

# the chorister

RESOURCES FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

August/September 2019

Volume 71 | Issue 2

**You Are Welcome Here:  
*Two Choirs – One Message***



## Kemp Church Music Symposium

### Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice

### Nurturing the Pastoral Musician

### Saturday, October 5, 2019

#### SESSIONS

- Our Calling as Pastoral Music Educators
- A Positive Approach to Rehearsal Techniques
- Nurturing the Developmental Singer: Children through Adults
- Way over in Beulah Lan': Understanding and Performing the Negro Spiritual
- Practical Repertoire for Today's Church Musician

### Celebrating 20 years!



Dr. André J. Thomas



Dr. Anton Armstrong



Learn more & register: Westminster Office of Continuing Education at 609-924-7416 or email [woco@rider.edu](mailto:woco@rider.edu).

An exciting online experience for church musicians everywhere.



## Master of Sacred Music: Practical Pedagogy

Strengthen your leadership and artistry as you explore new paths toward liturgical excellence and spiritual depth. This interdenominational program is broad and comprehensive in its design, focusing on the practical side of making music and developing leadership skills in a community setting.

#### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Choice of an Adult Choral or Children's/Youth Pedagogy emphasis
- Multiple entry options: begin your studies in the summer, fall or spring semesters
- All courses are conducted online, plus one 3-week Summer Experience at:

Westminster Choir College or

Westminster's Choral Institute at Oxford (Oxford, England)

Learn more at [www.rider.edu/onlinesacredmusic](http://www.rider.edu/onlinesacredmusic)

August/September 2019

## CHORISTERS GUILD

12404 Park Central Dr. Ste. 100  
Dallas, TX 75251-1802  
800.246.7478 or 469.398.3606  
choristersguild.org

*The Chorister* is published bimonthly. Choristers Guild is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, religious and educational corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

## Choristers Guild Staff

### DAWN JANTSCH

Executive Director  
djantsch@choristersguild.org

### PAM HARRIS

Director of Marketing  
pharris@choristersguild.org

### KATHY LOWRIE

Handbell Editor  
klowrie@choristersguild.org

### KATIE HOUTS

Sacred Choral Editor  
khouts@choristersguild.org

### VICTOR C. JOHNSON

School Choral Editor  
vjohnson@choristersguild.org

### KAROL KIMMELL AND CHRIS NEMEC

Choristers Guild  
Institute Directors

### SUSAN EERNISSE

*The Chorister* Editor  
seernisse@choristersguild.org

### COLLEEN OATES

Director of Customer Enhancement  
coates@choristersguild.org

### RUSSELL ALMAND

Membership Enhancement  
ralmand@choristersguild.org

### Advertising

advertising@choristersguild.org  
or (469) 398-3606, ext. 227

### The Chorister Design

Mara Dawn Dockery

### Cover photo credit

*Nashville Children's Choir and  
Freedom Children's Choir in concert  
together. Photo by Scott Schrecker.*

- 2 **A Life Remembered**  
by Susan Eernisse,  
*The Chorister* Editor
- 3 **Ten Things in My Rehearsal Bag  
...in no particular order...**  
by Katie Houts,  
Sacred Choral Editor
- 4 **In Memoriam:  
Jane Marshall (née Manton)**  
by C. Michael Hawn
- 6 **Helping Students Reach Their  
Dreams Through Scholarship**  
by Keith King
- 8 **You Are Welcome Here:  
Two Choirs – One Message**  
by Terry Taylor with Madeline Bridges
- 11 **Anthem Feature:  
*Surrounded by Love***  
by Russell Almand & Susan Eernisse
- 12 **Didn't You Read My Email?**  
by Michael Groff
- 16 **Puppets with a Purpose:  
Teaching Music with Furry Friends**  
by Susan Eernisse
- 17 **Chapter Events**
- 18 **Children's Choir Devotionals**  
by Sharon Welsch
- 23 **News from National:  
Connecting Through Events**  
by Pam Harris,  
Director of Marketing



### MEMBER AREA ACCESS

Can't remember your password or user name to log in as a member? Go to "Member Log-In" and click the "Forgot Your Logon Information" link. Type in the requested information and click "submit". You will receive an email with everything you need.

### GET CONNECTED

There's a lot to like about Choristers Guild on the web. Our Facebook page is a place to connect with other members, share ideas and get info on special offers and new music. Like us at [facebook.com/ChoristersGuild](https://facebook.com/ChoristersGuild).

## Board of Directors

### TERRY GOOLSBY

President  
Dallas, TX

### TERI LARSON

Past-President  
Maple Grove, MN

### ANDREW MASETTI

Secretary-Treasurer  
Westfield, NJ

### STEPHANIE MCILWAIN MILLER

Bellevue, WA

### TODD ARANT

Apex, NC

### JOHN SUTTON

Altadena, CA

### RUTH SZUCS

Richmond, VA

### SANDRA ROSALES

Santa Ana, CA

## Covenant Society

*Please consider joining our Covenant Society—those who have included Choristers Guild in their will or other estate plans:*

### LARRY K. BALL

### BETTY BEDSOLE

### JUDY AND LARRY BRITTS

### REV. RICHARD F. COLLMAN

### JUDITH E. DARDAGANIAN

### JANET M. DAVIDSON

### NORMAN AND ETHEL GEIST

### TERRY AND PAM GOOLSBY

### C. MICHAEL HAWN

### DAWN JANTSCH

### SUE ELLEN PAGE AND

### ERIC JOHNSON

### JOANNA E. PRETZ-ANDERSON

### JIM AND STEPHANIE

### RINDELAUB

### MARY LOUISE AND

### DON VANDYKE

### PRISCILLA B. ZIMMERMANN

*Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission, unless otherwise indicated. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return and safety of artwork, photographs, or materials. Acceptance of advertising or rental of mailing list does not imply endorsement.*



# A Life Remembered

BY SUSAN EERNISSE  
THE CHORISTER EDITOR

At this writing, I am processing the recent news of the passing of Jane Marshall, beloved church musician and composer. Perhaps her most widely known work and favorite anthem of many choral directors and singers, myself included, is "My Eternal King." This standard in most sacred music libraries is still performed today in churches and concert halls.

Several years ago, I attended the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. The annual conference was held that year in the large sanctuary of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church. The closing worship concert included a choir of several hundred musicians from across the state of Georgia. Normally I feel out of place in the congregation, feeling more at home in the choir loft. On this evening I was blessed to sit and take in the glorious music that filled the room. The culmination of the evening began with the recognizable organ introduction to "My Eternal King." From the organ's first chord, there was a sense that something uniquely holy was happening.

Part of the success of Jane's beloved anthem is the dynamic control required by the singers. The bulk of the work is to be performed from *ppp* to *mezzo forte*. That creates an expectation that something big is about to happen – and it does, and it did that night in Atlanta. With all voice parts singing *fortissimo* in the upper realms of their ranges, they proclaimed, "E'en so I love Thee..." undergirded with the foundation of full organ. As one, the congregants rose to their (our) feet in an act of spontaneous worship that lasted well past the final cutoff. I have sung that anthem many times in various settings but listening on that night was something unforgettable.

I thank God for Jane Marshall's legacy that lives on in her music and in the lives of those she taught. Please take the time to read Michael Hawn's lovely tribute to Jane on page 4 of this issue.

I hope that as you turn the pages of this issue of *The Chorister*, you will find inspiration and ideas to enhance your ministry.

Keep singing the song!

-Susan



# Ten Things in My Rehearsal Bag

*...in no particular order...*

BY KATIE HOUTS  
SACRED CHORAL EDITOR

---

1. **"Sing Together, Children!"** My go-to book<sup>1</sup> for rehearsal warm-ups, circle games, echo songs, and vocal exploration exercises for children.
2. **My A440 tuning fork.** Thanks to Amanda Page Smith (and her fantastic webinar about engaging rehearsals), I've been "passing A440" with my choir ever since. This 45-second activity is a wonderful, worthwhile ear training exercise!
3. **Bluetooth speaker.** With my young singers, listening to music is an important exercise. Sometimes we're analyzing the feeling or character of a song (minor/major, happy/sad, exciting/relaxing, etc.), keeping a steady beat, or practicing sign language for an anthem we're about to learn.
4. **A choir roster/attendance sheet.** In the past, I mistakenly underestimated the value of an attendance chart. I eventually discovered that inviting children to mark their presence at rehearsal is a beautiful ritual. It is a small way for each child to say "Yes, I am part of this," as rehearsal begins.
5. **"Again, I Say Rejoice!"** This songbook<sup>2</sup> is packed with short, simple songs to use when you need to change momentum. One of my favorites is "Do Not Be Afraid" (pp. 32-33). I taught this – along with sign language – to my choir last season. We presented it during worship and invited the congregation to be our echo. Not a dry eye in the sanctuary.
6. **Small frame drum.** To close rehearsal, I love using the Heartbeat Prayer from "All Hands In, Vol. II" (p46)<sup>3</sup>. Sometimes we use percussion instruments, but most often we'll simply use body percussion. I use the frame drum to keep the steady heartbeat rhythm as we pray.
7. **JUST ADDED! "Praise Takes Flight 2 New Heights"** I can't wait to use this new rehearsal resource book<sup>4</sup> with my choir! The second volume of PTF is jam-packed with exercises and anthems exploring rhythm, melody, diction, and foundational Bible truths.
8. **Choir mascot.** A small, squishy toy with a memorable name. I'll throw the mascot to a chorister at various times during rehearsal – to answer a question or conduct the choir for an exercise, for example. It's a wonderful way to direct the focus of the choir using a beloved community item.
9. **My phone (or other audio recording device).** I became a much better choir director once I started listening to rehearsals. I noticed how much I spoke (too much), and how many chances I took to correct diction (too few), and how my own voice sounded as I demonstrated (too strained). Listening to a rehearsal will help you identify trouble spots and allow you to plan well for the following week.
10. **The latest *Chorister* issue.** This journal has inspired so many rehearsal ideas! Sometimes I'll flip to a page I can immediately use – like Susan Eernisse's recent "Rainy Rhythms," which I quickly drew on our rehearsal board. Even if I don't open the journal each week, its presence in my bag reminds me of the wonder-beautiful<sup>5</sup> community of Choristers Guild... and I'm inspired to bring my very best to my choristers each week.

---

<sup>1</sup> CGBK66 Sing Together, Children! (Madeline Bridges)

<sup>2</sup> CGC56 Again, I Say Rejoice! (Mark Burrows)

<sup>3</sup> CGBK76 All Hands In! Vol II (Brian Hehn and Mark Burrows)

<sup>4</sup> CGBK79 Praise Takes Flight 2 New Heights (Kimberly Ingram, Betsy Henderson, Joe Milton)

<sup>5</sup> From CGC63 In the Image (Mark Burrows)

Cheers to a new  
choir season!

-Katie



## In Memoriam: Jane Marshall (née Manton)

B. DALLAS, TEXAS, DECEMBER 5, 1924; D. DALLAS, TEXAS, MAY 29, 2019

BY C. MICHAEL HAWN

Jane Marshall was a lifelong resident of Dallas, Texas. She was a graduate of Southern Methodist University (B.M. '45; M.M. '68). Her mentor, Dr. Lloyd Pfautsch (1921-2003), Director of Choral Activities and founder of the Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M.) program at SMU, recommended that she return for her Master of Music degree in choral conducting and composition.

In line with her poetic gifts, she later taught English in Dedman College, SMU, and choral arranging, music theory, and choral conducting in the Music Division, Meadows School of the Arts, and in the M.S.M. program at Perkins School of Theology. She was nationally recognized ecumenically. Her honors include the Woman of Achievement Award from SMU (1965); Distinguished Alumnae Award from Southern Methodist University; two distinguished service awards, 1974 and 1990, from the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference; and the 1997 Roger N. Deschner Award for "outstanding contributions to the music and worship life of the church," from the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts.

Jane Marshall was a complete church musician. After serving in the music ministry of Highland Park United Methodist Church, she was called to Northaven United Methodist Church as its first professional music director and occasional organist in 1958, a congregation in which she held her membership for over 60 years. She was a much-published composer of choral music, a skilled choral conductor and clinician, and a gifted hymn writer of both texts and tunes.

Important as any of these accomplishments, she gave herself to pedagogy and mentorship in the classroom setting with graduate students, in myriad workshop settings with novices in the field, and with individual consultations. This was most evident in her leadership of the Perkins Church Music Summer School, a certification program for church musicians, from 1975-2010.

As a teacher of composition and choral arranging, she nourished many Dallas-area composers including Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992). As a hymn writer, she mentored several writers including John Thornburg during the 1990s while he served as her pastor at Northaven United Methodist Church. Her vocational



gifts were not limited to various aspects of music. Jane was also a skilled preacher and worship leader. Sample vignettes of her homiletical insights can be found in her book *Grace Noted* (1992).

Her more than 200 published choral works are staples in church music libraries throughout the United States. The best-known anthems are "Awake, My Heart," the prize winning anthem for a contest sponsored by the American Guild of Organists (1957); "He Comes to Us" (1957), the first setting of Albert's Schweitzer's famous words from *The Quest of the Historical Jesus* (1910); "Fanfare for Easter" (1959); and her most widely sung anthem, debuted at Highland Park United Methodist Church in 1952, "My Eternal King" (1954). This latter work was performed by the Turtle Creek Chorale for the opening of the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in the Arts District of Dallas in 1989. Lloyd Pfautsch recalled Jane's choral arranging skills when she was in his class: "Well, there was Jane, and then there was everyone else."

Jane also had a love for children's music. She had a long association with Choristers Guild as a member, arranger, and composer with 15 anthems and collections. As an arranger she adapted Natalie Sleeth's children's anthem "O Come, O Come, Immanuel" for SAB choir and the Philippine hymn "Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day" for the global music series *We Sing the World Round*. As a composer, "For Hard Things" was popular both in a unison/two-part setting and as a SAB anthem. *Psalms Together* and *Psalms Together II* were shorter antiphons composed for all ages including congregation. These

were among Helen Kemp's favorites because they were well-crafted, useful for worship, and accessible to all. The favorite of these was the antiphon for Psalm 17:8, "Keep me as the apple of your eye, hide me in the shadow of your wings." (NIV)

Following the encouragement of longtime friend and composer Alice Parker, Marshall began composing hymn texts as well as tunes. Her contribution to congregational song includes more than 50 published hymn tunes and psalm antiphons, and several published hymn texts. In both cases, she carefully chooses notes and words – nothing is wasted. The musical and textual logic is clear. The musical style never resorts to cliché and grows in meaning and depth upon repetition. Long-time friend and colleague Carlton R. Young sums up her style in this way: "Her hymn settings are characterized by an expanded, rhythmic, melodic and harmonic vocabulary, and careful attention to the lyrical, theological and literary qualities of texts."

She has set hymn texts by numerous prominent historical and contemporary writers. Her most published hymn tunes are associated with the texts of John Thornburg. Their collaboration extended to vocal solo works and shorter ritual songs for liturgy. Rev. Thornburg noted, "Jane's combination of keen musicality, theological depth and humor made her a wonderful companion in creativity. The sixteen hymns in our collection, *Can God Be Seen in Other Ways*, were all written in a period of six weeks, and they were among the most meaningful six weeks of my life."

Several of Jane's hymns demonstrate her consummate skills as both text and tune writer. It is her most published hymn, "What Gift Can We Bring" (ANNIVERSARY SONG), that most clearly represents this unusual combination of skill sets. Composed in 1980 for the 25th anniversary of Northaven United Methodist Church, this is a hymn of pure gratitude. Following the first stanza which poses three rhetorical questions, the second stanza offers gratitude for a heritage of those "who planted and watered so dreams could come true." The third stanza looks boldly to the future that is "full of surprises" but abides with the assurance that "we rest in God's keeping and live in God's love." The final stanza skillfully reprises the first, not as a series of rhetorical questions, but as joyful affirmations. Quoting this stanza, we come now "remembering, rejoicing" in the many musical offerings composed by Jane Marshall that help us to articulate our faith and witness and guide our worship.

Jane Marshall is survived by Elbert, her faithful husband of nearly 73 years, and three children. Jane and Elbert Marshall fund the annually awarded Jane Marshall Prize for Outstanding Scholarship and Leadership in Christian Worship at Perkins School of Theology. In addition, the endowed Jane Marshall Student Support Fund in Worship and Music, established in 1996, offers scholarship aid for students who serve as sacristans for Perkins Chapel Worship. The Jane M. Marshall papers, 1952-2012, are housed at the Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University.

*A longer version of this piece can be read online at [choristersguild.org](http://choristersguild.org).*



## HONORING JANE MARSHALL

*David Bone, Executive Director of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts extends the following invitation:*

We are launching an effort to remember Jane Marshall (1924-2019) and her musical legacy. We're encouraging sacred musicians to use music by Jane in worship on the weekend of Sunday, September 29, 2019.

- You can see our Facebook post here: [bit.ly/FB-JMarshall](https://bit.ly/FB-JMarshall)
- Our email to our contact list is here: [bit.ly/Email-Marshall](https://bit.ly/Email-Marshall)
- Our website post is here: [bit.ly/JaneMarshall](https://bit.ly/JaneMarshall)

Help us spread this word to your contacts. You can simply share our Facebook post, or you can find sample Facebook / Instagram and Twitter posts (with graphics) here: [bit.ly/JMarshall-Info](https://bit.ly/JMarshall-Info).



# Helping Students Reach Their Dreams Through Scholarship

A RUTH K. JACOBS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER  
BY KEITH KING, CHORISTERS GUILD MARKETING ASSOCIATE

---

College comes at a high cost these days. Just look at the numbers: a CollegeBoard analysis shows tuition at public, in-state universities has gone up from \$3,360 in 1989 (in 2019 dollars) to \$10,230.

Put those numbers into perspective by considering that a Baylor University student in 1989 paid, on average, just over \$17,000 in tuition for that year. Today, if that person has a kid that's going to Baylor, they would owe **\$42,842** in tuition for the 2019-2020 school year. That doesn't include a room, meal plan, books, or other expenses. As a result, many students take on substantial student loans and juggle paid work with coursework.

Recognizing the importance of education for those called to music ministry, Choristers Guild presents the *Ruth K. Jacobs Memorial Scholarship* to select students every year. One such recipient is Adam Cogliano, a graduate student at Baylor who is working toward a Master of Music in Church Music (conducting emphasis) and a Master of Divinity.

"*The Ruth K. Jacobs Memorial Scholarship* has allowed me to continue learning in one of the preeminent church music programs in the country," Cogliano said. "I am able to focus on my studies and my work without being distracted so much financially."

Cogliano, who plans to graduate next year, will pursue a full-time position as a music or worship pastor. He has served as music minister at First Baptist Church, Valley Mills, Texas, for more than two years. The scholarship has inspired him to focus more on children and youth ministry at his church.

"I decided that I wanted to actually lead one of the children's choirs, and I have grown immensely during my time teaching kindergarteners and first graders," Cogliano said. "I have also led the youth choir, and they participated in a local youth choir festival this past February." In embarking on mission trips involving music education to El Salvador, Kenya, and Malaysia, "I have been able to see this scholarship's goals manifested around the world."

Cogliano and his wife, Kelsey, (they're newlyweds) live in an off-campus apartment with their corgi, Wagner. He met Kelsey in choir as an undergrad.

"Life at Baylor has certainly changed over the last seven years," said Cogliano.

Cogliano's classes are split between Truett Seminary and Baylor's School of Music, with subjects including practical theology, music theory, and worship. He also leads an undergraduate class on worship, and serves





as a graduate assistant for Baylor's Center for Christian Music Studies. There, he helps coordinate the annual *Alleluia Conference*, a conference in which Choristers Guild has participated for more than a decade.

It's a busy schedule, but one that he can handle, thanks to the scholarship.

"The Choristers Guild is an amazing organization that has allowed me to pursue my academic and ministerial goals with outstanding support," said Cogliano. "Thank you so much to Dawn Jantsch, who has encouraged me throughout the application process, and is a constant supporter of church music at Baylor."

Cogliano originally heard about the scholarship through a friend. He encourages those who believe they meet the qualifications to apply.

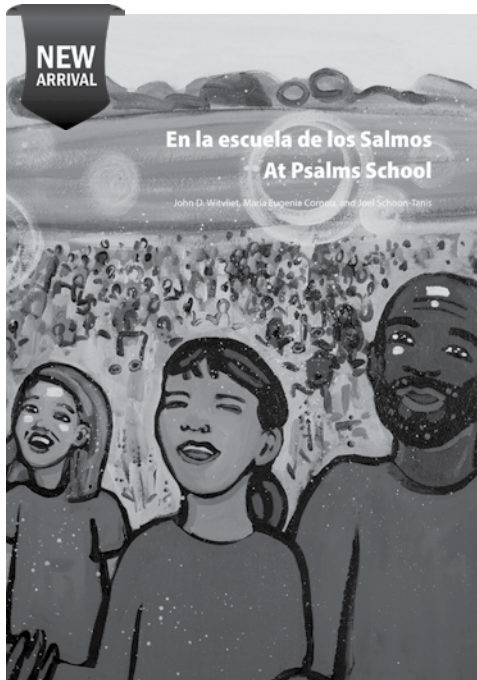
"This scholarship is a tremendous opportunity for anyone with a passion for the music education of children and youth at the local church level, and it enables these passions to be developed even more fully," expressed Cogliano.



Visit our website [choristersguild.org](http://choristersguild.org) or call 469-398-3606 to learn more about the Ruth K. Jacobs Memorial Scholarship.

CALVIN INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

WORSHIP.CALVIN.EDU



## Children's book on the Psalms

Psalms is a prayer book that we find in the middle of the Bible. Reading Psalms is kind of like going to school. The psalms teach us how to listen to and talk with God in worship, at church, and every day. What do we learn at Psalms School? Let's read and find out!

Salmos es un libro de oraciones que se encuentra en la mitad de la Biblia. Leer los Salmos es como ir a la escuela. Ellos nos enseñan a escuchar y a hablar con Dios cuando le adoramos en la iglesia y en la vida diaria. ¿Qué aprendemos en la escuela de los Salmos? ¡Leamos y descubramoslo!

# You Are Welcome Here: *Two Choirs – One Message*

BY TERRY TAYLOR WITH MADELINE BRIDGES

---

Not long after moving to middle Tennessee to work with the Growing in Grace Children's Music Curriculum team, I became part-time Minister of Music at Tusculum Hills Baptist Church, a congregation located on Nolensville Pike in south Nashville. The Nolensville Pike corridor is one of the most diverse areas in Nashville and is the anchor of one of the nation's fastest growing immigrant communities. Twenty-six languages are represented in the elementary school across the street from the church. This area is also home for many refugees who have escaped persecution and are struggling to start new lives in a free land.

I met with my pastor and some children's choir colleagues in the Nashville area, and soon the Children's Freedom Choir was formed. Our mission: Reach out to the children around the church, especially those from socially and economically-challenged families and those in the immigrant, refugee community. We opened our membership to all children, regardless of their musical background. Not surprisingly, the Children's Freedom Choir is comprised almost entirely of refugee children.

When our choir needed additional choir leadership, I reached out to Dr. Madeline Bridges at the School of Music at Belmont University. She connected us to some exceptional music students who joined our team.

Part of Dr. Bridges' work at Belmont is serving as Program Director of the Nashville Children's Choir

(NCC)—an auditioned regional choir program for young singers, ages 8-18, which enrolls over 200 children and youth in four choirs. The program recently celebrated its 30th Year anniversary and the retirement of Dr. Bridges. Dr. Bridges has also served as co-conductor of the Touring Choir (which includes singers in grades 4-8) for 29 years. The Touring Choir has travelled to many cities and presented numerous significant performances during its history, including concerts at Carnegie Hall, the Music Educators National Conference, the American Choral Directors Association, the Nashville Ballet, Nashville Symphony, and Nashville Opera.

You can imagine my joy when Dr. Bridges contacted me and graciously invited the Children's Freedom Choir to join the NCC Touring Choir in a concert they were presenting in south Nashville. Dr. Bridges and I exchanged a flurry of emails. We planned logistics and decided to sing two songs together: "Unity" by Glorraine Moone and Freddie Washington, and "You Are Welcome Here" by Mark Burrows.

It was not possible for the choirs to rehearse together prior to the concert day. I recorded a video of a NCC Touring Choir rehearsal, and the Children's Freedom Choir sang with the video at our rehearsals. James Wells, one of the Touring Choir co-directors, arranged a FaceTime conversation between the NCC choir and composer Mark Burrows several weeks before the joint performance. Knowing why Mark wrote the song and



*Nashville Children's Choir and Freedom Children's Choir in concert together. Photo by Scott Schrecker.*

learning about the mission of the Children's Freedom Choir helped the NCC choristers look forward to the collaboration and sing with increased understanding. When the day of the concert arrived, we were ready. We had time for one pre-concert run-through. Then the performance, titled "All Are Welcome" began in front of a packed house.

When the time came in the concert for the two choirs to sing together, it became clear that our collaboration was greater than the sum of its parts. Our choir of refugee children stood in front of the NCC Touring Choir and sang Mark Burrows' wonderful song "You Are Welcome Here" with the Touring Choir in the following sequence:

---

The Children's Freedom Choir sang first, singing these questions from Verse 1:

*"Am I welcome here?  
Am I safe to sing or laugh, or shed a tear?  
Will I be loved the way I am? Will friends be near?  
Am I welcome here?  
Am I welcome here?"*

The NCC Touring Choir answered their questions with this assurance in Verse 2 as the Freedom Choir listened:

*"You are welcome here.  
You are safe to sing or laugh, or shed a tear.  
We love you just the way you are, so have no fear.  
You are welcome here.  
You are welcome here."*

Then, the two choirs joined voices for this affirmation in the Bridge:

*"This is a place of peace and grace  
Where all God's children have a home.  
God's reign will come, God's will be done  
When all are loved and no one stands alone."*

Both choirs continued singing together on Verse 3:

*"All are welcome here,  
All are safe to sing or laugh, or shed a tear.  
God loves us just the way we are, so have no fear.  
You are welcome here."*

Then, the Children's Freedom Choir slowly sang the text of the last phrase alone as the Touring Choir doubled the melody on "OO":

*"I am welcome here."*



*Freedom Children's Choir in concert. Photo by Scott Schrecker.*



*Nashville Children's Choir in concert. Photo by Scott Schrecker.*

---

We were overwhelmed as the entire audience stood and erupted in sustained applause. It was obvious they fully understood the musical drama that had unfolded before them. The two choirs then launched into "Unity," based on Psalm 133:1—"Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

The singers, the songs, and the performance combined for a transcendent moment that will long be cherished – by singers, conductors, and audience members. May the message of love and acceptance continue to resound loudly from choir lofts and concert stages: **ALL are welcome here!**

## THOUGHTS FROM THE COMPOSER

So much of my writing lately has been as a response to the brokenness I see (brokenness of self and brokenness of community). I want to write music that reaches out, to begin the healing process, so we can experience the sense of wholeness we all yearn for.

But anything I write is just notes on a page until people bring it to life and share it with others.

Getting to have "You Are Welcome Here" brought to life by the Freedom Children's Choir and the Nashville Children's Choir is an experience I'll cherish for the rest of my life. It was so much more than a performance. It was dear, wonderful children asking in a very real way, "Am I welcome here?" while other dear, wonderful children affirmed them and their place of belonging. I am beyond grateful for everyone who came together to create that beautiful moment of true community.



**Order the beautiful Choristers Guild anthem for your choral library:**

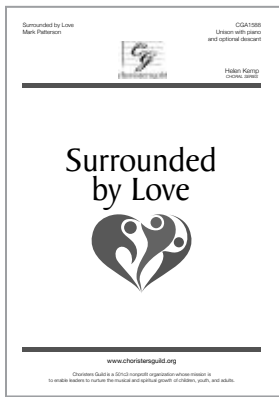
**CGA1525** *You Are Welcome Here* by Mark Burrows  
Unison/two-part with piano or guitar



**Madeline Bridges** is professor of music in the School of Music at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, where she teaches music education. She served as Program Director and Co-director of the oldest of the children's choirs (the Touring Choir) for 29 years before retiring last spring. Her degrees include a B.M. in piano performance from Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, and an M. Mus. Ed. from George Peabody College of Education of Vanderbilt University. She earned her doctorate in music education from the University of Alabama. Bridges has taught music and music education in classrooms from kindergarten through the graduate level and is past president of both the International Board of Directors of Choristers Guild and Tennessee Music Educators Association (TMEA). She is a member of the TMEA Hall of Fame and a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Tennessee Chapter of American Choral Directors Association. Madeline has directed church children's choirs in Georgia and Tennessee in Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches, and has served as a conference leader and guest conductor throughout the U.S.



**Terry Taylor** is the Managing Editor of **Growing in Grace** Children's Music Curriculum and a church musician, having served as Minister of Music in churches in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Oklahoma. Terry is widely respected for his interest, creativity, and leadership in music ministry to children. His anthems for children are published through Choristers Guild. The son of a pastor, Terry was born in Bowling Green KY and attended Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN, Belmont University in Nashville, TN and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, where he received his Masters in Church Music with a conducting major. Terry's belief that all children should have the opportunity to sing manifests itself in many aspects of his life's work, through school and church choirs and community outreach.



# Anthem Feature: Surrounded by Love

BY MARK PATTERSON  
CGA1588 | UNISON WITH PIANO  
AND OPTIONAL DESCANT

USES & TIPS BY RUSSELL ALMAND & SUSAN EERNISSE

## ANTHEM DESCRIPTION

A brand new anthem in our Helen Kemp Choral Series, "Surrounded by Love" provides an encouraging message for all through a melody line that allows your children's choir to soar! As always, composer Mark Patterson has carefully crafted this piece to highlight the young voice and allow children to shine. The recurring theme, "God's love surrounds each one of us here," conveys an important truth for children to learn while the phrasing allows them to truly understand what they are singing without losing the depth of the message given. The soaring descant section allows your more confident singers to have a moment to sing out declaring, "We will rise!" Choirs of all ages will love singing this anthem filled with uplifting truths.

The message of this anthem for the troubled world around us provides many avenues for this selection to be sung in your worship service. It could be used as an opening message of encouragement from the younger generation, or to spur the entire congregation to reflect upon how we should love others because of God's love that surrounds us. This anthem conveys the love that Christian community shows, making it perfect for celebrating an anniversary or other milestones in the life of the church. Of course, any service is a good time to be encouraged by the younger generation communicating that we are surrounded by God's love.

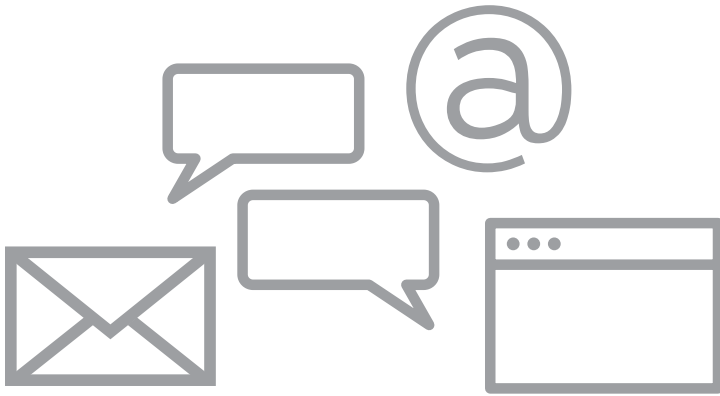
## TEACHING TIPS

This beautiful anthem will give your developing singers a great opportunity to sing a lovely legato line. There is an assortment of repeated tones, stepwise motion, skips and even some leaps to keep singers on their toes. Demonstrate connected phrases by having the children paint each one in a smooth arc – moving the hand from left to right for the entire length of the phrase. Though the children will experience the upward and downward direction of the melody as they sing, the painting motion will assist them with connecting the pitches in a continuous legato line.

There are several phrases that end in a single, sustained pitch lasting for seven or more beats. Teach the children how to stagger their breathing by playing a *buddy breathing* game. Assign singing buddies; sing a sustained pitch together; buddies should not take a breath at the same time. If two buddies do breathe at the same time, they should stop singing. See how many buddy pairs can make it through the entire length of the pitch. Reassign buddies and repeat.

There is much imagery in the beautiful text that should evoke some great group discussion. Talk about what "mountains and valleys and tunnels of our lives" means, leading your singers to discover that God is present in all the high, low, and even dark times of life. If kaleidoscope is a new term, consider a group craft project. A quick internet search will give you several options to create simple kaleidoscopes.

*Thanks to Choristers Guild team member Russell Almand for contributing to this feature.*



# Didn't You Read My Email?

BY MICHAEL GROFF

---

I had been at my job for just over a month. I was sitting in a committee meeting and the parent of one of my choristers turned to me and said, "When is their first performance?" I looked up and said, "October 12th. Did you catch our schedule for that day in your parent email?" The parent had read the email, but told me she didn't think a schedule was there. When she pulled the message up on her phone and saw it in the third paragraph she said, "Oh, I never would have found that. I don't read that far down." I was stunned. This child and their family made a commitment to be in choir. How could this parent not care enough to take the time to read an email outlining what we'd be doing?

But of course, this mother does care. She cares enough to be on the parent committee. She gets her child to choir most weekends, and that child gets to every performance. The reality that I didn't see until later is that choir is just one in a very long list of activities for this child and so many others. This year, I asked my choir what other activities they do each week. There's tutoring, math club, violin lessons, school orchestra, community orchestra, school soccer, club soccer... and that's just one student.

Each activity has a lot of information and communication that goes with it. Newsletters are emailed, papers are sent home, and it's a lot to take in. It adds up and when you take into account that most parents also have full-time jobs, I now understand that most parents were never going to see something I wrote in the last paragraph of a long email.

What's more, there is a generational difference in styles of communication. As a new generation of parents brings their children to our programs, they're also bringing an expectation that our messaging will be in the mode that they prefer. (Younger parents are preferring texts and very short emails.) This means that not only have we changed the way we message, but we've also expanded to sending information out in multiple ways.

In an age of evolving digital platforms, the act of keeping parents informed can be a moving target. It's often frustrating, but the challenge can lead us to take advantage of some new innovations and help us update people more effectively than ever before. Here are some tools with their best uses that can help you communicate with your families.



## WEBSITE

Consider your choir's page on the church website a one stop shop for everything parents need to know. It starts with general information about your groups for people browsing your website and gets more specific as you go down.

- Your website should always be the most up-to-date source for information.
  - Post your schedule, forms, listening links, and anything else your parents need to know.
  - Most people are viewing your website through a smartphone, so be sure to check what it looks like on a mobile browser.
- 



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Most adults use Facebook (by the way, most teenagers *don't*) so it can be a useful tool for getting your message out there. Since most people use social media during leisure time, it's great for a call to action, like prompting people to sign up for choir or an event. However, complicated algorithms determine whether or not your post shows up in someone's feed, so make sure you're getting your message out there in other ways. Here are some other tips:

- Include a picture in your post
  - Keep the message short; 1-2 sentences
  - Rather than friending every person you need to message, invite everyone to join a group and post to that group.
- 



## EMAIL SERVICES

If you're sending out an email to a large group of people, consider using a third-party email service. The big two currently are Mailchimp and Constant Contact. Emma Email Marketing is great too. Benefits of a service include:

- control over aesthetic aspects of your emails
- ability to add links
- ensure delivery to inboxes
- scheduling
- optimizing delivery time (for higher open rates)
- tracking to see which people open your emails
- keeps you compliant with federal law

Most churches today send out an email newsletter using a service so check with your church office to see which system your church is already using (and probably paying for) and join up! Most paid plans with these email services allow multiple users, so your communications director or church administrator can give you the tools you need without giving you the keys to the entire email list. If you do have to pick a service yourself, consider the free version of Mailchimp.



### TEXTING

For many younger parents, the email inbox is a mass of unread messages and it's easy for your emails to get lost in the clutter. Enter texting. Most people read text messages as soon as they come in and they're great for getting a short reminder in front of people right away, but the downside is that once they're read, they can disappear to the back of a person's mind as soon as the notification goes away. Here are best practices:

- Use text messages for last-minute schedule changes, and short messages (i.e. 140 characters).
- You can include a link to an expanded explanation, like your weekly email.
- Consider the hour you're sending text messages. Stick to the hours that you'd make a phone call.

You don't have time to text each of your parents individually, but fortunately, there are services to help you out! These services act as an intermediary to get your message out while protecting your phone number and the numbers of your participants. Check with your youth ministry team to see if they're already using a program, but if not, here are three suggestions:

- **Remind:** Many of your parents will be familiar with this service because most schools use it. You can organize by class, schedule messages, include attachments. This also is great for messaging students in older choirs, because it keeps a permanent record (for accountability) and requires a parent to sign up with the child. Users can respond to you. (free for educators; [remind.com](http://remind.com))
- **ClubTexting:** There are no free options with this service, but it is still affordable. This service offers the same features as Remind, plus additional options for integrating with other platforms that you might use at your church. (starting at \$29/month; [clubtexting.com](http://clubtexting.com))
- **Realm:** This is not strictly a texting service, but it is a messaging service that's built to work with the ACS church management platform that many churches already use. It has similar functionality to both of these other services. It's excellent if your entire church is already using Realm for messaging, signups, and directories. If your church uses ACS, find out if Realm is something you can access. ([acstechnologies.com/products/realm](http://acstechnologies.com/products/realm))

---

Over the last few months, I've talked with many choir directors who run successful choir programs and two things are clear: getting your message in front of parents is a challenge that is constantly evolving and there is no one way to do it. However, in conversations with colleagues, several best practices emerged (which are summarized in the chart on the following page).

Years after that interaction with a parent who couldn't get to the bottom of my email, I heard again from that same parent. "Your text messages are a life-saver," she said, "it gives us the extra push we need to get to choir on time." I'm frequently reevaluating the way I reach out to our congregation. I'm sure that in five years, the challenges and the resources will be completely different, but in the meantime, I'm glad for a varied toolbox.



## Communication Best Practices

### FOLLOW THE HERD

If your entire church is using one method or service for communicating with your congregation, then join the club. If the entire church isn't using one system, think about a smaller subset. Your constituents are parents, so talk to your children's minister or youth minister to find out how they're communicating with parents. Together, you can establish a routine so that parents know what to expect when they hear from you.

### KEEP IT SHORT

No one has the time to read your novel of an email, even if you preface with "BE SURE TO READ THIS EMAIL VERY CAREFULLY!!!!!!" (You're probably even skimming this article.) If you write an email, try starting with an upbeat but informative introduction like, "We're excited for our performance this weekend" and move on to bullet point details. If you do have a lot of information, consider separating different topics into short, two-sentence paragraphs.

### BE UP FRONT

Establish your schedule policies and don't deviate unless absolutely necessary. When families join choir at the beginning of the year, give them a welcome packet with a letter, schedule, expectations, and routine. If parents have it at the beginning of the year, you don't have to rehash it later.

### KEEP FREQUENCY TO A MINIMUM

When I asked how often she communicates with parents, one director told me, "as seldom as possible!" If you keep things to a minimum, parents will know that any email or paper home is important. If you do send a weekly message, try not to say the same thing over and over. If someone thinks they won't learn anything new, they'll stop reading and your messages will become background noise.

### STICK TO YOUR PATTERN

Maybe you send an email out every Monday, and a text out every Saturday -- don't vary! If I forget to send out a parent email the Thursday before a performance Sunday, I'll inevitably get messages from parents asking if their child's choir is performing that weekend. Many email and texting services allow you to schedule messages in advance so they still get to families, even if you're away from your computer.



**Michael Groff** is the Associate Director of Music at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas, where he specializes in preschool and elementary music. Michael holds an M.M. in Organ Performance from Baylor University and a B.M. in Music Education (Voice and Organ) from Susquehanna University.

# Puppets with a Purpose: Teaching Music with Furry Friends

BY SUSAN EERNISSE

*It all began with a birthday present from my husband – the old lady puppet with all the strange objects she swallowed. As an elementary music specialist in a public school, I knew I just had to have her. Little did I know how my collection would grow in years to come, and how many ways I would find to use puppets in teaching children to sing and love music.*

Puppets have come to be a useful option in my children's music tool kit. Though I primarily use them in preschool and younger children's music lessons, I have found that even older children love my fur-faced entourage. Puppets can serve multiple purposes in the choir room:

- Need a choir mascot?
- Need a motivational or behavioral incentive?
- Need to add zing to mundane singing games or warm-ups?
- Need to enhance teaching of singing skills?
- Just want to interact with your singers in a fun way?
- Want to engage reluctant singers?



*Preschool children enjoy music time with their camel puppet mascot.*

I have puppets that have their own songs – as is the case of a dog puppet named after a favorite pet. Her song allows the children to perform movements with the puppet while singing the song. Other puppets act out

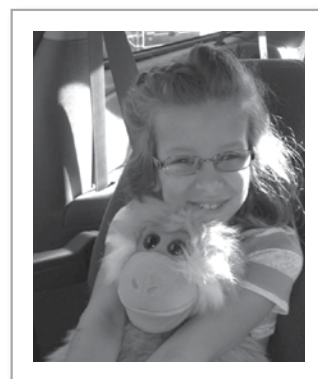
story songs from "The Bear Went Over the Mountain" to "The Old Gray Cat." Some puppets have a specific musical purpose: a big mouth puppet reminds children to open their mouths while singing; a puppet with glasses prompts children to watch the director; an owl guides singers in producing a beautiful "oo" vowel. Some puppets are for special purposes like my big lime green monkey puppet. He is a veteran traveler to music and mission camps, a good will ambassador of sorts.

## TOP TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED

Interested in trying this with your youngest singers? Here are some practical tips:

- You do not have to be a ventriloquist. Most children are willing to suspend their disbelief even though it is very obvious you are speaking/singing for the puppet.
- Puppets do not have to talk or sing or make sounds of any kind. Silence is an important component of music!
- Puppets are an expensive investment, just like other items in the choir room. Set boundaries.
- Don't overuse puppets. Each puppet has a purpose – 12 puppets at once are a distraction!
- When the puppet is visible, it should be engaged with the activities in the room – not hanging upside down from a table, or other "inhumane" position. You can build a spirit of empathy for animals and others by modeling kind, attentive treatment to the puppets.

Decide on your comfort level and start simply. If you are still a bit unsure about using puppets, you can begin with a stuffed animal to become your choir's mascot. Involve the children in naming the mascot and use it as part of your classroom management plan.



*Kids and puppets go together.*

# Chapter Events

---

## SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

### **First Baptist Church, Richmond, VA**

Clinician: Michael Hawn

10 New Hymns Every Child Should Know

This session will suggest 10 congregational songs that will shape a child's theological diet – all composed within the last 50 years. They will cover a variety of ecumenical traditions, musical styles, and ethnicities. Pedagogical strategies will also be discussed.

For more information, contact: Ruth Szucs at [szucs@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:szucs@fbcrichmond.org)

## JANUARY 10-11, 2020

### **Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX**

Choristers Guild Dallas Chapter Church Music Workshop

Experience engaging classes, world-class clinicians, creative and meaningful worship, plentiful vendors, practical reading sessions, and connection with friends and fellow church musicians.

For more information, visit: <http://dallaschaptercg.org/>

## JANUARY 17-18, 2020

### **Peachtree Road UMC, Atlanta, GA**

Choristers Guild Atlanta MidWinter Workshop

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Atlanta Chapter of Choristers Guild

Featured clinicians: Eric Nelson, Emily Floyd, Mark Patterson, Lynn Kleiner

For more information visit: <http://www.cgatlanta.org>

## FEBRUARY 22, 2020

### **First Baptist Church, Richmond**

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Richmond Area Choristers Guild Children's Choir Festival

Grades 3-5

Conductor: Heather Potter

For more information, contact: Ruth Szucs at [szucs@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:szucs@fbcrichmond.org)

### **TO LIST YOUR CHAPTER EVENT**

*Send your listing to [membership@choristersguild.org](mailto:membership@choristersguild.org) with complete information. Include dates, location, clinicians, and contact information. For additional advertising, contact [advertising@choristersguild.org](mailto:advertising@choristersguild.org)*

# Children's Choir Devotionals

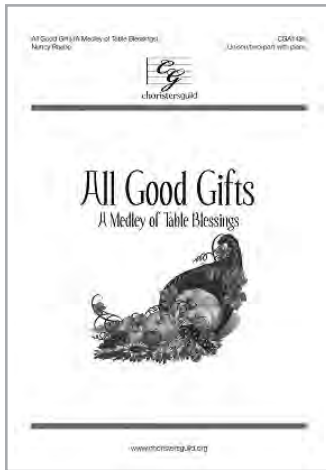
BY SHARON WELSCH

---

## WEEK OF AUGUST 4

### SCRIPTURE:

Oh, thank GOD – he's so good! His love never runs out. *Psalm 107:1 The Message*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Have you ever thought about the fact that God's love never runs out? Isn't that a wonderful thing to think about? Maybe you have had a friend who got mad at you and stopped being your friend; that is really hard! The wonderful news about God is that he is SO good and will ALWAYS love you – no matter what! Now THAT is something to sing about!

### PRAYER:

Loving God, thank you for loving us no matter what. We are so glad that your love never runs out. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

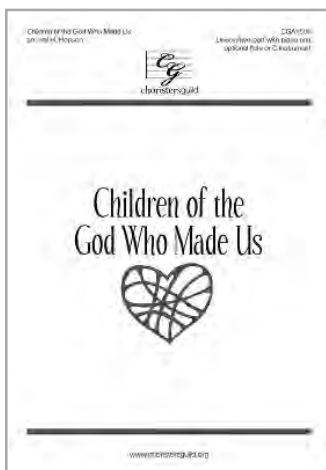
**CGA1420** | *All Good Gifts* | arr. Nancy Raabe | Unison/two-part with piano

---

## WEEK OF AUGUST 11

### SCRIPTURE:

Faith means being sure of the things we hope for. And faith means knowing that something is real even if we do not see it. *Hebrews 11:1 International Children's Bible*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Faith is a hard thing for us to understand – even for adults! Jesus told his disciples that they should have faith like a child. Did you know that you can show others how to have faith? Jesus promises us that even though we can't see him, he is right there beside us; all the time, any time. You are God's child and God loves you so much. Aren't you glad?

