Church Choir in New York City.

Elizabeth Shepley

*Choristers Guild
National Board
President-Elect &
Helen Kemp Lecturer*



Elizabeth Shepley enjoyed 16 years as a conductor, teacher, and artistic director of the Northfield Youth Choirs, and 26 years as director of children's and youth music at the House of Hope Presbyterian Church Choir School in St. Paul and at Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield. Elizabeth holds a masters in music education with a Kodály emphasis (University of St. Thomas), a bachelors in music education (Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota), and certifications in both Kodály and Orff-Schulwerk.

Further music study has taken her to the Institut Jaques-Dalcroze in Switzerland, the Orff Institute in Austria, The Kodály Institute in Hungary, and the Royal School of Church Music in England. She has taught music education in public and private schools.

Elizabeth has chaired inner city music programs in Minneapolis and St. Paul, has served as president of the Twin Cities Chapter of Choristers Guild, as a board member of MN-ACDA and as adjunct professor at Luther Seminary. She has led conferences and festival choirs nationwide, and choirs under her direction have performed across the United States, Canada and Europe. She currently serves as president-elect of Choristers Guild.