### PRAYER:

Faithful God, thank you for always being with us especially when we are afraid or feel alone. Thank you for your constant presence. Help us to share that good news with others. Amen.

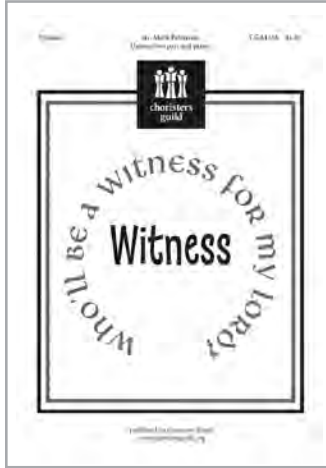
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1506** | *Children of the God Who Made Us* | arr. Hal H. Hopson | Unison/two-part with piano and optional flute

## WEEK OF AUGUST 18

### SCRIPTURE:

So we have many people of faith around us. Their lives tell us what faith means. So let us run the race that is before us and never give up. *Hebrews 12:1a International Children's Bible*



### DEVOTIONAL:

I love how the writer of Hebrews tells us that we are surrounded by people who love us and care for us. You have people who care about you and encourage you. One of the children in our choir recently sang a solo. She was so nervous. Afterwards, LOTS of people told her how proud they were of her and hoped she would sing again because she helped them worship God! She was surrounded by people who were encouraging her! You are surrounded by people who want to encourage you and want to help you to do your best for God, too.

### PRAYER:

Encouraging God, help us to feel the encouragement of others at church. Remind us to be encouragers, too. We want to be a witness for you. Amen.

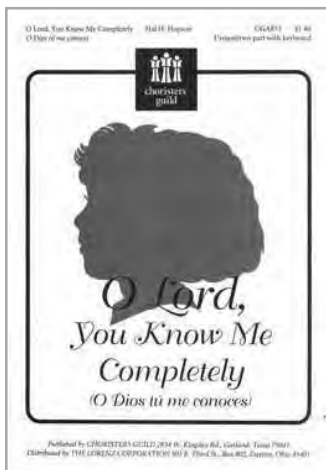
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1138** | *Witness* | arr. Mark Patterson | Unison/two-part with piano

## WEEK OF AUGUST 25

### SCRIPTURE:

Lord, you have examined me. You know all about me. You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know my thoughts before I think them. *Psalms 139:1-2 International Children's Bible (extended reading Psalm 139:1-5)*



### DEVOTIONAL:

From the moment that you were created, God knew all about you. As a matter of fact, God is the one who made you! WOW! God knows everything about you. That can be a little scary, but it can also be awesome. There is nowhere you can go that God isn't there. Isn't that amazing news? The Psalmist reminds us that God has his hand on us. Just think, it is kind of like God always patting you on the shoulder, especially when it has been a hard day. That is beyond cool!

### PRAYER:

Creator God, you made us! We are thankful that no matter where we go or what we do, you are there, always loving us. Thank you, God, for keeping your hand on us! Amen.

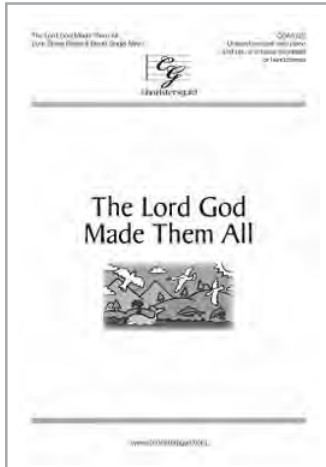
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA833** | *Lord, You Know Me Completely (O Dios tu me conoces)* | Hal H. Hopson | Unison/two-part with keyboard

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 1

### SCRIPTURE:

I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. *Psalms 139:14 International Children's Bible*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Did you know that you are amazing and wonderful to God? You are! God knew that the world needed you and God made you for a special purpose. It is kind of neat to think about how God has something that only you can do. Continue listening for God's still, small voice. Isn't it special that he has a job just for you?

### PRAYER:

Creator God, you made each of us to do special things in this world. Help us to listen to you every day so we can know how to be your helpers. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

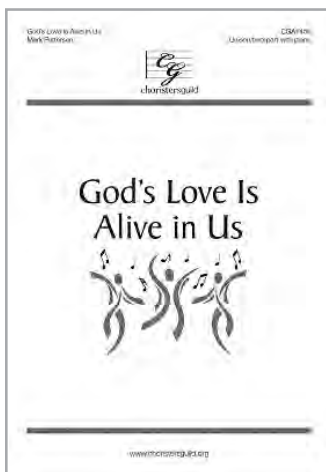
**CGA1322** | *The Lord God Made Them All* | Lynn Shaw Bailey & Becki Slagle Mayo | Unison/two-part with piano and opt. 3 octaves handbells or handchimes

---

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 8

### SCRIPTURE:

Honor and glory to the King that rules forever! He cannot be destroyed and cannot be seen. Honor and glory forever and ever to the only God. Amen. *1 Timothy 1:17 International Children's Bible*



### DEVOTIONAL:

What does it mean to honor God? Honor means to respect someone highly. What about glory? In the Bible it means we give importance to God. Paul wrote to Timothy to remind him to respect and give importance to God always. Timothy was a young man when he met Paul. Paul was his teacher. Paul wrote letters to Timothy to encourage him to keep doing what God wanted him to do. The letters remind us to respect and honor God, too! What are some ways that you can honor God?

### PRAYER:

Honorable God, we want to give you honor and glory every day. Help us grow to respect you and give you glory. Help us to keep doing the things that you want us to do. Amen.

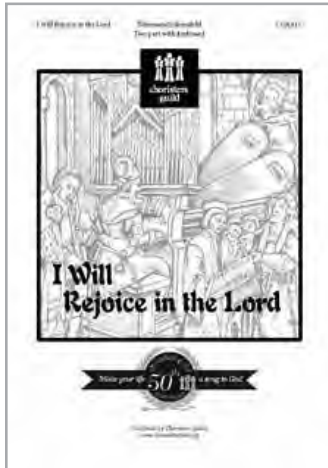
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1456** | *God's Love is Alive in Us* | Mark Patterson | Unison/two-part with piano (organ score available separately)

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15

### SCRIPTURE:

I will praise the Lord at all times. His praise is always on my lips. My whole being praises the Lord. The poor will hear and be glad. Tell the greatness of the Lord with me. Let us praise his name together. *Psalm 34:1-3 International Children's Bible*



### DEVOTIONAL:

It is easy to think about praising God with our voices; but how does our whole being praise God? I have a new kitten. He is soft and fluffy and sweet, but sometimes he can be a rascal! Sometimes, when he is especially excited about something, his whole body will quiver with excitement. I think that might be what it is like to praise God with your whole being. We are so excited to praise God that we just can't help but quiver all over. As you worship God this week, think about ways that your whole being can praise him. Let's praise his name together!

### PRAYER:

Great God, we want to praise you with our whole beings. Help us to tell others about how wonderful you are. May your praises always be on our lips as we sing and pray to you. Amen.

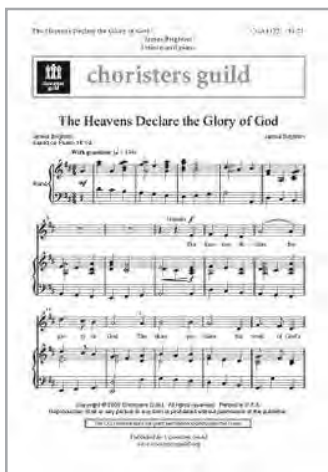
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA817** | *I Will Rejoice in the Lord* | arr. William M. Schoenfeld | Two-Part with keyboard and opt. cello

## WEEK OF WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22

### SCRIPTURE:

The heavens tell the glory of God. And the skies announce what his hands have made. *Psalm 19:1 International Children's Bible*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Last year we had some amazing events that happened in the skies. Where we live, we had a total solar eclipse, a total lunar eclipse, several "super moons" and some spectacular meteor showers. Those events made me think about Psalm 19:1. Even the sky tells us about how incredible and awesome God is. As spectacular as these events were, they cannot compare to God. God made the sun, the moon, and the stars. God made every person, and

said it was good! Let's thank God for all creation – especially each other.

### PRAYER:

Creator God, you made the sun, moon, and stars, and you made each of us, too. Thank you for all of creation. Help us to tell others of your glory. Amen.

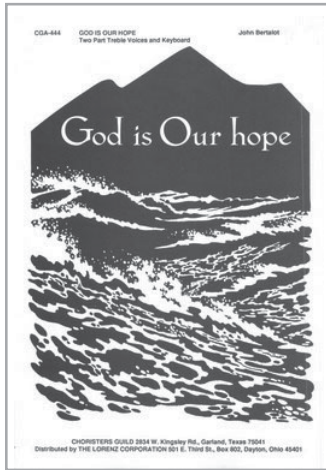
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1172** | *The Heavens Declare the Glory of God* | James Brighton | Unison

## WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 29

### SCRIPTURE:

God is our protection and our strength. He always helps in times of trouble...God says, "Be still and know that I am God. I will be praised in all the nations. I will be praised throughout the earth." *Psalm 46:1,10 International Children's Bible*



### DEVOTIONAL:

It is so nice to know that God is our protector and our strength! God doesn't just sit in heaven and listen to our prayers; God is present with us in every situation – good and bad, and is ready to help us. We simply have to ask. Verse 10 reminds us that we don't need to be anxious about anything because God is with us. We can be calm and rest well because we know that God is with us. God is a truly awesome God!

### PRAYER:

Protector God, thank you for protecting us at all times. Thank you for loving us and for always being with us. Help us to see you in everything, everywhere. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA444** | *God is Our Hope* | John Bertalot | Two parts



*The Children's Choir of Mars Hill Baptist Church recently presented a musical under the direction of Sharon Welsch.*



**Sharon Howell Welsch** is the Associate Pastor, Minister of Music and Christian Education at Mars Hill Baptist Church in Mars Hill, North Carolina. She is an ordained Baptist minister who holds a Doctor of Worship Studies degree from the Robert E. Webber Institute of Worship Studies. She lives in Mars Hill with her husband, Bill, and is the co-founder of *The Lord's Harvest*, a food ministry that helps to feed 1,790 families per month in Madison and surrounding counties. She and Bill have three children, eight grandchildren and five, (yes five), cats. She loves reading, writing, gardening, bird watching and praying in color. Her most recent published writing project is the *Children's Christmas Program for Growing in Grace*, Fall 2016.





# News from National: Connecting Through Events

BY PAM HARRIS  
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

---

Choristers Guild isn't a what, it's a who. Lots of whos actually, from the composers who write our music to the singers who bring it to life, and of course, the choir directors who lead the way.

The best way to see Choristers Guild in action is to attend one of our events. Workshops and festivals for all ages are developed and presented once or twice a year from Choristers Guild chapters across the country. Here is where you can meet with peers and learn from each other and a variety of talented clinicians. Here is where you can bring in your choristers to learn and sing together.

And it's all thanks to members like you, giving generously of their time to offer these opportunities in their communities. Thank you to these dedicated members!

The national office provides promotional support for chapter events, featuring these events on the [choristersguild.org](http://choristersguild.org) website, in social media, and in *The Chorister*. For events with 100+ attendees, we may also send a promotional email on your behalf. We want to use our resources to spread the word about these wonderful events.

Speaking of ... we'd like to highlight the workshops coming in 2020 from two of our largest chapters, Dallas and Atlanta. (The past few years, these events took place over the same weekend, but this year you could potentially attend both!)

## **JANUARY 10-11: DALLAS CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP AT LOVERS LANE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Worship, learn, network, and grow together as church music practitioners at the Dallas Church Music Workshop.

You're invited to take part in engaging classes and learn from world-class clinicians, with music educators eligible to receive up to six CPE credits through the Texas Education Agency. Plus, experience creative and meaningful worship, resources from plentiful vendors, practical reading sessions, and connection with friends and fellow church musicians.

### **Clinicians are:**

- Adult Voices: Dana Effler
- Worship: Joe Stobaugh
- Elementary: Sandy Knudson
- Youth Voices: Dan Baker
- Preschool: Monica Awbrey
- Handbells: Ron Mallory

Class descriptions, bios, travel/hotel accommodations, and registration can be found on the chapter website: [www.dallaschaptercgc.com](http://www.dallaschaptercgc.com).

## **JANUARY 17-18: ATLANTA 50TH ANNIVERSARY MIDWINTER WORKSHOP AT PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Choristers Guild has marked 70 years since inception, and our Atlanta friends are right up there in celebrating 50 years! "In celebration of it being our 50th Midwinter, we have several special 'extras' to honor the chapter and demonstrate our Atlanta community," said Meg Granum, chapter president.

On Friday night, January 17, there will be a catered dinner to enjoy fellowship among chapter members, as well as honor former board members and reminisce about years past. Also on Friday night, there will be a hymn festival featuring three of the top Atlanta choral ensembles – the Gwinnett Young Singers, the Shallowford Presbyterian Chancel Choir, and the Atlanta Master Chorale. During this hymn festival, "we will premiere a commissioned work by our own Becki Slagle Mayo."

The Atlanta Chapter works to serve the greater Southeast, not just those who live in the North Georgia area. The Midwinter Workshop regularly draws in Choristers Guild members from surrounding states such as North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama. "In the past few years, we've been thrilled to have church musicians from as far away as New York and California join us for Midwinter," said Meg. "Our hope is that this year especially, we will have an influx of musicians from chapters around the nation join us for a weekend of celebration, continuing education, and inspiration."

In addition to reaching out to other chapters, Atlanta is closely communicating with the leadership for the ACDA Children's Choir Directors Retreat. This retreat is being held in Atlanta on the same weekend, but there are only a few hours of overlap on Saturday.

"We invite and warmly welcome all our ACDA colleagues to join us on Friday and Saturday morning (or even all of Saturday) to make the most of their time in Atlanta," says Meg. "We particularly hope that several of our ACDA friends will join us Friday evening for the dinner and hymn festival, and encourage them to take part in the incredible workshops we'll be offering as part of our regular (and stellar) workshop line-up."

### **Workshop leaders include:**

- Adult Choirs: Eric Nelson
- Youth Choirs: Emily Floyd
- Children's Choirs: Mark Patterson
- Preschool Choirs: Lynn Kleiner

You can find information on upcoming Choristers Guild events (including conferences where we have clinicians, reading sessions, or booths) at [choristersguild.org](http://choristersguild.org) under All Events. So many great opportunities, which one will be the right one for you?

**Sing from the heart!**

**-Pam**



# DALLAS CHURCH MUSIC WORKSHOP

2  
0  
2  
0

Dana Effler  
Adult Voices

Joe Stobaugh  
Worship

Sandy Knudson  
Elementary

Dan Baker  
Youth Voices

Monica Awbrey  
Preschool



Ron Mallory  
Handbells

January 10-11  
[dallaschaptercg.com](http://dallaschaptercg.com)

## Celebrate with us!

Atlanta Chapter celebrates 50 years in January



### 2020 Mid-Winter Workshop

January 17-18, 2020  
Peachtree Road UMC  
Atlanta, Georgia

### Choristers, Join the Celebration in Atlanta

It's the Atlanta Chapter's 50th anniversary, and we invite you to join the celebration at our Mid-Winter Workshop in January. Highlights include:

#### Great Clinicians

Adult Choirs: Eric Nelson  
Youth Choirs: Emily Floyd  
Children's Choirs: Mark Patterson  
Preschool Choirs: Lynn Kleiner

#### Friday Night Banquet

#### Friday Night Hymn Festival featuring:

The Atlanta Master Chorale  
The Gwinnett Young Singers  
The Shallowford Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

#### Commissioned Anthem by:

Composer Becki Slage Mayo

#### Learn More:

[www.cgatlanta.org](http://www.cgatlanta.org)

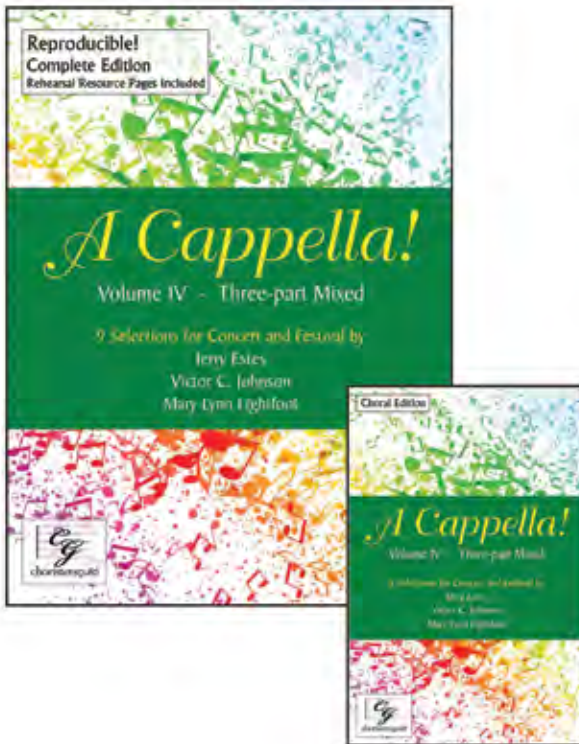


choristersguild

12404 PARK CENTRAL DRIVE  
SUITE 100  
DALLAS, TX 75251

DATED MATERIAL  
DO NOT DELAY

NON-PROFIT  
ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID



### NINE SELECTIONS FOR CONCERT AND FESTIVAL BY JERRY ESTES, VICTOR C. JOHNSON AND MARY LYNN LIGHTFOOT

Volume IV in the popular **A Cappella!** series features nine concert and festival selections for young and developing Three-part Mixed choirs from creative writers Jerry Estes, Victor C. Johnson and Mary Lynn Lightfoot. The **Complete Edition** is reproducible and also includes a *Rehearsal Resource Page* for each piece, a unique teaching/rehearsal tool which features Solfege; Vocabulary; and Preparation and Extension activities carefully crafted for each selection by Victor C. Johnson. **The Choral Edition**, ideal for use as a judge's copy or for your singers, is not reproducible and the *Rehearsal Resource Pages* are not included. Comprised of one spiritual arrangement, two folk song arrangements and six original selections in a variety of styles, this collection is an exceptional value and a great resource for your music library.

*Cantate!* (Victor C. Johnson); *Rainsong* (Mary Lynn Lightfoot); *Little Liza Jane* (Arr. by Jerry Estes); *An Irish Blessing* (Mary Lynn Lightfoot); *Elijah Rock* (Arr. by Victor C. Johnson); *Home on the Range* (Arr. by Jerry Estes); *A Joyful Alleluia* (Mary Lynn Lightfoot); *Afternoon on a Hill* (Victor C. Johnson); *Song Down in My Soul* (Jerry Estes)

- CGE319 Complete Edition (Reproducible; Rehearsal Resource Pages included) ..... \$44.95
- CGE320 Choral Edition (Not reproducible; Rehearsal Resource Pages not included) ..... \$9.95

# the chorister

RESOURCES FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

October/November 2019

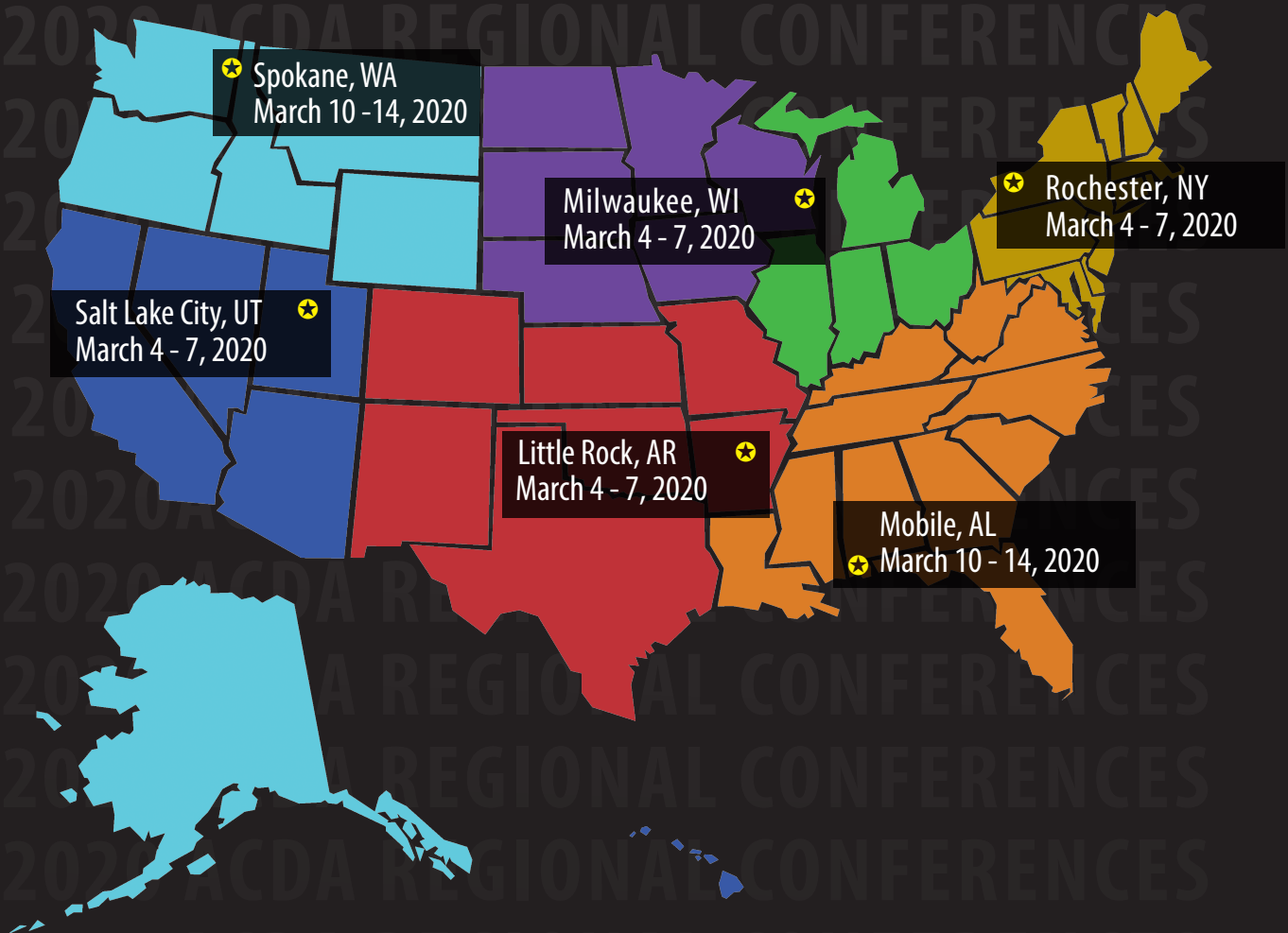
Volume 71 | Issue 3

**Kathy Lowrie:  
Celebrating 30 Years  
With Choristers Guild**



  
choristersguild

# 2020 ACDA REGIONAL CONFERENCES



**NORTHWESTERN REGION**

**WESTERN REGION**

**NORTH CENTRAL REGION AND  
CENTRAL REGION**

**SOUTHWESTERN REGION**

**EASTERN REGION**

**SOUTHERN REGION**

**WWW.ACDA.ORG**

**Registration Opens October 2019**

## October/November 2019

### CHORISTERS GUILD

12404 Park Central Dr. Ste. 100  
Dallas, TX 75251-1802  
800.246.7478 or 469.398.3606  
choristersguild.org

*The Chorister* is published bimonthly. Choristers Guild is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, religious and educational corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

### Choristers Guild Staff

#### DAWN JANTSCH

Executive Director  
djantsch@choristersguild.org

#### PAM HARRIS

Director of Marketing  
pharris@choristersguild.org

#### KATHY LOWRIE

Handbell and Instrumental Editor  
klowrie@choristersguild.org

#### KATIE HOUTS

Sacred Choral Editor  
khouts@choristersguild.org

#### VICTOR C. JOHNSON

School Choral Editor  
vjohnson@choristersguild.org

#### KAROL KIMMELL AND

#### CHRIS NEMEC

Choristers Guild  
Institute Directors

#### SUSAN EERNISSE

*The Chorister* Editor  
seernisse@choristersguild.org

#### COLLEEN OATES

Director of Customer Enhancement  
coates@choristersguild.org

#### RUSSELL ALMAND

Membership Enhancement  
ralmand@choristersguild.org

#### LAUREN CARTER

Membership Enhancement  
Coordinator  
lcarter@choristersguild.org

#### Advertising

advertising@choristersguild.org  
or (469) 398-3606, ext. 227

#### The Chorister Design

Mara Dawn Dockery

#### Cover photo credit

*Kathy Lowrie, Composer Sandra Eithun, and the Twin Cities Bronze.*

- 2 **Thirty Years! What a Legacy!**  
by Susan Eernisse,  
*The Chorister* Editor
- 3 **Kathy Lowrie: From Cover to Cover**  
by Katie Houts,  
Sacred Choral Editor
- 4 **Instrumentals for any Combination**  
by Russell Almand
- 6 **So You Have an Elementary Band at Your Church?**  
by Lee Afdahl
- 8 **Anthem Feature:  
*Songs and Seasons***  
by Katie Houts & Susan Eernisse
- 9 **Sticky Note Scavenger Hunt**  
by Susan Eernisse
- 10 **Celebrating Kathy Lowrie,  
Handbell and Instrumental Editor**  
By Dawn Jantsch
- 12 **Chapter Events**
- 13 **Children's Choir Devotionals**  
by Patty Nelson
- 18 **Members Remember**  
by Cynthia L. Dean
- 19 **News from National:  
New Partners in Music and Mission**  
By Dawn Jantsch, Executive Director  
and Pam Harris, Director of Marketing

#### MEMBER AREA ACCESS

Can't remember your password or user name to log in as a member? Go to "Member Log-In" and click the "Forgot Your Logon Information" link. Type in the requested information and click "submit". You will receive an email with everything you need.

#### GET CONNECTED

There's a lot to like about Choristers Guild on the web. Our Facebook page is a place to connect with other members, share ideas and get info on special offers and new music. Like us at [facebook.com/ChoristersGuild](https://facebook.com/ChoristersGuild).



## Board of Directors

### TERRY GOOLSBY

President  
Dallas, TX

### TERI LARSON

Past-President  
Maple Grove, MN

### ANDREW MASETTI

Secretary-Treasurer  
Westfield, NJ

### STEPHANIE MCILWAIN MILLER

Bellevue, WA

### TODD ARANT

Apex, NC

### JOHN SUTTON

Altadena, CA

### RUTH SZUCS

Richmond, VA

### SANDRA ROSALES

Santa Ana, CA

## Covenant Society

*Please consider joining our Covenant Society—those who have included Choristers Guild in their will or other estate plans:*

### LARRY K. BALL

### BETTY BEDSOLE

### JUDY AND LARRY BRITTS

### REV. RICHARD F. COLLMAN

### JUDITH E. DARDAGANIAN

### JANET M. DAVIDSON

### NORMAN AND ETHEL GEIST

### TERRY AND PAM GOOLSBY

### C. MICHAEL HAWN

### DAWN JANTSCH

### SUE ELLEN PAGE AND

### ERIC JOHNSON

### JOANNA E. PRETZ-ANDERSON

### JIM AND STEPHANIE

### RINDELAUB

### MARY LOUISE AND

### DON VANDYKE

### PRISCILLA B. ZIMMERMANN

*Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission, unless otherwise indicated. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return and safety of artwork, photographs, or materials. Acceptance of advertising or rental of mailing list does not imply endorsement.*



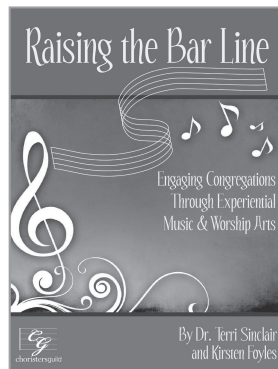
# Thirty Years! What a Legacy

BY SUSAN EERNISSE  
THE CHORISTER EDITOR

Where were you thirty years ago? I had just finished graduate school and was teaching in a public school in rural Georgia. Just think, three decades ago Kathy Lowrie was just beginning her journey with Choristers Guild. I can't imagine Choristers Guild without Kathy's touch on just about everything we do. She is an artist, a musician, an amazing editor, and a great colleague and friend to all who know her.

A few years ago, I was editing *Raising the Bar Line*, a resource written by Terri Sinclair and Kirsten Foyles. There were so many questions for which I had no answers. Who did I call? Kathy Lowrie, of course. She patiently helped me work out the details of the design plan, and even designed the perfect cover. I don't know how her head holds so much information and experience. She is an editing wonder!

Kathy is truly a gift – a blessing to all of us at Choristers Guild. I hope you will read Dawn Jantsch's lovely tribute to Kathy and enjoy the accompanying photos. We thank God for the gift of Kathy to us, and we thank Kathy for the continuing excellence in all her work with Choristers Guild.



\*In case you may have missed this product it is a great resource for music directors and worship leaders. **CGBK75** *Raising the Bar Line: Engaging Congregations Through Experiential Music & Worship Arts* by Dr. Terri Sinclair and Kirsten Ellefson Foyles is available from [www.choristersguild.org](http://www.choristersguild.org).

Keep singing the song!

-Susan





# Kathy Lowrie: From Cover to Cover

BY KATIE HOUTS  
SACRED CHORAL EDITOR

One of my favorite tasks before (and throughout) the choir year is preparing choir folders. I rarely hand this project to volunteers for a few reasons:

- After days and weeks of creative planning and pedagogical study, this simple task of sorting and stuffing is a welcomed break.
- It allows me the chance to focus on each child individually, praying for them and their family as I prepare the child's music.
- Seeing familiar anthem covers can call to mind fond or funny (or – let's be real – trying) memories of a specific group of kids...as well as gratitude for their spiritual and musical growth.
- I get to study the names and images on the covers of new anthems, giving thanks for composers, lyricists, arrangers, and artists.

Each time I place a Choristers Guild anthem into my choir folders, I smile and give thanks for one phenomenal woman: Kathy Lowrie. Kathy is the handbell and instrumental music editor at CG, and she also deftly designs hundreds of publication covers each year – each sacred and school octavo, each handbell book and anthem, each instrumental collection, each school collection, and more. We call her Super Woman – because we don't know how she possibly does it all. With each sacred choral release, Kathy provides vibrant anthem designs that inspire singers of all ages. Directors often comment on our colorful cover designs, appreciating the wonderful cover images that create conversations about the music before one even opens the score.

Kathy was an invaluable colleague when I began my career at CG, kindly offering her vast publishing knowledge, her editorial expertise, and her marketing perspectives shaped by years of experience as well as an eye toward future needs and trends. In celebration of a career that now spans three decades at Choristers Guild, I hope you'll enjoy reading the tributes to Kathy in this issue. We are so thankful for her kind and gracious presence on the CG team, inspiring all of us to bring our very best to our work.

Here's to you, Kathy!  
-Katie

## THE AMERICAN KODÁLY INSTITUTE

AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

### SUMMER MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

- OAKE Endorsed Kodály Certification Levels I, II, III
- M.Ed in Kodály Music Education
- Kodály methodology based on current research
- Teaching Lab with AKI Demonstration Singers
- Build and play dulcimer, guitar, and ukulele
- Learn hundreds of songs, folk dances, and play parties
- Elementary General or Secondary Choral Track

**Apply Today!**  
**Courses run July 11-31, 2020.**  
**Attend a Free Saturday Workshop—**  
**Register Online!**

*The American Kodály Institute is endorsed by  
the Organization of American Kodály Educators.*

HOW WILL YOU DRIVE EDUCATION  
**FORWARD?** 



**LOYOLA**  
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

School of Education

4501 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21210

**LOYOLA.EDU/KODALY**

Program Information:  
240-993-9181  
lkmcdougle@loyola.edu

Application Information:  
410-617-7741  
mjpalmer@loyola.edu

# Instrumentals for any Combination

BY RUSSELL ALMAND

Instrumentalists may be found in our congregations, but it can be difficult to bring them together as an ensemble. Challenges include a lack of instruments, odd combinations of instruments, or limited rehearsal times. I've encountered different combinations of musical talents within congregations while serving in a variety of churches, both small and large. One church had an instrumental section including trumpet, horn, flute, and xylophone. Another church had a clarinet, violin, and three trumpets. And finally a third had only a flute and a trombone. I will tell you there are not many duets written for flute and trombone!

Most churches include people who are eager to serve the body using the gifts God has given them, yet as a music leader, it is often difficult to find avenues and appropriate literature to include these instrumental combinations in worship services. Composer/arranger Stan Pethel has recognized these difficulties and has created a set of wonderful resources to help. In three collections published by Choristers Guild (*Hymns of Praise*, *Carols of Christmas*, and *Spirituals of Faith*), he has provided a way for churches to order only the parts for the instruments they need while being able to orchestrate an ensemble that fits together no matter what skill level or instruments are involved.

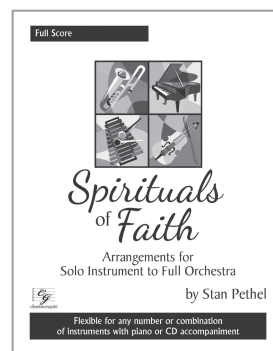
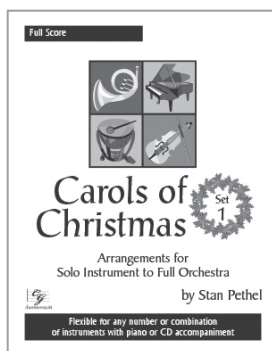
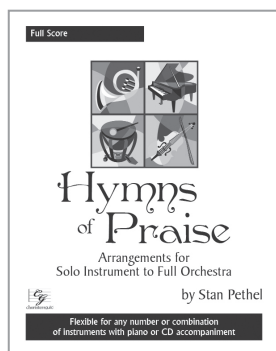
## HOW IT WORKS

Each instrumentalist is given a book which includes both a **solo option** and an **ensemble option** for every piece. After selecting the song to be performed, the

director chooses one instrument to play the solo option while the others play the ensemble option. While it still may sound odd to have a flute solo accompanied by a trombone, the other parts can be supported by other resources. The accompaniment CD that can be purchased along with these collections fills out the rest of the orchestration by playing a recording of all of the ensemble parts. In other settings one might utilize the piano part to bring the ensemble together. Therefore, you can have a flute solo accompanied by an entire orchestra or a piano while still allowing your other instrumentalists to be involved.

The way this resource is designed makes it flexible for any size church with any combination of instruments. Whether you have a full orchestra that can fill the pit or a few instrumentalists who want to serve in any way that they can, you can put together an ensemble that can worship God through the talents and abilities that God has given them. Through using this resource, you can provide a level of excellence and musicality that is both glorifying to God and enjoyable for your musicians.

Instrumental music is a wonderful way to unify the talents of younger, less experienced musicians with more seasoned, mature instrumentalists. In the church previously mentioned, we had a retired trombonist who was extremely gifted and had played for his entire life, and we had a teenage flutist who was heavily involved in her school marching band but wanted an opportunity to use her gifts in the church. Music allowed us to have these two people who may have



never known each other otherwise cross paths and serve together. What a great picture of true community that the church needs today!

Stan Pethel's arrangements within these books give churches ultimate flexibility while providing an excellent performance that glorifies God and involves

the maximum number of musicians in service to Him. Take an inventory of the musicians in your church and see what type of combination you can arrange as we gather people together to worship.



**Russell Almand** is the Membership Enhancement Associate for the Choristers Guild team, working to strategize and implement new ways to take care of our members' musical needs. He also manages the Choristers Guild YouTube page, something you should definitely check out if you haven't already. His three biggest passions are music, teaching, and discipleship – things that go hand-in-hand with Choristers Guild's mission. Russell is currently working towards a Master of Theology at Dallas Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of Maranatha Baptist University with a Bachelor's degree in Pastoral Studies/Counseling. He is a former member of the Cast of Bronze Handbell Ensemble in Dallas and serves as a music leader in his local church.

CALVIN INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

WORSHIP.CALVIN.EDU



Grants to

## **WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES**

stimulate thoughtful and energetic work that will result in worship services that exhibit renewed creativity, theological integrity, and relevance. We encourage grant proposals developed through a collaborative process from congregations, parishes, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, and other worshipping communities in North America.

**APPLY BY JANUARY 10, 2020**

*[worship.calvin.edu/grants](http://worship.calvin.edu/grants)*

# So You Have an Elementary Band at Your Church?

BY LEE AFDAHL

---

This is a commonly asked question of our music staff at First Presbyterian Church in Rochester, Minnesota. This season marks our twentieth of offering young instrumentalists the opportunity to learn to play band instruments. When the local school district reduced funding to instrumental programs as a cost saving measure, children younger than sixth grade could no longer begin the "band experience." This situation came at the same time that some of us on the church staff thought we could develop an after school arts program. Concurrent to that idea, we hired a music assistant who was well-qualified in leading elementary band programs. So we abandoned the broader vision for the arts program and developed "First Players" – our band program, offering "meet the instrument night", instrumental lessons, full band experience, an annual band camp, and performance opportunities for fifth graders.

Because of the success of the beginning band program, we ultimately expanded the offering to fourth graders, too. The result of this move created two ensembles: a Beginning Band for fourth and fifth graders, and a Concert Band for experienced fifth graders and older students, often including not only middle school children, but a few high school players as well. Most of the children whose instrumental experience began with us, continued to participate in their own school bands.

The creative leaders leading this program, often bring in adult specialists in certain areas (brass, percussion, woodwinds) to enhance the experience for the players. High school "graduates" of our program are called upon to be mentors to the younger players, especially during a week of band camp each August. Two to three concerts are offered each season, performing in the sanctuary to a full house of loyal family and friends of the church's program. Outreach concerts are performed for local retirement communities, fund raisers, a float in the annual parade of Rochesterfest, and a night at one of the local baseball team's home games.

Members of the church are offered free tuition for our First Players program. Non-members pay a nominal fee each season to support the leadership, and to purchase music and equipment. The church has generously remodeled part of the church to accommodate a "band room"...a place to call their own!

Our band directors through the years were Jennifer Taylor Bleckiner and Katie Kuisle. Janine Yanisch is the current director. Each director has brought their unique style, experience, and gifts to the benefit of our young players. Some of the players who have continued through high school and college have made careers in music. Perhaps this early start to their experiences gave them encouragement and joy to continue to make music.



*Rochester Honker's Game: First Players play pep band music and the national anthem every year.*

## SO YOU HAVE AN ELEMENTARY BAND AT YOUR CHURCH?

---



*Rochesterfest Parade playing pep band songs.*



*First Players' annual band camp the week before school starts.*



**Lee J. Afdahl** is the Director of Music Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church of Rochester, Minnesota. A graduate of Luther College, Decorah, IA, Lee is a church musician with nearly fifty years of experience in leading active programs of choral and handbell ensembles in Michigan and Minnesota. Lee is frequently a conductor and clinician for handbell conferences, choral workshops, and church music conferences internationally. He has conducted festival conferences for the Handbell Musicians of America at the local, area, and national levels, for handbell classes of American Guild of Organists, Fellowship of United Methodists, Presbyterian Association of Musicians, and international handbell events in England, Japan, South Korea, and Australia. Mr. Afdahl has served the Handbell Musicians of America as Michigan Chair for Area 5, Chair of Area 7, and is a Past President of the national board of the organization. He represented the organization as a conductor at the International Handbell Symposia in Adelaide, Australia in 1994, Liverpool, UK in 2012 and Jeju, South Korea in 2014. Lee has taught intermediate and advanced conducting for HMA Seminars, and currently teaches conducting for certification for HMA. Lee is an active organ recitalist and published composer and arranger of handbell, instrumental, and choral music with nearly one hundred compositions and arrangements in print. Lee is a member of the Rochester Chapter of Choristers Guild.



# Anthem Feature: *Songs and Seasons*

BY MICHAEL BEDFORD

CGA540 | SEASONAL ANTHEMS FOR UNISON VOICES  
WITH KEYBOARD AND OPTIONAL HANDBELLS

USES AND TIPS BY KATIE HOUTS AND SUSAN EERNISSE

---

## DESCRIPTION AND IDEAS FOR USE

This month's musical feature is a short collection of seasonal songs for unison voices, piano, and optional two-octave handbells. Composer Michael Bedford highlights the sights and sounds of the seasons in this set of seven anthems. Contents include songs for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter, and Pentecost/Trinity. The optional handbell part for 4-6 bells is simple enough for choristers to ring as they sing.

Each song is easily taught and can be incorporated into worship in a variety of ways – a choral prelude, an introit, a hymn introduction, or to accompany a seasonal liturgical action. Here are a few ideas:

- **Advent:** sing before or during the lighting of the Advent wreath/candles
- **Christmas:** use as a hymn introduction for "Joy to the World" (key of D) and incorporate the handbell ostinato during the congregational hymn
- **Epiphany:** sing as an Offertory anthem, connecting to the narrative of the kings' gifts
- **Lent:** use as a response to Confession & Forgiveness/Absolution
- **Palm Sunday:** a perfect fit as a palm processional; keep repeating as long as needed
- **Easter:** sing as an Easter Introit, a festive Gospel Acclamation, or a hymn introduction for "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" (key of C)
- **Pentecost/Trinity:** a lovely musical refrain for litany or prayer; the pianist can quietly underscore the spoken litany/prayer between verses

## TEACHING TIPS

"An Advent Song" will be quickly 'caught' by even your youngest singers. There are so many built-in opportunities to use solfege patterns. The opening phrase is a simple "sol-mi-la-sol-mi-mi-sol-sol-mi-la-sol-mi." What a great application piece for your emerging music readers! If you do not have access to handbells you can easily substitute other classroom instruments. The simple instrument patterns would work beautifully on hand chimes, resonator bells, metallophone, or some combination of these.

"Christ is Born" is another great teaching piece that will enhance a Christmas Eve/Day service. The opening 5-note scale patterns could be reinforced with a glockenspiel. Likewise, the falling fourths of the "Noel, Noel" response would sound terrific on hand chimes (D and A). This would be a lovely piece to underscore a Nativity tableau adding so much meaning to the Christmas story.

"Star Bright" is a great answer to preparing an anthem for Epiphany so quickly on the heels of Christmas and the Christmas break from choir rehearsals. This simple melody combined with the child-like text that includes questions about the wise men will add meaning to the familiar narrative of the Matthew account. As in the previous two pieces the instrument parts are simple, but if you are in a time crunch, invite your youth or adult handbell ringers to play with the children's voices.

Don't put this collection away after the Christmas/Epiphany services are over. The other anthems will make preparation for the remaining seasons of the church year so easy. Thanks to Michael Bedford for this great collection for unison singers!



# Sticky Note Scavenger Hunt

BY SUSAN EERNISSE

---

Are you in need of some activities to add zing to your weekly rehearsals? Maybe you haven't had time to search for some fresh ideas. Let me help! Grab some colorful sticky notes and join me on a scavenger hunt through some great Choristers Guild resources that are probably on your bookshelf right now.\*

## **CGBK66** *Sing Together Children* by Madeline Bridges

- Page 38 "Obwasimisa" is a stone-passing song from West Africa, and is perfect for the last night before fall or winter break or any time you need to redirect your group's energy.
- Page 51 "One Man Went to Mow" and "One More River to Cross" are classic cumulative songs that will help as you teach children to sustain their breathing through long choral phrases.

## **CGBK76** *All Hands In! Volume 2* by Brain Hehn and Mark Burrows

This resource includes some percussion activities for your group straight out of scripture that will encourage team building and working together. Teach the basic Bible beat with body percussion or classroom instruments and then layer in the other parts as time permits.

- Page 11 "Ruth and Naomi"
- Page 33 "Many Members, One Body"

## **CGBK73** *Of Primary Importance* Volume III, Susan Eernisse, Editor

- Page 12 As you are working to memorize your fall and Christmas anthems, use some of Heather Potter's memorization activities to make the best use of your rehearsal time.
- Page 46 "God Made Them All" by Lynn Shaw Bailey & Becki Slagle Mayo. Teach this call and response to your choir(s) for use in upcoming Thanksgiving services. Include some percussion instruments for added color and interest.

## **CGBK74** *All Things Bright and Beautiful* by Darla Meek

- Page 14 November lesson "Praise the Name of the Lord." Here is an accessible song with handbell accompaniment to use any time but would be especially appropriate for a service of Thanksgiving.

## **CGBK79** *Praise Takes Flight 2! New Heights* by Betsy Henderson, Kimberly Ingram, and Joe Milton

- Page 8 "Welcome One Another" by Betsy Henderson. Keep this activity handy for the night you have a new member join your group. Introduce each other using the rhythmic chant from Romans 15:7.
- Page 9 "Bee By Bee" warm up by Stacy Porter. Here is a fun warm up to try with alliterative appeal! Singers of all ages will benefit from Stacy's helpful teaching tips.
- Page 29 "Jesus Loves Me" simple cups game by Heather Olson. If you have wanted to do a cup passing activity but thought it was too complicated and time consuming, try out Heather's simplified version with the traditional chorus that your singers probably already know!

Wasn't this fun? Did you find them all? Now you have flagged 10 super teaching activities to round out the fall semester of choir.

**\*If you are missing any of these CG products, put a sticky note on this page to remind you to place an order right away.**



# Celebrating Kathy Lowrie, Handbell and Instrumental Editor

THIRTY YEARS RINGING WITH CHORISTERS GUILD  
BY DAWN JANTSCH

Kathy Lowrie, Choristers Guild's handbell and instrumental editor, as well as our key graphic artist, is celebrating 30 years with Choristers Guild in October 2019. Kathy has been an integral part of the history of this 70-year-old organization, and Choristers Guild is blessed to have her on our team.

Kathy has spent most of her life in full-time church music publishing, but she has also worked in music ministry at small churches. "It makes for a heavy workload and busy schedule, but I find it is mutually beneficial to be involved in both the publishing and the hands-on sides of church music," she said.

"I didn't have the privilege of growing up playing handbells," she said. "I was in my early twenties before I had an opportunity to be exposed to the instrument, and had an immediate affinity for them."

Kathy began to expand her involvement and experiences with handbells at every opportunity and began directing in part-time music ministry positions. This culminated in an opportunity for ringing as a member of the Dallas Handbell Ensemble under the direction of the late David Davidson. "It was a phenomenal experience that elevated my appreciation and love for handbells to new heights," she said. "David brought out the very best in us, challenging us to always ring sensitively and artistically as the ensemble made music with our wonderful instrument."

Kathy has brought this expertise and mentorship to her role as handbell editor at Choristers Guild. "There are many church, community and school handbell

*Kathy's start in music began in college. She has a Bachelor of Arts with a major in music and a minor in promotional communications, which includes graduate courses in church music and a liturgical music certification. She is a member of the National Honor Society as a Phi Beta Kappa.*

ensembles that are absolutely thriving, and it is an honor to strive to provide outstanding, quality music for them," she said.

Kathy has a reputation for editing music that is on the cutting edge of this age-old art. Some of the newest pieces in her fall line include *La Vie en Rose*, arranged by Sandra Eithun, and *Africa*, arranged by Carol Lynn Mizell, based on the version by the rock band Toto. Pieces such as these fit the needs of schools and community groups.

But she is also known for her classic sacred pieces. Kathy strives to publish quality 12 bell music so that smaller groups of ringers who don't currently have enough hands to ring two octaves can cultivate interest to eventually expand into a larger group of ringers. "While some may think of Choristers Guild as primarily a resource for children's choirs, our handbell publications serve the needs of ringers of all ages and abilities," she said. "With music spanning level 1 to level 5, and twelve bells to seven octaves, there is truly something for everyone."

Kathy's commitment to handbells is respected by many.

"Kathy Lowrie is the consummate professional. She's open to trying new things and has a great heart and passion for the success of the handbell industry. She also manages to be a great human being. I'm privileged to call her a friend and colleague," said Chris Titko, Church Music Editor for J.W. Pepper.

In the last few years, Kathy has again expanded her role, this time to editing the Choristers Guild instrumental line. This category has created some of the best-sellers in the catalog, such as Stan Pethel's *Carols of Christmas Set One*, *Hymns of Praise*, and the newest line, *Spirituals of*



Group of CG Composers





Kathy, Helen Kemp, and Jane Knappe



Kathy, Ziggy, Lagasse, and Pepper

*Faith.* "These instrumental arrangements are amazingly flexible and can be played by a solo instrumentalist, a small group, or up to a full orchestra, with piano or orchestrated CD accompaniment," she said.

Kathy has also taken the lead on modernizing the Choristers Guild music for the pleasure of the actual chorister. The music has a clean, bright look with a distinctive bar along with appropriate artwork. "Designing covers for our handbell and choral music is something I really enjoy, and I feel it helps add diversity and interest to my responsibilities."

As historian, handbell and instrumental editor, sheet music cover artist, and amazing team member, Kathy had a few thoughts about her long career with this nonprofit organization and its continual renewal. Her contributions help fulfill the Choristers Guild mission to enable leaders to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults.

"My work at Choristers Guild has evolved through the years, and I've enjoyed the challenges of developing new skills and extending my work into new areas," she said. "I feel so privileged to be able to say that I truly enjoy my work."

"It is such a privilege to be able to work with incredible composers and help to share their wonderful compositions and arrangements with musicians around the country and beyond," she continued. "I love creative brainstorming and collaboration."

"Last, but certainly not least, I have the chance to work with the dream team: the Choristers Guild staff," she said. "And, we have terrific community groups who do our demo recordings for us, helping to showcase the work of our amazing composers."

#### *Kathy's Volunteer Work*

- Foster Mother with Tzu Zoo Rescue, a rescue group specializing in shih tzus and Lhasa apsos.
- Second (non-consecutive) 3-year term as the Vice Chair of the Handbell Industry Council

#### *Past*

- President of Greater Dallas Handbell Association
- President of the Twin Cities Chapter of Choristers Guild
- Choristers Guild Regional Chair
- Choristers Guild National Board of Directors



Chris Titko and Kathy

# Chapter Events

---

## JANUARY 10-11, 2020

### Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX

Choristers Guild Dallas Chapter Church Music Workshop

Experience engaging classes, world-class clinicians, creative and meaningful worship, plentiful vendors, practical reading sessions, and connection with friends and fellow church musicians.

For more information, visit: <http://dallaschaptercg.org/>

## JANUARY 17-18, 2020

### Peachtree Road UMC, Atlanta, GA

Choristers Guild Atlanta MidWinter Workshop

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Atlanta Chapter of Choristers Guild

Featured clinicians: Eric Nelson, Emily Floyd, Mark Patterson, Lynn Kleiner

For more information visit: <http://www.cgatlanta.org>

## FEBRUARY 22, 2020

### First Baptist Church, Richmond

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Richmond Area Choristers Guild Children's Choir Festival

Grades 3-5

Conductor: Heather Potter

For more information, contact: Ruth Szucs at [szucs@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:szucs@fbcrichmond.org)

## MARCH 7, 2020

### St. Stephen Catholic Community, Winter Springs, FL

Central Florida Chapter presents its 29th Annual Festival

Conductor: Claire Hodge

For more information visit <http://www.floridachoristers.org/>

### TO LIST YOUR CHAPTER EVENT

*Send your listing to  
[membership@choristersguild.org](mailto:membership@choristersguild.org) with  
complete information. Include dates,  
location, clinicians, and contact  
information. For additional advertising,  
contact [advertising@choristersguild.org](mailto:advertising@choristersguild.org)*

# Children's Choir Devotionals

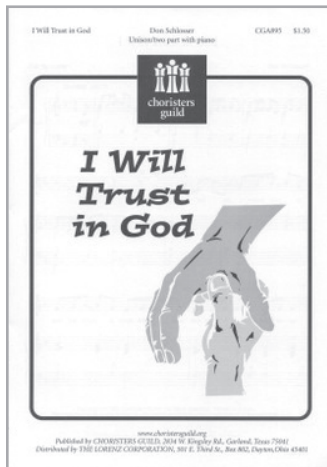
BY PATTY NELSON

---

## WEEK OF OCTOBER 6

### SCRIPTURE:

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. *Psalm 37:5 ESV*



### DEVOTIONAL:

The LORD asks us to be part of his will. He asks us to commit to him and to trust him. When we do that, God acts. Part of trusting God is to allow him to do things his way and in his time. That's the hard part – letting go of what we want and letting God do things his way.

### PRAYER:

Dear Lord, please help us to commit to you and trust you to do what is best for us in your time and in your way. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

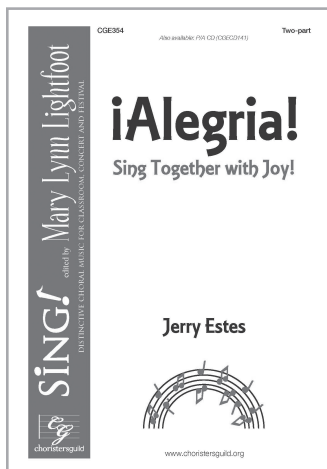
**CGA895** *I Will Trust in God* | Don Schlosser | unison/two-part with piano

---

## WEEK OF OCTOBER 13

### SCRIPTURE:

Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard. *Psalm 66:8 ESV*



### DEVOTIONAL:

What does it mean to bless God? It means to praise him, to thank him, to honor him, to be joyful in him. This verse also gives a clue how to bless God. It says to "let the sound of his praise be heard." One way to do this is to sing with joy to God. The more we sing with joy, the more we can bless God as Scripture instructs us.

### PRAYER:

Dear God, help us to bless you with joyful song. Help us to sing together with joy to you. Help us to praise you always as the Bible instructs us. Guide us as we praise you. Amen.

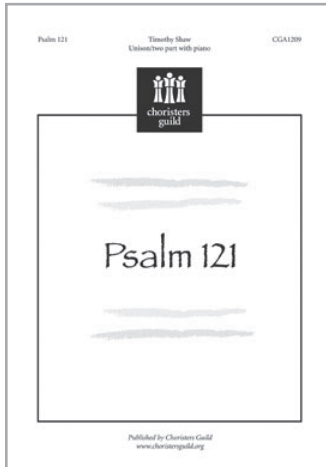
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGE354** *iAlegria! (Sing Together with Joy)* | Jerry Estes | two-part

## WEEK OF OCTOBER 20

### SCRIPTURE:

My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 121:2 ESV*



### DEVOTIONAL:

What kinds of troubles have you had this week? Have you have trouble with your school work or with a friend or with your family? Where do you find help with your troubles? The Bible says that our help comes from God. Sometimes God uses the Bible to help us, and sometimes he uses other people to help us. Think about the help you received this week and give thanks to God.

### PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for the help you sent us this week. Help us to see how you have helped us in the past, and lead us to trust you to help us this week. Thank you for the people you send to help us and for your helpful words found in the Bible. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

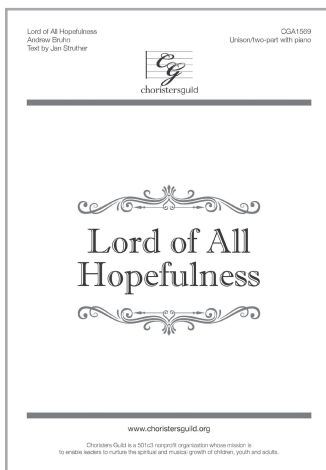
**CGA1209** *Psalm 121* | Timothy Shaw | unison/two-part with piano

---

## WEEK OF OCTOBER 27

### SCRIPTURE:

By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas. *Psalm 65:6 ESV*



### DEVOTIONAL:

What is hope? We use the word hope to say that we wish something would happen. I hope we have hamburgers for dinner, or I hope I can go see a movie this week. In the Bible, hope is not wishing, it is *believing* that God will do what he has promised. God keeps his promises always. We can believe God, and always hope the way the Bible means it.

### PRAYER:

Dear God, help us to hope in you the way the Bible means, and not the way we hope for things we wish to have. Lead us to know that you will always help us if we ask you to do so. Thank you for all the awesome things you do every day. Amen.

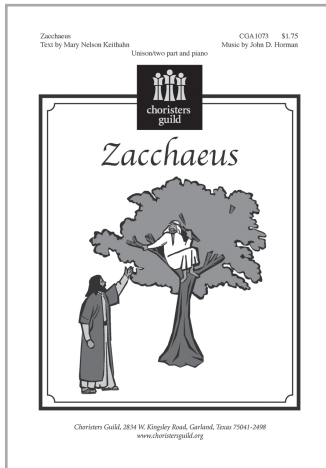
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1569** *Lord of All Hopefulness* | Andrew Bruhn | unison/two-part

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3

### SCRIPTURE:

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." *Luke 19:5 ESV*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Did you know Jesus knows your name?  
Did you know he calls you by name?  
Jesus called Zacchaeus by name and went to his house for dinner. Jesus wants to come to your house, too. Your heart is your house. Jesus wants to live there and be your Savior and Lord.

### PRAYER:

Dear Jesus, thank you for wanting to live in my house, my heart. Thank you for offering to be my Savior and Lord. Help me to welcome you into my heart as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

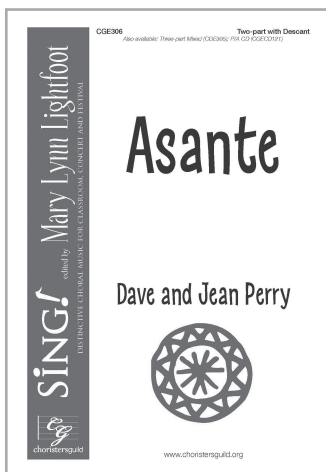
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1073** *Zacchaeus* | John D. Horman  
| unison/two-part with piano

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 10

### SCRIPTURE:

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. *2 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV*



### DEVOTIONAL:

It's the season for being thankful. The Bible has lots of verses about being thankful. This one tells us to be thankful for others who believe in God. Often, we are thankful for things. That's a good thing, but it's more important to be thankful for people and to thank God for those people.

### PRAYER:

Dear God, please help me to always be thankful for the people you put in my life. Help me to tell them thank you and help me remember to thank you for them, too.

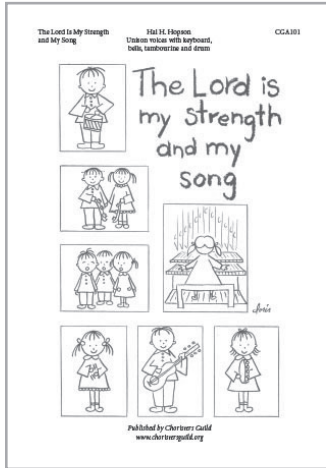
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGE306** *Asante* - Two-part | Dave and Jean Perry | two-part with descant

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 17

### SCRIPTURE:

Behold, God is my salvation: I will trust and will not be afraid for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. *Isaiah 12:2 ESV*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Have you ever tried to do something and were not strong enough? Did you need some help? This verse tells us that God is there to help us and he provides our strength. He also helps us sing our praises to Him. During this time of Thanksgiving, be sure you depend on God to help you to be strong and to sing praises and thanks to him.

### PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for helping us to be strong. Help us to sing praise and thanks to you during the season of Thanksgiving and all year long! Amen.

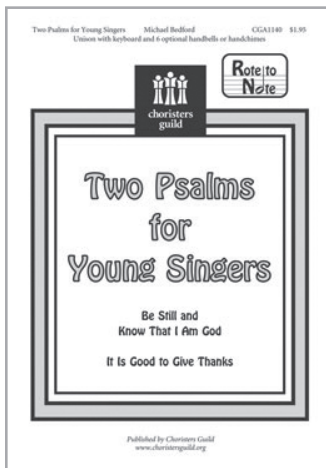
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA101** *The Lord Is My Strength and My Song* | Hal H. Hopson | unison

## WEEK OF NOVEMBER 24

### SCRIPTURE:

Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth! *Psalms 46:10 ESV*



### DEVOTIONAL:

What does it mean to be still? Does it mean you have to be frozen and uncomfortable? No, what God wants us to do is to spend some time with him. How can we tell other people about how wonderful God is if we don't spend any time with him? You can be still with God by reading his Word and talking to him through prayer every day.

### PRAYER:

Dear God, help us find time to read your Word and pray every day. Help us to learn what it means to be still in your presence. Help us to get to know you better. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1140** *Two Psalms for Young Singers* | Michael Bedford | unison with piano and optional handbells/handchimes



*Shawnee Honor Choir Joint Concert with Korean Children's Choir at Oklahoma Baptist University, September 2018, Patty Nelson directing*



**Patty Nelson, Ed.D.** is Associate Professor of Music Education – Vocal at Oklahoma Baptist University. She served at First Baptist Church, Keller, Texas as Organist, Children's Choir Coordinator, and Director of Music Education. She was the founder and director of the Rome Children's Choir (Rome, GA), and is currently the director of the Shawnee Honor Choir. She specializes in elementary education.

**Don't forget  
to smile**



When you shop, Amazon gives.

Choristers Guild is a member of **AmazonSmile**. It is a great way to support CG. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you get the same prices that you would get on [amazon.com](https://amazon.com). Only difference? Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to Choristers Guild.

To get started:

- Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and create an AmazonSmile account.
- Once created, click on "change your charity" and enter Choristers Guild in the search bar.
- After that, press the select button and get to shopping!

**Be a Good  
Neighbor**



Have Tom Thumb donate 1% of your grocery bill to  
Choristers Guild

Choristers Guild is a member of Tom Thumb's **Good Neighbor** program.  
Our account number is:

**10468**

If you already have a Tom Thumb card, take that number to the customer service desk and ask to have it linked to your card. If you don't have a Tom Thumb card but would still like to participate, use this number on your card application.

# Members Remember

*THE CHORISTERS GUILD OFFICE RECENTLY RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING NOTE FROM LONG-TIME MEMBER CYNTHIA DEAN.*

---

Four years ago I retired from 30 years of elementary school music teaching. This year I am retiring from 35 years of church youth choir directing. Choristers Guild has always been there to supply music, rehearsal ideas, and general support. Thank you so much for your wonderful organization. Keep up the good work for the next generation.

God Bless!

**-Cynthia L. Dean,  
Kirkland, WA**



*Rosa Parks Elementary School "Puma Choir", Redmond, WA.*

---

*Choristers Guild congratulates Cynthia on her retirement.  
We appreciate her ongoing support of Choristers Guild, and her long  
tenure leading young people in musical experiences in church and school!*

---



Soprano, **Cynthia Dean**, is a singer with a varied background in the musical arts. She has performed with the Seattle Opera, Everett Symphony, Oregon Bach Festival, and is often a featured soloist at Bellevue Presbyterian Church. In addition to classical music performances Ms. Dean sings jazz, pop, and musical theater. Her life's work has been closely tied to music education where she has directed both school and church choirs for 30 years.





# News from National: New Partners in Music and Mission

BY DAWN JANTSCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AND PAM HARRIS, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

---

The Choristers Guild family is growing! We're proud to announce collaborations with Annie Moses Band and Getty Music, bringing music developed with new artists to our fall music catalog.

The Annie Moses Band is a family group, a classical-crossover ensemble of six siblings with music composed by parents Bill and Robin Wolaver. There is also a non-profit arm, the Annie Moses Foundation, which nurtures the artistic development of families. It was a "wow" moment to realize how much our organizations share in spirit and mission!

Our Annie Moses Band series, faith-filled music to nurture young artists, will launch with five titles. The fall slate:

**CGAMB100** God So Loved the World

Text and Music by Bill Wolaver

Unison with piano

**CGAMB101** A Friend Loves At All Times

Text by Robin Wolaver; Music by Bill Wolaver

Unison with piano

**CGAMB102** So High

Text by Robin Wolaver; Music by Bill Wolaver

Unison/two-part with piano

**CGAMB103** Behold, I Have Loved You

Text and Music by Robin Wolaver; arr. Bill Wolaver

Unison/two-part with piano

**CGAMB104** God Is Our Refuge

Text and Music by Robin Wolaver; arr. James DaSilva

Unison with piano

Annie Wolaver Dupre, named after great-grandmother Annie Moses, is the violinist and lead vocalist for the band. She tells us, "we couldn't be more excited" about this new partnership with Choristers Guild.

"Our parents, Bill and Robin Wolaver, have been songwriting veterans for over 30 years – their creative prowess combined with our classical training have created the crossover sound that makes the Annie Moses Band so unique," she says. "CG's legacy as a publisher that embraces the classical and popular traditions is a perfect fit for us!"

Annie describes the music of Annie Moses Band as the "marriage of creative depth and technical excellence," with that focus clearly seen in the music they are crafting for children, too.

"Choristers Guild shares that same vision and provides us with a home for those creative works," she says. "We can't wait to share this music with a new audience!"

Also brought into the Choristers Guild fold is Getty Music, which you likely recognize as the home of modern hymn writers Keith and Kristyn Getty. Our composers and editors have crafted choral arrangements of three of Getty's most beautiful hymns. Here are the fall titles:

**CGA1607** I Will Wait for You

Text and Music by Jordan Kauflin, Matt Merker, Keith Getty and Stuart Townend; arr. Victor C. Johnson  
SATB with piano

**CGA1608** The Lord Is My Salvation

Text and Music by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Nathan Nockles and Jonas Myrin; arr. Katie Houts  
Unison with piano and optional descant

**CGA1609** Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love

Text & Music by Matt Papa, Aaron Keyes, Luke Brown, Keith Getty and Kristyn Getty; arr. Benjamin David Knoedler  
SATB with piano and optional Unison choir

Keith Getty says they are "so excited to introduce our music to more choirs."

"We have worked with over one thousand choirs since we came to America -- we think it is an extraordinary way to build singing, community and culture and so we are looking forward to hearing increasing numbers of choirs singing the music and being able to recommend Choristers Guild to those we have worked with."

Our relationship with Getty began as participants in the Getty Music Worship Conference presented annually in Nashville. This past August, our Sacred Choral Editor Katie Houts represented Choristers Guild in panel discussion, reading sessions and at our booth. Like-minded in mission, we saw great opportunity in working in music together.

"Writing music that builds deeper faith, higher art and vibrant singing. Now that is vision and a dream to keep us going," Keith says. "As I look to the world of my daughters and potential grandchildren I have many fears, but I have tremendous hope in the Christian faith being passed down generations by beautiful singing. That's what it was for me."

Annie Wolaver Dupre also speaks to how faith and art intertwine, saying "Our faith in Christ is at the heart of what we do. We see our work as creators and artists as an outflow of love for God and for our fellow man. Excellence in that pursuit and the joy it brings to audiences is deeply fulfilling. We know Choristers Guild shares that same passion."

We certainly do! How excited and hopeful we are to partner with these artists who support the Choristers Guild mission of enabling leaders to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults.

Sing Joyfully!  
-Dawn and Pam

# CALLED

A musical for unison/two-part voices, piano, and percussion

by Mark Burrows



## NEW from Choristers Guild!

*"If you believe that children don't have to wait till they grow up to make a real difference in God's world, then I wrote this for you!" – Mark Burrows*

This musical for unison/two-part voices affirms that God has placed something beautiful in everyone and is calling us to share it with the world.

CGC66 Called, available from [choristersguild.org](http://choristersguild.org)



choristersguild

12404 PARK CENTRAL DRIVE  
SUITE 100  
DALLAS, TX 75251

DATED MATERIAL  
DO NOT DELAY

NON-PROFIT  
ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID

## IF YOU WANT TO

- Learn effective choral teaching techniques
- Improve your vocal modeling and conducting skills
- Receive guidance from a mentor
- Form lifelong friendships
- Get inspired through classes, worship, and a supportive community

THEN NEXT SUMMER, YOU NEED TO ATTEND...

# CHORISTERS GUILD INSTITUTE

A certification program for directors of singers K-8th



**PLUS!** Choristers Guild is registered as a Continuing Professional Education (CPE) provider for the State of Texas, with educators eligible to receive up to 21.5 hours of credit as attendees of the week-long Institute

Learn more at:

**[CHORISTERSGUILD.ORG/INSTITUTE](http://CHORISTERSGUILD.ORG/INSTITUTE)**

# the chorister

RESOURCES FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

December 2019/January 2020

Volume 71 | Issue 4

**Choristers Guild  
Welcomes New President  
Stephanie McIlwain Miller**



  
choristersguild

## NEW FROM CHORISTERS GUILD

FAMILY GROUP ANNIE MOSES BAND HAS BECOME PART OF OUR FAMILY!  
PREVIEW NEW TITLES AT [CHORISTERSGUILD.ORG](http://CHORISTERSGUILD.ORG)

### GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

Text and Music by Bill Wolaver

Unison with Piano

CGAMB100

### A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES

Text by Robin Wolaver, Music by Bill Wolaver

Unison with Piano

CGAMB101

### SO HIGH

Text by Robin Wolaver, Music by Bill Wolaver

Unison/Two-Part with Piano

CGAMB102

### BEHOLD, I HAVE LOVED YOU

Text and Music by Robin Wolaver, arr. Bill Wolaver

Unison/Two-Part with Piano

CGAMB103

### GOD IS OUR REFUGE

Text by Robin Wolaver, Music by Bill Wolaver

Text and Music by Robin Wolaver, arr. James DaSilva

CGAMB104

## CHORISTERS GUILD

12404 Park Central Dr. Ste. 100  
Dallas, TX 75251-1802  
800.246.7478 or 469.398.3606  
choristersguild.org

*The Chorister* is published bimonthly. Choristers Guild is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, religious and educational corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

## Choristers Guild Staff

### DAWN JANTSCH

Executive Director  
djantsch@choristersguild.org

### PAM HARRIS

Director of Marketing  
pharris@choristersguild.org

### KATHY LOWRIE

Handbell and Instrumental Editor  
klowrie@choristersguild.org

### KATIE HOUTS

Sacred Choral Editor  
khouts@choristersguild.org

### VICTOR C. JOHNSON

School Choral Editor  
vjohnson@choristersguild.org

### KAROL KIMMELL AND CHRIS NEMEC

Choristers Guild  
Institute Directors

### SUSAN EERNISSE

*The Chorister* Editor  
seernisse@choristersguild.org

### COLLEEN OATES

Director of Customer Enhancement  
coates@choristersguild.org

### RUSSELL ALMAND

Membership Enhancement  
ralmand@choristersguild.org

### LAUREN CARTER

Membership Enhancement  
lcarter@choristersguild.org

### Advertising

advertising@choristersguild.org  
or (469) 398-3606, ext. 227

### The Chorister Design

Mara Dawn Dockery

## December 2019/January 2020

- 2 **2020: Be Thou My Vision**  
by Susan Eernisse, *The Chorister* Editor
- 3 **Lifesavers, Candy Cane Reindeer,  
and Chocolate-Covered Cherries**  
by Katie Houts, Sacred Choral Editor
- 5 **Choristers Guild Welcomes New  
President Stephanie McIlwain Miller**
- 7 **Teaching Children to Sing Beautifully:  
The 2019 Helen Kemp Lecture**  
by Cynthia Nott
- 12 **Members Remember:  
Still Looking Around**  
by Grace Schwanda
- 15 **Percussion with a Purpose!**  
by Dr. Patricia K. Nelson
- 16 **Anthem Feature:  
*In God's Hands***  
by Katie Houts & Susan Eernisse
- 17 **Starlight Journey Reproducible Page**  
by Susan Eernisse
- 18 **Chapter Events**
- 19 **Children's Choir Devotionals**  
by Russell Almand
- 24 **News from National:  
Grateful for Wonderful Leaders**  
by Dawn Jantsch

### Cover photo credit

*Choristers Guild National Board  
President, Stephanie McIlwain Miller.*

### GO ONLINE WITH CHORISTERS GUILD



Explore members-only resources, including recorded webinars and past issues of *The Chorister*. If you can't log in as a member, go to "Member Log-in" and follow the prompts to retrieve your user name/password. [choristersguild.org](http://choristersguild.org)



Find video previews of Choristers Guild music, perfect for selecting new music or for choristers to use in practice. [youtube.com/c/choristersguild](https://youtube.com/c/choristersguild)



Connect with other members, share ideas and get info on special offers and new music. [facebook.com/choristersguild](https://facebook.com/choristersguild)



Get updates on news and trends in choral music from Choristers Guild and others. [twitter.com/choristersguild](https://twitter.com/choristersguild)

## Board of Directors

**STEPHANIE MCILWAIN MILLER**

*President*  
Bellevue, WA

**TERRY GOOLSBY**

*Past-President*  
Dallas, TX

**ANDREW MASETTI**

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Westfield, NJ

**TODD ARANT**

Apex, NC

**JOHN SUTTON**

Altadena, CA

**RUTH SZUCS**

Richmond, VA

**SANDRA ROSALES**

Santa Ana, CA

## Covenant Society

*Please consider joining our Covenant Society—those who have included Choristers Guild in their will or other estate plans:*

**LARRY K. BALL**

**BETTY BEDSOLE**

**JUDY AND LARRY BRITTS**

**REV. RICHARD F. COLLMAN**

**JUDITH E. DARDAGANIAN**

**JANET M. DAVIDSON**

**NORMAN AND ETHEL GEIST**

**TERRY AND PAM GOOLSBY**

**C. MICHAEL HAWN**

**DAWN JANTSCH**

**HELEN LITZ**

**SUE ELLEN PAGE AND**

**ERIC JOHNSON**

**JOANNA E. PRETZ-ANDERSON**

**JIM AND STEPHANIE**

**RINDELAUB**

**MARY LOUISE AND**

**DON VANDYKE**

**PRISCILLA B. ZIMMERMANN**

*Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission, unless otherwise indicated. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return and safety of artwork, photographs, or materials. Acceptance of advertising or rental of mailing list does not imply endorsement.*



# 2020: Be Thou My Vision

BY SUSAN EERNISSE  
THE CHORISTER EDITOR

I clearly recall looking at my 2019 calendar last December and thinking that the coming year looked to be an easy year with no big trips—not terribly full of events. Oh my, was I ever wrong! My view of the future was not perfect—there were many unknown variables that would come into play changing the entire landscape of the months ahead. Health and family issues, unexpected travel that included two international trips, opportunities to teach, write, and serve. All things considered, 2019 was pretty much what one would expect—a year of the unexpected!

The year 2020 has always seemed to be a year far in the future, yet here it is knocking at the door. Many of life's conveniences today are right out of the science fiction of my childhood. There are a few disappointments—the chief of which is the lack of flying cars! I think of meteorologists who can predict the possible trajectories of a tropical storm, yet they cannot select or control the ultimate path. With so many resources being poured into medical research, there remain many mysteries as to why certain diseases appear, and even more questions as to how they can be cured. I cannot fathom the massive amount of data that one can access using a cellphone. Wow—just wow!

We have a family history of eyesight problems. Even with modern medical advances in vision care, many family members live with poor, limited vision. Lack of vision can be a fearful thing. Yet each of us is nearly blind when it comes to seeing into the future. We can make inferences and draw limited conclusions, but God of the universe is the only one with 2020 perfect vision into the future. We call it omniscience.

Each year I focus on a theme for personal reflection and spiritual growth. 2020 is certain to be a year of vision. My goal is to trust in God's vision to guide me into the unknown. May we all gladly sing throughout the coming year, "Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart!"

May God grant many adventures and blessings in the coming year!

Keep singing the song!

-Susan





# Lifesavers, Candy Cane Reindeer, and Chocolate-Covered Cherries

BY KATIE HOUTS  
SACRED CHORAL EDITOR

---

It was December and my fifth grade class had just finished drawing names for our Christmas gift exchange. I looked down at the piece of paper in my hand...

*Brent.*

I'm certain my face did not hide my disappointment. Why couldn't I have drawn Kaela's name or Amanda's name—or even Mike or Jeb? Brent was not my friend. Brent wasn't anyone's friend. I was embarrassed, and I just couldn't believe I would have to give him a gift. My only saving grace was this: **at least I hadn't drawn Michelle's name.** Most people in my class kept their distance from Michelle. Her winter coat was too small and too thin, and her hair never had a ponytail or a bow. Other parents volunteered in the classroom and showed up for music programs, but not Michelle's.

The day of the Christmas party arrived. My friends and I were excited to transform our candy canes into reindeer, eat Christmas cookies, and play snowflake bingo. Finally, at the end of the afternoon it was time for the gift exchange! We grabbed our gifts from underneath the tree and delivered them to the desks of their recipients. I quickly set the gift on Brent's desk and returned to find a small box on mine. Then my eyes caught the gift tag.

*To Katie...from Michelle.*

You. have. to. be. kidding...Brent and Michelle?! *This is just unfair,* I thought. I meagerly tore a corner of the wrapping paper, hoping for a LifeSaver Storybook or a pair of cool Christmas socks or a big chocolate Santa. *Something* to redeem this gift exchange. I held the gift in my hands, now unwrapped, and tried not to cry. "Chocolate-covered cherries?" I whispered to myself. There are not many treats I dislike more than chocolate-covered cherries. Ugh. Absolutely nothing to celebrate here.

Almost thirty years later, Michelle and I are friends on Facebook. She posted something recently that reminded me of that gift exchange three decades ago. The day I remember feeling such disappointment. The day I recall tearfully telling my parents about the gift I'd received.

Last week Michelle wrote, "Nothing gets me in the mood for Christmas like a brand-new box of chocolate-covered cherries!! Best thing ever!"

I'm thirty years late.

But thank you, Michelle, for sharing the best part of your Christmas with me.

May we be ready to see—  
and receive—the best in  
others this Christmas,

-Katie



# Bonclarken Music Conference

July 12-17, 2020

2020 Clinicians

Adult Choir | Shannon Jeffreys,  
Georgia Southern University

Youth Choir | Todd Arant  
Apex (NC) UMC

Middle Choir | Victor C. Johnson,  
Dallas, Texas

Junior Choir | Liz Shepley,  
Northfield, Minnesota

Cherub & Primary Choirs |  
Susan Eernisse,  
Carrollton (GA) FBC &  
*The Chorister Magazine*

Located in the beautiful mountains of Flat Rock, North Carolina, Bonclarken Music Conference provides a wonderful experience for singers of all ages!

Join our nationally-recognized clinicians for a week of strengthening technique, learning new music, and fellowship!

For more information:  
[www.bonclarken.org](http://www.bonclarken.org)

Directors:  
Trip McGill  
[tripmcgill@gmail.com](mailto:tripmcgill@gmail.com)

Lynn Grimsley  
[lynngirms@gmail.com](mailto:lynngirms@gmail.com)



PLANNED BY THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP OF THE  
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Don't forget to smile



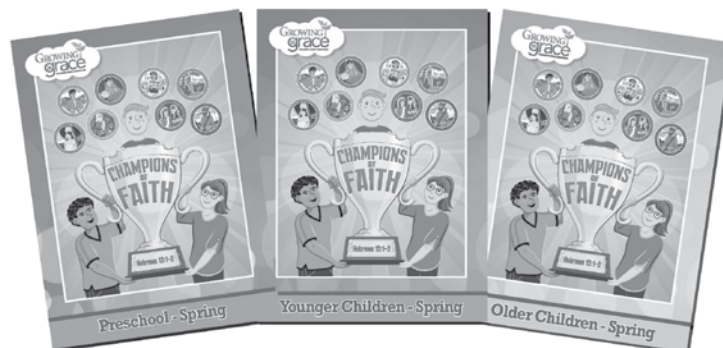
When you shop, Amazon gives.

Choristers Guild is a member of AmazonSmile. It is a great way to support CG. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you get the same prices that you would get on amazon.com. Only difference? Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to Choristers Guild.

To get started:

- Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and create an AmazonSmile account.
- Once created, click on "change your charity" and enter Choristers Guild in the search bar.
- After that, press the select button and get to shopping!

## NEW music curriculum for children and youth



Now featuring  
**Champions of Faith.** A curriculum that will engage and nurture children spiritually.

Check out our collection at  
[choristersguild.org](http://choristersguild.org)



A 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization  
[www.choristersguild.org](http://www.choristersguild.org)  
Toll Free 1.800.CHORISTER

# Choristers Guild Welcomes New President Stephanie McIlwain Miller

Choristers Guild is pleased to present Stephanie McIlwain Miller as its new president. Stephanie's passion is for teaching music and other creative arts to young people as an impetus for their faith formation and an introduction to service in the church, the community, and the world. She has been directing choirs for children and youth since 1985, and has founded or revitalized programs in Washington, Illinois, and Indiana. Previous posts include serving as director of music at Grace United Methodist Church, Lafayette, Indiana and teaching music at Holy Family Parish School in Kirkland, Washington. Today she is the Director of Young People's Music Ministries at Lake Washington United Methodist Church, Kirkland Washington, directing choirs for three-year-olds through 12th graders. Stephanie's first contact with Choristers Guild was as a child in, and later assistant director of, the St. Cecelia Girls' Choir of the First United Methodist Church in South Charleston, West Virginia. She still treasures her award pin and her introduction to music as a ministry.

Her master's degree in speech-language pathology from Ohio University and work in that field have provided Stephanie with expertise and experiences which she uses to adapt arts programs to the developmental capabilities of participants, including those with special needs. She firmly believes that anyone who wants to sing in a church choir should be encouraged to do so.

Many Choristers Guild members may be able to relate to the way Stephanie became children's choir director. She and her husband, Kevin, had just gotten married, and were new members of their church. After being invited to attend an education meeting, they discovered the church needed someone to start a children's choir for elementary students. Since she had grown up in church choirs and Kevin had been a piano performance major, Stephanie leaned over to him and whispered, "Would you accompany if I offer to direct?" He nodded. And the rest, as they say, was history.

Stephanie is a longtime member of the Choristers Guild and earned her Choristers Guild Children's Choir Leadership Certification from the Choristers Guild Institute, which over three summer sessions—including mentoring throughout the year—provides intensive training for those leading and working with choirs for children and youth. She is also a member of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts, and the American Choral Directors Association.

Stephanie is also an accomplished actress and theater director. After moving to Seattle, she "went back to school" at a local acting conservatory, and has performed in more than 70 productions. Some of her favorite roles have included Veta Louise Simmons in *Harvey*, Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clackett in *Noises Off*, Susy in *Wait Until Dark*, three of the five sisters (Kate, Rose, and



*Young Stephanie with her parents at First Presbyterian Church, South Charleston, West Virginia*



*Stephanie (upper left) with Disciple Choir, Grace UMC, Lafayette, Indiana. Kathy Parsons, Stephanie's choir director, is upper right*



Stephanie greeting a young Snow White



Stephanie teaching Angel Choir at LWUMC

Chris) in different productions of *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and Macon in *Abundance*. Perhaps not surprisingly given her history with children's choirs, Stephanie has a particular fondness for Theatre for Young Audiences, and has played just about every possible type of fairytale godmother, queen, witch, or storyteller, including two performance runs as Mama Bear in *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Shows like *Goldilocks...* inspired her to begin directing Theatre for Young Audiences, whose shows often have a strong musical component. Stephanie translates her theatrical skills into creativity-developing and fun-filled rehearsals for her choirs. They have also allowed her to broaden the scope of worship arts in her current church to include puppetry, tableau, drama, and liturgical movement.

Stephanie is married to Kevin McIlwain Miller, Partner Group Program Manager at the Microsoft Corporation, composer, and her accompanist extraordinaire. Their daughter, Kathryn Grace, is a secondary school English teacher, and Kathryn's husband, Ray, is the editor of their local newspaper. On a sweet note, Kathryn and Ray met in the church choir that Stephanie directed while they were in elementary school. Stephanie and Kevin also have a beloved miniature Australian shepherd named Maddie, whose littermate, Eowyn, is spoiled by Kathryn and Ray. The whole family frequently performs theatre and musical works together at their church's annual Christmas tea.



Stephanie and husband, Kevin, in puppet ministry

# Teaching Children to Sing Beautifully

THE 2019 HELEN KEMP LECTURE  
BY CYNTHIA NOTT

---

***Ms. Cynthia Nott presented the Helen Kemp Lecture at the conclusion of the 2019 Choristers Guild Institute at First United Methodist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. We are delighted to share the text version of Ms. Nott's speech in this issue of *The Chorister*.***

Helen Kemp's words of wisdom have guided my teaching for my whole career:

"Body Mind Spirit Voice: It takes the whole person to sing and rejoice!"

This simple phrase from Helen Kemp holds all the secrets to teaching children how to create beauty with their voices. I believe that the act of creating beauty changes their lives—and our lives—forever.



*Cynthia Nott presenting the Helen Kemp Lecture for the 2019 Choristers Guild Institute*

This invitation to speak has caused me to stop and think about teaching and music making. I wish I could say I had great vision for leading the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas (CCGD). On a good day I try to listen to my heart but most days I stumble around in the dark.

Preparing for this evening reminded me of the time I was attending a church musician friend's organ recital. He was playing from memory. I knew the piece so I was very aware when he got terribly lost during the performance. I asked him about it later and he said, "I was freaking out because all my fingers would do is start modulating to the Doxology!"

That is similar to my feelings in preparing for you tonight. I am freaking out because all my mind would do is modulate to looking for a piece of music to start rehearsing!

I realize that is not why you are here tonight.

So I went to the file of words that I have collected over the years of people far smarter than I am who have guided me as I stumbled in the dark.

To help my stumbling, I receive a daily meditation via email written by American Franciscan friar, Richard Rohr. I want to share parts of the one I received a year or so ago. It was titled "Discovering Your Voice," Monday, May 21, 2018. He begins with a quotation by Robert Gass:

**Chant is singing our prayers. Chant is vocal meditation. Chant is the breath made audible in tone. Chant is discovering Spirit in sound.**

I took the liberty of substituting "choral singing" for "chant":

**Choral singing is singing our prayers. Choral singing is vocal meditation. Choral singing is the breath made audible in tone. Choral singing is discovering Spirit in sound.**

Rohr goes on to talk about the importance of singing the Psalms, specifically, and closes with the following:

**“Many of us carry the lifelong shame of having been told we do not have a singing voice, and therefore assumed that our right to sing was forever imprisoned by the voice of judgment that first declared it unworthy. The damage done is not just to our instrument of musical expression and exploration, but to that of spiritual expression and exploration as well.**

**When we work with our voice, we work with the core elements out of which the world came into being and through which it is sustained: breath, tone, intentionality, and community. These four elements can serve as sacred tools to explore the mystery of creation with something other than our minds! A whole different part of your being is engaged, and a whole different intelligence and perceptivity flows from this engagement.”**

In teaching your children to sing, you are giving them “sacred tools to explore the mystery of creation and spiritual expression.” Our teaching is about so much more than words, notes, and rhythms.

My first artistic experience—an experience in creating beauty—was in high school, not in my church. In 1968 we were the first public high school in Miami, Florida to open as an integrated school. I was in the minority as a white Southern Baptist in a choir of African American, Cuban, and Jewish friends. My teacher, Anne Duncan was brilliant. It was in her choral classroom that I fell in love with the choral music of the Renaissance. It was there I learned what a Mass was as we learned the Schubert *Mass in G*. It was in her classroom that I was singing Vittoria's *O Magnum Mysterium* and first made the connection to beautiful music and my spiritual life. Years later, my choral experience with her made even more sense to me as she wrote to me in a Christmas card, “Teaching is exhausting but I still believe that beautiful, heartfelt choral singing is vital to the spiritual and emotional sanity of our young people.”

If “beautiful, heartfelt choral singing for the spiritual and emotional sanity of our young people” isn't a job for the church musician and especially children's choir directors, I don't know what is!

In teaching children to sing beautifully we are showing them a path to a spiritual consciousness.

Experiences with beauty change us; experiences creating beauty change us. They set us on a different wavelength, a spiritual path, and create openness to consciousness; they allow the singer to discover a deeper sense of who they are and where they fit in this world.

Children's choirs are about beauty.

Michael Hawn was one of the eight founders of the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas. He served as the coordinator of the group of founders and as the first board chair for CCGD. Until his retirement he was University Distinguished Professor of Church Music and Director of the Master of Sacred Music Program at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, and as you know, a co-founder of this Institute.

He spoke these words as an introduction to the Children's Chorus' first concert twenty-two years ago:

“Every child has the potential to appreciate beauty. The problem is how to cultivate an appreciation for the myriad forms of beauty in a world when the sensational and glamorous often substitute for beauty.”

Your children's choirs are about beauty:

1. The beauty of music, for sure;
2. The beauty of the human voice, especially the sound that is unique to the child;
3. The beauty of discipline that transforms sound into artistry;
4. The beauty of relationships among young people; and
5. The beauty of unity amidst diversity.

We are responsible to teach our children about real beauty.

What better place to teach children about beauty than in our churches?

So, how does one create a choir program that is about beauty?

I only know what we have stumbled on in the last twenty years at CCGD. Maybe some of the concepts will be helpful to you. I only know six things:

## 1. GIVE CHILDREN AN AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE.

Children are attracted to and remain in activities as adults if the training program as children is authentic—if it most closely resembles the experience they will have as adults. Children know real and they know fake. They know the difference between child-ish and child-like. They know when something sounds good and when something sounds bad. They know when something is beautiful.

## 2. "THEY CAN DO ANYTHING— BUT YOU HAVE TO TEACH THEM."

After college I applied all over Florida thinking I would land a job as a high school choral director. After all, isn't that where the "good" musicians are? There was only one job offered, so the job I took was in a middle school.

I remember calling my professor and asking if middle school singers could produce an excellent OO sound. I know she rolled her eyes remembering I probably

skipped class that day and said, "They can do anything—but you have to teach them." Ah-hah!

"They can do anything—but you have to teach them."

As a first year teacher I wanted a model of what children's choirs could sound like. The children's chorus movement was just getting started in America—there were not a lot of recordings available. So, I asked the assistant organist at my church, who was also a fine children's choir director, where to turn. He asked if I had ever heard of King's College and David Willcocks. Well, I hadn't! He explained that the sopranos were boys about the age of my singers at school—if not even a little younger. I was shocked and thrilled to hear them the first time. I was anxious to get back to school and teach my boys and girls.

"They can sing real music real well—but you have to teach them how." And this leads me to my third point.

## 3. PLAN A MINUTE BY MINUTE LESSON PLAN.

If we are going to teach children how to create real beauty, we have the responsibility of being awesome, engaging, age-appropriate, excellent, musical, and artistic. That takes planning!

I knew I was a strong musician and teacher when I was in undergraduate school at Florida State so I was shocked when I received a "B" in my final music education class from Dr. Braunagel. I went to his office and asked why he gave me a "B". He replied, "It was a gift. It should have been a "C". You are an excellent musician but if you don't commit to serious lesson planning your singers will not learn as well."

I have proved him right again and again. The more years I taught the more committed I became to planning for each rehearsal. The Children's Chorus meets once a week. That was a huge learning curve for me coming from the public school classroom of seeing my singers every day! One rehearsal a week requires even more planning. There is no time for wasted words, actions, and repetitions.

After teaching for a few years and learning how little I knew, I went to graduate school at SMU to study with Dr. Lloyd Pfautsch. I got really lucky because there I met Michael Burkhardt! We loved talking about making music with young people.

After graduate school I moved to Atlanta and sang with the ASOC under the direction of Robert Shaw—talk



*Cynthia Nott with Karol Kimmell and Michael Burkhardt*

about commitment to artistry! Our rehearsals were on Monday night. On the drive home I would “translate” the things I learned into middle school language. The concepts were the same. The goals were the same. The high expectation was the same. I simply translated it into “middle school”. My singers learned to be ready every Tuesday morning!

After that year with Mr. Shaw I returned to Dallas with a renewed commitment to artistic music making.

A few years later along comes Michael Hawn and a few friends with an idea of starting a community children’s chorus.

I knew what kind of music and artistry children were capable of making—here was a chance to create outside of the school setting. The founders wanted two things: 1) to give children an experience in choral artistry, 2) in a group that reflected the diversity of Dallas.

I wish I could say I had vision for what was to come. I only had a belief in the artistic capabilities of children when they are taught well.

One of the many surprises I have encountered in the Children’s Chorus journey is parents! They would stay and watch rehearsals—all our rehearsals are open. (If you are ever here on a Monday night during the school year, we rehearse at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church—all six choirs, grades 4-12, 450 singers under one, very gracious roof!)

Anyway, after rehearsal parents would come up to me in amazement to tell me that their son loved Bach, or surprised that their daughter could remain so focused, or that children could sing so beautifully. I learned that I was teaching parents as well as children.

#### 4. EDUCATE PARENTS.

I was lucky to be brought up in a family that sang. We sang in the car. We sang doing dishes. I don’t think this is as common anymore. That makes your job even more challenging.

I love this excerpt of a review by the *New York Times*’ Anthony Tommasini:

It’s more valuable to be introduced to music by joining the school chorus (CN: or church choir) where children learn that music can be a joyous, collective endeavor with all the voices dependent on one another. If you have this experience early enough, it tends to take hold for life.

I think the hymn singing in our churches is a perfect example of this collective, joyous endeavor. I would think that there is a connection between a wonderful congregational singing tradition and a thriving children’s chorus program. Teach your singers’ parents how important it all is and why!

My fifth point is:

#### 5. TEACH BEAUTIFUL REPERTOIRE.

This is the fundamental, this is what will make rehearsals interesting and will keep the children coming back each week.

There is so much beautiful repertoire out there to choose from.

Repertoire that calls on the singer to use their upper voice, their powerful head voice as the foundation for music making has been the foundation for our work at CCGD.

I choose composers that have been inspired by poetry or scripture and then made it come alive with music. I rarely have to show our singers a piece of music that I am not completely in love with. As Zoltan Kodaly says, “Only the best is good enough for a child.”

My sixth and final thing I know was best said by opera diva extraordinaire, Joyce DiDonato:

#### 6. THE WORLD NEEDS YOU.

As children’s choir directors:

“We need you to help us understand that which is bigger than ourselves.

We need you to remind us what unbridled, unfiltered, childlike exuberance feels like, so we remember, without apology or disclaimer, to laugh, to play, to fly, and to stop taking everything so seriously.

We need you to remind us what empathy is by taking us deep into the hearts of those who are different than us, so that we can recapture the hope of not only living in peace with each other, but thriving together in a vibrant way where each of us grows in wonder and joy.

We need you to make us feel an integral part of a shared existence through the communal, universal, forgiving language of music so that we never lose sight of the fact that we are all in this together and that we are all deserving of a life that overflows





Cynthia Nott with Michael Burkhardt

with immense possibility, improbable beauty and relentless truth."

I wish you the best of luck as you continue your journey as church children's choir directors.

Let us pray:

"O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Prayer for Church Musicians and artists  
from the *Book of Common Prayer*



**Cynthia Nott**, a nationally recognized choral educator, has served as Artistic Director of the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas since its inception in 1997. Under her leadership, the Chorus has grown dramatically, earned the respect of the Dallas area music community, and impressed audiences by its artistic excellence. In addition to its own concert schedule, Ms. Nott has prepared the Chorus to perform with the Dallas Symphony, Dallas Bach Society, Dallas Winds, Orpheus Chamber Singers, and the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra. Prior to becoming full-time Artistic Director of CCGD, Ms. Nott taught choral music in public middle schools for 23 years. She continues to serve as a clinician and consultant for music teachers, conductors, and singers throughout the United States. She is also a frequent guest conductor, appearing by invitation with youth choirs across the country. Ms. Nott holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Florida State University and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Southern Methodist University.



# Members Remember: Still 'Looking Around'

BY GRACE SCHWANDA

REVISITING CGA823 LOOK AROUND BY HELEN KEMP

Twenty-one years ago Helen Kemp came to our new worship space and began compiling ideas for a text and tune for her new anthem "Look Around!" Helen wanted to see the space, play the piano, and enjoy the architecture of St. Robert of Newminster Church in Ada, Michigan.

The church is a Roman Catholic Church located on the east side of Grand Rapids, MI.

Helen Kemp was a frequent visitor to Grand Rapids where she would lead hundreds of children at the Choristers Guild Seminar in the week-long rehearsals and workshops together with choral directors, pastors, children, and youth. I had met Helen and John Kemp many years before in Warwick, New York at a choir retreat when Tom and I lived and worked in northern New Jersey. We met many times during the years and shared ideas and enjoyed lunches and dinners together. John and Helen Kemp are sorely missed from the world of music making.

Helen Kemp was commissioned by my children and youth choirs to write an anthem for our new church sanctuary. She wanted to speak to the choir members about their new worship space before she started

working. Helen elicited responses from the choirs the type of music they wanted to sing. She corresponded by mail (yes, snail mail) with my singers and shared ideas with them, but the main concept that everyone mentioned was the word "space" or "lots of room". My choirs loved to hear me read letters to them on Wednesday nights from Helen Kemp! They had sent her ideas with their dot matrix printers!

Our previous sanctuary was dark and lacked spaces of beauty. The anthem's short title is "Look Around!" and the cover adds—"Look around at this holy place."

Helen was sensitive to text about the liturgical symbols of table, communion elements, candles, stain glass windows, as well as the participants at worship.

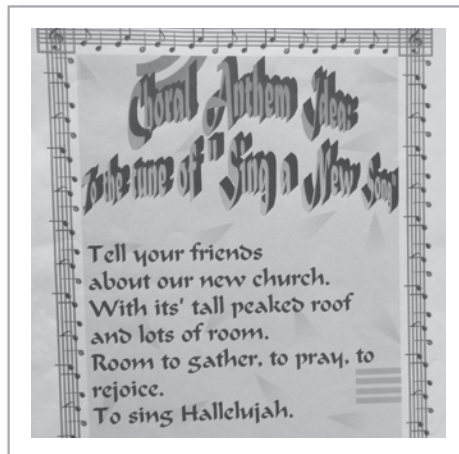
The Emmaus Road stained glass is on the front wall proclaiming, "Were not our hearts burning within us."

Helen's text defines the worship space:

Look at the people singing and praying,  
receiving forgiveness, beginning anew.  
Look at the babies, in arms of their parents,  
Their baptism tells them God's love lives in you!



The new church sanctuary



My choirs had sent her ideas with their dot matrix printers



The Emmaus Road stained glass on the front wall



The worship space

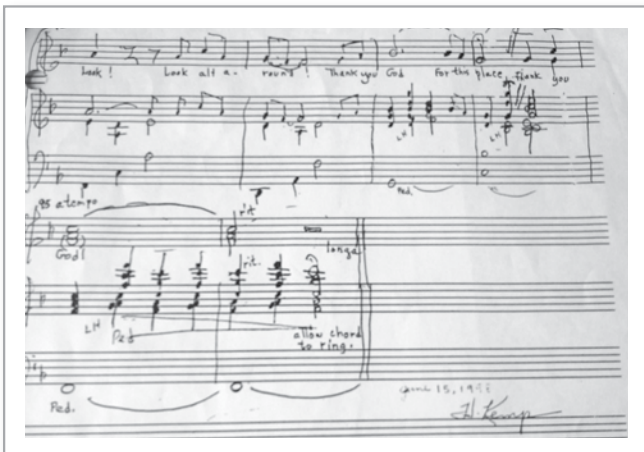
My choir members became aware of what a composer actually does with new ideas of text and tune. We sang from her draft and could see Helen's handwriting for the notes and piano part. We had a handbell choir so some of the piano accompaniment has the sound of bells which our choir enjoyed hearing when we sang the anthem in church for the first time. The piano or organ could play that part but the bells enhanced the joyful nature of the tune and text. She even added two more measures to this draft for the bells to continue to ring over that low F in the bass clef. You can see these measure here and they were repeated in the printed anthem with a decrescendo and a note to "allow last chord to ring".

Helen was known for her red heart stickers and posters. Besides communicating with my singers by mail, she hand-signed and put a red heart on all their copies of the

anthem after it was published. (There were a little over 100 singers.) The anthem's inscription is: *Commissioned by Grace Schwanda, director of the children's choirs of St. Roberts of Newminster, Ada, Michigan, for the dedication of their new church, October 1998.*

#### Why should you commission anthems?

Commissioning anthems is a wonderful gift to composers and to the choir. Your singers get to see the work of creativity from start to finish. Text and tune is brand new and created just for them and then shared with others after publication. As you play through the Choristers Guild Choral Packet, choose a composer whose music is something your choir would enjoy singing. You can contact them and discuss the occasion for which you hope to have an anthem composed for your choir. You want to have a good lead time so plan ahead. When we moved to Wheaton, St. Robert's church commissioned



Helen's original handwritten manuscript of the anthem



Helen hand-signed and put a red heart on all their copies of the anthem

## MEMBERS REMEMBER: STILL 'LOOKING AROUND'

---

an anthem in my honor. A festival of all the choirs with the new anthem was planned for two years after I had moved! It was a wonderful celebration. Churches have acknowledged pastors, organists, directors, Sunday School teachers, Mother's Day, Baptisms, and Communion/Eucharist. Commissioning an anthem is a wonderful gift to the whole church body and composers enjoy working specifically with your singers and your resources of instrumentalists and keyboards.

It is a gift from God to "Sing to the Lord a new song; Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, Praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day." (Psalm 96:1-2)

The end of the Helen Kemp anthem is a time of joyful celebration as the congregation joins in singing with the children, bells, adult choir, and full organ Beethoven's Hymn to Joy (1824) and Henry Van Dyke's text (1907):

Joyful, Joyful, we adore you,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
Opening to the sun above,  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
Drive the dark of doubt away,  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!

**Look! Look around!  
Look around at this holy place.  
Look! Look all around!**

**THANK YOU GOD FOR THIS PLACE.  
THANK YOU GOD!**

---

*This anthem was in the June/July issue of The Chorister 1999 and Grace wrote about it in the October Issue 1999—Twenty years ago!*

---



**Grace Schwanda** lives in Wheaton, IL singing, playing, and making music daily as she worships God. Grace is a personal trainer, Silver Sneakers Teacher, and soccer referee trainer in Wheaton.

# Percussion with a Purpose!

BY DR. PATRICIA K. NELSON

*Try this great scripture memory aid from Patty Nelson. You may want to create something similar to help your choristers memorize other Bible verses.*

I wrote this speech piece in 2006 because it was a Scripture of the Month for Worship Arts for Kids (WAK) at First Baptist Church, Keller, Texas. Each month the children were encouraged to memorize one Scripture verse. I found the children, and really everyone, remembered the verses better and more quickly, and retained them longer if they were set to a melody or

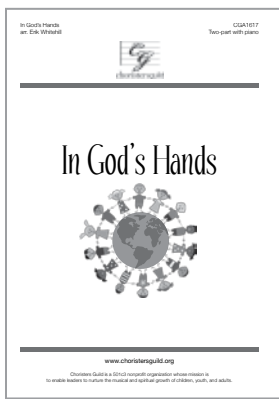
a rhythmic chant with instruments. Each director was given the piece and asked to teach it to their choir. This allowed the children to learn eight verses every year. If they learned all the verses from 1st through 6th grade, they would learn a total of 48 verses throughout their years in WAK. Psalm 19:1 reminds us that there is no better witness to God's glory than the world He created.

Triangle	6/8	z. .	z. .	z. .	z. .	z. .	z. .	
Voice	6/8	-	-	-	-	-	z. z.	 The
Shakers	6/8	-	-	. .	. . . .	. .	. . . .	
Hand Drum	6/8	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	
Trgl.		z. .	z. .	z. .	z. .	:   z. .	z. .	
Voice		. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	:   -	-	 hea-vens de-clare the glo-ry of God; the skies pro-claim the works of His hands. (The)
Sh.		. .	. . . .	. .	. . . .	:   . .	. . . .	
HD		. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	:   . . . .	-	

NOTE: Repeat the final two measures, gradually eliminating one instrument at a time.



**Patty Nelson, Ed.D.** is Associate Professor of Music Education—Vocal at Oklahoma Baptist University. She served at First Baptist Church, Keller, Texas as Organist, Children's Choir Coordinator, and Director of Music Education. She was the founder and director of the Rome Children's Choir (Rome, GA), and is currently the director of the Shawnee Honor Choir. She specializes in elementary education.



# Anthem Feature: *In God's Hands*

ARRANGED BY ERIK WHITEHILL  
CGA1617 | TWO-PART WITH PIANO

USES AND TIPS BY KATIE HOUTS AND SUSAN EERNISSE

## DESCRIPTION AND IDEAS FOR USE

Children's and youth choirs will have a ton of fun with Erik Whitehill's reimagining of *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*. This two-part anthem features updated and inclusive language along with a funky, rhythmic accompaniment. Many of your choristers may know this tune already, so your rehearsal time can be spent on fine-tuning the rhythms and learning the updated text. The two-part writing is accessible for developing choirs and hits all the right marks! Whitehill uses call-and-response verses and familiar melodic patterns in the refrain to guide young choirs into part-singing.

This is a perfect anthem for the season of Epiphany, with lectionary texts focused on outreach and mission to the entire world—making "disciples of all nations." You could also use this in late spring to coincide with Earth Day or next fall for World Communion Sunday. Add a tambourine, or even a full rhythm section, for a terrific groove.

## TEACHING TIPS

How often do we assume that familiar songs of our past are universally known by others? I recently began a Sunday morning music time for the preschoolers and early elementary children in our church to offer some music for children who may be unable to attend children's choir. We meet at the beginning of the Sunday School hour for ten to fifteen minutes. I created a list of old-school church/Bible songs: "Deep and Wide", "Hallelu-Hallelujah", "The B-i-b-le", "Give Me Oil", and more. I have heard from excited parents who are thrilled that their children are learning songs from their childhood. This anthem feature is from that same genre—songs that have a connection to the past, that serve as a touchstone among generations, AND have a precious gem of God's truth!

You can teach this to younger singers as a unison melody adding simple motions or hand signs for key words (world, hands, sun, rain, wind, etc.) to help children understand the text. As mentioned earlier, the parts are easily accessible for emerging part-singers. The melody will be caught quickly and will be a strong foundation for the echo-style harmony parts.

Check your children's ministry supplies to see if you have inflatable globes or beachballs. The passing/bouncing/tossing of these activities will solidify the mild syncopation of the word rhythm against the steady beat.

### Passing the Ball:

Have the children stand in a circle and pass the ball to the half-note beat without any music as the ball moves around the circle. Say, "Hold and Pass and Hold and Pass." Play the recording of the anthem and continue passing the ball.

### Bouncing the Ball:

If you have a ball for every child, allow them to bounce to the beat as the music is played. Say, "Bounce and Catch and Bounce and Catch."

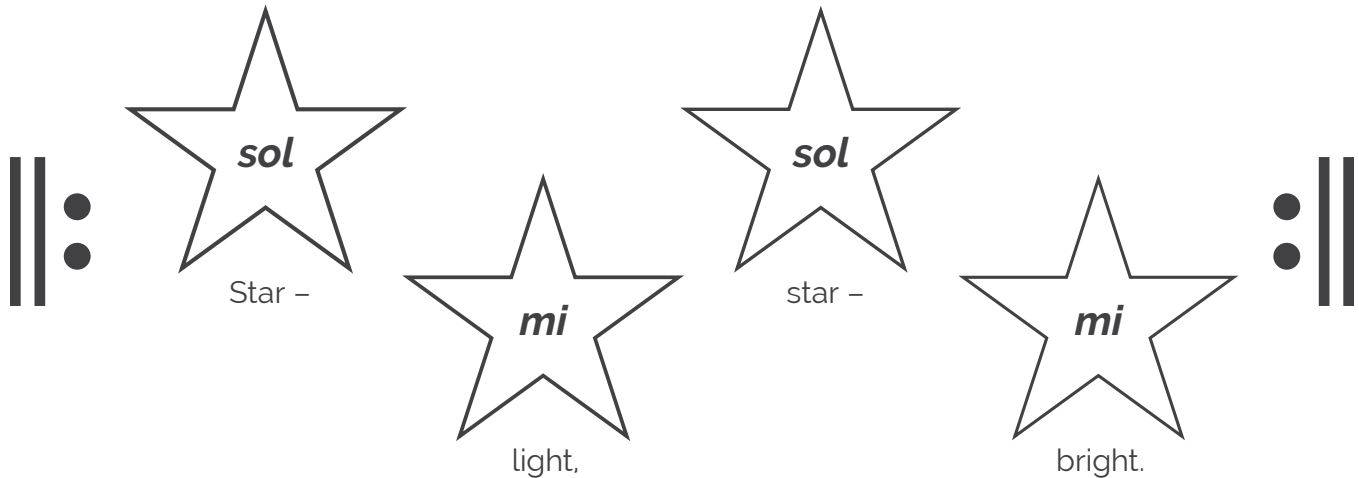
### Toss and Catch:

If your children are particularly coordinated, you might have partners face each other and toss the ball back and forth to the beat. Say, "Toss and Catch and Toss and Catch."

Display an up-to-date world map; provide paper strips and pushpins for children to label with their names and attach near their birthplaces. Invite children to share their ethnic origin with the group—see how many places in the world are named. Children will not miss the message that all are welcome, all are in God's hands.

# Starlight Journey

**EPIPHANY CHORUS:** Sing while tapping the stars.



**Verse 1.** Star in the heavens, star so bright.  
Lead us onward through the night.

**Verse 2.** Guide us to Bethlehem to see the King.  
We will worship with the gifts we bring.

**Verse 3.** Star in the heavens, star so bright,  
Lead us to Jesus on this holy night.

## GUIDED LEARNING:

1. Color the stars.
2. Practice singing the pattern: *sol-mi, sol-mi*.
3. Replace the *sol-mi* patterns with the starlight words.
4. Follow the words of each verse as someone reads.
5. Sing the Epiphany Chorus (starlight words) after each verse is spoken.

OPTION: Play finger cymbals at random as each verse is read.

# Chapter Events

---

## JANUARY 10-11, 2020

**Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, Dallas, TX**  
**Choristers Guild Dallas Chapter Church**  
**Music Workshop**

Experience engaging classes, world-class clinicians, creative and meaningful worship, plentiful vendors, practical reading sessions, and connection with friends and fellow church musicians.

Visit: [dallaschaptercg.org](http://dallaschaptercg.org)

## JANUARY 17-18, 2020

**Peachtree Road UMC, Atlanta, GA**  
**Choristers Guild Atlanta MidWinter Workshop**

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Atlanta Chapter of Choristers Guild

Featured clinicians: Eric Nelson, Emily Floyd, Mark Patterson, Lynn Kleiner

Visit: [cgatlanta.org](http://cgatlanta.org)

## JANUARY 26, 2020

**Southminster Presbyterian Church, Prairie Village, KS**  
**Choristers Guild of Greater Kansas City**  
**Children's Choir Festival**

Registration: 1:00 p.m.

Workshop: 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Concert: 5:00 p.m.

Clinician: Ryan Main

Contact: Suanne Comfort, [music@raytowncc.org](mailto:music@raytowncc.org)

## FEBRUARY 22, 2020

**First Baptist Church, Richmond, VA**  
**Richmond Area Choristers Guild Children's**  
**Choir Festival (Grades 3-5)**

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Conductor: Heather Potter

Contact: Ruth Szucs at [szucs@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:szucs@fbcrichmond.org)

## MARCH 7, 2020

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland, OH**  
**Southwest Ohio Chapter of Choristers Guild**  
**34th Annual Choralfest (Grades 1-8)**

Rehearsals: 10:00 a.m.

Worship service: 4:00 p.m.

Clinician: Heather Potter

## MARCH 7, 2020

**St. Stephen Catholic Community, Winter Springs, FL**  
**29th Annual Festival of Central Florida Chapter**

Conductor: Claire Hodge

Visit: [floridachoristers.org](http://floridachoristers.org)

## MARCH 14, 2020

**Arch Street Presbyterian Church, Center City, Philadelphia, PA**

**Walk as Children of Light Children's Choir Festival**

Rehearsal: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Worship and Performance: 2:00 p.m.

Clinician: Tom Shelton

Contact: Ruth Sall at [greaterphilacgchapter@gmail.com](mailto:greaterphilacgchapter@gmail.com)

## MARCH 15, 2020

**Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, Silver Spring, MD**  
**Capital Beltway Chapter of Choristers Guild Children's**  
**Choir Festival**

Rehearsals: begin at 1:45 p.m.

Worship service: 6:30 p.m.

Clinician: Brian Hehn

Contact: Marilyn Murchison at [marilyn@oslclaurel.org](mailto:marilyn@oslclaurel.org)

### TO LIST YOUR CHAPTER EVENT

Send your listing to  
[membership@choristersguild.org](mailto:membership@choristersguild.org) with  
complete information. Include dates, location,  
clinicians, and contact information. For additional  
advertising, contact [advertising@choristersguild.org](mailto:advertising@choristersguild.org)



# Children's Choir Devotionals

BY RUSSELL ALMAND

---

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 1

### SCRIPTURE:

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. *Matthew 24:44*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Are you slow at getting up in the morning? Do you have to have someone wake you up multiple times before you finally roll out of bed? In this passage, we are told that we must be ready because Jesus is going to come again soon. Just like you might not be ready to wake up in the morning, many times we are not ready to serve God and love others as we should. We should always be ready to serve others and should not wait to show God's love each day.

### PRAYER:

Jesus, we know that you are coming again soon. Help us to serve and love others like you love us. We eagerly await your coming. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1586** *Send Us Forth* | Thomas Keesecker | unison/two-part with piano and optional violin

---

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 8

### SCRIPTURE:

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Romans 15:5-6*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Sometimes it is hard to be nice to one another. We might even feel like it is impossible to help someone that we do not like or show God's love to people who are not nice to us. As an amazing gift, God gives us the strength and the encouragement that we need to love one another. We do this because we want to glorify God for what He has done for us. Not only can we praise God by singing, but we can praise Him by loving others.

### PRAYER:

Our loving God, thank you for loving us and giving us the strength and encouragement to love others, even when it is hard. Help us to love others in a way that gives praise to you. Amen.

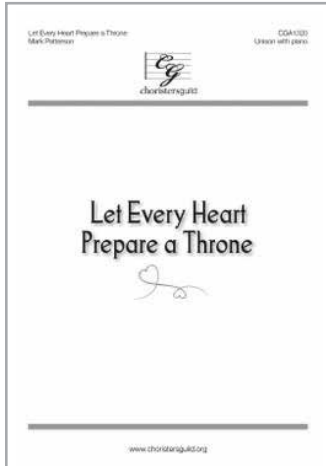
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1588** *Surrounded by Love* | Mark Patterson | unison with piano and optional descant

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 15

### SCRIPTURE:

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God...He will come and save you."  
*Isaiah 35:4*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Many times there are things that we are afraid of, but God is here, and He is here to save us. As we look forward to celebrating Christ's coming to earth, we know that we can be strong because Jesus has come to save us! We should get excited that we have a God who sent His Son to earth to save us and help us not be afraid. We should prepare ourselves to accept how God is working in our lives.

### PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for giving your Son in order that we do not have to be afraid. You are the great protector and we worship you! Prepare our hearts to love and worship you. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

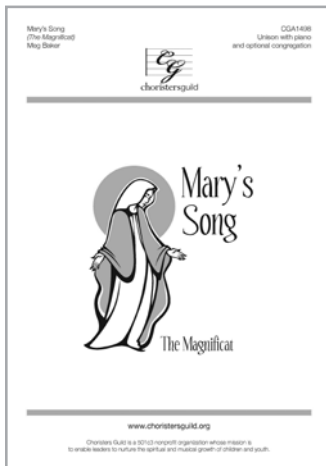
**CGA1320** *Let Every Heart Prepare a Throne* | Mark Patterson | unison with piano

---

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 22

### SCRIPTURE:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."  
*Matthew 1:23 (Extended Reading: Matthew 1:18-25)*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Have you ever thought what it actually meant when Jesus was born on earth? By a miracle, God was born onto the very earth that we live on today. When they called His name, Emmanuel, it really showed that God is actually with us! At times it can be hard to think of God being with us and close to us because we cannot see Him. Remember that God is with us as we pray to Him and love others as He loved us, just like Jesus was with Mary when He was here on earth.

### PRAYER:

Our God who is with us, thank you for never leaving us and always being here for us. We praise you for sending Jesus to earth to save us. Amen.

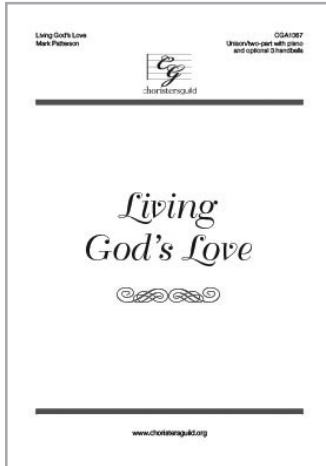
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1498** *Mary's Song* | Meg Baker | unison with piano and optional congregation

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 29

### SCRIPTURE:

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us. *Isaiah 63:7a (Extended Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9)*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Make a quick list of five things that the Lord has done for you. One that might be on your mind is that God sent Jesus as a baby to save us. We need to be thinking every day about the things that God has done for us, and we need to praise and glorify Him because of His love for us. When you wake up each morning this week, think about one thing that God has done for you, and thank Him for that.

### PRAYER:

Our giving heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Son to be our Savior. Thank you for your love for us that you show every day. Amen.

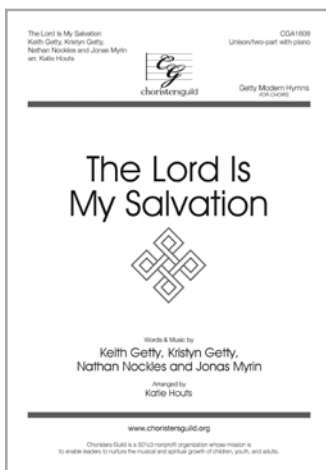
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1367** *Living God's Love* | Mark Patterson | unison/two-part with piano and three optional handbells

## WEEK OF JANUARY 5

### SCRIPTURE:

For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. *Psalms 72:12*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Who do you normally ask when you need help with your schoolwork? Do you ask your pets or do you ask your teacher or a family member? Of course, you don't ask your dog or your cat! They can't help you! God is the one who is able to help us whenever we need Him because He is in control and has the power to do it. He even helps those who do not have a helper. Trust that God can help you by giving you what you need when you need it.

### PRAYER:

Lord, thank you for being our helper when we need you. Help us to trust you when we do not understand and to call for you when we are in need. Amen.

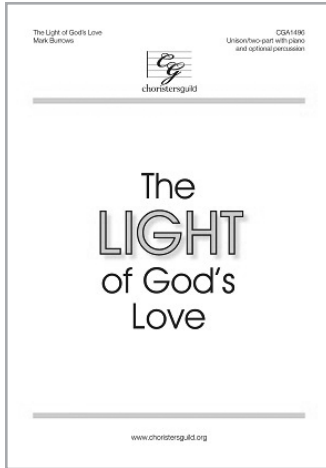
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1608** *The Lord is My Salvation* | arr. Katie Houts | unison/two-part with piano

## WEEK OF JANUARY 12

### SCRIPTURE:

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. *Acts 10:42 (Extended Reading: Acts 10:34-43)*



### DEVOTIONAL:

If you got the news that you were going to get a new puppy, who would you go tell? Wouldn't you be excited to tell everyone the good news that you had? God has told us that we need to tell everyone about the good news of the Gospel, that He sent His Son to provide salvation for all who believe on Him! We should want to share that with everyone we meet. This week tell one of your friends about Jesus whom you love.

### PRAYER:

God, thank you for the good news that we know of the salvation you give to us. Help us to share that good news with others this week. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

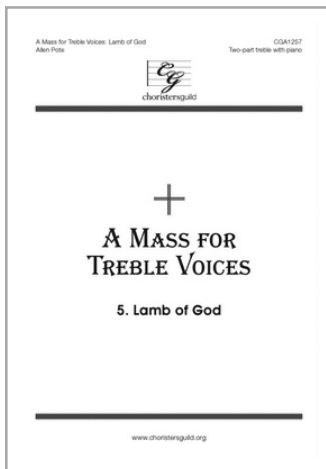
**CGA1496** *The Light of God's Love* | Mark Burrows | unison/two-part with piano and optional percussion

---

## WEEK OF JANUARY 19

### SCRIPTURE:

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" *John 1:29*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Why is it important that Christ came to the earth as a baby boy? Christ's purpose for coming to the earth was to be the perfect sacrifice to cover our sins if we only believe on Him. John the Baptist here proclaimed that Jesus is the one who takes away the sin of the world! We must only trust in Him and what He has done. We should tell everyone and celebrate the good news that Jesus Christ is the way of salvation!

### PRAYER:

Jesus, thank you for coming to earth to take away the sins of the world. We love you for providing the way of salvation. Amen.

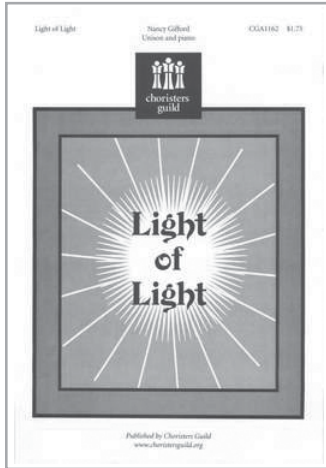
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1257** *A Mass for Treble Voices: Lamb of God* | Allen Pote | two-part treble with piano

## WEEK OF JANUARY 26

### SCRIPTURE:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2*



### DEVOTIONAL:

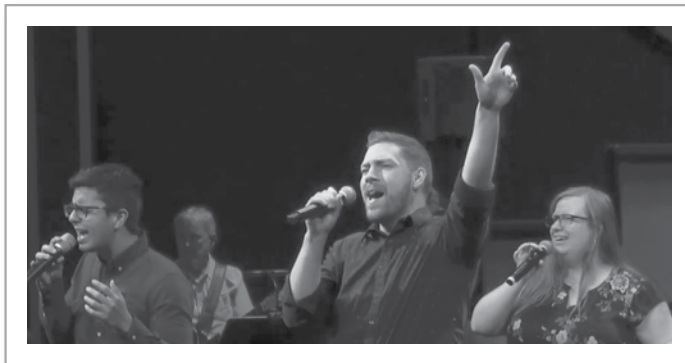
Have you ever tried to walk down a hallway after turning out all the lights? Or have you ever been camping and seen how dark it is when all of the lights are turned off? It is hard to walk around without any light to guide you. Without reading the Bible and knowing Jesus, it is hard to know what we are supposed to do. Thankfully, God sent Jesus to show us how we are supposed to live. Jesus is the light that shows us what we are supposed to do.

### PRAYER:

Lord of Light, thank you for sending Jesus so we can know how we are supposed to live. Help us to become more like Jesus every day.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1162** *Light of Light* | Nancy Gifford  
| unison and piano



*Russell Almand leading worship with the worship team at First Baptist Church, Sunnyvale, TX (August 2019)*



**Russell Almand** is the Membership Enhancement Associate for the Choristers Guild team as well as a student at Dallas Theological Seminary, where he is pursuing his Masters of Theology (ThM). His three biggest passions are music, teaching, and discipleship. Russell has served in many local churches in both music and teaching ministries. While piano is his primary instrument, he has been able to lead with vocals on the worship team as well as direct the choir in his local church. Russell also has been recognized as the recipient of the 2019 Nathan D. Maier Award for Bible Exposition presented by Dallas Theological Seminary. Russell's main purpose in life is to see others grow, to encourage them to become more like Christ, and he seeks to do that through music, teaching, and discipleship-goals that go perfectly with the Choristers Guild mission.



# News from National: Grateful for Wonderful Leaders

BY DAWN JANTSCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

---

This season of joy holds a tinge of sadness for me as **Teri Larson**, our immediate past president, rolls off the board after finishing her many years of incredible service. Teri is the Choral Director and Director of Music at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, and has an outstanding resume of choral leadership. She is also one of the most beautiful, peaceful beings that I have had the joy to know.



Teri's deep faith, her love of children's choirs, and her love for the Choristers Guild has been an inspiration to me. Her vision for Choristers Guild as it went through a time of transition while she was president remained steadfast...always focused on Ruth Kreibhel Jacobs' reasons for founding this 70-year-old organization. She moved quickly into the role of transition by appointing an interim director, starting a search committee, interviewing many candidates, all while also doing major fundraising for Choristers Guild.

Our founder, Ruth Kreibhel Jacobs, had many words of wisdom...and one of her quotes sums up Teri Larson: "You don't have to do great things, but the little things you are doing in your sphere of influence can be done with great conviction, great wisdom, great beauty, and great love." Teri Larson, your sphere has been as big as the world, and you have done it all with greatness!

Our board transition also includes our president, **Terry Goolsby**, who is moving into the role of an immediate past president. This role will allow us to have Terry's strong wisdom on the board for the next two years. Terry has been a strong presence for the organization, for me, for our national team, and as interim executive director during the transition.



Terry managed this board with his business and music experience. With his skills in management, Terry moved quickly to request a survey of the membership, so that we could define a SWOT plan of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. He then encouraged the board to hire a consultant in strategic planning, which brought the expansion of our mission and vision statement. From there, he led the board in a membership overhaul, redefining our member benefits to be more appealing.

Terry Goolsby, you took on this organization with courage and strength, and it has been an honor serving as your executive director. I look forward to working with you on the board for the next two years in your new role.

Finally, we welcome our new president, Stephanie McIlwain Miller, for the beginning of her two-year term. Stephanie is the Director of Young People's Music Ministries at Lake Washington United Methodist Church, directing choirs for three-year-olds through 12th grade. Read more about our new leader in this issue of *The Chorister*, and watch us grow!

To see the amazing biographies of our board of directors, refer to our website at [www.choristersguild.org](http://www.choristersguild.org)

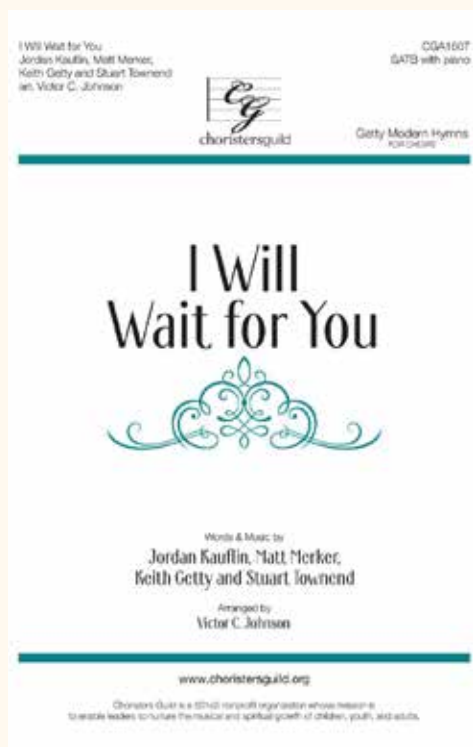
Sing Joyfully!

-Dawn



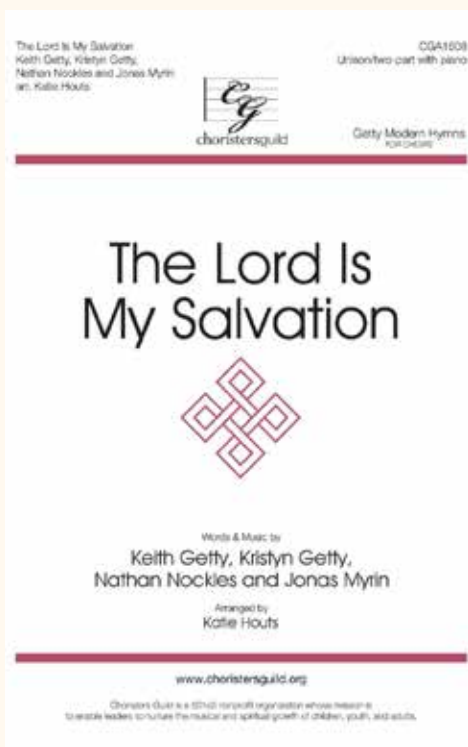
# Getty Modern Hymns for Choirs

Our composers and editors have crafted choral arrangements of three hymns from Getty Music, the home of modern hymn writers Keith and Kristyn Getty.



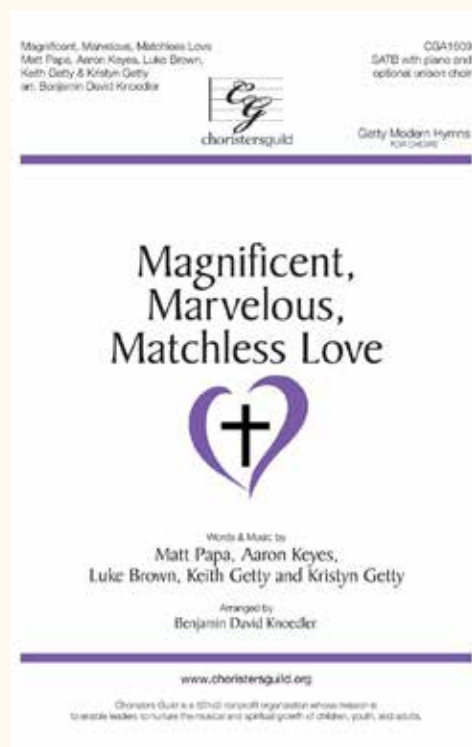
CGA1607  
 Jordan Kauflin, Matt Marker, Keith  
 Getty and Stuart Townend  
 arr. Victor C. Johnson  
 SATB with piano

Arranged for adult and youth choirs by bestselling composer Victor C. Johnson. Based on Psalm 130, this emotional, powerful setting paints a vivid picture of God's mercy and grace. Has an optional soloist and reproducible congregational page.



CGA1608  
 Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Nathan  
 Nockles and Jonas Myrin  
 arr. Katie Houts  
 Unison/two-part with piano

The bold statement of faith in Psalm 27 soars in this new hymn. Arranged for unison/two-part voices with a sensitive, supportive piano accompaniment, this is a wonderful selection for an older children's choir, youth choir, or women's ensemble.



CGA1609  
 Matt Papa, Aaron Keyes, Luke  
 Brown, Keith Getty and Kristyn Getty  
 arr. Benjamin David Knoedler  
 SATB with piano and  
 optional children's choir

Set for combined adult and children's choirs. Themes of creation and redemption provide the lyrical backdrop for all ages to sing about God's matchless love. Incorporating Psalm 136, this is wonderful piece for any time of year, especially appropriate for Easter and Thanksgiving.



choristersguild

12404 PARK CENTRAL DRIVE  
SUITE 100  
DALLAS, TX 75251

DATED MATERIAL  
DO NOT DELAY

NON-PROFIT  
ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID



# CHORISTERS GUILD INSTITUTE

Certification program for directors of young singers K-8th

- Learn effective choral teaching techniques
- Improve your vocal modeling and conducting skills
- Receive guidance from a mentor
- Form lifelong friendships
- Get inspired through classes, worship, and a supportive community
- Earn up to 21.5 Continuing Professional Education credit hours

**JULY 20-24, 2020**

**ROSWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - METRO ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

LEARN MORE: [CHORISTERSGUILD.ORG/INSTITUTE](http://CHORISTERSGUILD.ORG/INSTITUTE)



# the chorister

RESOURCES FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

February/March 2020

Volume 71 | Issue 5

*Oh Jonah!* Cast  
Members Sailing  
Through the Storm





# CHORISTERS GUILD INSTITUTE

Certification program for directors of young singers K-8th

**JULY 20-24, 2020**

**ROSWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
METRO ATLANTA, GEORGIA**



- Learn effective choral teaching techniques
- Improve your vocal modeling and conducting skills
- Receive guidance from a mentor
- Form lifelong friendships
- Get inspired through classes, worship, and a supportive community
- Earn up to 21.5 Continuing Professional Education credit hours

## Learn with:



Our 2020 Helen Kemp Speaker is MARTHA SHAW, Artistic Director of the Spivey Hall Children's Choir and Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Reinhardt University



Michael Burkhardt



Tom Shelton



Amanda Smith



Emily Floyd



Karol Kimmell



Ruth Szucs



Chris Nemeč



Katie Houts

## MORE INFORMATION:

To register: [www.ChoristersGuild.org/Institute](http://www.ChoristersGuild.org/Institute)  
Please LIKE our CGI Facebook page: Choristers Guild Institute  
for photos and up-to-the-minute announcements

February/March 2020

## CHORISTERS GUILD

12404 Park Central Dr. Ste. 100  
Dallas, TX 75251-1802  
800.246.7478 or 469.398.3606  
choristersguild.org

*The Chorister* is published bimonthly. Choristers Guild is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, religious and educational corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

## Choristers Guild Staff

### DAWN JANTSCH

Executive Director  
djantsch@choristersguild.org

### PAM HARRIS

Director of Marketing  
pharris@choristersguild.org

### KATHY LOWRIE

Handbell and Instrumental Editor  
klowrie@choristersguild.org

### KATIE HOUTS

Sacred Choral Editor  
khouts@choristersguild.org

### VICTOR C. JOHNSON

School Choral Editor  
vjohnson@choristersguild.org

### KAROL KIMMELL AND

### CHRIS NEMEC

Choristers Guild  
Institute Directors

### SUSAN EERNISSE

*The Chorister* Editor  
seernisse@choristersguild.org

### COLLEEN OATES

Director of Customer Enhancement  
coates@choristersguild.org

### RUSSELL ALMAND

Membership Enhancement  
ralmand@choristersguild.org

### LAUREN CARTER

Membership Enhancement  
lcarter@choristersguild.org

### Advertising

advertising@choristersguild.org  
or (469) 398-3606, ext. 227

### The Chorister Design

Mara Dawn Dockery

### Cover photo:

*Students of Grace Academy, Dallas, TX, present Oh, Jonah! a musical by Allen Pote and Carole McCann.*

- 2 **Finding Meaning in the Music of Lent**  
by Susan Eernisse, *The Chorister* Editor
- 3 **New Music for Lent and Holy Week**  
by Katie Houts, Sacred Choral Editor
- 4 **Summer Music and Arts Camp:  
Planning to Make the Greatest  
Impact on the Busy Child**  
by Jennifer Hill
- 8 **Anthem Feature:  
*Love Brought Me Back***  
by Glenn Eernisse
- 9 **Rehearsal Planning 101:  
Building on the Basics**  
by Katie Houts
- 11 ***Oh, Jonah!* The Making of a Musical**  
by Colleen Oates
- 13 **Children's Choir Devotionals**  
by Sharon Howell Welsch
- 18 **Chapter Events**
- 19 **Welcome to Board Member  
Elizabeth Shepley**
- 20 **News from National:  
New Beginnings**  
by Stephanie McIlwain Miller

## GO ONLINE WITH CHORISTERS GUILD



Explore members-only resources, including recorded webinars and past issues of *The Chorister*. If you can't log in as a member, go to "Member Log-in" and follow the prompts to retrieve your user name/password. [choristersguild.org](http://choristersguild.org)



Find video previews of Choristers Guild music, perfect for selecting new music or for choristers to use in practice. [youtube.com/c/choristersguild](https://youtube.com/c/choristersguild)



Connect with other members, share ideas and get info on special offers and new music. [facebook.com/choristersguild](https://facebook.com/choristersguild)



Get updates on news and trends in choral music from Choristers Guild and others. [twitter.com/choristersguild](https://twitter.com/choristersguild)

## Board of Directors

**STEPHANIE MCILWAIN MILLER**

*President*  
Bellevue, WA

**JOHN SUTTON**

*President-elect*  
Altadena, CA

**TERRY GOOLSBY**

*Past-President*  
Dallas, TX

**ANDREW MASETTI**

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Westfield, NJ

**TODD ARANT**

Apex, NC

**RUTH SZUCS**

Richmond, VA

**SANDRA ROSALES**

Santa Ana, CA

**ELIZABETH SHEPLEY**

Minneapolis, MN

## Covenant Society

*Please consider joining our Covenant Society—those who have included Choristers Guild in their will or other estate plans:*

Larry K. Ball  
Betty Bedsole  
Judy and Larry Britts  
Rev. Richard F. Collman  
Judith E. Dardaganian  
Janet M. Davidson  
Norman and Ethel Geist  
Terry and Pam Goolsby  
C. Michael Hawn  
Dawn Jantsch  
Helen Litz  
Susanne Melton  
Sue Ellen Page and Eric Johnson  
Carolyn Perkins  
Joanna E. Pretz-Anderson  
Jim and Stephanie Rindelaub  
Mary Louise and Don VanDyke  
Priscilla B. Zimmermann

*Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission, unless otherwise indicated. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return and safety of artwork, photographs, or materials. Acceptance of advertising or rental of mailing list does not imply endorsement.*



# Finding Meaning in the Music of Lent

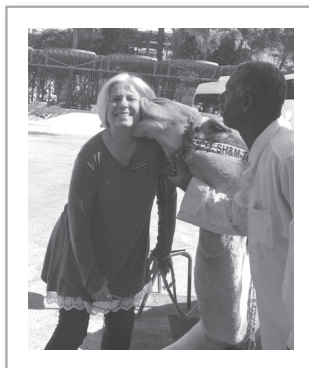
BY SUSAN EERNISSE  
THE CHORISTER EDITOR

And just like that 2020 is off and running! Many of us have already begun preparing music for Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. The hymns and anthems of this time of year are especially meaningful to me. They provide a soundtrack for keeping me focused on a more meaningful, deeper passage through the Lenten season. Perhaps you feel the same.

I recently returned from an amazing tour of the Holy Land — Tiberias, Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and places in-between. It was one of those trips of a lifetime, something I never dreamed I would get to experience. Since I was in a group of 160+ singers (all women!) and instrumentalists, I not only got to visit many biblical locations I had only ever read about, I also was able to sing in some amazing churches and concert venues.

As we look toward the beginning of the season of Lent, my mind returns to that other part of the world, the homeland of Jesus. On the drive from Tiberias to Jerusalem the buses stopped in Jericho and the guide pointed out the Mount of Temptation, the place where Jesus was tempted during his forty days in the wilderness. Later that afternoon, I along with my fellow pilgrims walked down the winding road from the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane — quite a contrast in biblical images, isn't it? We walked from the joy of the triumphal entry to the angst of the garden.

I think that is what Lent does for us. Lent finds us in whatever wilderness we reside and takes us along the journey to the Cross. Along the way we laugh, and we cry, we remember Christ's journey. If we want to know the mind of Christ, I think it is crucial that we not neglect the journey — we walk with Christ on his journey as he walks with us on ours. The great news is that the end of Lent is also the beginning of Easter, the joy of the Resurrection!



As you plan, prepare, and present the music of Lent and Easter, may you find a depth of meaning beyond any you have yet to encounter. I truly believe that as musicians we get to experience Lent from an amazing perspective. May we never take that for granted! Let's look for ways to focus our attention and encourage our fellow travelers to do the same.

P.S. There is a rumor going around that I was kissed by Sam the Camel in Jericho.

Keep singing the song!

-Susan



# New Music for Lent and Holy Week

BY KATIE HOUTS  
SACRED CHORAL EDITOR

---

Two years ago, I approached composer Mark Patterson with a trilogy project. Would he, I wondered, be interested in writing three short unison pieces for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany? Mark got to work and sent three seasonal pieces which became the *Light of Hope Trilogy*. I sent these pieces to Heather Potter, former president of the Choristers Guild national board, wondering if she might like to include these pieces in her choral series (Growing Musicians Leading Worship). She responded positively – along with a follow-up request: *Could Mark continue the trilogy with a set of pieces for Lent and Holy Week?*

**Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.  
Help us turn from our sinful ways.  
Help us follow you this day.**

Choristers Guild was pleased to include the *Hear Our Prayer Trilogy* in our most recent choral packet (Spring 2020). Mark's first anthem, "Hear Our Prayer," is a prayer of confession, asking God for mercy as we turn from our sins. This corporate prayer is a poignant way for choristers to lead the congregation. The melody is presented antiphonally, so the congregation may echo the choir in worship.

**Lord, be our strength by day,  
Be our hope by night,  
Be our solid rock in the midst of the storm.  
Lord, be our source of truth – Lord, be our light.**

The second piece, "Lord, Be Our Light," is a prayer for God's presence and guidance throughout the storms and trials of life. This unison anthem communicates our trust in an ever-present God.

**And from my heart, in grateful prayer,  
Two wonders I confess:  
The wonder of redeeming love  
And my unworthiness.**

One of my favorite hymn texts, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," receives a beautiful new melody in this trilogy. In a refreshing setting, which includes additional new lyrics from Mark, the final anthem acknowledges our need for a Savior and marvels at the redeeming love found at the cross.

"Each text in Mark Patterson's *Hear Our Prayer Trilogy* offers rich opportunities for young singers to reflect on our need for forgiveness and renewal. Children will be inspiring worship leaders as they sing these confessional prayers with simplicity and beauty."

-Heather Potter

**May these memorable  
texts guide your  
Lenten journey,  
-Katie**

# Summer Music and Arts Camp:

PLANNING TO MAKE THE GREATEST IMPACT ON THE BUSY CHILD  
BY JENNIFER HILL

Have you contemplated beginning a Music and Arts Camp at your church? Is your church calendar so full in the summer you wonder when to hold it? Your potential campers have the same issue!

For example, here is a conversation overheard in my household. The second week of June is VBS. Then, he has a sports camp the following week. The last week of June? That's Boy Scout camp. Nope, we are out of town the fourth of July. Don't forget church camp at Bridgeport.

Sound familiar? It seems the summer calendar is full before we even begin. Despite this schedule, for the past four years at Suncreek UMC in Allen, TX, we have found that a summer Music and Arts Camp works very well at the end of the summer. Parents seem to seek out camps during this time when they know they will begin hearing, "I'm bored!" from their kids and it's too hot to be outside very long.

Suncreek began holding summer music camps in 2008 with 25 to 30 kids ranging in age from rising first grade through sixth grade, concluding with the performance of a musical on Friday night. In the past four years we have increased the number of students threefold! We expanded our hours, added classes, and increased social media presence — all for \$60 per camper. It's such a steal! The best news for our church's financial committee is that camp is self-sustaining.

Some of our favorite past musicals are published by Choristers Guild: *The Lost Boy*, *In the Image*, *The Tale of the Three Trees*, *A Technicolor Promise*, *Rescue in the Night*, and the list continues. Each of these are easily taught in one week with six hours of music rehearsal and a drama rotation for each group. Parts are assigned by Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning. There has only been one year that I have held fifth and sixth grade auditions for major roles a couple of weeks before camp began.

During our best years we divided by age levels no larger than twenty campers. One year we did "multi-generational" groups. However, we found that due to differing levels of musical training and maturity, some rotations were not as enjoyable for all campers especially the chime/handbell rotation.

Each day parents signed in their campers at the table of their group and placed their lunch in the laundry basket underneath the table. Campers gathered in a large rehearsal space finding their name tags on a chair. The first rehearsal set expectations of behavior and positive vocal training as well as hitting a few sections of music from our musical. After the first thirty-minute rehearsal, we broke into our groups for rotations.

In the early years, we scheduled twenty-minute rotations and the day ended with another thirty-minute rehearsal. The first through third graders went home at noon while the fourth through sixth graders stayed for lunch and another more intense rehearsal until 1:30. This schedule worked fine and was a great way to get the program off the ground. If you are beginning a camp, you might begin with this shorter schedule.



Campers experience a fun time with a parachute during the game rotation.

Time	Maple	Oak	Pine	Palm	Minutes
9:00-9:30	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	30
9:35-9:55	Games	Drama	Bells	Art	20
10:00-10:20	Drama	Games	Art	Bells	20
10:20-10:35	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	15
10:35-10:55	Bells	Art	Games	Drama	20
11:00-11:20	Art	Bells	Drama	Games	20
11:25-11:55	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	30
12:00-12:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	30
12:30-1:30	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	60

The drawback to the shorter schedule was that parents preferred to pick up all their children at once. Our solution was to add more rotations, expand rotation to twenty-five minutes, have more frequent, shorter rehearsals, and add playground time. Our rotations now include: musical games, Orff, chimes/bells, art, drama, Bible Exploration, and snack. The Bible Exploration rotation has been the most beneficial and impactful addition.

I found that during rehearsal, there wasn't time to explore the Bible story associated with the musical. Through Bible Exploration, campers learned the story and discovered the truths presented in the story through experiments and activities throughout the week.

Once the Bible Exploration themes of each day were set, the themes were carried out through snack and art. For example, the year we produced *In the Image* by Mark Burrows, Monday's theme was Genesis 1:24-25 where God created the animals. The snack was Goldfish and Animal Crackers. Some days require a bit more creativity like when we studied about Paul in jail and we had pretzels in the shape of window frames.

Below you will find a current schedule of a day. Playground time has been wonderful, as it allowed time to pull some of our main characters or troubling scenes for extra practice. This year, I may offer ukulele to fourth grade and older campers in lieu of playground time.

Time	Red	Orange	Blue	Green	Minutes
9:00-9:30	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	30
9:35-10:00	Bible	Drama	Bells	Art	25
10:05-10:30	Drama	Bells	Games	Bible	25
10:30-10:45	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	15
10:50-11:15	Bells	Games	Art	Drama	25
11:20-11:45	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	25
11:50-12:15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	25
12:20-12:45	Games	Art	Bible	Bells	25
12:50-1:15	Art	Bible	Drama	Games	25
1:20-1:40	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	20
1:45-2:00	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	15

On Friday we end at noon so kids can rest for the evening performance. At the noon pick up, we have a chime/handbell demonstration with each group beginning with the youngest. That evening we gather for a warm-up at 6:00, begin the performance at 6:30, and end with a cookie reception.

Time	Red	Orange	Blue	Green	minutes
9:00-9:30	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	30
9:33-9:51	Games	Drama	Art	Bells	18
9:54-10:12	Drama	Art	Bells	Games	18
10:15-10:30	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	15
10:33-10:51	Art	Bells	Games	Drama	18
10:54-11:12	Bells	Games	Drama	Art	18
11:15-12:00	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	Rehearsal	45



Children painted "stained glass" during their art rotation.



## Bonclarken Music Conference

July 12-17, 2020

2020 Clinicians

Adult Choir | Shannon Jeffreys,  
Georgia Southern University

Youth Choir | Todd Arant  
Apex (NC) UMC

Middle Choir | Victor C. Johnson,  
Dallas, Texas

Junior Choir | Liz Shepley,  
Northfield, Minnesota

Cherub & Primary Choirs |  
Susan Eernisse,  
Carrollton (GA) FBC &  
*The Chorister Magazine*

Located in the beautiful mountains of Flat Rock, North Carolina, Bonclarken Music Conference provides a wonderful experience for singers of all ages!

Join our nationally-recognized clinicians for a week of strengthening technique, learning new music, and fellowship!

For more information:  
[www.bonclarken.org](http://www.bonclarken.org)

Directors:  
Trip McGill  
[tripmcgill@gmail.com](mailto:tripmcgill@gmail.com)

Lynn Grimsley  
[lynngirms@gmail.com](mailto:lynngirms@gmail.com)



PLANNED BY THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP OF THE  
ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Scene from the musical Tale of Three Trees.*

But where do you start? I begin in the fall by choosing a musical. Others may start with a handful of Anthems to create their own program. From there, it is a marketing blitz through the spring. Begin by sending out a "save the date" email. Put it in church publications, add to multimedia slides, send flyers to nearby elementary schools, or purchase an ad in the local newspaper or magazine. Two of my best marketing strategies have been creating an event on Facebook and sharing with mom/neighborhood groups. We also send home flyers with kids at VBS.

In the meantime, begin to fill your team. Have one to two adults serve as leaders for each rotation. Sometimes, I use college students as the second adult. (Don't forget to do any required background checks!) In addition, there are two or more youth helpers who lead each group to each rotation.

### THE MONTH BEFORE ACTION ITEMS:

- Order T-shirts.
- Create your groups and sign in/out sheets.
- Tape these sheets to tables with laundry baskets underneath for lunches.
- Procure all props and backdrops if not being created during camp.
- Buy snacks and other materials/supplies.
- Have a Teacher Meeting and Youth Leader Boot Camp.
- Send parents a "Welcome Email"/audition form.
- Give music to musicians and accompanist.
- Create name tags for all.
- Post group lists outside or at the entry door on day one or email them to parents.
- Create a seating chart.
- Write Thank You notes to teachers and youth, may include a small gift.
- Create the program.
- Decorate and label rooms.
- Post the schedule everywhere.
- Send a follow up email to remind parents of the final performance.

It really is amazing that children can put on an entire production in less than ten hours of rehearsal! But it is more than the performance, we are sowing seeds of biblical truths in the hearts of our campers through all aspects of the arts.



*Guest clinician, Kim Ingram, teaching her new musical More Power to You!*





Scene from *The Lost Boy* musical.



**Jennifer Dent Hill** is a music educator and composer currently employed at Suncreek United Methodist Church, where she coordinates and conducts children's music activities and assists in all other musical areas of the church. She plays flute and also conducts the flute choir at Suncreek. Jennifer has been in the music education field for 27 years and has her Bachelor of Music Education-Instrumental degree from Centenary College and her Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Sam Houston State University.

Jennifer has taught music and choirs in public school for 11 years in Shreveport, Pasadena ISD, Deer Park ISD, and Allen ISD. She has recently written several original compositions for children's choirs and for children with an adult choir. She is a member of Choristers Guild and Texas Music Educators Association.

# THE AMERICAN KODÁLY INSTITUTE

AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

## SUMMER MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

- OAKE Endorsed Kodály Certification Levels I, II, III
- M.Ed in Kodály Music Education
- Kodály methodology based on current research
- Teaching Lab with AKI Demonstration Singers
- Build and play dulcimer, guitar, and ukulele
- Learn hundreds of songs, folk dances, and play parties
- Elementary General or Secondary Choral Track

**Apply Today!**  
**Courses run July 11-31, 2020.**  
**Attend a Free Saturday Workshop—**  
**Register Online!**

*The American Kodály Institute is endorsed by the Organization of American Kodály Educators.*

HOW WILL YOU DRIVE EDUCATION  
**FORWARD?** →



**LOYOLA**  
 UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

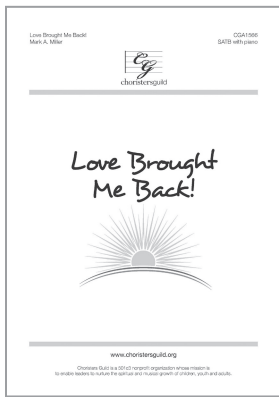
School of Education

4501 N. Charles Street  
 Baltimore, MD 21210

**LOYOLA.EDU/KODALY**

Program Information:  
 240-993-9181  
 lkmcdougle@loyola.edu

Application Information:  
 410-617-7741  
 mjpalmer@loyola.edu



# Anthem Feature: *Love Brought Me Back*

BY MARK MILLER  
CGA1566 | SATB WITH PIANO

USES AND TIPS BY GLENN EERNISSE

## DESCRIPTION AND IDEAS FOR USE

*Love Brought Me Back* is an upbeat, high energy piece for SATB choir by Mark Miller. The text relates to the Easter Sunday morning story but could be used on almost any Sunday throughout the year. The first stanza describes the women approaching the tomb, while the chorus is written as if Jesus is speaking, beginning with the words "I'm back!" The second stanza applies the story of the resurrected Christ to everyday life of today, pointing out there is "hope, forgiveness, and a bright new day" for all of us. The anthem is written in a driving gospel style in a minor key on the stanzas, switching to major for the chorus. The ending section can be extended with the option of additional repeats along with possible improvised solos. Because this is optional, the piece is certainly accessible for the standard church choir. For an energetic multigenerational presentation, consider combining adult, youth, and senior adult choirs.

## REHEARSAL TIPS

The opening section presents some challenges rhythmically and in terms of range. Written in a true unison, it is a bit low for sopranos at times, and on the high side for basses. Some work on a neutral syllable can be helpful in achieving a blend between men and ladies, allowing the men to sing lightly without pushing. This can also be helpful in working out the syncopated rhythms, which can then be combined with the text

as a next step. A few repetitions of each phrase will likely result in quickly building your singers' confidence. Careful attention to dynamics will enhance the effect of the piece, especially the crescendos on the chorus. We elected to add increasing dynamics at the end for each of the three repetitions of "love, love, love." In my own choir, it quickly became clear that the engaging style made it enjoyable to sing, and the extra rehearsal time needed was a pleasure for all of us.

The piano accompaniment may be somewhat of a challenge for less-experienced pianists or those not comfortable in the gospel style. Encourage your accompanist to give it a try—the result will definitely be worth a bit of extra practice. If needed, an accompaniment track (**CGAC1566**) is available from Choristers Guild.

As mentioned earlier, *Love Brought Me Back* uses a text based on the Easter story. We chose to use it on a fall Sunday, with the idea that every Sunday is "a little Easter." In fact, the reason many churches worship on Sunday is because of the Resurrection. Pointing this out provided a teachable moment in the context of the service, and an enthusiastic affirmation by our congregation followed. *Love Brought Me Back* definitely goes on our list of favorite anthems to be revisited in the future!

---

*Dr. Glenn Eernisse* is Associate Pastor of Music and Worship at First Baptist Church of Carrollton, Georgia. He is married to Susan Eernisse, Editor of *The Chorister*.

# Rehearsal Planning 101: Building on the Basics

BY KATIE HOUTS

---

It doesn't matter whether we lead a choir of six preschoolers, 30 elementary students, or a dozen adults – a well-planned rehearsal is key to developing musicians and building a quality program or ministry. Over the next few issues of *The Chorister*, we'll invite expert teachers and directors to share rehearsal tips and strategies as part of the **Rehearsal Planning 101** series.

**Give me six hours to chop a tree, and  
I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.**  
- *Unknown*

Before we get into the details, let's consider an important question: how much time do you spend preparing for a rehearsal? Every rehearsal — no matter the age of the singer — deserves planning and prep. More important than the *quantity* of time is the *quality* of that preparation time. What do your singers need and deserve from you? How well are you assessing their needs and progress? Do you have a plan?

## I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START.

Don't despair! Let's look at the big picture. The general components of a rehearsal include:

**Gathering/Arrival**  
**Warm-ups**  
**Technique/Skill Building**  
**Anthems/Songs**  
**Sending/Departure**

*Future articles will explore  
these components in detail...  
stay tuned.*

## WHERE TO START?

Repertoire goals can determine plans for warm-ups and technique builders, so let's begin with Anthems/Songs. Jumpstart your planning with **three simple steps**:

1. **Identify** my rehearsal goal for the anthem ("Three Bible Songs: Zacchaeus," Mark Burrows).
  - I need to introduce a new piece to my 1st-2nd grade choir. I want the children to hear the melody and rhythm 6-8 times before I ask them to sing it.
2. **Strategize** how I'll execute my goal.
  - I'll play the demo track while the children follow the leader around the room, walking to the steady beat (half note) of the music. We'll use fairy steps first, then change to middle-sized gnome steps, and end with giant steps.
3. **Match** my strategy & execution with a component.
  - I can use this steady beat movement activity as a rhythm technique/skill builder.

Here's one more example:

1. **Identify** my rehearsal goal for the anthem ("Do Unto Others," Vicki Hancock Wright).
  - We need to unify our oo vowel. I want to hear the children sing by themselves to assess their ability to sing a lovely oo.
2. **Strategize** how I'll execute my goal.
  - I'll initiate a "loo-loo" echo (*sol-mi*). I'll vary tempo and pitch, correcting the vowel as needed.
  - We will play the Telephone Game with my A440 tuning fork. The children will pass the tone down the line using a pure oo vowel; I can identify children who have trouble forming this vowel.
3. **Match** my strategy and execution with component.
  - I can incorporate the *loo-loo* (*sol-mi*) echo activity into vocal exploration warm-ups.
  - I'll use the A440 game as an ear-training technique/skill builder.

Now, keep going! You might have three or four goals for each anthem...resulting in five or six activities for accomplishing the goals. Your rehearsal plan will quickly fill with creative ideas for warm-ups and technique/skill builders.

### DO I NEED TO WRITE DOWN MY PLANS? I LIKE TO GO WITH THE FLOW.

I get it. This used to be me. I would throw down a chicken-scratch menu, a vague order of activities, until I came to the realization that the children deserved *much* more from me. Now I never go into a rehearsal without a written plan. Here's why:

1. **It allows you to track your progress from week to week.** I review my written plan after each rehearsal and make notes — what went well, what fell flat, what goals the choir accomplished that weren't on my initial list. Take the time to intentionally evaluate. After you do this, your next rehearsal is partly planned!
2. **You will manage your time well.** As you plan, write down the length of time you wish to spend on each activity. If you run short on time, your written plan will help you identify areas to tighten up in the next rehearsal — or activities that may need more time allotted.
3. **It will challenge you to set goals.** Rather than simply writing down an anthem title, reference the specific sections of the music you wish to cover and any specific goals for the piece.
4. **You will build trust with your people** — volunteers, assistant directors, parents, youth and adult singers. Give your parent volunteers and rehearsal assistants a copy of your rehearsal plan so they can follow the activity. Your assistant director or accompanist will appreciate seeing the flow of rehearsal. Give your rehearsal outline to your high school or adult choir each week, encouraging them to review and take ownership of the goals.

Plan well, but keep things fluid. With your plan in hand, be ready to respond to your singers. If something isn't going well, it's ok to simply move on. If your singers are responding well to an activity, keep that flow going! Be prepared and be flexible.

All these things — tracking progress, managing time, setting goals, building trust — will lead to the same wonderful outcome:

**We will nurture capable, inspired musicians who are well-prepared to share their music with others.**

*I put clock trackers (4:45 p.m., 5:05 p.m., etc.) in my rehearsal plan to help with time-keeping.*

# Oh, Jonah! – The Making of a Musical

BY COLLEEN OATES

They say it takes a village, and that certainly holds true when the entire village — or student body, in the case of Grace Academy of Dallas, Texas — must work together to stage a musical production each spring.

A Christian school with an average annual enrollment of 220 children pre-kindergarten through 6th grade, the spring musical is an important part of the music curriculum for every child. "Grace Academy is a school where each student is encouraged to try new things and to take chances in an effort to discover new talents and passions," said Rebecca Rempert, Grace Academy's music director since 2008. "In addition to the many benefits of music education, we feel that participation in the show develops responsibility, teamwork, and hard work, all values which our school takes seriously."

The performance date is set each fall, but Rempert takes that first semester to listen to the voices of the sixth grade class. "Since the sixth graders will be our soloists and actors, I want to be sure to choose a production which will highlight their talents," she commented.

From there, Rempert reviews possible musical selections, looking for content that has a Biblical theme or teaches a moral lesson. She and headmaster Jim Clarke explore the potential choices and make the final selection in January. Collaborating in the process is Rev. Harry Wooten, Minister of Music and Worship at Royal Lane Baptist Church in Dallas, where Rempert attends.



A group of 1st and 2nd grade students (foreground) and 4th and 5th grade students (in choir loft) join cast members in a song from *Oh, Jonah!*



Sixth grade cast members sail through the storm in Grace Academy's production of *Oh, Jonah!*

He assists with auditions and holding clinics with students beforehand. Rempert believes it is important to have an outside person assist with auditions so she is not the only person selecting roles for the cast.

Most recently, Grace Academy presented "Oh, Jonah!" by Allen Pote and Carole McCann, published by Choristers Guild. The students practiced during their music classes, and art classes played a role in providing sets and props. Art and Technology teacher Sarah Bluser designed the sets and enlisted her art students to help create them. Based on the Bible story of Jonah and the whale, "Oh, Jonah!" had two key set pieces: the ship and the whale. The ship, complete with peek-through portholes, was light enough to be moved by four or five students. The whale was constructed as a wooden frame on wheels, and featured a flip-over panel revealing the "belly" of the whale.

Sarah Jayroe, Director of Communications, took the lead on the audiovisual and technical aspects of the production, cued the recorded accompaniment, and also designed original artwork for the T-shirts worn by all the participants. Colleen Medina coordinated the microphone placement, wireless mic assignments, and sound levels for each musical number. Photographer Eddie Medina captured the musical's highlights. All this preparation culminated in a single performance of "Oh, Jonah!" for an audience packed to the gills with friends,

teachers, and family members who enjoyed seeing the children shine on stage.

"The spring musical marks the end of our sixth grade students' tenure at Grace Academy," one parent commented. "The show serves as an exclamation point to many wonderful years at Grace. For the students, spending this quality time together working toward a common goal is a priceless experience!" Another parent emailed, "The performance you orchestrated with the students of Grace reflected the highest form of use of the God-given talents for which you've been personally endowed. And the joy it provided to students, families and friends alike, is beyond expression. Bless you all!"

The 2020 production (yet to be chosen at this publication date) is scheduled for Thursday, May 14. For director Rempert, this will mark her 12th and final spring musical production at Grace Academy. "After teaching music education for 32 years, and producing multiple musicals each year for students in preschool through high school, it will definitely be bittersweet at the end of this show. Music has been my life, and sharing my passions with children has been a true blessing. The Grace Academy musical will always hold a special place in my heart."



Rebecca Rempert, Music Director



You can preview/purchase  
**CGCA430 Oh, Jonah!** by Allen  
Pote and Carole McCann at  
[www.choristersguild.org](http://www.choristersguild.org)



**Colleen Oates** is Director of Customer Enhancement for Choristers Guild. In addition to membership duties, she is responsible for licensing, composer contracts and royalties, and is the registrar for the Choristers Guild Institute. Colleen earned a Bachelor's degree in Choral and General Music Education from Western Illinois University. She is a vocal soloist and choir section leader, and also rings in her church handbell choir. For over two decades Colleen performed with Texas Winds Musical Outreach, a nonprofit organization that brings music to retirement and senior care facilities, hospitals, veterans, and children in North Texas.

# Children's Choir Devotionals

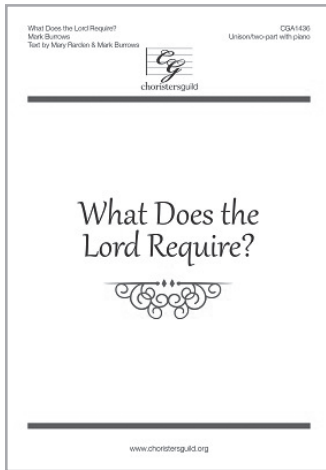
BY SHARON HOWELL WELSCH

---

## WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2

### SCRIPTURE:

The Lord has told you what is good. He has told you what he wants from you: do what is right to other people. Love, being kind to others. And live humbly, trusting your God. *Micah 6:8 ICB*



### DEVOTIONAL:

The prophet Micah hoped to make things easier for us by telling us what we need to do to be good followers of Jesus, but some people say that doing these things can be pretty hard! Be Kind. All the time? Live Humbly. What about defeating my friend in my new video game? Trust God. What about when something bad happens? Sometimes we have a hard time doing these things but if we want to be more like Jesus, Micah gives us great instructions!

### PRAYER:

Trustworthy God, thank you for giving us instructions in your Word on how to be a good Jesus follower! Help us to be kind, live humbly, and trust you! Amen.

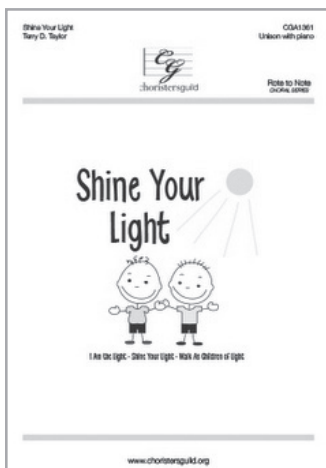
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1436** | *What Does the Lord Require?* | Mark Burrows | Unison/two-part with piano

## WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9

### SCRIPTURE:

You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:14-16 ICB*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Did you know that God tells us that we are supposed to be like light? He does! He says that we are supposed to be like a lamp beside our bed that shines out in the night. I keep a little night light on in my house at night and whenever I wake up, I can see it and it makes me feel happy. I want to be like that light; I want to help other people feel happy because God loves me and them! Let's try to shine God's love out to others every day.

### PRAYER:

Bright, shining, God, thank you for shining so brightly and loving us so deeply. Help us to love others as we shine brightly for you. Amen.

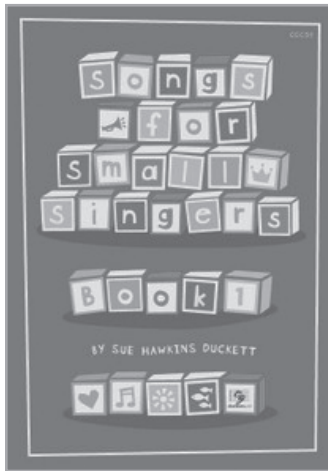
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1361** | *Shine Your Light* | Terry D. Taylor | Unison with piano

## WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16

### SCRIPTURE:

Love the Lord your God. Obey him. Stay close to him. He is your life. And he will let you live many years in the land. This is the land he promised to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. *Deuteronomy 30:20 ICB*



### DEVOTIONAL:

The Bible has many heroes of our faith. We can learn from their examples. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are some of our heroes. (Ask your teacher to tell you more about them.) We get even more instructions about how to be a good follower of Jesus in this scripture verse: love God, obey God, and stay close to God. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were pretty good at staying close to God! As you sing to God, you can learn more about him through the music — to obey, stay close to, and love God. Let's keep singing!

### PRAYER:

God who stays close to us, help us stay close to you in all we do. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

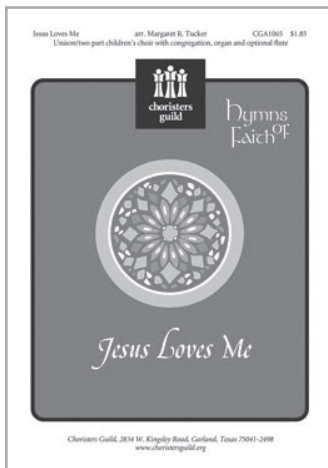
**CGC59** | *Songs for Small Singers, Book One* | *Father Abraham* | Sue Hawkins Duckett | Unison with chords for optional piano or guitar accompaniment

---

## WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23

### SCRIPTURE:

Jesus heard the voice of God, the Greatest Glory. That was when Jesus received honor and glory from God the Father. The voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him." *2 Peter 1:17 ICB*



### DEVOTIONAL:

The Bible says that God told Jesus he was very pleased with him and that he loved him. Even though we can't hear him, God is saying the same thing to us! You were created by God. God is very pleased with you, and loves you so much. Now that is a great reason to sing!

### PRAYER:

Loving God, thank you for loving us. Help us to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1065** | *Jesus Loves Me* | Margaret Tucker | Unison/two-part children's choir with congregation, organ, and optional flute



## WEEK OF MARCH 1

### SCRIPTURE:

Create in me a pure heart, God. Make my spirit right again. *Psalms 51:10 ICB*



### DEVOTIONAL:

We entered the Season of Lent last week. During Lent, we spend time remembering Jesus and thinking about things that we can do differently so that we might be more like Jesus. One of the prayers we can pray is Psalm 51:10. We can ask God to help us to be more like Jesus by clearing out anything that takes us away from talking to God. God ALWAYS listens and answers our prayers. God is so good!

### PRAYER:

Listening God, thank you for hearing our prayers. Help us to want to be more like Jesus. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA879** | *Create in Me a Clean Heart* | Jeff Reeves | Unison/two-part with piano

## WEEK OF MARCH 8

### SCRIPTURE:

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost but have eternal life. *John 3:16 ICB*

### DEVOTIONAL:

I memorized this verse of scripture when I was just a little girl. This little verse sums up the whole Bible in just a few words. That is not only cool, it is amazing! Sometimes I say to my children and grandchildren, "Do you know how much I love you?" It is a game we play that helps them look at something really big and try to see if I love them that much. The thing I want you to know is that no matter how large a thing we can imagine, God loves us even more! We are so blessed!

### PRAYER:

Loving God, thank you for loving us so much that you would give your Son to help us be able to have a relationship with you. Your love is amazing! Amen.

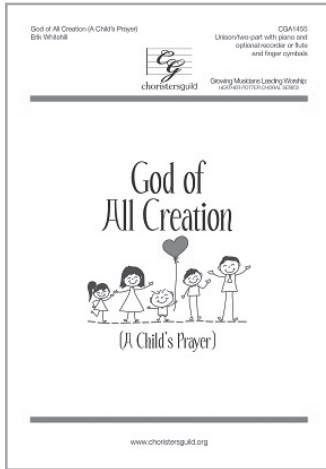
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA447** | *God So Loved the World* | John D. Horman | Unison/Two Part, Keyboard, optional Flute or Violin

## WEEK OF MARCH 15

### SCRIPTURE:

Come, let's sing for joy to the Lord. Let's shout praises to the Rock who saves us. Let's come to him with thanksgiving. Let's sing songs to him. *Psalm 95:1-2 ICB*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Did you know that all Creation gives thanks and praises to God? The Bible tells us we should sing but if we did not, the very rocks would sing. One of the things I love to do most is SING! Why not join me? Let's sing for joy to the Lord!

### PRAYER:

Creating God, thank you for everything you have done for us. You love us and you care for us. We have so much to sing about. May we praise you with our songs of thanksgiving! Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

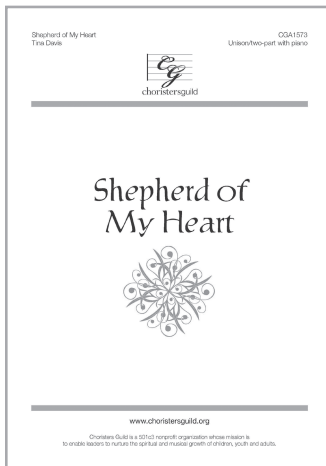
**CGA1455** | *God of All Creation* | Erik Whitehill | Unison/two-part with piano

---

## WEEK OF MARCH 22

### SCRIPTURE:

The Lord is my shepherd. I have everything I need. He gives me rest in green pastures. He leads me to calm water. He gives me new strength. *Psalm 23:1-2 ICB*



### DEVOTIONAL:

This Psalm is probably the most beloved Psalm. People love to think about how much God loves them. When they read about the green pastures and cool waters, they are reminded of how God takes care of them like a good shepherd takes care of the sheep in his care. We can be thankful that we have a Heavenly Father who takes such good care of us. The Lord really is our good shepherd!

### PRAYER:

Shepherd God, thank you for taking such good care of us. We want to live in your house forever. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:


**CGA1573** | *Shepherd of My Heart* | arr. John Purifoy | Unison/Two-part

## WEEK OF MARCH 29

### SCRIPTURE:

Jesus saw that Mary was crying and that the Jews who came with her were crying, too. Jesus felt very sad in his heart and was deeply troubled. *John 11:33*

Surrounded by Love  
Mark Patterson




choristersguild

CGA1588  
Unison with piano  
and optional descant

Helen Kemp  
Conductor

---

## Surrounded by Love



---

www.choristersguild.org

Choristers Guild is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to enable leaders to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults.

### DEVOTIONAL:

I love this story from the Bible because we see Jesus as very compassionate and caring. He has not only promised to never leave us and to always be with us but also experiences sadness right along with us. Some Bible translations say, "Jesus began to weep." We see Jesus being so concerned about us that he even cries when we are crying. And he laughs with us, too. I love that God shares in our lives and even knows when we laugh or cry. God IS always with us!

### PRAYER:

God of tears and laughter, thank you that you are always with us. We love you, too! Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1588** | *Surrounded By Love* |  
Mark Patterson | Unison with  
optional descant



*Sharon and members of her choir from Mars Hill Baptist Church recently joined with other choirs and orchestra to present a concert at Carnegie Hall in performing works by composer/conductor Mary McDonald.*



**Rev. Dr. Sharon Howell Welsch** is the Associate Pastor at Mars Hill Baptist Church serving as both Minister of Music and Christian Education. She directs a combined-ages Children's choir as well as the Chancel Choir, and an intergenerational handbell choir. Sharon has begun a two-year program to earn a certificate as a Spiritual Director. Her hobbies include reading, cooking, gardening, and enjoying life with her husband, three children (and their spouses), eight grandchildren, and three cats.

# Chapter Events

---

## **FEBRUARY 22, 2020**

**First Baptist Church, Richmond, VA**  
**Richmond Area Choristers Guild Children's**  
**Choir Festival (Grades 3-5)**  
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Conductor: Heather Potter  
Contact: Ruth Szucs at [szucs@fbcrichmond.org](mailto:szucs@fbcrichmond.org)

## **MARCH 7, 2020**

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Loveland, OH**  
**Southwest Ohio Chapter of Choristers Guild**  
**34th Annual Choralfest (Grades 1-8)**  
Rehearsals: 10:00 a.m.  
Worship service: 4:00 p.m.  
Clinician: Heather Potter  
Contact: Mary Ella Wielgos at [mwielgos@saint-max.org](mailto:mwielgos@saint-max.org)

## **MARCH 7, 2020**

**St. Stephen Catholic Community, Winter Springs, FL**  
**29th Annual Festival of Central Florida Chapter**  
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Conductor: Claire Hodge  
Visit: [floridachoristers.org](http://floridachoristers.org)

## **MARCH 14, 2020**

**Arch Street Presbyterian Church, Center City,**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
**Walk as Children of Light Children's Choir Festival**  
Rehearsal: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Worship and Performance: 2:00 p.m.  
Clinician: Tom Shelton  
Contact: Ruth Sall at [greaterphilacgchapter@gmail.com](mailto:greaterphilacgchapter@gmail.com)

## **MARCH 15, 2020**

**Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, Silver Spring, MD**  
**Capital Beltway Chapter of Choristers Guild Children's**  
**Choir Festival**  
Rehearsals: begin at 1:45 p.m.  
Worship service: 6:30 p.m.  
Clinician: Brian Hehn  
Contact: Marilyn Murchison at [marilyn@oslclaurel.org](mailto:marilyn@oslclaurel.org)

## **NATIONAL** **JULY 20-24, 2020**

**Choristers Guild Institute**  
**Roswell Presbyterian Church, Roswell, GA**  
Contact: Colleen Oates, Registrar at  
[registrar@choristersguild.org](mailto:registrar@choristersguild.org)

### **TO LIST YOUR CHAPTER EVENT**

*Send your listing to*  
*[membership@choristersguild.org](mailto:membership@choristersguild.org) with*  
*complete information. Include dates, location,*  
*clinicians, and contact information. For additional*  
*advertising, contact [advertising@choristersguild.org](mailto:advertising@choristersguild.org)*

# Welcome to Board Member Elizabeth Shepley



Elizabeth "Liz" Shepley is new to the Choristers Guild Board of Directors, filling the vacancy left by departing board member Teri Larson.

Elizabeth 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.

She holds a MA in Music Education with a Kodály emphasis (University of St. Thomas), a BA in Music Education (Concordia College, Moorhead, MN), 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, 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.

In her free time she loves to bike, cook, read, golf, and travel. Together with her husband, Bob, she enjoys keeping up with her four adult sons.

Elizabeth was elected to the board in November 2019, alongside a slate of officers. Continuing to serve on the board are: President Stephanie McIlwain Miller, Past-President Terry Goolsby, Secretary-Treasurer Andrew Masetti, President-Elect John Sutton, Todd Arant, Ruth Szucs, and Sandy Rosales.

## Be a Good Neighbor



Have **Tom Thumb**, **Albertsons**, or **Randalls** donate 1% of your grocery bill to Choristers Guild

Choristers Guild is a member of the **Good Neighbor** program.  
Our account number is:

**10468**

*If you already have a loyalty card with any of these grocery stores, take that number to the customer service desk and ask to have it linked to your card. If you don't have a Tom Thumb card but would still like to participate, use this number on your card application.*

## Don't forget to smile



When you shop, Amazon gives.

Choristers Guild is a member of **AmazonSmile**. It is a great way to support CG. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you get the same prices that you would get on [amazon.com](https://amazon.com). Only difference? Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to Choristers Guild.

To get started:

- Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and create an AmazonSmile account.
- Once created, click on "change your charity" and enter Choristers Guild in the search bar.
- After that, press the select button and get to shopping!



# News from National: New Beginnings

BY STEPHANIE MCILWAIN MILLER  
PRESIDENT, CHORISTERS GUILD NATIONAL BOARD

---

Sitting in front of the fire, with my dog on my feet, on a cool, crisp and uncharacteristically sunny day in the Pacific Northwest, (publication deadline is looming), I find myself thinking of Choristers Guild. What have I gained from being a member, how is it impacting my life now, and what can I do to help strengthen this organization and further its mission during my two-year term as president of our National Board?

I still vividly remember the first song I sang in children's choir, *This Is My Father's World*. I became quite ill shortly after my first rehearsal and was in tears thinking I wouldn't be allowed to sing in worship without more rehearsal. My mother explained the situation to my new choir director and she said if I could memorize the song I could sing. There was hope! I sat on my mom and dad's bed, hymnal in my lap, and tried my hardest to learn every syllable and note. I did, and it ignited a passion within me. Little did I know how much that would affect the rest of my life.

Over the past three decades, Choristers Guild has helped me expand my knowledge and repertoire as a church worship arts leader. Teaching, broadening and deepening the spiritual growth of all ages through music and the arts, is a calling I feel fortunate to share with all of you.

The opportunities afforded me through Choristers Guild continue to inspire me. Imagine learning from and working with Heather Potter, Mark Burrows, Karol Kimmell, Michael Hawn, and so many others — all because I attended the Choristers Guild Institute (an experience I cannot recommend highly enough). My cup runneth over! The number of talented and gifted individuals who support and contribute to this organization is awe-inspiring.

That brings me to my new job, the exciting and formidable task of helping lead this organization. I believe my first step needs to be getting out there and speaking with all of you. Hopefully by the time you are reading this I will have already spoken with many members from the Greater Atlanta Chapter. (Happy 50th!) However, I would like to hear all of your ideas, struggles, hopes, and dreams for your journey as a leader in whatever setting you serve. I'm hoping you will assist the National Board to discern what is next for Choristers Guild. You can email me at [smm@seanet.com](mailto:smm@seanet.com) or leave a message for me with the National Office, 1-800-CHORISTER.

Before I sign off, I want to thank you all for your dedication to the mission of my favorite nonprofit, Choristers Guild, *Enabling leaders to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults*. In particular, thank you to our hard-working, enthusiastic, and talented staff led by Dawn Jantsch, our past and current board members, and especially Teri Larson, who rotated off of the Board in November after serving her presidential rotation. Teri, it was inspirational to watch you step out of your comfort zone over and over again on behalf of this organization you clearly love. May I find a way to be as daring as you.

Until the next issue,

**-Stephanie**



## Arrangements for Solo Instrument to Full Orchestra

### Books

Full Score .....	CGIN37
Piano/Rhythm .....	CGIN38
Flute(s) .....	CGIN39
Oboe .....	CGIN40
B♭ Clarinet(s) .....	CGIN41
E♭ Alto Saxophone(s) .....	CGIN42
Horn(s) in F .....	CGIN43
B♭ Trumpet(s) .....	CGIN44
Trombone(s)/Bassoon(s)/BC Euphonium(s) .....	CGIN45
Tenor Saxophone(s)/Bass Clarinet(s)/TC Euphonium(s) ...	CGIN46
Baritone Saxophone .....	CGIN47
Tuba .....	CGIN48
Violin(s) .....	CGIN49
Viola .....	CGIN50
Cello/Double Bass .....	CGIN51
Percussion .....	CGIN52

### Accompaniment CD

Spirituals of Faith Accompaniment CD .....	CGCD73
--	--------

**Flexible for any number or combination of instruments with piano or CD accompaniment**

*Spirituals of Faith* is designed to allow for maximum flexibility of use. With the exception of the percussion book, each book includes a Solo and an Ensemble part for each of the ten spirituals. Basic performance can be with a solo instrument and piano or a solo instrument and accompaniment track. Add to this any combination of instruments using the ensemble parts up to and including full orchestra. While there are some passages that may be a challenge for younger players, most of the arrangements are within the skill level of a Grade III band or orchestra composition and are accessible by players from eighth grade and above. They are good lengths for preludes, offertories, and featured instrumental performance in the church or school setting. For similar flexible instrumental arrangements, please explore our *Hymns of Praise* and *Carols of Christmas, Set 1 series*.



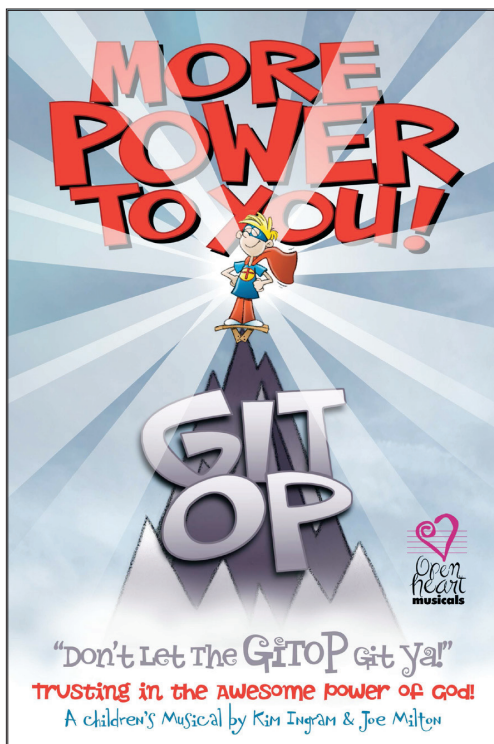
choristersguild

12404 PARK CENTRAL DRIVE  
SUITE 100  
DALLAS, TX 75251

DATED MATERIAL  
DO NOT DELAY

NON-PROFIT  
ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID

# New from Open Heart Musicals



*Trusting in the Awesome Power of God to Face a GITOP  
(A Gigantic, Intimidating, Troubling, Overwhelming Problem!)*

This new musical by Kim Ingram and Joe Milton is ideal for children's choirs and Fine Arts Camps. Your kids will bring to life three Bible stories as they invent dialogue and movement, create sound effects and props - all while learning what these stories can mean for us today!

Featuring the Bible stories: Joshua and the Great Wall, Peter Walks on Water, and The House on the Rock

Plus two classic hymns: "Standing on the Promises" and "How Can I Keep from Singing"

Available at [www.choristersguild.org](http://www.choristersguild.org) or call 1-800-CHORISTER:

CGOH5	Singer Score
CGOH5P	Preview Pack (Book and CD)
CGOH5CDS	20-pack Listening CDs
CGOH5AC	Performance CD
CGOH5D	Digital Teacher Resource Kit



# the chorister

RESOURCES FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

April/May 2020

Volume 71 | Issue 6



  
choristersguild

# LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE YOU!

SPONSORED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH MUSICIANS REGION 1

A HEARTS • HANDS • VOICES EVENT • VALPARAISO, INDIANA

in conjunction with the 2020 Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival

All are  
welcome!

## Pre-Conference Event

Friday–Sunday  
July 17–19, 2020

Bach cantata immersion with workshops on cantatas in the parish, working with instrumentalists, and open rehearsals with Dr. Christopher Cock, director of the Bach Institute at Valparaiso.

Experience the annual LSM Bach cantata service.

## Conference

Monday–Wednesday  
July 20–22, 2020

Morning and evening prayer with the Lutheran Summer Music community.

Practical workshops for a diversity of local contexts.

Conference closes with the annual LSM hymn festival.

## Faculty include:

Jeremy Bankson  
Jean Boehler  
Jonathan Busarow  
Christopher Cock  
Karen Eddinger  
Chad Fothergill  
Timothy Fredstrom  
Robert Hobby  
Nancy Menk  
Sally Messner  
John Morris  
Anne Krentz Organ  
Daniel Schwandt  
Christopher Wilson

## Post-Conference Event

Thursday–Sunday  
July 23–26, 2020

Attend LSM festival week concerts for band, choir and orchestra, as well as numerous student recitals.

Worship at the closing LSM festival eucharist.

Early bird discount rate  
deadline is **April 15**.  
Register today!

[alcm.org/2020-valparaiso/](http://alcm.org/2020-valparaiso/)

Take up your voices and instruments—lyres and harps, djembes and guitars, strings and pipes—and join the young, old, young at heart, and everything that has breath for this time of worship, learning, and fellowship:

*“Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.”*



LUTHERAN  
MUSIC  
PROGRAM

## CHORISTERS GUILD INSTITUTE



Certification program for directors of young singers (K-8th)

- Learn effective choral teaching techniques
- Improve your vocal modeling and conducting skills
- Receive guidance from a mentor
- Form lifelong friendships
- Get inspired through classes, worship, and a supportive community

**JULY 20-24, 2020 AT ROSWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
METRO ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

LEARN MORE: [WWW.CHORISTERSGUILD.ORG/INSTITUTE](http://WWW.CHORISTERSGUILD.ORG/INSTITUTE)

LEARN WITH:

- Michael Burkhardt
- Tom Shelton
- Amanda Smith
- Emily Floyd
- Karol Kimmell
- Ruth Szucs
- Chris Nemec
- Martha Shaw (speaker at Helen Kemp Banquet)

April/May 2020

## CHORISTERS GUILD

12404 Park Central Dr. Ste. 100  
Dallas, TX 75251-1802  
800.246.7478 or 469.398.3606  
choristersguild.org

*The Chorister* is published bimonthly. Choristers Guild is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, religious and educational corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

## Choristers Guild Staff

### DAWN JANTSCH

Executive Director  
djantsch@choristersguild.org

### PAM HARRIS

Director of Marketing  
pharris@choristersguild.org

### KATHY LOWRIE

Handbell and Instrumental Editor  
klowrie@choristersguild.org

### KATIE HOUTS

Sacred Choral Editor  
khouts@choristersguild.org

### VICTOR C. JOHNSON

School Choral Editor  
vjohnson@choristersguild.org

### KAROL KIMMELL AND

### CHRIS NEMEC

Choristers Guild  
Institute Directors

### SUSAN EERNISSE

*The Chorister* Editor  
seernisse@choristersguild.org

### COLLEEN OATES

Director of Customer Enhancement  
coates@choristersguild.org

### RUSSELL ALMAND

Membership Enhancement  
ralmand@choristersguild.org

### LAUREN CARTER

Membership Enhancement  
lcarter@choristersguild.org

### Advertising

advertising@choristersguild.org  
or (469) 398-3606, ext. 227

### The Chorister Design

Mara Dawn Dockery

### Cover photo:

2019 CGI Year III graduates  
with faculty

- 2 **Choristers Guild Atlanta Chapter Celebrates 50 Years**  
by Susan Eernisse, *The Chorister* Editor
- 4 **What's for Dinner?**  
by Katie Houts, Sacred Choral Editor
- 5 **A Journey from Law School to the Choristers Guild Institute to a Graduate Degree in Music Education**  
by Kirsten Foyles
- 7 **The Choristers Guild Institute**
- 12 **A Silent Night of Rehearsal**  
by Pamela Vandewalker
- 15 **Contributors to the Choristers Guild 2019**
- 16 **Anthem Feature: A Double Feature**  
by Katie Houts
- 17 **Children's Choir Devotionals**  
by Russell Almand
- 22 **News from National: Hello, Friends, a Word from Your CGI Girl**  
by Stephanie McIlwain Miller
- 23 ***The Chorister*: Index for Volume 71**

## GO ONLINE WITH CHORISTERS GUILD



Explore members-only resources, including recorded webinars and past issues of *The Chorister*. If you can't log in as a member, go to "Member Log-in" and follow the prompts to retrieve your user name/password. [choristersguild.org](http://choristersguild.org)



Find video previews of Choristers Guild music, perfect for selecting new music or for choristers to use in practice. [youtube.com/c/choristersguild](https://youtube.com/c/choristersguild)



Connect with other members, share ideas and get info on special offers and new music. [facebook.com/choristersguild](https://facebook.com/choristersguild)



Get updates on news and trends in choral music from Choristers Guild and others. [twitter.com/choristersguild](https://twitter.com/choristersguild)

## Board of Directors

**STEPHANIE MCILWAIN MILLER**

*President*  
Bellevue, WA

**JOHN SUTTON**

*President-elect*  
Altadena, CA

**TERRY GOOLSBY**

*Past-President*  
Dallas, TX

**ANDREW MASETTI**

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Westfield, NJ

**TODD ARANT**

Apex, NC

**RUTH SZUCS**

Richmond, VA

**SANDRA ROSALES**

Santa Ana, CA

**ELIZABETH SHEPLEY**

Minneapolis, MN

## Covenant Society

*Please consider joining our Covenant Society—those who have included Choristers Guild in their will or other estate plans:*

Larry K. Ball  
Betty Bedsole  
Judy and Larry Britts  
Rev. Richard F. Collman  
Judith E. Dardaganian  
Janet M. Davidson  
Norman and Ethel Geist  
Terry and Pam Goolsby  
C. Michael Hawn  
Dawn Jantsch  
Helen Litz  
Susanne Melton  
Sue Ellen Page and Eric Johnson  
Carolyn Perkins  
Joanna E. Pretz-Anderson  
Jim and Stephanie Rindelau  
Mary Louise and Don VanDyke  
Priscilla B. Zimmermann

*Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission, unless otherwise indicated. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return and safety of artwork, photographs, or materials. Acceptance of advertising or rental of mailing list does not imply endorsement.*



# Choristers Guild Atlanta Chapter Celebrates 50 Years

BY SUSAN EERNISSE  
THE CHORISTER EDITOR

One of the most vital components of Choristers Guild is the local chapters. Chapters are like families within an extended family and Chapter Events are a bit like family reunions. The Atlanta Chapter of Choristers Guild celebrated its 50th anniversary this year at its annual Midwinter Workshop. It was a combination of workshop, hymn festival, and anniversary celebration at the two-day event held in January at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church.



*Choristers Guild members gather for a meal with Stephanie McIlwain-Miller, Heather Potter, Ruth Szucs, Todd Arant, and others.*

Catherine Elliott, Atlanta Chapter President, gave some opening remarks at the banquet on Friday evening. She welcomed special guests that included National Board President Stephanie McIlwain-Miller, Board Members Ruth Szucs and Todd Arant, Past National President Heather Potter, and several Atlanta Chapter past presidents. Lisa Marvel, granddaughter of Maybel Boyter — organizer of the first Atlanta Chapter workshop, was also in attendance. Choristers Guild Sacred Music Editor Katie Houts and Choristers Guild Institute Director Karol Kimmell were among those gathered in Atlanta.

The Atlanta Chapter of Choristers Guild began 50 years ago with the very first Midwinter workshop on January 25, 1970. Just like that first workshop a Hymn Festival was included as the centerpiece of the weekend. This year's event featured musicians of Peachtree Road UMC, the Gwinnett Young Singers, the Atlanta Master Chorale, the Shallowford Presbyterian Choir, and others.

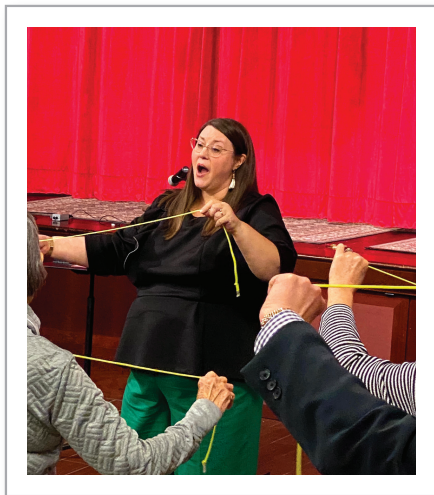
Leadership training was offered throughout the two-day workshop. Clinicians included Eric Nelson, Emily Floyd (Atlanta Chapter Past-President), Mark Patterson, and Lynn Kleiner.

Happy anniversary to the Atlanta Chapter! May the next fifty years continue to be filled with excellent training and collegiality! We appreciate all you do to continue the mission of Choristers Guild — *enabling leaders to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults.*

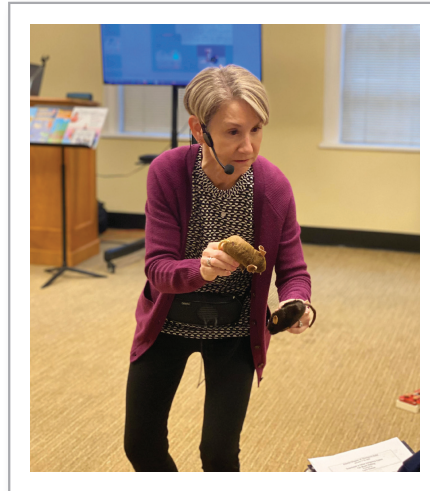
If you haven't plugged into a local chapter, I hope you will consider becoming an active participant. You will find so many benefits to sharing your journey with like-minded leaders from other churches and institutions. If you need assistance feel free to contact Choristers Guild at [www.choristerguild.org](http://www.choristerguild.org) or call 800.246.7478.

Keep singing the song!

-Susan



Emily Floyd giving "dynamic" instruction to youth choir directors.



Lynn Kleiner leading preschool workshop sessions.



Eric Nelson presenting an adult choir directors' session.



Mark Patterson talking with attendees at a children's leadership session.



# What's for Dinner?

BY KATIE HOUTS  
SACRED CHORAL EDITOR

---

The food scene in Salt Lake City is pretty rad. You can find farm-to-table restaurants, fresh pizza joints, unbelievable gelato, authentic Mexican, tons of delicious dives—so my husband and I try to venture out every week or two. Ryan and I met in college, fell quickly in love, and my palette has never been the same. You see, this native Iowan grew up eating meat and potatoes with one of three vegetables we grew in our garden (green beans, peas, or carrots). We chose between ranch or ranch 'lite' dressing for our iceberg lettuce.

I hadn't tasted avocados, macarons, or Caesar salad until I met Ryan. He is always encouraging me to try something new: bubble tea, *real* ramen, octopus, squid ink pasta, pistachios. Not everything I try is a pleasant experience (*ahem*, octopus), and that's ok. Palettes are personal. What I've developed is a greater appreciation for the art of cooking and the thoughtfulness of a menu.

Choosing repertoire can be a similar experience, yes? We all have our favorite composers, our favorite styles, our favorite anthems. At times it can be hard to break out of our comfort zone and try something new. The first time I attended the Choristers Guild Institute, I came home with a stack of anthems I had never noticed before. The faculty presented some of their favorites — a mix of old and new — and my palette expanded. An ignored piece (in our music library, in fact!) shot to the top of my list when Karol Kimmell directed the anthem in a particularly inspiring way. Amanda Page Smith brought a Rote to Note anthem to life, a piece I'd previously set aside simply because of its title.

How grateful I am for community and relationships! Were it not for Ryan's encouragement, I wouldn't know the heavenly bite of avocado toast. And were it not for the faculty of CGI, I would have ignored anthems which have become my choristers' favorites. When we lean into community, our lives become richer. It's the most joyful aspect of CGI each summer — the way we all learn from one another and trust one another's experiences.

Some of you noticed that our Spring 2020 choral packet included a slightly expanded palette. We launched our Annie Moses Band Series choral line, featuring pieces designed to nurture young artists. The Annie Moses Band, a family band based in Nashville, has a signature sound — and the recordings you hear are actual young artists who are part of their mentoring program, accompanied by the band. We love these anthems for their soaring melodic lines and solid messages, not to mention the beautiful orchestrations by Bill Wolaver. We saw promise in these pieces, knowing that your children's and youth choirs could present these in a beautiful way. I hope you enjoy rehearsing these pieces, bringing them to life for your congregation.

Will I see you this  
summer at CGI?  
I sure hope so!

-Katie

# A Journey from Law School to the Choristers Guild Institute to a Graduate Degree in Music Education

BY KIRSTEN FOYLES

We have all heard the story before — the church needs a leader for the children's music program, so they look for a volunteer who took piano lessons at least once, sings in the church choir, has a willing spirit, and is alive and breathing. That is how I got my start in children's music ministry.

A year after joining the Community Presbyterian Church (CPC) Adult Choir, I was ten years into my legal career with three young daughters — a seven-year-old and twin four-year-olds. I was faced with a decision I was not ready to make, but one that ultimately changed the course of my life. I could help run the Praise and Worship Skills (PAWS) program at CPC or sit by idly and watch my daughters and their friends lose their choir and worship group. I objected to being involved on the grounds that I had not sung or played piano since high school, I had not grown up in church, and I had less theological knowledge than my first-grade daughter. I was the most unlikely person to lead a children's church music group, but as many of us have experienced, God sometimes chooses to use the most unlikely people.

To my great surprise, working with the children helped me grow in my own faith and PAWS became the highlight of my week. I was amazed to discover this was my passion and was exactly what I was meant to do. I recognized that I needed to improve my literacy both in music and faith formation to offer the children the type of program they deserved.

In 2012, I found the Choristers Guild Institute and it sounded like the perfect program to help me gain the skills I needed. I had no idea whether a lawyer with limited musical experience would be accepted into the program. I was not only accepted, but was nurtured and transformed during that week in Louisville, Kentucky. Every professor/mentor at the Institute was excited to teach both beginning students as well as seasoned professionals looking to broaden their music ministry.

I left that first summer of the Institute with numerous resources, lesson planning ideas, and strategies that I was very excited to use in my ministry. I completed my three-year CGI training in 2015 and received my certification as a Director of Young Singers. In those



*CGI 2015, Karol Kimmell's graduating mentor class*

three summers, I learned how to conduct, plan effective choral rehearsals, identify appropriate vocal ranges for children and adolescent voices, creatively implement faith formation strategies, and incorporate instruments and movement into stories and songs.

During those three years, many of my PAWS students wanted to continue making music beyond elementary school so I expanded the CPC music ministry options and established a Youth Worship Team (YWT) for middle and high school students. Working with older students was a joy and a new challenge, and I knew that I had to build my musical skills to continue serving these more experienced students. I decided at that time to pursue Kodály certification because Kodály is generally considered one of the most rigorous pedagogies with stringent standards for personal musicianship. I found and applied to the American Kodály Institute (AKI) through Loyola University Maryland for their Master's Degree program in Kodály Music Education.

Being an attorney by trade, I did not have an undergraduate music degree, therefore I spent the year prior to entering the program doing independent study in voice, piano, music theory, aural skills, sight-singing, choral methods, and choral literature. In July 2016, I began the four-summer program at Loyola and it transformed my approach to teaching music. Kodály-inspired teaching



Loyola, Level I Dulcimers

is a child development-based method which uses singing and sequencing to train children in musicianship and audiation through the use of folk song melodies, beat function rhythm syllables, and moveable-*do* solfège with Curwin hand signs.

Many of the folk songs used in Kodály teaching are secular songs, so I enjoyed modifying and tailoring many of the resources to create curricular activities suitable for sacred music settings. I found it so interesting that employing the Kodály concepts and sequencing in my lesson plans was inspiring to my students and became their favorite activities each week. Literacy skills are important for congregational singing. Whether these children continue any other musical activities as adults, these musical skills will allow them to participate in the music of the church throughout their lives.

My experiences with the Choristers Guild Institute and the American Kodály Institute have been complementary in helping me develop my philosophy and purpose for children/youth music ministry. One of the concepts that stuck with me from my first summer at CGI was to

be very selective about the music we offer to our children. In class I was reminded to ask myself this question for each piece of music: "Is it worthy of a place in the children's memory?" Zoltan Kodály advocated for only the most well-trained musicians to teach music of the highest quality to children. One of Kodály's most famous quotes is:

"It is far more important who the elementary music teacher is in a small town than who the director of an opera house is because if the opera director is not good, he will be dismissed in a year, but a poor music teacher in a small town can kill off the love of music for thirty years from thirty classes of children. This is an enormous responsibility".

Music educators in sacred settings have both the awesome responsibility and priceless gift to be entrusted to empower children and youth through faith and music. I am reminded daily of the great gift that I have been given through music, and the opportunity I have had to build my skills so that what I offer to my children each week is worthy of a place in their memory. I continue working as an attorney, but graduating this summer from Loyola was one of my proudest accomplishments and one that I share with so many who encouraged and guided my path: my mentor and friend, Terri Sinclair, my Choristers Guild Institute mentors and teachers, my Loyola professors and colleagues, the members and staff of Community Presbyterian Church, and my family — most of all my husband, Jody, and children, Keegan, Kayden, and Lauren, who inspired my journey. My personal experience also helps me to teach my middle and high school students that God has a plan for each one of us and it is never too late to change our path and follow His plan:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)



**Kirsten Foyles** is a Kodály certified music teacher and serves as Director of Children and Youth Music at Community Presbyterian Church in Pinehurst, NC. She directs a children's choir (grades K-5) and a Youth Worship Team (grades 6-12). She holds a BA from the University of Wisconsin, a law degree from the University of Louisville, and a master's degree in Kodály Music Education through the American Kodály Institute at Loyola University Maryland. She obtained certification as a Director of Young Singers through the Choristers Guild Institute in July 2015. Foyles has presented at the North Carolina and South Carolina state ACDA conferences, the Atlanta Chapter Choristers Guild Mid-Winter Festival, and the APCE National Conference in Galveston, TX. Foyles and co-author, Dr. Terri Sinclair have written an anthem, *With One Voice*, published by Choristers Guild, a Christmas Musical for *Growing in Grace Children's Music Curriculum*, and the book *Raising the Bar Line: Engaging Congregations Through Experiential Music and Worship Arts* available from Choristers Guild.



# Choristers Guild Institute 2020

## FACULTY FOCUS



### Michael Burkhardt

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

*Pedagogy III, Conducting, Special Topic: More than Music*



### Tom Shelton

Associate Professor of Sacred Music at Westminster Choir College, director of Children's and Youth Choirs at Princeton United Methodist Church and conductor of the Westminster Neighborhood Children's Choir

*Choral Methods, Conducting, Special Topics*



### Amanda Smith

Music Educator and Conductor (formerly Director of Children's Music at the Brick Presbyterian Church and The Brick Church School in New York City)

*Conducting, Pedagogy, Special Topics*



### Emily Floyd

Director of Music Ministries at Shallowford Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia

*Pedagogy for Year 2, Vocal Modeling, Special Topics*



### Karol Kimmell

Co-Director of Choristers Guild Institute, Director of Youth and Children's Music at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Ga.

*Visuals for Year 1, Special Topics: Hymnody with Children, Bells with Children (co-led)*

## FIRED UP! GROWING A CHOIR WITH CHORISTERS GUILD INSTITUTE

*By Pat McMillion, aka Granny Pat*

Several years ago, I was a retired elementary teacher who loved music, sang in our church chancel choir, and felt called to start a formal music program for our church's six to eight children.

As a student, I had majored in music and thought I would become an elementary music teacher. Then, I discovered that the city to which my new husband and I would be moving only had two music teachers, and both were firmly entrenched. So, I switched my major to elementary education.

Upon retiring from 30 years in the classroom, I responded to the call to begin a church choir for our children at Monte Sano United Methodist Church (Huntsville, Alabama). Where was I going to find the very best scripturally accurate, interesting, and challenging music for the children? As I looked through page after page of music published for children, I kept coming back to pieces from Choristers Guild. There I found the beginning pieces that I needed for our children, ages four through thirteen, who had never sung parts and had no formal choir experience.

Under the leadership of our new young pastor and his family, our church grew and the children's choir grew! Now, we have thirty singers on roll and twenty-three who are very active! It was time for me to grow, too! I was so excited to find that Choristers Guild had a three-year training program for children's church choir directors. I enrolled for the 2019 program in Dallas.

It is impossible to list all I learned that week. The only analogy I can conjure is a field of sparks. I don't know which will become a fire until I start down the road. The methods and music (sparks) I learned last summer turn into fires that keep my music program blazing upward!

For example, during a browsing session, I picked up a copy of a delightful children's Christmas pageant, "Room for Christmas," by Mark Burrows. The first couple of pages seemed made for my singers. The more I read, sang, and studied the score I realized that THIS WAS IT! It was just the play we needed to really get our children excited. We even had a very talented and gifted young third grader who was made for the leading part.



**Ruth Szucs**

Music Ministry Associate and Preschool Music Teacher at First Baptist Church in Richmond, VA

*Special Topics: Music Literacy, Worshipful Moments in Rehearsals*



**Chris Nemece**

Co-Director of Choristers Guild Institute, Organist and Worship Coordinator at Auburn UMC in Auburn, AL

*Administration and Visioning for Year 1, Bells for Children (co-led)*



**Katie Houts**

Sacred Choral Editor at Choristers Guild, Music Director of Rise Up Children's Choir, Junior, Staff Accompanist at the University of Utah, Children's Music Director for Hilltop UMC in Sandy, Utah

*Special Topics, Accompaniment*

**2020 Helen Kemp Speaker**

**Martha Shaw**

Artistic Director of the Spivey Hall Children's Choir and Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Reinhardt University

*Guest Lecturer at the Helen Kemp Banquet*



*Pat McMillion shown with choristers at Monte Sano UMC. They are wearing the crosses Pat made as a tool for learning the Lord's Prayer.*

When I returned home and shared the idea with the choir, I was disappointed to hear that a great number of my children would not be in town on Dec. 22 (the Sunday designated for the children's Christmas program) since parents usually took them out of school early (the Friday before) to start Christmas break. So, I blew on a spark I had received from one of the workshop participants — to video the pageant a week earlier and simply show it on the 22nd.

My students were totally thrilled. Their shyness about doing an entire pageant live was wiped away. They were used to being on camera (what parent doesn't constantly record their children with their smart phones) and couldn't wait to be on a "television show" about Christmas. They were on fire!

With proper licensing purchased, a talented high school senior who is planning for a career in drama/broadcasting made a video of the first two scenes of the play. We showed those scenes on the 22nd, and then acted the last scene (an extremely successful toy drive) in real time. Amazingly, only TWO choir members were taken out of school early. Everyone else was so excited about the play that plans were cancelled so the children could be in the LIVE scene at the end!

Starting in January, the children began learning the Lord's Prayer using a visual that Mark Burrows shared in which each child is given a wooden cross with a bit of knotted string attached. Each knot representing a verse in the Lord's Prayer. The children would learn to lead the congregation in a call and response version from the *The Faith We Sing* hymnal (page 2278). This started several weeks leading up to Palm Sunday in which they would learn the service music (Call to Worship, Doxology, Prayer Responses, Benedictions) so they could sit in the choir loft and lead worship.

I can't wait to include other ideas from this summer including a drum choir (with drums crafted from items obtained from Lowe's and Home Depot), teaching the choristers to following a choir director's hand signals, making the most of the short choir practice time we have each week, beginning to read musical scores, staying on pitch, singing in parts, learning to properly breathe, and on and on. We have even started a chime choir after a large local church gave us their extra set of hand chimes!

Last summer, Chorister Guild captured an old teacher, taught her a whole bag of new tricks, and fired her up to pass the musical light to thirty-plus young Choristers! Looking forward to July 2020 in Georgia!

---

## FACULTY FOCUS FAQs

Hands-on, personal interaction with outstanding faculty in both classroom and small-group settings is one of the hallmarks of the Choristers Guild Institute, our certification program for directors of young singers in grades K-8th. Mentor groups and their designated faculty member remain together for all three years of the program. One week of intensive training each summer is where participants hone skills and build relationships that last a lifetime. We asked faculty members to share their thoughts on what to expect at this summer's Institute, taking place July 20-24 at Roswell Presbyterian Church in Metro Atlanta, Ga.

### **How do you prepare for the lessons/classes you'll be teaching at CGI?**

**A. Smith:** I prepare for teaching at CGI by collaborating with CGI colleagues and by considering new research and the ways in which the role of the Church Children's Choir Director continues to evolve in 2020.

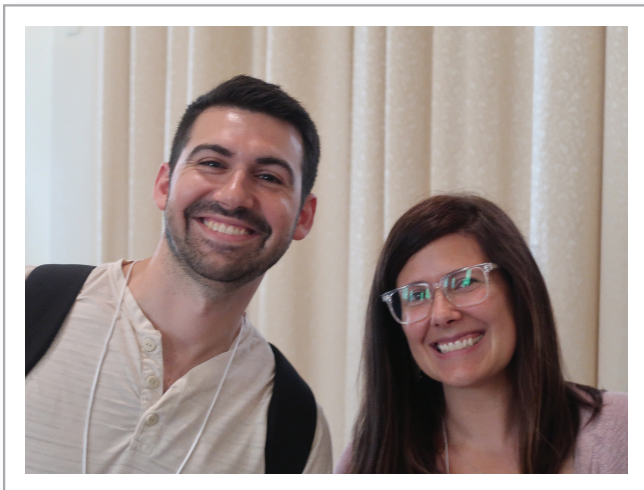
**E. Floyd:** During the year to prepare for teaching at CGI, I spend time brainstorming, reading articles, attending conferences, and talking with our CGI participants to see what challenges they are encountering. It's important to be able to break down good teaching into steps, so that as we work with our young singers there is a clear plan and that we are helping them to fully experience the joy of singing and leading in worship. All of this takes time! The best teachers and conductors are ones who have spent time getting to know the music and to formulate a plan to communicate and show the music. It's a joy to think about how we can equip our children's choir directors to do this meaningful work.

**K. Kimmell:** I prefer to share things that have been successful within my own graded choir program, so I update my curriculum each year, making sure that I add musical suggestions, new teaching ideas or manipulatives that I've found effective over the past year.

*Visuals* is a hands-on, practical class with specific suggestions for using a variety of visuals to teach songs and choral concepts. I use colors, movement, manipulatives, and creative text presentation to show how we can creatively teach text, rhythm, diction, phrasing, musical concepts and more. *Hymnody with Children* will explore how to find creative ways to introduce and use hymns with children, including hymns from various countries along with traditional ones. In *Bells with Children*, we show ways that handbells and chimes can be used within your singing choir to enhance the musical experience of hymns, anthems and even spoken word.

**C. Nemeč:** As Institute co-director, I handle all the data that comes into the CGI office. Karol and I read through the questionnaire I send out each year, assessing the skill levels, education, church or school choral load, etc., and can somewhat tailor our elective and special topic courses to best fit the needs of each class level. Some curriculum is not as flexible, yet conducting and special topics/electives are geared for the levels of our registrants, which makes our Institute unique compared to other educational organizations that offer workshops and training.

I always teach an *Administration and Visioning* class to Year 1, a true backbone course for any vibrant choral program, and my co-director Karol Kimmell and I co-teach a class on the use of handbells in worship, using



Anthony Williams, then a third-year attendee, shown with Sacred Choral Editor Katie Houts. Anthony published his first children's anthem with Choristers Guild last year, *CGA1567 Bless You!*



First day of CGI 2019, returning attendees from around the country greeting each other — happy to be back with CGI friends.



2019 YEAR I students shown with their mentors, Ruth Szucs and Emily Floyd.

creative ways that all children can participate. This is with the understanding that there is not a formal handbell choir, yet members of the choir who can enhance hymns, anthems, introits, etc. using ostinatos or other musical patterns.

When teaching (or facilitating) the *Parish Relations* class that is occasionally offered, I simply plant a few seeds of possible parish discord, then open the floor for discussion of real-time parish discord, and how to offer some resolve. This is a really effective and eye-opening class!

Additionally, as the accompanist for the reading sessions and advanced conducting, I prepare by having some personal time at the piano!

**K. Houts:** Much of my work is done in the six months prior to the Institute, when we are preparing our publication materials. I enjoy setting up our Choristers Guild bookstore at the CGI venue and helping directors find the best resources for their program throughout the week. I am excited to be at the piano accompanying the conducting classes and reading sessions. These classes always include a mix of old and new anthems, and it's wonderful to be introduced to older gems that stand the test of time! It is also incredibly fun to hear the new anthems come to life during the reading sessions. Participants get some of the first looks at brand new publications and definitely get a head start on their seasonal planning at CGI.

**What do you appreciate the most about teaching at the Institute?**

**T. Shelton:** The Institute is specifically planned for directors of children's and youth choirs in a church setting. Participants have an opportunity to connect with other church musicians and discuss rehearsal techniques, repertoire, conducting, worship planning, Christian education, etc. It is a wonderful community of people and we all serve as resources for each other.

**A. Smith:** I appreciate the excellent organization of the Institute. Karol and Chris do an amazing job of creating a full and balanced schedule and making sure the facilities are great spaces for gathering and learning. I can't wait to check out Roswell Presbyterian this year!

**E. Floyd:** What I appreciate most about CGI is that it's a concentrated group of people who all do the same thing. Each church or school has one choir director for children/youth. All of us are longing for peers to bounce ideas off of, and an environment where we can ask questions and get "best practice" suggestions. CGI is the place for that. Each person registered for the institute cares deeply about the work that they do, and they find comfort and encouragement from each other and from the faculty. It's a total joy to be together talking shop and celebrating one another's successes.

**K. Kimmell:** Teaching at the Institute is exciting. I get to share what I am most passionate about: finding the most effective and creative ways to teach songs of faith to children and youth. My colleagues and those who attend make the experience different each year, so I feel like I learn so much each summer.

**C. Nemecc:** I so appreciate the genuine love the faculty has for the Institute, and how accessible they are to the



Karol Kimmell during class.



*Learning together using drums.*

registrants. Relationships are built from day one, and last much longer than the third year. I really appreciate the mentor model that we use, the assignments, the journaling (it's so meaningful) and much more. It's a really rich, well-thought-out three-year certification program.

**K. Houts:** The people! We have outstanding faculty who are not only experts in their field, but simply great human beings. They care about the community of CGI, and put their whole heart into planning classes that really do address the burning questions of choral directors. I sneak into as many sessions as possible, because the wealth of information presented at CGI is mind-blowing. I come home refreshed, feeling empowered to lead my own choirs better than ever before.



*Returning attendee Kenton Kravig talks with Pat McMillion.*

**What do you look forward to the most every year as CGI approaches?**

**A. Smith:** Each year I most look forward to connecting with colleagues and participants, old friends and new!

**E. Floyd:** Meeting the new class of Year One students, and hugging the Year Two and Year Three students. It's so rewarding to hear how their year was, and to be introduced to the new class of choir directors who are interested in learning and honing their craft.

**K. Kimmell:** I look forward to welcoming new Institute attendees into the CGI family and spending time with alumni who choose to return. The connections we make with each other are priceless. All are open to learning, open to sharing, open to new experiences and all care deeply about quality worship and musical experiences for children...CGI folks are 'my people'!



*Together in worship.*

**C. Nemeč:** I love meeting the new folks, and watching the returning Year 2's and 3's share how they have used new tools in their rehearsals, tools they learned at CGI. And these tools were effective! I also love watching the rehearsal/conducting videos that our registrants record. There's so much talent that come through our doors, and the videos really validate what we see in the classroom each summer. And certainly I love spending the week with my talented (and fun) colleagues, who always inspire so many. What a treat!

**K. Houts:** The people! It is tons of fun to reconnect with the students from Year 2 and 3 and any alumni who return, and I can't wait to get to know the Year 1 students attending for the first time. It's like one big family reunion!

# A Silent Night of Rehearsal

BY PAMELA VANDEWALKER

---

As children we all learn our five senses: seeing, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. Two senses are considered the “higher” senses—vision and hearing. Society as a whole and particularly Western society has given hearing an ancillary role to that of seeing. Derrick de Kerckhove states, “Our neglect of the ear may be one of the prices we have paid for literacy.”<sup>1</sup>

He suggests that in today’s visual world, we don’t focus on listening. It is faster to understand something by seeing it than hearing it. Advertisers bombard consumers with visual images. People are encouraged to look at media in short visual bites. There are two words in the English language that describe the action of hearing (hear and listen). But there are many verbs that correspond to seeing (look, admire, glance, gaze, spy, perceive, etc.). Importantly de Kerckhove says, “We privilege certain senses over others in our daily use of metaphors. There are those who insist on saying: ‘I see what you mean,’ as opposed to those who are content to acknowledge: ‘I hear you.’”<sup>2</sup>

One of the most important disciplines of the Christian life is listening to God and spending time in solitude with Him. There are roughly 270 times recorded in the scripture we are encouraged to hear God’s voice or listen to His words. In contrast, 42 times followers are asked to see God’s glory. Perhaps, we are not capable of seeing something so very holy and awesome, but isn’t it amazing that God desires us to hear His holy and powerful truths?

As noted, our culture places a great importance on the visual instead of the aural. But God, desires us to listen... to still our hearts and minds and focus on Him. If we are constantly about looking and being active, then we are unable to listen for His divine whispers. Remember the story of Elijah? He was afraid, tired, and running from Jezebel who was trying to kill him. Elijah fled to Mt. Horeb and slept in a cave. He was desperate and depressed. God came to Elijah and told him to stand on the mountain “for the Lord was about to pass by.” A great wind came, followed by an earthquake, and a then a fire. But God wasn’t in any of these. Finally, Elijah heard a gentle whisper. In that quietness, Elijah found God.

To listen, you must be silent. Richard Foster says, “Please, for God’s sake and your own, don’t just do something, stand there! Come in and enjoy His presence. Sink down into the light of Christ and become comfortable in that posture. Open the subterranean sanctuary of your soul and listen for the *Kol Yahweh*, the voice of the Lord. To do so gives us focus, unity, and purpose.”<sup>3</sup>

Listening is a selective process; you must be in the right “mode.” You can listen for many things including: the text, the mood, the emotion, the hidden meaning, for a certain instrument, or for God...purposeful listening.

Listening is a skill that should constantly be challenged; it is something that grows. Musically, encourage students to listen for repeated melodic and rhythmic patterns, articulation, intonation, correct notes, good tone and pitch production. Spiritual listening skills need to be emphasized even more for it is in hearing God’s voice, that believers receive power to live life.

The world around us is full of sounds, a soundtrack of daily life. It is a challenge to discern the important sounds and filter out the extraneous ones. Who among us does not at least once daily express frustration that a child, a spouse, a choir does not listen? The problem is not that the individual is not listening, but more likely that they are listening to something or someone else!

One way to foster listening skills is to have a rehearsal with silent learning activities. A silent rehearsal means there is no talking—only music making. These “talk-less” times are magical, and the students really enjoy the playful nature of the exercise. Below is a list of suggested silent rehearsal activities.

## TEACHING WITHOUT TALKING

### Rehearsal Instruction

Give all directions regarding page and measure numbers with hand signals or place the information in a PowerPoint or keynote presentation. Work toward expressive conducting gesture and vivid facial expression to convey the way you want the students to communicate.

### Gestures

Conduct the entire rehearsal segment wearing white gloves. The students will follow more closely with this added visual prompt.

## ACTIVITIES WITHOUT WORDS

### Silent Echo Clapping

Imitate echo clapping short four-beat rhythm patterns. In other words, the teacher will silently clap (bring hands close to together but don’t touch) a rhythm pattern and the children will echo silently.

### Show It

Play a rhythm pattern on a non-pitched instrument at a soft dynamic level and have the children respond by

showing hands close together. Now play a loud dynamic level and have the children spread their hands far apart. Continue gradually changing from loud to soft and soft to loud encouraging the children to respond silently with their hands.

**Jump It**

Slowly jump a four-beat rhythm pattern and have the children jump the pattern back. Continue until you can't jump anymore!

**Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down**

Create a PowerPoint presentation with true/false statements about music symbol meanings, instruments, or music occupations. The students should respond to the statements by showing "thumbs up" if the statement is true or "thumbs down" if it is false.

**Possible statements:**

- Forte means loud. (true)
- The bassoon is a string instrument. (false)
- The triangle is a metal instrument. (true)
- A choir director conducts a kazoo ensemble. (false)
- "Now Thank We All Our God" is a hymn about thanksgiving. (true)

**Vocal Explorations**

Point to yourself and make swooping sounds using your hands to indicate when the voice should move up or

down. Then point to the students encouraging them to imitate the sounds with their voices.

- ambulance siren
- airplanes in an air show
- roller coaster
- fire truck
- skiing up and down slope
- zipper moving up and down

**What Instrument?**

Prepare copies of a list of classroom instruments for each student. Hide the non-pitched instruments behind a screen, whiteboard, or piano. Play an instrument and encourage the students to pantomime the playing action (scrape, tap, or shake) of the instrument they heard. Reveal the instrument to verify correct responses. Allow volunteers to take turns playing other Instruments for others to Identify.

**Scrapers**

- Sandblocks
- Guiro
- Tone blocks
- Cabasa

**Tappers**

- Drums
- Rhythm Sticks
- Chop sticks
- Castanets
- Triangles
- Claves
- Cymbals
- Agogo Bells
- Cowbells

**Shakers**

- Jingle Bells
- Tambourine
- Wrist Bells
- Maracas
- Rain Sticks
- Sleigh Bells

**Silent Round**

Lead in a silent round. Select a student or other adult leader to keep a steady beat on a drum. Then begin the round; the students will follow with the silent movements one measure after you. This requires the students to watch the next movement while performing the first one.

**Silent Round Variation**

Teach movements for each phrase of a familiar round. Divide Into two groups. Have children perform the round with movements only while silently singing the song using their Inner hearing.

Nod head      Slide palms      Tap nose      Pat head

Shrug shoulders      Wave left hand      Wave right hand      Hitchhike left

Hitchhike right      Big grin      Pat legs      Stomp feet

Flip ears      Two finger silent clap      Pouty face      Slide palms

### Lip Sync

Write the texts of short phrases from songs the children have memorized this year on strips of paper.

- Give one child a slip of paper.
- That child should mouth the word to the other students.
- The other students should guess what the selected person is mouthing by reading his/her lips.
- To keep the "silent rehearsal," the students guess by writing down the guesses on a white board.
- The first student to correctly guess the word gets to be the next Lip Sync star.

Note – any topic can be used to play lip synch star (lyrics of songs/hymns, musical symbols, composers, etc.)

You can add to the list or customize the ideas for your choir. This would be a fun rehearsal for the last night of choir, the beginning of the choir year, or any time a change of pace is needed. Consider incorporating silent components into each rehearsal. Hopefully your singers will become better listeners which will benefit every aspect of their daily lives.

### End Notes

- 1 deKerckhove, Derrick. [Music Physician for Times to Come](#). Quest Books, 2000, page 73.
- 2 deKerckhove, Derrick. [Music Physician for Times to Come](#). Quest Books, 2000, page 76.
- 3 Foster, Richard. [Freedom of Simplicity](#). Harper, 1981, page 113.



**Pamela Vandewalker** earned Magna Cum Laude undergraduate and graduate degrees from Houston Baptist University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City, respectively.

As a church musician, she has served at churches in Missouri and Texas and is presently a full-time Minister of Worship Programming and Creativity at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church. As a senior programming director for five worship services, Pamela guides and creates worship opportunities from traditional worship to media-driven modern worship as well as coordinates the large children's music program.

Mrs. Vandewalker is the author of more than forty books and children's musicals including the Dove Award winning—*God Made me Special*. As a nationally recognized clinician and conference speaker, Pamela has opportunities to share insight and relevant ministry tools to hundreds of people every year. She enjoys sharing about *Teeny Tykes & Tunes*, a faith-based music curriculum for infants and toddlers, across the nation and world.

---

## COVENANT SOCIETY

Won't you consider joining the Choristers Guild Covenant Society—those who have included the Choristers Guild in their wills or other estate plans? For information, please contact Dawn Jantsch, executive director, at 1.800.246.7478. The Choristers Guild is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit, founded in 1949, whose mission is enabling leaders to nourish the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults.



# Contributors to the Choristers Guild 2019

GIFTS RECEIVED BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2019 AND DECEMBER 31, 2019

## **PARTNERS (\$5,000-\$9,999)**

Stephanie McIlwain-Miller  
and Kevin Miller  
*in memory of Helen Kemp*

## **PRINCIPALS (\$2,500-\$4,999)**

Margaret McMillan  
Ruth and Richard Szucs

## **BENEFACTORS (\$1,000-\$2,499)**

Teri Larson  
*in honor of Terry Goolsby*  
Elizabeth Shepley  
*in honor of Choristers Guild Board Past  
President, Teri Larson*

## **SPONSORS (\$500-\$999)**

Dr. Anton E. Armstrong  
*in memory of Paul Bouman,  
Helen and John Kemp*  
Sandra Balmer  
Shu Chun Chen  
Dallas Chapter Choristers Guild  
*for the Ruth K. Jacobs Memorial  
Scholarship*  
John Ferguson  
C. Michael and Collyn Hawn  
*in honor of Kathy Lowrie and 30 years  
of service to Choristers Guild*  
Gail and Michael Jothan  
Andrew and Kathi Masetti  
Oscar and Anna Laura Page  
Jim and Stephanie Rindelaub  
*in memory of Ike Rindelaub*  
Sharon Tate  
*in honor of Marilyn J. Ballantine*  
Rebecca Thompson

## **PATRONS (\$250-\$499)**

Karl and Daniele Bruhn  
Thomas R. Charsky  
Neil and Susan Gilmour  
Susan Gobien  
Dawn Jantsch  
*in honor of Choristers Guild's editors*  
Karol K. Kimmell  
Stephen and Colleen Klein Oates  
*in honor of Darlene F. Klein, lifelong  
musician*  
Sandy Rosales  
Mary Alice Seals  
Shirley Ann Tudor  
*in memory of Warren D. Tudor (hus-  
band), Betty Ann Ramseth and Helen  
Kemp, in honor of Anton Armstrong,  
Michael Burkhardt and John Ferguson*

## **FRIENDS (\$100-\$249)**

Leonard Bobrowski  
Randall and Brenda Bradley  
Jean Braun

Mark Burrows  
*"C#, F, Bb"*  
Pamela A. Carlson  
*in honor of Amy Commers,  
Jen Morgan, and Wendi Buck*

Laura Chen  
Rev. Richard F. Collman  
George Kenneth Cooper  
Janet M. Davidson  
Judith Davidson  
*in memory of David R. Davidson*  
Dorothy Elder  
*in memory of Helen Kemp*  
Paul Elsener  
Shirley Espeland  
*in memory of Loren Espeland*

David and Gerry Gray  
Kathy and Milton Guttierrez  
Jennifer Harvill  
Sarah Hawbecker  
Anonymous Donor  
Louann M. Larson  
*in honor of Teri Larson (daughter)*

Lynn A. Leitzen  
Carol Lown  
Katherine Lundeen  
*in memory of Joann Morey*  
Alice Lyon  
*in memory of Jane Marshall*

Susanne Melton  
Chris Nemece  
Ruth Oliphant  
Louise J. Pousse  
Jill Pretz  
Rochester Chapter of Choristers Guild  
Marilyn Rogers  
Pat K. Rowlett  
Charles R. Snyder  
*in memory of Dr. Helen Kemp*  
Carol Spinelli  
Margaret R. Tucker  
*in memory of Mary M. Coulson*  
Barbara Lovelace Williams  
*in memory of Dr. Austin C. Lovelace  
(father)*

## **SUSTAINERS (\$50-\$99)**

Anonymous Donor  
Diane Beckstead  
Suanne Comfort  
Emily Floyd  
*in honor of Meg Granum (friend) for  
her service to the Atlanta Chapter*  
Meg Gurtcheff  
Gordan Hamilton  
Laura Hesse  
Melinda Ramseth Hoiland  
*in memory of Rudy and Betty  
Ann Ramseth*  
Kimberly Ingram  
*"Appreciate all the resources Choristers*

*Guild shares - every year, you are a  
huge part of our church choirs. Thanks  
for all you do to grow us in our faith and  
our music!"*

Beverly Jedynak  
James H. Johnson  
Venita and Don MacGorman  
Kate Maver  
Sharon Miller  
Mary Sue Moore  
Anonymous Donor  
Richard Palmquist  
Jean Poff  
Jenni Remillard  
*"Wonderful Webinar today. Thank you  
so much!"*  
Joy Ruegsegger  
Anonymous Donor  
Terri Sinclair  
Stacey Stenerson  
Bruce Tonkin  
Lisa Tuggy  
*in honor of David W. Tuggy*  
Larry Ward  
*in memory of Sue Ellen Ward (wife)*

## **CONTRIBUTORS (GIFTS TO \$49)**

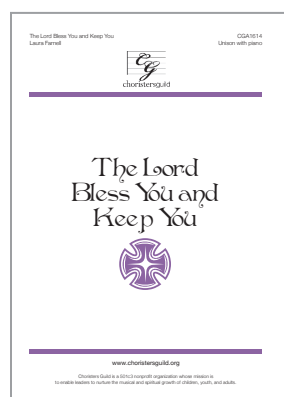
Albertsons Safeway  
Kenneth L. Axelson  
Meg Baker  
Nancy F. Blanks  
Alan E. Cotnoir  
Anonymous Donors (3)  
Marcia Engebretson  
*in memory of Lucille Rosholt (friend)*  
Jeanette Gross  
Dr. Barbara Hamm  
Mary Patton Higgins  
The Houts Family  
Bill Ingram  
Ellen A. Jackson  
Kenton Kravig  
Vena Elizabeth Luthey  
William E. Moats  
Barbara W. Miles  
Michael Olson  
Carolyn Perkins  
*in honor of Helen Kemp*  
Ophelia Pujol  
*"I've been involved with Choristers Guild  
since the late 1970's. No longer active  
(at 89) but want to support in at least a  
small way."*  
Carol A. Reilly  
Vivian Rindelaub  
Mona Roberts  
*In honor of Mrs. Clara H. Jones (daughter)*  
Connie Smeby  
Anne Thomas  
Oriana Williams

# Anthem Feature: A Double Feature

USES AND TIPS BY KATIE HOUTS

Spring is approaching, which means the end of a choral season for many music directors. In my congregation, Mother's Day marks the end of our children's choir's season — and our children's music program leads the entire worship service on this special day. We sing many of the anthems we've learned throughout the year and celebrate the children (and families) who have participated in the children's music ministry. At the end of the service, the children offer a choral benediction as we go our separate ways for the summer.

This issue features two new choral anthems — both with flexible voicing options — which are perfect pieces to send our singers to a well-deserved summer break.



## **THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU BY LAURA FARNELL**

SATB with optional piano – **CGA1613**

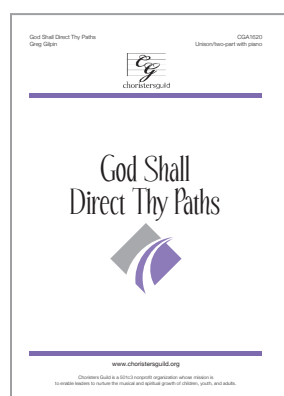
Unison with piano – **CGA1614**

This heartwarming setting of the Aaronic blessing (Numbers 6:24-26) is beautifully crafted by composer Laura Farnell. With its soaring melody and delicate phrasing, this anthem will provide a memorable moment in worship or concert and surely become part of your choir's go-to repertoire.

The SATB voicing, which may be performed with or without the piano accompaniment, is harmonically rich — yet accessible for choirs of various abilities and sizes. The piano accompaniment is optional, giving directors the flexibility to either support a developing choir or feature an advanced *a cappella* ensemble.

This piece is also available in a treble voicing for a unison choir or vocal solo. The melodic range showcases the beauty of children's voices, allowing directors the opportunity to focus on a number of expression skills — phrasing, dynamics — as well as shape a lovely unison sound.

If your program features a range of children's, youth, and/or adult choirs, this piece is an excellent selection for combined choirs. It would make a fine concert finale, benediction for worship, or bacculaureate anthem.



## **GOD SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS BY GREG GILPIN**

2-part mixed with piano – **CGA1619**

Unison/two-part treble with piano – **CGA1620**

Proverbs 3:5-6 ("Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding...") and Psalm 46:10 ("Be still and know that I am God,") are featured together in this lovely, lyrical anthem by Greg Gilpin. Two voicings are conveniently available, giving directors the opportunity to choose the most appropriate score for their mixed or treble choir.

The two-part mixed setting is a wonderful choice for small adult choirs with limited personnel and/or limited rehearsal time. The melody, rhythm, and vocal range are very accessible, making this a particularly wise selection for aging voices.

Young treble choirs will find similar success in "God Shall Direct Thy Paths." Gilpin's smart writing and easily mastered melodic movement allows young singers the chance to hone part-singing skills while learning these foundational scriptures.

# Children's Choir Devotionals

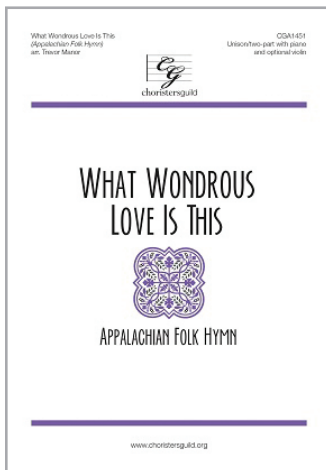
BY RUSSELL ALMAND

---

## WEEK OF APRIL 5

### SCRIPTURE:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God...he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. *Philippians 2:5-6, 8* (Extended Reading: *Philippians 2:5-11*)



### DEVOTIONAL:

Think about all the amazing things that God can do: creating the world, keeping all of the universe in its place with all the stars and planets, and doing all the amazing miracles we see throughout the Bible. As God's Son, Jesus had all these abilities, but He chose to come to earth as a person and was willing to die on the cross for us so we could have salvation. What a sacrifice that was! We are told here to have the same mindset that Jesus has. Are we willing to serve others even when it means making less of ourselves? Who might you need to serve?

### PRAYER:

Jesus, thank you for sacrificing your life for us that we might live in heaven with you someday. Help us to be unselfish, willing to help and serve others around us today. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

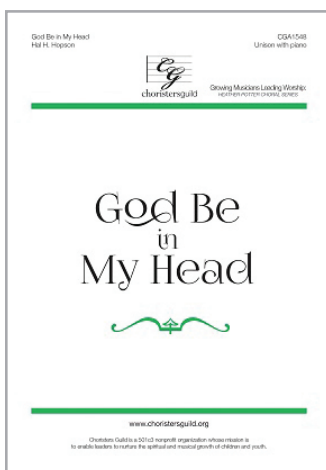
**CGA1451** | *What Wondrous Love is This* | arr. Trevor Manor | Unison/two-part with piano and optional violin

---

## WEEK OF APRIL 12

### SCRIPTURE:

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. *Colossians 3:2*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Easter is a wonderful time to think about the fact that Christ rose from the dead in order that we might be saved! It is easy to think about God and all that He has done for us during this season, but many times we don't think about God. We only think about what we have to do and what we want. This verse tells us that we need to be thinking about God all the time. If we do that, then we will live more like Jesus wants us to, and we will show other people how much Jesus means to us.

### PRAYER:

Lord, we praise you for rising again to give us salvation. Please help us to remember all that you have done for us. Help us to live like you want us to live. Amen.

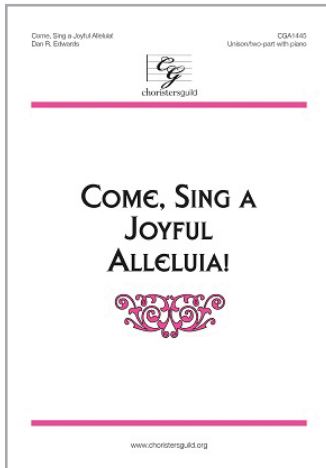
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1548** | *God Be in My Head* | Hal H. Hopson | Unison

## WEEK OF APRIL 19

### SCRIPTURE:

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. *Psalm 16:11 (Extended reading: Psalm 16:8-11)*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Do you have a friend that whenever you are around them you just find yourself being really happy, laughing a lot, and having a ton of fun? It is fun to have friends like that. In this passage we learn that in God's presence is the full amount of joy. God is always with us, and He wants to show us the great joy and happiness that we have when we are serving Him and showing His love to others. Praise God for the fact that we can have joy as we live like Him.

### PRAYER:

God, thank you for being a God who brings joy into our life. We praise you as we happily serve you in all that we do. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

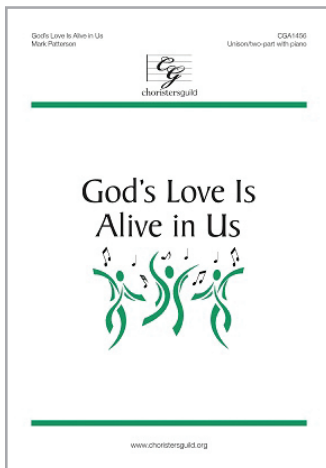
**CGA1445** | *Come Sing a Joyful Alleluia* | Dan R. Edwards | Unison/two-part with piano

---

## WEEK OF APRIL 26

### SCRIPTURE:

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. *1 Peter 1:22*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Has anyone ever given you something to show that they love you? Maybe someone gave you a gift for your birthday or gave you part of their dessert at lunch. God has given us an amazing gift through the truth of salvation to show us that He loves us, but this gift should cause us to do something more. God gave us this gift of salvation so we could love others! Jesus showed His love for us so that we would show that love to others.

### PRAYER:

Jesus, thank you for loving us enough to give us the gift of salvation. Help us to show that love to others each day as a picture of what you did for us. Amen.

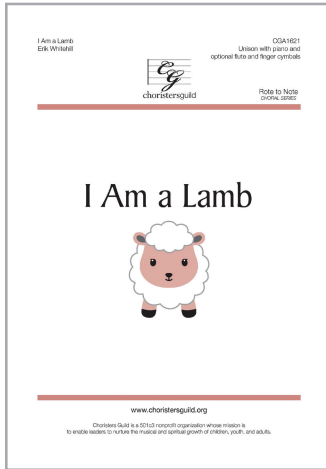
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1455** | *God's Love Is Alive in Us* | Mark Patterson | Unison/two-part with piano

## WEEK OF MAY 3

### SCRIPTURE:

"Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep...Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." *John 10:7, 9*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Let me take a guess at something. I bet when you go home at night that you leave the door wide open and never close it. Of course not! We always close the door so we can be protected and things like animals and other stuff won't be able to come inside the house. Shepherds did that for their sheep. They would be the "gate" or door to the sheepfold where nothing bad could get in and harm the sheep. God is the gate that protects us as His children. We can rest safely knowing that God is our shepherd.

### PRAYER:

Our Good Shepherd, thank you for giving us salvation and for protecting us. We rely on you for the strength and help for each day. Amen.

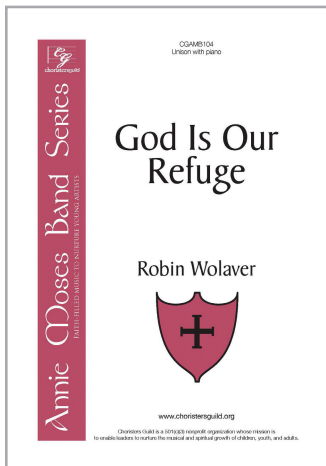
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1621** | *I Am a Lamb* | Erik Whitehill  
| Unison with optional flute and finger cymbals

## WEEK OF MAY 10

### SCRIPTURE:

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me. *Psalms 31:2b-3a*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Sometimes things are really hard. Maybe you have an especially difficult subject in school, or maybe you have friends that have left you out of something or have not been nice to you. Things do not always go how we want them to go. In this Psalm, we see that God is our refuge and our strong fortress during our tough times. He does this so that He can be glorified. We can praise and glorify God by relying on Him as our refuge during hard days.

### PRAYER:

God, thank you for being our refuge and our strength. Help us to trust in you during the good times and the bad. Amen.

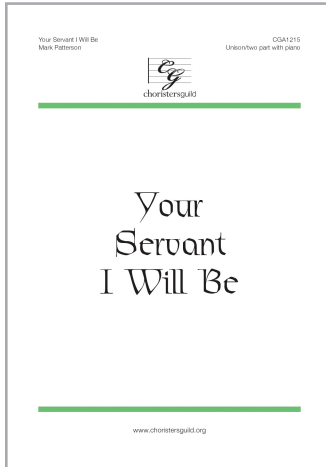
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGAMB104** | *God is Our Refuge* | Robin Wolaver  
| Unison with piano

## WEEK OF MAY 17

### SCRIPTURE:

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." *John 14:15*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Imagine that your parents asked you to clean your room. You really do not want to, so you end up making it messier and messier until the next week. At the same time, you want to take a trip to your favorite waterpark or pool. You tell your parents you love them so much, but are you really showing love to them if you are not willing to do what they have told you first? Obeying your parents, or anyone in authority shows that you care about them and love them. If we follow God's commandments, we show Him that we love Him too!

### PRAYER:

Our heavenly Father, thank you for loving us. Help us to obey you in all that you command us to do because we love you with all our hearts. Amen.

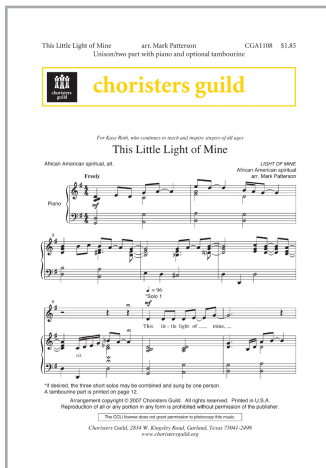
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1215** | *Your Servant I Will Be* | Mark Patterson | Unison/two-part with piano

## WEEK OF MAY 24

### SCRIPTURE:

"And that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things" *Luke 24:47-48*



### DEVOTIONAL:

As Jesus ascended to heaven after rising from the dead, He told His disciples to proclaim repentance and forgiveness to all the nations! He wanted the good news of His resurrection to be shared with everyone everywhere! Do you have a friend, a family member, or someone else that you know who might not know the good news of salvation that Christ provided to us as a free gift? God tells us that we should tell this great news to others so they can see the love that God has for them.

### PRAYER:

Jesus, help us to share your love with others. Show us people who need to hear the good news about your salvation gift. Amen.

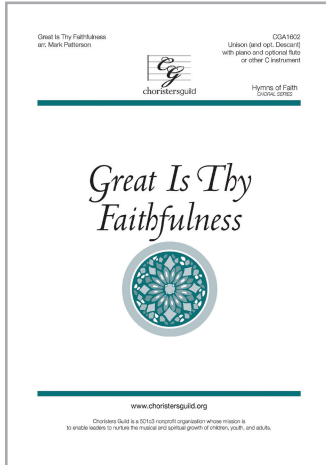
### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1108** | *This Little Light of Mine* | arr. Mark Patterson | Unison/two-part with piano and optional tambourine

## WEEK OF MAY 31

### SCRIPTURE:

There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. *1 Samuel 2:2*



### DEVOTIONAL:

Have you ever played rock, paper, scissors? Play one round of the game with the person beside you! For some reason, I always saw rock as the most powerful. (Now you know what I will pick if you ever play with me!) Rocks are strong. They make foundations of buildings. They can be so big you can't even lift them! God is described here as a Rock. He is strong and powerful, yet He is also holy. He never does anything wrong, but He has the power to do anything. Praise Him for being the Rock we can always count on!

### PRAYER:

God, you are our Rock. You have the strength to do anything. We praise you for your holiness and for how you work in each one of our lives. Amen.

### COORDINATING ANTHEM:

**CGA1602** | *Great is Thy Faithfulness* | arr. Mark Patterson | Unison with piano and optional flute



*Russell Almand leading worship at Woodcreek Church in Richardson, TX during a service in January 2020.*



**Russell Almand** is the Membership Enhancement Associate for the Choristers Guild team as well as a student at Dallas Theological Seminary where he is pursuing his Masters of Theology (ThM). His three biggest passions are music, teaching, and discipleship. Russell has served in many local churches in both music and teaching ministries. While piano is his primary instrument, he has been able to lead with vocals on the worship team as well as direct the choir in his local church. Russell also has been recognized as the recipient of the 2019 Nathan D. Maier Award for Bible Exposition presented by Dallas Theological Seminary. Russell's main purpose in life is to see others grow and encourage them to become more like Christ, and he seeks to do that through music, teaching, and discipleship—goals that go perfectly with the Choristers Guild mission.



# Hello, Friends, a Word from Your CGI Girl

BY STEPHANIE MCILWAIN MILLER  
PRESIDENT, CHORISTERS GUILD NATIONAL BOARD

---

Have you ever noticed when you feel passionately about something you want to sing its praises with something along the lines of an oratorio, or is that just me? My first draft of this article was a long, detail-filled, heartfelt love letter to Choristers Guild Institute (CGI). Since I have wisely been given a word count limit, I needed to try a different approach. It worked for Lucille Ball, so here goes...

Hello, friends. I'm your "Vitam~~eat~~avegamin CGI Girl!"  
Are you tired, running out of new ideas?  
Do you poop out near the end of the choir season?  
Are you in need of some renewal yourself?  
The answer to all your problems (well, at least some of them) is CGI.  
It's so tasty, too! [sic]

Here's what some of our attendees have to say.

- I learned more in one day of CGI than I have at any multi-day conference!
- I went into CGI thinking I didn't have the "right" skills and gifts. I came out with more skills and renewed confidence in the gifts God has given me.
- I picked up techniques I needed to share my knowledge of music with children.

Over the years, I have come to view CGI not only as a tool Choristers Guild uses to help fulfill our mission of *enabling leaders to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults*, but also as a ministry to those who attend.

At CGI I learned more about how to direct children's choirs, of course, but I also learned new ways to encourage children to participate more fully in intergenerational worship experiences – to share their voices, hearts, and prayers. My ministry now includes vocal choirs, drumming, liturgical dance, lessons for young Christians, tableau, drama, faith formation classes, and puppetry. I have grown more fully into what I believe God called me to do in 1985, in no small part thanks to CGI. Additionally, each summer I have attended CGI (four so far) I have emerged feeling renewed spiritually from praying and worshipping twice daily with my colleagues. As teachers, we sometimes forget to take care of ourselves. CGI helped me remember.

I hope you are now asking yourself, "Could CGI be for me?" Let me reassure you that CGI is designed for a wide variety of skill and experience levels. If you have any questions or concerns, please email our Institute Directors, Karol Kimmell and Chris Nemec, at [institute@choristersguild.org](mailto:institute@choristersguild.org) or me at [smm@seanet.com](mailto:smm@seanet.com). You may also leave messages for any of us at 1-800-CHORISTER. I was quite nervous when I made that phone call years ago, and today I tell you that I could not possibly recommend any spiritual and educational growth experience more highly than CGI.

Choristers Guild Institute  
July 20-24  
Roswell Presbyterian Church-Metro Atlanta  
Information and registration:  
[www.choristersguild.org/institute](http://www.choristersguild.org/institute)

Until the next issue,

**-Stephanie**



# The Chorister: Index for Volume 71



## JUNE/JULY 2019

- 2 **On the Shoulders of Giants** by Susan Eernisse, *The Chorister* Editor
- 3 **Sing Together — Often** by Katie Houts, Sacred Choral Editor
- 4 **Digging Deeper into *Called*** by Mark Burrows
- 8 **Choral and Instrumental Resources for Music Ministry**
- 31 **Contributors to the Choristers Guild 2018**
- 32 **News from National: Re-Visioning the Future** by Terry Goolsby, National Board President



## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2019

- 2 **A Life Remembered** by Susan Eernisse, *The Chorister* Editor
- 3 **Ten Things in My Rehearsal Bag...in No Particular Order** by Katie Houts, Sacred Choral Editor
- 4 **In Memoriam: Jane Marshall (née Manton)** by C. Michael Hawn
- 6 **Helping Students Reach Their Dreams Through Scholarship** by Keith King
- 8 **You Are Welcome Here: Two Choirs — One Message** by Terry Taylor and Madeline Bridges
- 11 **Anthem Feature: *Surrounded by Love*** by Russell Almand and Susan Eernisse
- 12 **Didn't You Read My Email?** By Michael Groff
- 16 **Puppets with a Purpose: Teaching Music with Furry Friends** by Susan Eernisse
- 17 **Chapter Events**
- 18 **Children's Choir Devotionals** by Sharon Welsch
- 23 **News from National: Connecting Through Events** by Pam Harris, Director of Marketing



## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019

- 2 **Thirty Years! What a Legacy!** By Susan Eernisse, *The Chorister* Editor
- 3 **Kathy Lowrie: From Cover to Cover** by Katie Houts, Sacred Choral Editor
- 4 **Instrumentals for any Combination** by Russell Almand
- 6 **So You Have an Elementary Band at Your Church?** By Lee Afdahl
- 8 **Anthem Feature: *Songs and Seasons*** by Katie Houts and Susan Eernisse
- 9 **Stick Note Scavenger Hunt** by Susan Eernisse
- 10 **Celebrating Kathy Lowrie, Handbell and Instrumental Editor** by Dawn Jantsch
- 12 **Chapter Events**
- 13 **Children's Choir Devotionals** by Patty Nelson
- 18 **Members Remember** by Cynthia L. Dean
- 19 **News from National: New Partners in Music and Mission** by Dawn Jantsch, Executive Director and Pam Harris, Director of Marketing



**DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020**

- 2 **2020: Be Thou My Vision** by Susan Eernisse, *The Chorister* Editor
- 3 **Lifesavers, Candy Cane Reindeer, and Chocolate-Covered Cherries** by Katie Houts, Sacred Choral Editor
- 5 **Choristers Guild Welcomes New President** Stephanie McIlwain Miller
- 7 **Teaching Children to Sing Beautifully: The 2019 Helen Kemp Lecture** by Cynthia Nott
- 12 **Members Remember: Still Looking Around** by Crace Schwanda
- 15 **Percussion with a Purpose!** By Dr. Patricia K. Nelson
- 16 **Anthem Feature: *In God's Hands*** by Katie Houts and Susan Eernisse
- 17 **Starlight Journey Reproducible Page** by Susan Eernisse
- 18 **Chapter Events**
- 19 **Children's Choir Devotionals** by Russell Almand
- 24 **News from National: Grateful for Wonderful Leaders** by Dawn Jantsch



**FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020**

- 2 **Finding Meaning in the Music of Lent** by Susan Eernisse, *The Chorister* Editor
- 3 **New Music for Lent and Holy Week** by Katie Houts, Sacred Choral Editor
- 4 **Summer Music and Arts Camp: Planning to Make the Greatest Impact on the Busy Child** by Jennifer Hill
- 8 **Anthem Feature: *Love Brought Me Back*** by Glenn Eernisse
- 9 **Rehearsal Planning 101: Building on the Basics** by Katie Houts
- 11 **Oh, Jonah! The Making of a Musical** by Colleen Oates
- 13 **Children's Choir Devotionals** by Sharon Howell Welsch
- 18 **Chapter Events**
- 19 **Welcome to Board Member Elizabeth Shepley**
- 20 **News from National: New Beginnings** by Stephanie McIlwain Miller



**APRIL/MAY 2020**

- 2 **Choristers Guild Atlanta Chapter Celebrates 50 Years** by Susan Eernisse, *The Chorister* Editor
- 4 **What's for Dinner?** by Katie Houts, Sacred Choral Editor
- 5 **A Journey from Law School to the Choristers Guild Institute to a Graduate Degree in Music Education** by Kirsten Foyles
- 7 **The Choristers Guild Institute**
- 12 **A Silent Night of Rehearsal** by Pamela Vandewalker
- 15 **Contributors to the Choristers Guild 2019**
- 16 **Anthem Feature: A Double Feature** by Katie Houts
- 17 **Children's Choir Devotionals** by Russell Almand
- 22 **News from National: Hello, Friends, a Word from Your CGI Girl** by Stephanie McIlwain Miller
- 23 ***The Chorister: Index for Volume 71***

BROUGHT TO YOU BY CHORISTERS GUILD

FAMILY GROUP ANNIE MOSES BAND IS PART OF OUR FAMILY!  
EXPLORE THE MUSIC AT [CHORISTERSGUILD.ORG](http://CHORISTERSGUILD.ORG)

## GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

Text and Music by Bill Wolaver

Unison with Piano

CGAMB100

## A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES

Text by Robin Wolaver, Music by Bill Wolaver

Unison with Piano

CGAMB101

## SO HIGH

Text by Robin Wolaver, Music by Bill Wolaver

Unison/Two-Part with Piano

CGAMB102

## BEHOLD, I HAVE LOVED YOU

Text and Music by Robin Wolaver, arr. Bill Wolaver

Unison/Two-Part with Piano

CGAMB103

## GOD IS OUR REFUGE

Text by Robin Wolaver, Music by Bill Wolaver

Text and Music by Robin Wolaver, arr. James DaSilva

CGAMB104



choristersguild

12404 PARK CENTRAL DRIVE  
SUITE 100  
DALLAS, TX 75251

DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY

# MORE POWER TO YOU!



# GIT TOP



NON-PROFIT ORG  
PRESRT STD  
U S Postage  
PAID  
Pontiac, IL  
Permit No. 592

## “Don't Let The GITOP Git ya!”

### TRUSTING IN THE AWESOME POWER OF GOD!

A children's Musical by Kim Ingram & Joe Milton

Trust in God to Face a Gigantic, Intimidating, Troubling, Overwhelming Problem!

Children will bring three Bible stories to life, memorize Scripture, invent dialogue and movement, create sound effects and props, and learn what these stories mean for us today. Together, we will learn how God gives us the power and courage to face any problem - even a GITOP!

Preview pack, singer score, CDs and a digital teacher resource kit all available at [www.choristersguild.org](http://www.choristersguild.org) or call 1-800-CHORISTER

# the chorister

RESOURCES FOR MUSIC MINISTRY

June/July 2020

Volume 72 | Issue 1

Special Resources Issue  
for All Your Choral/  
Instrumental Needs



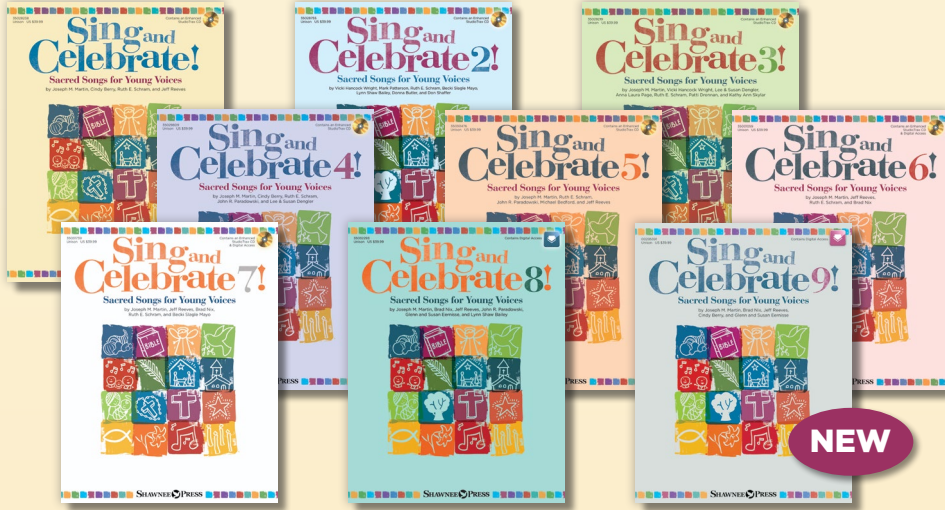
  
choristersguild

# Sing and Celebrate!

## Sacred Songs for Young Voices

**GRADES  
K-3**

The *Sing and Celebrate!* series provides everything you need for developing younger elementary choirs in your church or faith-based schools!



<b>Sing and Celebrate!</b> 35028238.....	\$39.99
<b>Sing and Celebrate 2!</b> 35028755.....	\$39.99
<b>Sing and Celebrate 3!</b> 35029219.....	\$39.99
<b>Sing and Celebrate 4!</b> 35029809.....	\$39.99
<b>Sing and Celebrate 5!</b> 35030476.....	\$39.99
<b>Sing and Celebrate 6!</b> 35031059.....	\$39.99
<b>Sing and Celebrate 7!</b> 35031739.....	\$39.99
<b>Sing and Celebrate 8!</b> 35032293.....	\$39.99
<b>Sing and Celebrate 9!</b> <b>NEW</b> 00295391.....	\$39.99

Each *Sing and Celebrate!* contains a variety of general and seasonal songs for use throughout the church year – plus:

- Lesson Plans
- Reproducible Singer’s Pages
- Performance & Accompaniment Audio
- Teaching Resources
- PDF Song Charts

### SAMPLE PAGES

**TEACHING PLAN**

**Ev'ry Creature Praise the Lord!**

**Rehearsal 1**

- Learn how melodies move.**
  - Play a variety of melodic exercises on the stepbells (or piano). Show how melodies move up, down, or stay the same.
  - Repeat for:
    - mean 1 (stay the same)
    - mean 2 (move up)
    - mean 3 (move up and stay the same)
    - mean 4 (stay the same and move down)
- Play a same/different game.**
  - Ask children to listen as you sing these phrases on two. Ask if the phrases are the same or different.
  - mean 1-6 and mean 8-12 (same)
  - mean 7-8 and mean 9-12 (different)
  - mean 1-6 and mean 9-12 (different)
- Identify and match.**
  - Have children identify the animals on the bulletin board (or wall).
  - Ask children to listen as you play verses 1 of the performance track.
  - Ask children to identify the 4 animals (tiger, leopard, eagle, turtle, gorilla).
  - Have these 4 animal pictures to describe the animals in the order as presented in the song.
  - Ask children to identify the action that describes the animal. Their own voice may help. Place the matching action word next to each animal picture.

**ITEMS YOU NEED:**

- Ev'ry Creature Praise the Lord! audio recordings (download or digital download only)
- Bulletin board (or wall)
- Animal pictures (see REPRODUCIBLES)
- Animal action words (see REPRODUCIBLES)
- Stepbells and melody (or piano)
- PDF song chart
- Music on board (download only)

**PREPARATION:**

- Prepare animal pictures and animal action words (download or digital download only).
- Prepare the animal pictures to describe (on left side of a bulletin board (or wall)).
- Display the animal action words to describe (on right side of a bulletin board (or wall)).
- NOTE: For choirs with non-readers, only

**Ev'ry Creature Praise the Lord!**

**Refrain:** Loving God of living things,  
Such an awesome noise they bring.  
Ev'ry creature praise the Lord!

**Repeat Refrain**

**Ending:** Ev'ry creature praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!

### Featuring Songs by...

- Joseph M. Martin
- Brad Nix
- Jeff Reeves
- Cindy Berry
- Vicki Hancock Wright
- ... and many more!

[shawneepress.com/worshipsongsjr](http://shawneepress.com/worshipsongsjr)

Click on "Music for Younger Elementary Choirs"

**ORDER TODAY!**

Order all the *Sing and Celebrate!* resources and more from your favorite music retailer. Visit us at [www.shawneepress.com](http://www.shawneepress.com) or call 1-800-962-8584

June/July 2020

## CHORISTERS GUILD

12404 Park Central Dr. Ste. 100  
Dallas, TX 75251-1802  
800.246.7478 or 469.398.3606  
choristersguild.org

*The Chorister* is published bimonthly. Choristers Guild is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, religious and educational corporation chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

## Choristers Guild Staff

### DAWN JANTSCH

Executive Director  
djantsch@choristersguild.org

### PAM HARRIS

Director of Marketing  
pharris@choristersguild.org

### KATHY LOWRIE

Handbell and Instrumental Editor  
klowrie@choristersguild.org

### KATIE HOUTS

Sacred Choral Editor  
khouts@choristersguild.org

### VICTOR C. JOHNSON

School Choral Editor  
vjohnson@choristersguild.org

### KAROL KIMMELL AND CHRIS NEMEC

Choristers Guild  
Institute Directors

### SUSAN EERNISSE

*The Chorister* Editor  
seernisse@choristersguild.org

### RUSSELL ALMAND

Director of Miscellaneous Things  
ralmand@choristersguild.org

### LAUREN CARTER

Membership Enhancement  
lcarter@choristersguild.org

### Advertising

advertising@choristersguild.org  
or (469) 398-3606, ext. 227

### The Chorister Design

Mara Dawn Dockery

- 2 **Keep Singing the Song –  
Sing a New Song!**  
by Susan Eernisse,  
*The Chorister* Editor
- 3 **For a Time Like This**  
by Katie Houts,  
Sacred Choral Editor
- 4 **News from the National Board:  
Weathering the Storm**  
by Stephanie McIlwain Miller,  
President, Choristers Guild
- 5 **Anthem Feature:  
God Is Here Today**  
by Tom Trenney
- 6 **Choral and Instrumental  
Resources for Music Ministry**
- 30 **News from National:  
I Choose Love**  
by Dawn Jantsch,  
Executive Director of Choristers Guild

### Cover photo:

*Closing concert of the Richmond  
Choristers Guild Chapter Choir  
Festival directed by Heather Potter.*

*Photo used by permission of  
photographer Karen Brown.*

## GO ONLINE WITH CHORISTERS GUILD



Explore members-only resources, including recorded webinars and past issues of *The Chorister*. If you can't log in as a member, go to "Member Log-in" and follow the prompts to retrieve your user name/password. [choristersguild.org](http://choristersguild.org)



Find video previews of Choristers Guild music, perfect for selecting new music or for choristers to use in practice. [youtube.com/c/choristersguild](https://youtube.com/c/choristersguild)



Connect with other members, share ideas and get info on special offers and new music. [facebook.com/choristersguild](https://facebook.com/choristersguild)



Get updates on news and trends in choral music from Choristers Guild and others. [twitter.com/choristersguild](https://twitter.com/choristersguild)

## Board of Directors

**STEPHANIE MCILWAIN MILLER**

*President*  
Bellevue, WA

**JOHN SUTTON**

*President-elect*  
Altadena, CA

**TERRY GOOLSBY**

*Past-President*  
Dallas, TX

**ANDREW MASETTI**

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
Westfield, NJ

**TODD ARANT**

Apex, NC

**RUTH SZUCS**

Richmond, VA

**SANDRA ROSALES**

Santa Ana, CA

**ELIZABETH SHEPLEY**

Minneapolis, MN

## Covenant Society

*Please consider joining our Covenant Society—those who have included Choristers Guild in their will or other estate plans:*

Larry K. Ball  
Betty Bedsole  
Judy and Larry Britts  
Rev. Richard F. Collman  
Judith E. Dardaganian  
Janet M. Davidson  
Norman and Ethel Geist  
Terry and Pam Goolsby  
C. Michael Hawn  
Dawn Jantsch  
Helen Litz  
Susanne Melton  
Sue Ellen Page and Eric Johnson  
Carolyn Perkins  
Joanna E. Pretz-Anderson  
Jim and Stephanie Rindelaub  
David Leigh Shearer  
Mary Louise and Don VanDyke  
Priscilla B. Zimmermann

*Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission, unless otherwise indicated. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return and safety of artwork, photographs, or materials. Acceptance of advertising or rental of mailing list does not imply endorsement.*



# Keep Singing the Song – Sing a New Song!

BY SUSAN EERNISSE  
THE CHORISTER EDITOR

During the many weeks I have been at home I have been doing more personal Bible study and reading by the tons! Even so, I have yet to conquer all the titles in my stacks of books and the virtual stack on my e-reader. One of the best new books I have read recently is on the topic of the Psalms. As I grow older the psalter is becoming my "go-to" book for inspiration in pandemics and parties and everything in-between.

My sign-off for editorials in *The Chorister* has always been, "Keep Singing the Song!" I chose that from the beginning of my work with Choristers Guild as a connection not only to the music we prepare and present in worship, but also to pay tribute to the *Giver* of the Song. This week I am thinking about the new song that is referenced throughout the book of Psalms.

I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.  
He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,  
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

**He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.**

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

(Psalm 40:1-3)

I pray that as we continue moving forward in faith that we will truly sing a new song in a new way with voices renewed together.

As we put the final touches on this issue of *The Chorister*, our world is in the midst of a pandemic crisis. There has been nothing to compare to this current situation in my lifetime, probably not in yours either. I refuse to allow social distancing to become social isolation. We need each other. I am truly inspired by the many ways church musicians are staying connected with choirs and congregations. This is real hope – let's keep it going, my friends.

Please enjoy spending time with this issue of *The Chorister*. There are some excellent resources for fall planning plus some informational and inspirational items from Katie Houts and Dawn Jantsch. May God bless you, your loved ones, and those with whom you minister. Remember...

Keep singing the (new) song!

-Susan





# For a Time Like This

BY KATIE HOUTS  
SACRED CHORAL EDITOR

---

As I peer out my office window, I am keenly aware of our new reality. We are in the midst of America's COVID-19 health crisis. I watch people pass on the sidewalks, carefully keeping their six feet of distance while offering friendly smiles. I see car passengers wearing masks venturing out on their bi-weekly grocery trip or supporting a local restaurant with a takeout order. I notice gloved delivery people bringing packages to doorsteps.

As choral directors, our spring season was thrust into a new world of online connections, virtual learning, and postponed (or cancelled) plans. During a time typically rich in milestone celebrations and festival worship, we used creativity and innovation to find new ways to preserve our musical and faith communities. We continued to nurture and inspire our students. We reframed our expectations and set a new rhythm.

Before writing a journal article, I'll often look through a few of our most recent choral publications for inspiration. I admit: it was difficult this month. I am grieving the loss of presence — I miss my choir's hugs, voices, and energy! Looking at music makes this grief all the more real. Nevertheless, I paged through our new Choristers Guild anthems...

***"Come be the light, come be the joy, come be the hope the world needs to know..."***

***"Yesu azali awa na biso!" (trans: Jesus is here with us)***

***"O come, holy light – restore, renew, set free.  
O bring salvation, make all right, and shine eternally."***

***"Yes, Jesus loves me, walking with me on my way..."***

***"God is here today – as certain as the air I breathe..."***

***"O come now, living water, pour your grace, and bring new life to every withered place..."***

***"What troubles have we seen? What mighty conflicts past?  
Fightings without and fears within, since we assembled last?  
Out of all our God has brought us through by love,  
And still God does this help afford, and hides our life above: hallelujah, we are alive!"***

And Mark Patterson's bestselling anthem, newly revoiced for combined choirs and handbells:

***"We look with hope for all that still awaits us, a future claimed by trusting in God's grace  
So let us, young and old, go forth with spirits bold: God's love is alive in us today!"***

By the time this issue reaches you, dear reader, it is my hope and prayer that the critical phase of this health crisis will have passed. As we wait to safely gather again, may these anthems bring you great comfort and assure you of God's everlasting faithfulness. **Indeed, they were written for a time like this!**

Looking forward with great hope,

-Katie



# News from the National Board: Weathering the Storm

BY STEPHANIE MCILWAIN MILLER  
PRESIDENT, CHORISTERS GUILD

---

I hope this issue of *The Chorister* finds you and your loved ones healthy and receiving any support you might need. May peace be with us all.

Many people have been asking how Choristers Guild is weathering the pandemic storm. Your National Board met this month and we want to let you know how our favorite non-profit is working to continue serving our mission to enable leaders to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults.

Choristers Guild has been hit hard by this public health crisis and resultant economic turmoil, and we know all of you have been in some way affected. Our primary source of funding has historically been the sale of our music and other educational resources. During the shut-down these sales have dropped by nearly 85%.

Knowing such a drop was likely and being determined to continue our mission for another 71 years, we made immediate changes in March as the pandemic spread through the U.S.: cutting hours of the part-time employees and benefits for the full-time staff, suspending contracts with long-term choral leaders, and beginning systematic layoffs. Rent payments were negotiated, and loan applications completed. For the time being, we have also switched to a digital only format for our member benefits to further reduce operating costs. Our staff is happy to help you navigate these necessary changes.

The Board is impressed by how quickly the staff pivoted to work from home and began restructuring and developing programming and materials to meet the changing needs of our members. Choristers Guild could not ask for a better team. Leading them is our Executive Director, Dawn Jantsch, whom the Board is honoring with the following commendation.

*Dawn: The Choristers Guild Board, by unanimous consent, wants to commend you for your leadership during this time of crisis. Your management over the past three years is allowing us to weather the current crisis with firm and realistic optimism for the future. The response of your staff and their obvious loyalty to CG are indicative of the confidence you have instilled in them, and conversely the confidence they have in you, as does the Board. We thank you for your continued leadership of CG and you have our full support.*

For the duration of the time when school choirs cannot meet and church choirs are both limited in funding and unable to meet, Choristers Guild will be dependent more than ever before on donations. On their own initiative and knowing that more layoffs would be occurring, our dedicated staff donated \$5,700. That is sacrificial giving and truly inspirational. In addition to the yearly donations already made by our board members, we are giving an additional \$29,200 over the next several months.

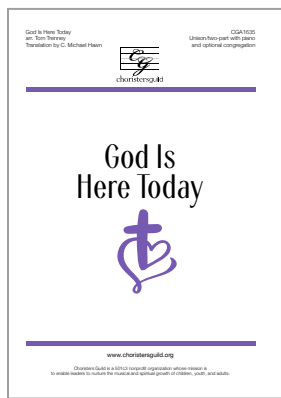
These and other recent donations make a dent but do not come close to covering the funding lost by the drop in sales. If you have the means, please support Choristers Guild with a donation and join us in helping this organization, that is a blessing to so many, weather the storm. By doing so, you will make possible our continued educational outreach, publishing of new music, and when it is again appropriate, bringing together singers and ringers at events around the nation. I look forward to joining you in celebrating that we have succeeded together.

Until the next issue,

**-Stephanie**

# Anthem Feature: *God Is Here Today*

FROM THE CHORISTERS GUILD CATALOG  
USES & TIPS BY KATIE HOUTS AND SUSAN EERNISSE



arr. Tom Trenney | CGA1635 | Unison/two-part with piano and optional congregation

## ANTHEM DESCRIPTION

Earnest and reassuring, this anthem is a true reflection of the man honored in its dedication — Fred M. Rogers. Tom Trenney's lovely arrangement of "God Is Here Today" features a beautiful partner melody and an opportunity for congregational singing. The optional part II, which functions as a descant, captures the essence of this song, as well as the legacy of Mr. Rogers:

*God is love, and when we love each other, God lives in us, abides with us, when we love our neighbor.*

This theme is fitting for any time in the church year. You might use the anthem to complement worship themes of outreach, mission, or stewardship. This piece is a wonderful way to involve young singers in worship leadership. Many congregations will know this hymn, and we've created a handy congregational page for ease. A Spanish resource page gives your choir the tools to sing this refrain in either language.

The melody sits in a wonderful range for treble voices, and the hopeful message resonates with singers young and old. Consider teaching this to a wide range of children and combining your choirs for a heartwarming addition to any worship service.

## TEACHING TIPS

The lovely flowing melody of "God Is Here Today" will be a great tool for rehearsing a legato unison line after the longer than usual break from weekly choir gatherings. Children and adults alike will benefit from such a focus — a way to ease back into the practice of corporate singing. Sing the two measure phrases with a nice round oo syllable, encouraging singers to listen and match the sound of their neighbors. Add the text once the blended unison sound is achieved.

Talk through the dynamics and expression markings of the anthem. Point out the rising minor third on the word "breathe" that is cleverly marked with a decrescendo.

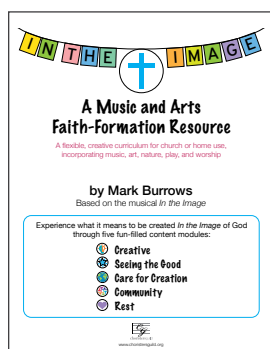
The Part II (descant) is a beautiful addition to the melody. Strive for a pure open sound — a perfect opportunity for young singers to use their beautiful head voices. If for some reason you choose not to include it during the two-part section, consider having the descant played on a flute or other solo instrument. It would even sound terrific on handbells or chimes.

Teaching this anthem to your children in conjunction with a study of Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan would provide an excellent biblical connection. A choral reading on "Who Is My Neighbor?" or a Good Samaritan skit before the anthem could be quite meaningful in a worship service. Use the final two pages of the anthem as a choral response to the benediction, inviting the congregation to join on the unison melody.



# Choir Resources

## REHEARSAL RESOURCES/PEDAGOGY



### In the Image: a Music & Arts Faith-Formation Resource

MARK BURROWS CGBK80

From the brilliant mind of Mark Burrows comes a flexible, creative curriculum for church or home use, incorporating music, art, nature, play, and worship! Inside this resource, you'll discover fully reproducible material designed to help children (and their families) grow in faith through musical and artistic expression. A great at-home resource in light of cancelled music camps or VBS events! Inspired by Mark Burrows' musical for children's choirs, *In the Image*, children and families explore the story of Creation and wonder what it means to be created in the image of God. Five main themes from the musical became the building blocks for five content modules which can be used over the course of a week (one module per day) – or over the course of a month (one module per week). Each module includes Bible beats, songs, art experiences, nature devotions, small-group games, and family worship.

### NEW Praise Takes Flight 2 New Heights

BETSY HENDERSON, KIMBERLY INGRAM, AND JOE MILTON CGBK79 BOOK AND CD

Let's take off on a brand new journey with *Praise Takes Flight 2: New Heights!* A follow up to the popular first book, this collection for grades 2-6 features brand new warm ups, games, energizers, and anthems, all with creative teaching plans you can use with your church children's choirs tonight! Bonus resources included online-with video demos that will be added throughout the coming year! Let's fasten our seatbelts as our *Praise Takes Flight!*



### Praise Takes Flight

BETSY HENDERSON, KIMBERLY INGRAM, AND JOE MILTON CGBK68 BOOK AND CD

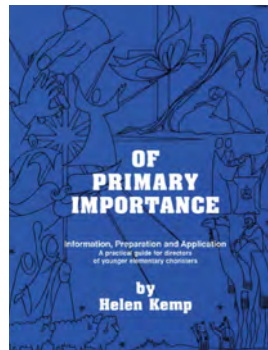
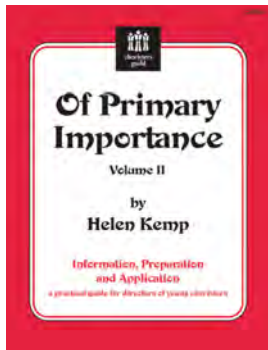
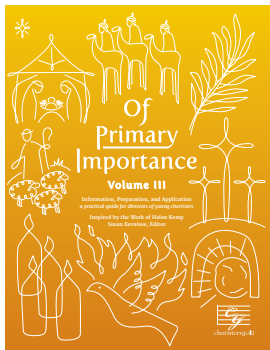
Get ready for takeoff with *Praise Takes Flight*, a high-flying collection of songs, activities, and games for children's choirs. You'll find fresh, innovative ideas to help your singers in grades 2-6 soar to new heights, including: Warm Ups and Name Games; Bible Beats and Body Percussion; Echoes and Rounds; Instruments and Cups; Action Songs and Anthems. Fun, creative, and easy to implement, this is a collection teachers can use in choir TONIGHT! So fasten your seatbelts: it's time to fly with veteran educators and composers such as Betsy Henderson, Kimberly Ingram, Susan Eernisse, Joe Milton, Karen Gosselin, Amanda Bynum Singer, and Heather Olson. "Together as one family in Christ: let's sing with joy as our *Praise Takes Flight!*"

### Again, I Say Rejoice!

MARK BURROWS CGC56 BOOK AND CD

A collection of 35 reproducible songs for Children's Church, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, and Choir by best-selling composer Mark Burrows. Each song is meant to be learned quickly and teaches children about the love of God. Each book includes an enhanced CD with demo tracks and reproducible singer's pages.



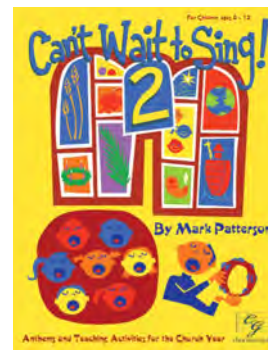
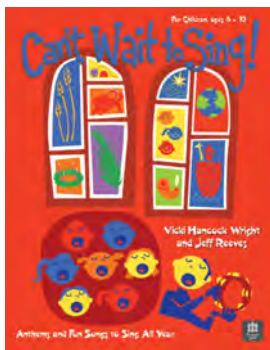


## Of Primary Importance Series

SUSAN EERNISSE, EDITOR  
**CGBK73** OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE VOL. III  
**CGBK54** OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE VOL. II  
**CGBK50** OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE VOL. I

Whether you are an experienced director or someone new to children's choirs, you

can count on each of the volumes in the *Of Primary Importance* series to equip and guide you through a full choir year. Volumes I and II, written by Helen Kemp, have been favorites of children's choir directors for many years. The third volume in the series, inspired by Helen Kemp, written by top Choristers Guild writers, and edited by Susan Eernisse, was published in 2017 and has quickly become a director-favorite resource. Each volume includes essays both inspiring and practical, suggested anthems for use throughout the choir and church year, and ample teaching suggestions. Each can serve as the core of your choir curriculum, and taken together they can function as a three-year curriculum cycle. These excellent resources will be just what you need to develop your singers into genuine worship leaders as you guide and nurture them in their growing faith.



## Can't Wait to Sing

VICKI HANCOCK WRIGHT AND JEFF REEVES **CGC50**

## Can't Wait to Sing 2

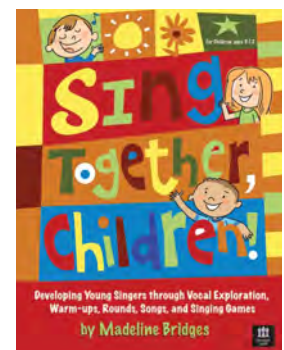
MARK PATTERSON **CGC54** BOOK AND CD

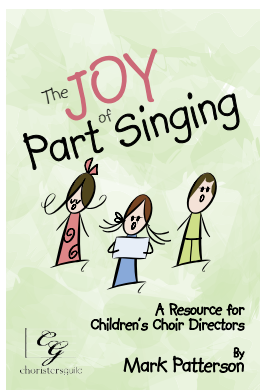
The songs in each book span the church year, including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Palm Sunday, and general themes. The singers' pages are reproducible as well as all additional instrumental parts. The included demonstration and accompaniment CD and teaching activities make this a great resource to grab and take to your rehearsals. Each song has been crafted with the utmost care.

## Sing Together, Children!

MADLINE BRIDGES **CGBK66** BOOK AND DVD

This resource draws music primarily from the folk music tradition, making it useful for both church and school choirs. The singing activities follow a sequential teaching process: exploring the voice, developing young singers, singing and moving, building choral skills, and singing in harmony. The singing activities span a wide range of skill level, and include warm-ups, vocalises, choral technique songs, rounds, and songs that teach part-singing. Each chapter includes an efficient, pedagogically-sound teaching plan that can be used along with the included DVD.





## The Joy of Part Singing

MARK PATTERSON CGBK67 BOOK

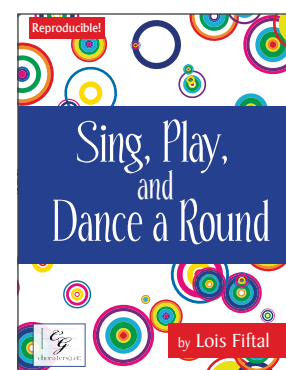
*The Joy of Part Singing* is a resource that will help children's choirs experience greater success in part singing through short, accessible warm-ups, vocal exercises, rhythm chants, echo songs, mini-descants, and rounds. While some of these exercises are for rehearsal only, others may be shared in worship or in concert settings. Everything presented in the book was born out of the author's own need as a conductor of children's choirs. Even if your choir is currently working towards solidifying a beautiful, unison sound, these activities will help singers build the foundation for singing in multiple parts in the future.

## Sing, Play, and Dance a Round

LOIS FITAL, COMPOSER CGE145 REPRODUCIBLE BOOK

Versatile, practical and economical all describe this marvelous reproducible collection of 12 original rounds targeted to the grades 4-9 general music or choir classroom. Written in a variety of musical styles and usable throughout the year, each round includes either an optional easy and repetitive piano accompaniment or a percussion and melody instrument accompaniment to be employed at the discretion of the teacher or choral director. Lois has also provided a detailed musical activity for each round including movement, dance, use of props and staging suggestions. Full scores are included, followed by the activity pages and singer's pages, and all are reproducible. Whether performed in class, on concerts or utilized as warmups in your choral rehearsals, you don't want to miss this valuable resource that will make part-singing fun as they experience their first steps towards musical independence.

**Tunes:** Music Brings Us All Together; Canon a la Beethoven; Caribbean Rhythms; Breakfast Round; We Give Thanks; The Bells of Christmas; Time Goes By; Learn Something New; Tech Talk; Let's Rock!; Bluebird; Sing, Play, and Dance a Round.



# REHEARSAL RESOURCES FEATURING INSTRUMENTS



## All Hands In! Volume II

### *Bible Story Percussion Grooves and Drum Circle Activities*

BRIAN HEHN AND MARK BURROWS CGBK76

The exciting sequel to *All Hands In!* is here! Mark Burrows and Brian Hehn have teamed up again to bring you a second volume of this bestselling drumming resource, jam-packed with creative, fun material. This collection includes 8 new Bible story grooves with teaching plans, worship ideas and hymn suggestions; drumming technique and improvisation activities; and prayer and devotional ideas for drum circles.

## All Hands In! Volume I

BRIAN HEHN AND MARK BURROWS CGBK70 BOOK & INSTRUCTIONAL DVD

Percussion expert Brian Hehn and composer Mark Burrows have teamed up on this creative, fun resource combining percussion and Biblical storytelling. Ten foundational Bible stories are retold through a percussion groove, a narrator, and rhythmic speech. Each unit includes teaching plans, ideas for worship inclusion (including lectionary index), hymnal pairings, and complementary Choristers Guild anthems. The activities are customizable for choirs of all ages, sizes, and abilities. BONUS: Includes three spoken-word choral anthems with percussion.





## All Things Bright and Beautiful Scripture Songs for Children with Orff Instruments

DARLA MEEK CGBK74

Over the past 50 years, the philosophy of Carl Orff has swept the country and is gradually, happily, infiltrating the church setting. The Orff approach is so effective because it celebrates the ability and creativity of each individual child. All children contribute, whatever their level of ability. This exciting new collection contains nine foundational Bible verses set to music with Orff and other percussion instruments. Songs span the choir season (September through May), and each monthly song unit includes full teaching plans. A wonderful, practical resource for incorporating Orff into your choir rehearsals throughout the year!

## CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

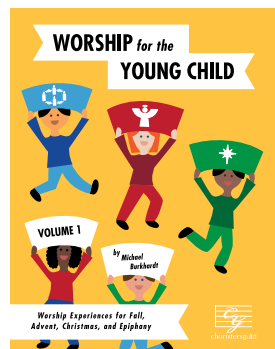
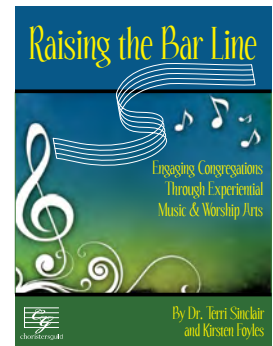
### Raising the Bar Line: Engaging Congregations Through Experiential Music & Worship Arts

DR. TERRI SINCLAIR & KIRSTEN FOYLES CGBK75 BOOK

Need help adding meaning to so many liturgical days and special events on your worship planning calendar? Authors Terri Sinclair and Kirsten Foyles have put together an excellent resource to assist you throughout the church year. They have included background material to enhance your understanding, a simpler explanation for children that can be used in children's sermons or Sunday school lessons, creative worship elements to allow worshippers to be actively engaged, suggested theme-related songs for congregational singing, and anthem lists of Choristers Guild selections for each theme. You will love this time-saving resource.

**Writers:** Dr. Terri Sinclair & Kirsten Foyles; Susan Eernisse, Editor

**Season:** Christ the King, Advent, Epiphany, Transfiguration, Lent, Palm Sunday, Pentecost, Graduation, Confirmation, Mother's/Father's Day, Patriotic and Social Justice observances.



### Worship for the Young Child: Volume 1

MICHAEL BURKHARDT CGBK69  
BOOK & CD

This guidebook is your new go-to resource for teaching children how and why we worship! Innovative and creative, this collection by Michael Burkhardt introduces children to liturgical elements, worship symbols, and the rhythm

of worship. A great resource to use as part of your Sunday school or church school curriculum, during children's choir rehearsals, and in your regular worship services. Adult leaders and children with love the conversational learning model and participatory music. Nine worship experiences in Volume 1 cover the seasons of Fall, Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Includes an enhanced CD with demo/accompaniment tracks and reproducible worship handouts.



**VIRTUAL EVENT**

## Bonclarken Music Conference

July 12-17, 2020

**2020 Clinicians**

**Adult Choir** | Shannon Jeffreys  
Georgia Southern University

**Youth Choir** | Todd Arant  
Apex (NC) UMC

**Middle Choir** | Victor C. Johnson  
Dallas, Texas

**Junior Choir** | Liz Shepley  
Northfield, Minnesota

**Cherub & Primary Choirs** |  
Susan Eernisse  
Carrollton (GA) FBC &  
The Chorister Magazine

**There will be no charge for this event.**

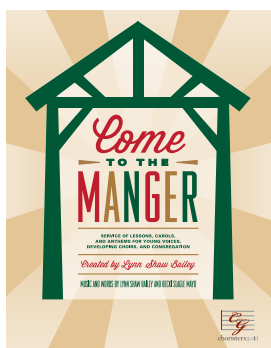
**For more information:**  
[www.bonclarken.org](http://www.bonclarken.org)

**Directors:**  
Trip McGill  
[tripmcgill@gmail.com](mailto:tripmcgill@gmail.com)

Lynn Grimsley  
[lynngirms@gmail.com](mailto:lynngirms@gmail.com)



**BONCLARKEN**  
CONFERENCE CENTER  
Christian Inspiration & Renewal



## Come to the Manger

LYNN SHAW BAILEY AND BECKI SLAGLE MAYO

CGC57 BOOK & CD

CGCD61 ACCOMPANIMENT CD

A joyful service of Lessons, Carols, and Anthems for Advent or Christmas. With music and lyrics by Lynn Shaw Bailey and Becki Slagle Mayo, *Come to the Manger* includes five anthems for unison/two-part voices with piano and optional handbells or handchimes. Seven scripture lessons serve as the foundation of the service, as readers of any age recall God's promised Messiah and the birth of the Christ child. Anthems are appropriate for all ages, from developing treble choirs to mixed adult choirs looking for accessible two-part music. This comprehensive collection also includes congregational carol accompaniments, a carol prelude for piano, and helpful anthem teaching plans. An enhanced CD includes full demo tracks and many reproducible resources: reader's scripts, singer's pages, and instrumental parts.

## MULTI-GENERATIONAL COLLECTIONS

### Glory to God

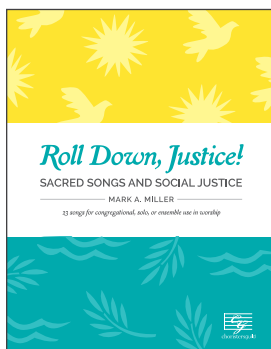
#### *Hymn and Sacred Song Arrangements for Choirs of All Ages*

SETTINGS BY SUE ELLEN PAGE AND MARK LORIA CGC64

This choral collection of hymn and song arrangements is an all-in-one resource for your music ministry! Each anthem is arranged with care for unison/two-part choir and is fully-reproducible. Three of the arrangements include parts for SATB or combined choirs, and many feature optional instrumentation. The included hymns and songs are:

God Is Here Today  
For the Beauty of the Earth  
God of Great and God of Small  
Doxology Medley  
Jesus Loves Me

Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken  
God Is So Good/Know That God Is Good  
May the God of Hope Go with Us  
Taste and See  
God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me



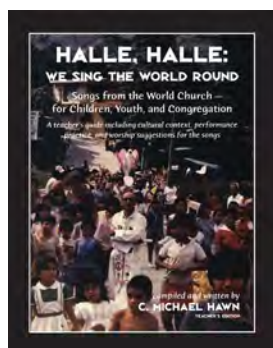
### Roll Down, Justice! (Sacred Songs and Social Justice)

MARK MILLER, COMPOSER CGBK72 BOOK & DEMO CD

How can music reach across time and space and social location to form communities who sing with unity and joy? How can we sing not only songs of thanksgiving, but songs about justice- making and reconciliation? Mark Miller's songbook, *Roll Down, Justice!*, contains 23 soulful songs for congregational worship. In the midst of struggles for social justice and freedom from oppressive systems, these songs will transform and inspire your community. You will be challenged - and empowered - to be instruments of peace.

**Includes congregational editions of Miller's bestselling choral anthems:** "God Has Work for Us to Do," "Child of God," "What Does the Lord Require of You?" and "Welcome to God's Love." Songbook also includes convenient reproducible congregational pages and a demo CD for your worship leaders.





## Halle, Halle We Sing the World Round

C. MICHAEL HAWN  
**CGC41** TEACHER'S EDITION  
**CGC42** SINGERS EDITION

This songbook contains 36 selections from Africa, Latin America, and Asia, over half of which have never been published before in the USA. In addition to full scores and indigenous instrumental suggestions, the director's edition contains all you need to successfully teach this music to choirs and congregations. An extensive introduction contains theological, word- and sung--prayer perspectives, musical performance practices, background on writers and countries, liturgical contexts, and ideas for use in worship. The singer's edition is filled with wonderful photographs, many in color, of children from the represented countries.



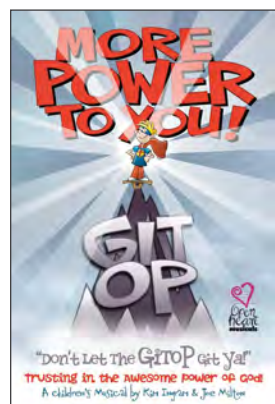
# Children's Choir Musicals

## Called

MARK BURROWS  
**CGC66** CALLED SCORE  
**CGK34** CALLED PREVIEW KIT  
**CGRP54** CALLED REPRODUCIBLE INSTRUMENTAL PARTS  
**CGCD74** CALLED DEMO CD  
**CGCD75** CALLED ACCOMPANIMENT CD  
**CGCDP62** CALLED DEMO CD 10-PAK

Called - a musical for unison/two-part voices, piano and percussion. "If you believe that children don't have to wait till they grow up to make a real difference in God's world, then I wrote this for you!" - Mark Burrows

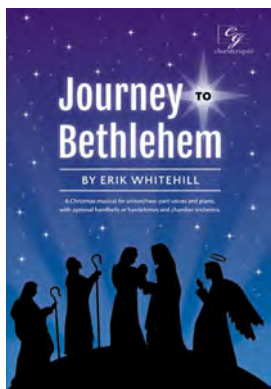
What does it mean to be called by God? This musical for unison/two-part voices affirms that God has placed something beautiful in everyone and is calling us to share it with the world. Through Burrows' honest, humorous storytelling and memorable musical numbers, we all will feel empowered to live lives worthy of the calling we have received.



## More Power to You! Finding Our Strength in God

KIMBERLY INGRAM & JOE MILTON  
**CGOH5** SINGER BOOK  
**CGOH5P** PREVIEW PACK  
**CGOH5CDS** LISTENING CD 20-PACK  
**CGOH5AC** PERFORMANCE/ACCOMPANIMENT CD  
**CGOH5D** DIGITAL TEACHER RESOURCE KIT

Alex was an ordinary kid with ordinary problems. But one day, a bigger than ordinary challenge appears. It looks like a mountain, and it's called a GITOP: a Gigantic, Intimidating, Troublesome, Overwhelming Problem! We all have GITOPS in our lives. Where will we find the strength to face them? Let's step into the Word and see how the Bible stories of Joshua, Peter, and the House on the Rock might help us discover the courage and power that can only come from God. This new musical is a terrific fit for church choirs and Fine Arts Camps! Children use teamwork and creativity to invent lines, movements, and props. We will memorize Scripture, learn two classic hymns, and discover how God gives us the power to face any problem - even a GITOP!



## Journey to Bethlehem

ERIK WHITEHILL  
**CGC65** PIANO/VOCAL SCORE  
**CGK33** PREVIEW KIT  
**CGCD67** ACCOMPANIMENT CD  
**CGCD66** DEMO CD  
**CGRP50** REPRODUCIBLE INSTRUMENTAL PARTS  
**CGCDP61** DEMO CD 10-PAK

Based directly from the nativity story in scripture, this oratorio-style musical is easily learned by singers of all ages. As the angels visit Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds to tell the good news of a baby boy, recurring musical themes connect these visits & characters as they journey to Bethlehem. Composer Erik Whitehill hits just the right mix: from a heartwarming ballad to a jazzy title tune, and a delightful Gloria round to bookend arrangements of ADESTE FIDELES. Minimal set and costume needs - use the nativity props and costumes you already have on

hand! The musical is scored for unison or two-part voices with piano, with optional parts for handbells/handchimes and a small chamber orchestra. A great Christmas cantata option for a smaller adult choir.

## Silent Night: The Birth of a Carol

HAL H. HOPSON  
**CGJM1K** DIRECTOR'S KIT  
**CGJM1D** DIRECTOR'S SCORE  
**CGJM1CD** LISTENING CD  
**CGJM1AC** INSTRUTRAX CD  
**CGJM1CDS** BULK CDS (10-PACK)  
**CGJM1P** PREVIEW PACK

Travel back to Christmas Eve, 1818, and a small Austrian church nestled in the Alps where the beloved carol *Silent Night* was born. Mice have made a shambles of the organ, creating quite a problem for Pastor Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber, the church organist. There's a happy ending, however, in this 17-minute musical based on the true story of *Silent Night*. Six songs and an assortment of delightful characters comprise this easy to prepare and present musical crafted to ensure success for children's choirs large or small.



## Room for Christmas

MARK BURROWS  
**CGC61** SCORE  
**CGK30** PREVIEW KIT  
**CGCD57** DEMO CD  
**CGCD58** ACCOMPANIMENT CD  
**CGCDP57** DEMO CD 10 PACK

Unison/two-part Christmas musical with piano and optional flute. It's the week before the church Christmas pageant and the cast of children is determined to bring new life to the Christmas story. Includes a Toy Drive as part of the story, and can involve the congregation's participation in a real-life toy drive. Flexible casting for large or small choirs. Most roles can be

played by male or female performers. Simple costume and prop suggestions ensure choirs can simply use what they have on-hand.



## In the Image

MARK BURROWS

**CGC63** IN THE IMAGE SCORE

**CGRP41** IN THE IMAGE REPRODUCIBLE INSTRUMENTAL PARTS

**CGK32** IN THE IMAGE PREVIEW KIT

**CGCD63** IN THE IMAGE DEMONSTRATION CD

**CGCDP60** IN THE IMAGE DEMONSTRATION CD 10-PAK

**CGCD62** IN THE IMAGE ACCOMPANIMENT/PERFORMANCE CD

Mark Burrows' fantastic and inspiring new children's musical, *In the Image* features a group of children who have just experienced the story of The Creation. And now they're starting to wonder what it really means to be created in the image of God. Through humorous, earnest exploration, the children discover that being created *in the image* of God isn't about physical appearance. It's about creativity, faithfulness, responsibility, community, and the ability to find

the good in things. A perfect production for any time of the year, and an exceptional choice for summer arts camps. For unison/two-part voices with piano and optional oboe (or C instrument) and percussion.

## Esther

ERIK WHITEHILL

**CGC58** ESTHER SINGER'S EDITION

**CGBK71** ESTHER DIRECTOR'S SCORE

**CGCD60** ESTHER ACCOMPANIMENT CD

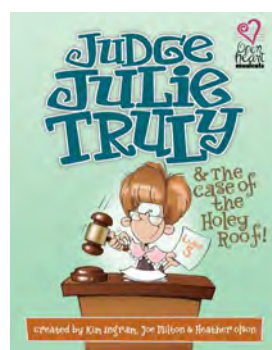
**CGCD59** ESTHER DEMO CD

**CGCDP59** ESTHER DEMO 10-PAK

**CGK31** ESTHER KIT

The daring, triumphant story of Esther is brought to vivid life in this new musical by composer Erik Whitehill. Through the story of Esther, travel to the citadel of Susa where King Ahasuerus names Esther his new queen—and where Esther faces the decision of her life. Will wicked Haman prevail? Or will selfless Mordecai convince Esther to trust in God and save her people?

With a nod to Broadway, *Esther* is filled with memorable melodies—from fun and whimsical reprises to expressive, heartfelt ballads. The score promotes great choral singing while giving extra opportunities to strong soloists. Don't miss this exciting new musical from Choristers Guild!



## Judge Julie

KIM INGRAM, JOE MILTON, AND HEATHER OLSON

**CGOH4** SCRIPT/SCORE

**CGOH4AC** ACCOMPANIMENT/PERFORMANCE CD

**CGOH4CDS** DEMO CD 20 PACK

**CGOH4P** PREVIEW KIT

Order in the court! All rise for Her Honor, Judge Julie Truly, who will now hear the Case of the Holey Roof from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 5. Meet the Homeowner: he is pressing charges against the Four Friends. (*They dug a hole in his roof—on purpose!*) Meet our Defendants: "Four Famously Faithful Friends" who went **over and above** to bring their paralyzed companion to Jesus. The testimony will move you, the verdict will surprise you, and we will all learn how our **LOVE IN ACTION** can bring people right to the feet of the Savior. RELEASE DATE: FALL 2015

**Unison with optional 2 and 3 parts for advanced choirs**

**Includes bonus characters for larger groups, and multi-generational options**



## Land of the Lost and Found

KIMBERLY INGRAM, JOE MILTON, AND HEATHER OLSON

**CGOH3** LOST AND FOUND SCORE

**CGOH3CDS** LOST AND FOUND DEMO CD PACK

**CGOH3AC** LOST AND FOUND ACCOMPANIMENT CD

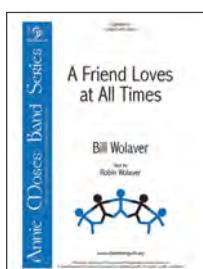
**CGOH3DRK** LOST AND FOUND DIRECTOR'S RESOURCE KIT

**CGOH3DEV** LOST AND FOUND STUDENT DEVOTIONAL WORKBOOK

**CGOH3P** LOST AND FOUND PREVIEW KIT

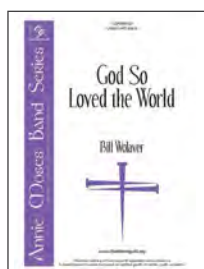
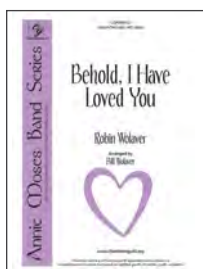
It's his first day at a brand new school and Morris is feeling scared, insecure, and LOST. He stumbles into Room 316, the Lost and Found, where he finds a life-size Bible, and a mysterious suit of armor who invites him to "Step into the Word." Morris steps into the pages of Luke 15, where the "Lost and Found" parables spring to life in costume, humor, drama, and song. Will the lessons of the Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep, and the Prodigal Son be the Son-Powered Compass that helps Morris through "the Land of the Lost"? You'll find terrific parts for all your students, including the three pigs from the Prodigal's sty, the Shepherd and his flock of "Bah-bettes", a grumpy group of Pharisees, and even a "Pair of Bulls". The Parables have never been more fun and your students will never forget the key lesson: when you're feeling scared and lost, Jesus is the "Son-Powered Compass" who points the way to home. From Open Heart Musicals.

## ANNIE MOSES BAND CHORAL SERIES



In the fall of 2019, Choristers Guild launched our Annie Moses Band Series choral line, featuring pieces designed to nurture young artists. The Annie Moses Band, an unbelievably talented family band based in Nashville, has a signature sound — and a passion for mentoring the next generation of faith-filled musicians. The band records and produces the demo recordings for AMB anthems in their studio, featuring talented young artists who are part of their mentoring program. We love these anthems for their soaring melodic lines and solid messages, not to mention the beautiful orchestrations by Bill Wolaver. We saw promise in these pieces, knowing that your children's and youth choirs could present these in a beautiful way. I hope you enjoy rehearsing these pieces, bringing them to life for your congregation.

—Katie Houts, Sacred Choral Editor



### A Friend Loves at All Times

**CGAMB101** UNISON

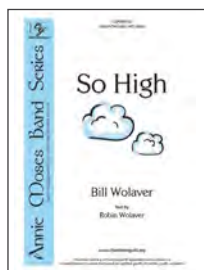
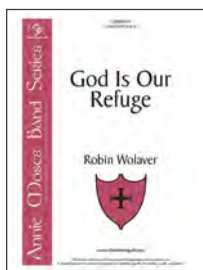
A fun unison piece with depth and a strong message, this teaches children the importance of loving others as themselves. Set with a Caribbean feel, it has a solo feature that can easily be performed by a group of singers. Such a delight to sing in sacred or secular settings!

uge and strength - and so we will not fear!" Incorporate the full orchestration for an exhilarating statement of faith.

### God So Loved the World

**CGAMB100** UNISON

The foundational scripture text of John 3:16 is featured here in a breathtaking anthem for unison voices. Bill Wolaver's full orchestration supports a stunning vocal melody. An artful and memorable presentation for developing choirs, youth choirs, or a soloist.



### Behold, I Have Loved You

**CGAMB103** UNISON/TWO-PART

Expressive and gentle, Robin Wolaver's melody is balm for the soul. With an assuring message of God's great love for us, this anthem is a beautiful addition to any worship service. Especially poignant for baptism, dedication, or confirmation celebrations.

### So High

**CGAMB102** UNISON/TWO-PART

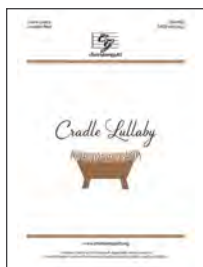
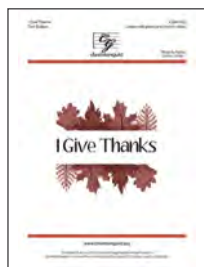
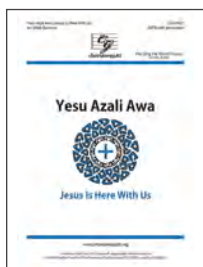
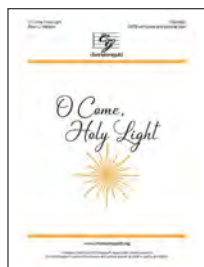
A soaring vocal melody paints a vivid picture of God's love for us, spanning the heights of the heavens. The flowing orchestration and optional antiphonal choir combine for an effortless, inspiring musical message.

### God Is Our Refuge

**CGAMB104** UNISON

A memorable melody and supportive accompaniment are featured in this earnest anthem for unison voices. "God is our ref-

## FALL 2020 SACRED CHORAL ANTHEMS



### Come Be the Light

**MARK PATTERSON**  
GENERAL, FESTIVAL, EPIPHANY  
**HELEN KEMP CHORAL SERIES**

Another uplifting anthem of hope from bestselling composer Mark Patterson! This unison/two-part anthem calls us to be bold and courageous - sharing God's light, joy, hope, and love to the world. Patterson's masterful writing is a great fit for treble choirs of all ages, featuring an exciting piano accompaniment and an optional part for handbells or handchimes. This anthem has so many uses and is especially fitting for a fall choir kickoff, a choral festival, the Epiphany season, or any celebratory occasion.

**CGA1625** Unison/two-part with piano and optional 2 octaves handbells or handchimes

### Yesu Azali Awa

**MARK BURROWS**  
GENERAL  
**HYMNS OF FAITH SERIES**  
**We Sing the World Round**

This dynamic Congolese folk hymn is given a spirited arrangement for SATB and percussion from composer Mark Burrows.

The Lingalo text is learned with ease, and the percussion groove locks in this exuberant assurance: Jesus is here with us! A perfect selection to remind us of God's presence in our world, particularly on World Communion Sunday and throughout the Epiphany season.

**CGA1626** SATB with percussion  
**CGRP59** Reproducible Percussion Parts

### Cradle Lullaby

**JONATHAN REID**  
GENERAL

An endearing piece for Christmas from the pen of Jonathan Reid. Rising and falling vocal phrases are supported by a sensitive piano accompaniment, and an impressive ending showcases the full range of a mixed choir. The tender text draws comparisons to the infant Jesus, and represents a mother's prayer that her own child may grow to love and serve the Lord.

**CGA1628** SATB with piano

### O Come, Holy Light

**BRIAN L. HANSON**  
ADVENT, CHRISTMAS

Composer Brian Hanson's captivating work is on full display in this anthem for Advent. Hanson's original text is illuminated through his compelling vocal writing, gentle cello part, and inspiring piano accompaniment. A poignant plea for God's light to break into our world, making all things right.

**CGA1630** SATB with piano and optional cello

### I Give Thanks

**TONI SULLIVAN**  
GENERAL, THANKSGIVING  
**ROTE TO NOTE**

A delightful Rote to Anthem from composer Toni Sullivan. Easy-to-learn rhythmic and melodic patterns can be explored by beginning note readers. A memorable refrain contains melodic repetition so children can identify melodic movement, and the stepwise motion in the B section makes it a cinch to follow the melody up and down the staff. Includes a Discovery Page with teaching tips. A wonderful anthem for Thanksgiving!

**CGA1632** Unison with piano and rhythm sticks

### ...and fireflies

**MARK BURROWS**  
GENERAL  
**MARK MILLER SERIES**

Composer Mark Burrows offers us the reminder that God's light is always shining through creation: the sun, the moon, the stars... and fireflies. Burrows knits text and melody together into an imaginative anthem for two-part voices, capturing the wonder and innocence of God's world. Four optional handbells or handchimes add the perfect amount of sparkle as children's voices shine in their own soaring melody. Consider visual/lighting effects to complement this anthem in worship or concert.

**CGA1633** Two-part with piano and four optional handbells or handchimes

### Yes, Jesus Loves Me!

**TIM OSIEK**  
GENERAL

A phenomenal re-imagining of the beloved Sunday school song. Bestselling composer Tim Osiek has penned a thoughtful, emotional anthem that invites us to reflect on our faith journey from childhood to adulthood. Does Jesus still remember me? Echoes of the familiar tune appear throughout the anthem, but it is Osiek's fresh setting which assures the listener of Jesus' enduring love, no matter where life's journey leads. With plenty of moving musical moments throughout, this piece is memorable from start to finish.

**CGA1634** SATB with piano

### God Is Here Today

**ARR. TOM TRENNEY**  
**TRANS. C. MICHAEL HAWN**  
GENERAL

Earnest and reassuring, this anthem is a true reflection of the man honored in its dedication - Fred M. Rogers. Tom Trenney's lovely arrangement of "God Is Here Today" features a beautiful partner melody and an opportunity for congregational singing. The ending phrase certainly captures the essence of this song, as well as Mister Rogers' legacy: God is love.

**CGA1635** Unison/two-part with piano and optional congregation

### Immanuel Draws Near (O Come, O Come, Immanuel)

**KATIE HOUTS**

**TEXT BY REV. BARBARA K. LUNDBLAD**  
ADVENT, CHRISTMAS

"O Come, O Come, Immanuel" receives a refreshing text update by Rev. Barbara K. Lundblad and a new melody by Katie Houts. Mysterious, yet filled with intent and with hope, this poignant Advent anthem can be sung by a unison choir or a multi-generational two-part choir. A simple antiphonal section evokes the prophet's message passing from generation to generation, leading to a powerful climax: "Revenge and hatred put to flight! Rejoice, rejoice! Take heart and do not fear: God's chosen one, Immanuel, draws near."

**CGA1636** Unison/two-part with piano

### Love Is in the Manger

**CAMILLA PRUITT**

**ORCHESTRATION BY LUKE BENTON**  
ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, EPIPHANY

This tender Christmas ballad asks an earnest question: "Can you find the manger? Love is in the manger!" The composer weaves her beautiful original melody with the familiar "Silent Night," making this a heartwarming presentation for Christmas worship. Conveniently written for flexible voicing, this can be performed by an individual children's or adult choir, with the option of singing as combined choirs. Instrumental parts for oboe, strings, and harp are also available.

**CGA1637** Unison, SATB, or combined choirs with piano

**CGRP60** Reproducible Instrumental Parts (oboe, string quartet, harp)

### And Are We Yet Alive?

**MARK A. MILLER**

GENERAL

**MARK MILLER SERIES**

"Glory and thanks to Jesus give - for God's almighty grace!" Bestselling composer Mark Miller gives Charles Wesley's text a fresh, new setting in this dynamic Gospel anthem for mixed choirs. Spirited and soulful, Miller captures the exhilaration of overcoming the trials and tribulations of life's journey. This piece exudes pure joy! A great opportunity to feature a worship ensemble and soloists.

**CGA1638** SATB with piano

### God's Love Is Alive in Us

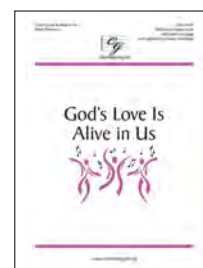
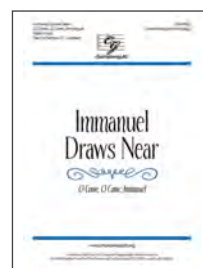
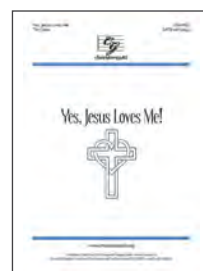
**MARK PATTERSON**

GENERAL, REFORMATION, ALL SAINTS, THANKSGIVING

**COMBINED CHOIRS CHORAL SERIES**

A spirited new voicing for combined choirs from bestselling composer Mark Patterson. Appropriate for any service at any time of year, you'll want to program this anthem again and again. Mark's timeless text celebrates the heritage of faith and the bright future ahead for the people of God. Antiphonal phrases give children, youth, and adults their moment to shine. Add the optional handbells and organ accompaniment for an especially festive presentation. A must-have for your choral library!

**CGA1645** SATB and unison choir with piano or organ and optional 2 octaves handbells



# Choral, Elementary, or General Music Classroom

## Sing! School Choral Line

EDITED BY VICTOR C. JOHNSON

**Sing!** is your source for distinctive choral octavos for use in classroom, concert, and festival. It is comprised of inspired choral works in a variety of styles and voicings to meet the general and seasonal needs of elementary, middle school, and high school choirs.

Age-appropriate texts, good voice leading, and creative, yet supportive accompaniments are all key components for music that will inspire young and developing choirs and also serve as the vehicle to allow our singers the opportunity to experience the pure joy of singing and making music together.

# FALL 2020: NEW FROM SING! FOR SCHOOL CHOIRS

## CONCERT/FESTIVAL

### Make A Joyful Noise!

WESLEY PETERS

Bright mixed meters, a rhythmically driving accompaniment, and a contemplative middle section are the hallmarks of this dynamic setting of Psalm 100 by Wesley Peters. Easily learned and accessible for choirs of all levels, this is a perfect choice as a concert or festival opener or a festive call to worship for church settings. **A Learning Resource Page is included.**

CGE374 SATB

CGE375 SAB

### Do Not Stand and Weep

GREG GILPIN

Gilpin is at his creative best with this stunning setting of Mary Elizabeth Frye's immortal poem "Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep". This sensitively crafted work brings a deeper level of understanding to an already poignant text, while providing an opportunity for a profoundly moving musical experience for singers and audiences alike. **A Learning Resource Page is included.**

CGE413 SATB

CGE414 SSAB

CGE415 SSA

CGECD169 P/A CD

### This Is Who We Are

MARK BURROWS

Written as a commission for the Santa Fe Peace Choir, This is Who We Are, at its very core encourages us to claim our better selves, to rise above struggle and fear, and to embrace the power we all have within us. *"When we stand up for peace and justice, when we sing out for hope and kindness, when we reach out to shine and share our light, we show the world that, together, we can do beautiful things. This is who we are."*

CGE391 SATB with Djembe

CGE392 Three-part Mixed with Djembe

CGE393 Two-part with Djembe

CGECD158 P/A CD

### A La Puerta del Cielo

ARRANGED BY RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

This tender lullaby, also known as *Duermete Nino*, has been artfully arranged in this expressive setting by Ruth Elaine Schram. This work exudes an elegant simplicity while a gently flowing accompaniment enhances the serene mood of the piece. A pronunciation guide and translation are included.

CGE404 SSA

CGECD165 P/A CD

### Elijah Rock

ARRANGED BY VICTOR C. JOHNSON

Your choir will shine with this very solid and very accessible a cappella arrangement of this traditional spiritual. Possessing crisp contemporary harmonies and cool syncopations in the vocal parts, this work is a marvelous choice for developing choirs in both concert and festival settings.

CGE384 Three-part Mixed *a cappella*

CGE385 SSA *a cappella*

### A Seal Upon Thy Heart

RUTH MORRIS GRAY

Gray's skillful writing and sensitive interpretation of this beloved text from *Song of Songs* creates an appealing offering for mixed or women's voices. Beautiful melodic lines, flowing choral scoring, and a fluid accompaniment enhance the exceptional beauty of this eloquent work.

CGE401 SATB

CGE402 SSA

CGECD162 P/A CD

### I'm A' Down for Lack of Johnnie

ARRANGED BY LINDA SPEVACEK

Expressive vocal writing paired with a sensitive accompaniment provide for an outstanding setting of this hauntingly beautiful Scottish folk song. The a cappella opening solo leads us into a contemplative score possessing a warm palate of choral colors and textures. The optional Flute adds to the mournful yet reflective mood of the piece, which will provide singers and audiences with a deeply emotional musical experience.

CGE416 SSA with Opt. Flute

### A Jubilant Song

VICTOR C. JOHNSON

What a fabulous way to open your concert or festival with this exhilarating original for developing choirs featuring energized syncopation, a macaronic text, strong melodic lines and a dynamic accompaniment! An expressive middle section soon leads us to the exciting finale.

CGE369 SATB *New voicing!*

CGE370 SSA *New voicing!*

CGE276 Three-part Mixed

CGE277 Two-part

CGECD112 P/A CD

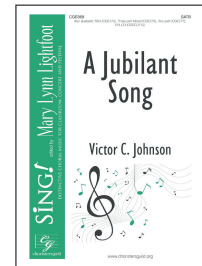
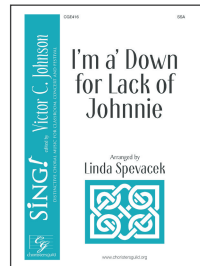
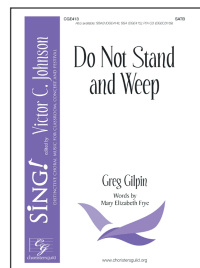
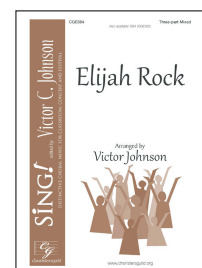
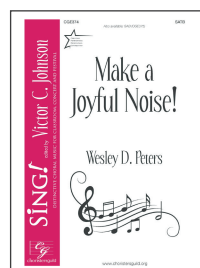
### Üsküdar

ARRANGED BY MARK BURROWS

This energetic setting of the Turkish folk song, Üsküdar, has been carefully crafted by Mark Burrows to be both interesting and intuitive. Often, one of the biggest stumbling blocks of learning a multicultural piece is an unfamiliar language. Üsküdar utilizes repetition so that the minimal Turkish text, once learned, becomes easier with each repetition of the chorus. Incorporating the optional Oboe, Finger Cymbals, Tambourine and Dumbek will aid in providing a stylistically authentic performance of this piece. A pronunciation guide and translation are provided.

CGE373 Two-part with Oboe and Opt. Percussion

CGECD149 P/A CD



## Rock-a My Soul

ARRANGED BY RUSSELL ROBINSON

Russ Robinson's fresh and new treatment of this traditional spiritual is not to be missed! This arrangement features a very cool, rhythmic vocal ostinato, while still allowing each section an opportunity to sing the melody. The *rockin'* piano part compliments the engaging vocal lines and when joined together, will result in a very spirited and energetic concert or festival performance.

**CGE394** Three-part Mixed with Descant  
**CGE395** SSA with Descant  
**CGECD159** P/A CD

## A Call for Peace

JERRY ESTES

Built on several phrases in English and Latin the topic with the topic of peace, this easily accessible piece for developing choirs is a programming must! This creative choral, which has a Gregorian chant-like vibe, is set in a minor tonality with limited vocal ranges in each section. An optional piano accompaniment and an easily learned and adaptable percussion part help to create a world music feel in this piece, which can be used in a school or church settings. The all-encompassing message of peace could be performed any time of year, but is also appropriate for Christmas.

**CGE419** Three-part Mixed Opt. *a cappella* with Percussion  
**CGE420** TTB Opt. *a cappella* with Percussion

## Sing A New Song

MICHAEL JOHN TROTTA

Three-part developing choirs will excel with this exuberant work by Michael John Trotta, suitable for concert or festival use. Joyous melodic motives are passed from section to section, and skillful vocal writing aids in introducing independent part singing to emerging choirs. Whether you choose to perform this piece *a cappella* or with the optional piano accompaniment, your choir will fall in love with this joyful celebration of singing.

**CGE389** Three-part Mixed Opt. *a cappella*  
**CGECD156** P/A CD

## Shenandoah

ARRANGED BY ANDREW PARR

This exquisite setting of the beloved American folk song *Shenandoah* has been masterfully arranged for younger choirs by new composer Andrew Parr. Possessing an inherently beautiful melody, Parr's arrangement also features an accompaniment that is rich, lush, and supportive, yet unique to each verse. With an option to perform solely as a unison piece or with the accessible and artistically written sec-

ond part, this elegant arrangement is a solid choice for concert or festival use. **A Learning Resource Page is included.**

**CGE390** Two-part  
**CGECD157** P/A CD

## I'll Tell My Ma

ARRANGED BY GREG GILPIN

This lively, toe-tapping Irish folk song has been given a fun and lighthearted treatment by Greg Gilpin and is the perfect creative programming choice for your choirs. With fun interplay between sections, lots of rhythmic twists and turns, and a bouncy piano accompaniment that adds to the spirit of the piece, *I'll Tell My Ma* will definitely be fun to teach, fun to sing, and is sure to be a crowd-pleaser!

**CGE381** SATB  
**CGE382** SAB

## Jambo Rafiki!

VICTOR C. JOHNSON

With lively percussion parts and call-and-response-style writing, this engaging and easy to learn original will lend an authentic African flavor to your next concert! A pronunciation guide and translation of the text are included. This has all the right elements for a successful multicultural performance!

**CGE421** Three-part Mixed with Percussion  
**CGE422** Two-part with Percussion  
**CGECD171** P/A CD

## Crawdad Creek

ARRANGED BY MARY DONNELLY AND GEORGE L.O. STRID

This lively and spirited melding of two American folk songs, *Crawdad Song* and *Cripple Creek*, will create a lighthearted and entertaining moment on your next concert. The optional fiddle and opportunities for hand-clapping-and foot-stomping provide a dance-like quality, which will make this piece appealing to young singers and audiences alike!

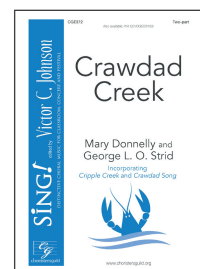
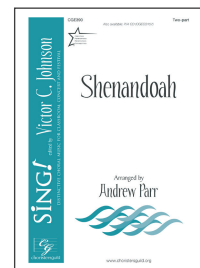
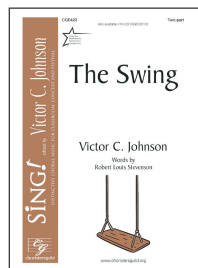
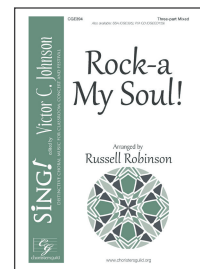
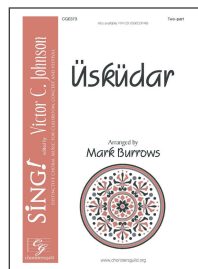
**CGE372** Two-part with Opt. Violin (fiddle)  
**CGECD150** P/A CD

## Let Alleluias Fill the Sky

DAVE AND JEAN PERRY

With an uplifting text, skillfully written vocal lines and a light and energetic accompaniment, this is a solid choice for concert or contest use. The limited-range melody based on the word *Alleluia* is initially sung in unison by all voices, but then evolves into a 2-part and then 3-part canon, while a lyrical section in English serves as a bridge into each chorus of *alleluia*.

**CGE403** Three-part Mixed  
**CGECD164** P/A CD



## The Swing

VICTOR C. JOHNSON

Victor Johnson has penned a delightful and charming setting of the well-known text from "A Child's Garden of Verses" by Robert Louis Stevenson. With its rising and falling melodic lines and lilting accompaniment, the singer and listener both experience the joy and exhilaration found in swinging. This thoughtfully composed work is accessible for developing choirs, but sophisticated enough for experienced ensembles as well. **A Learning Resource Page is included.**

**CGE423** Two-part  
**CGECD172** P/A CD

## Someone Came Knocking

CYNTHIA GRAY

If you are looking for a spooky change-of-pace concert offering for Halloween or any time of year, look no further! Commissioned by the 2019 Cincinnati Youth Choir Festival, this charming, clever, and creative original based on a Walter de la Mare text is sure to meet your needs. With a memorable melody, clever interplay between voices, a frightfully fun accompaniment and optional percussion, this selection will provide all of the necessary ingredients to leave your audience with giggles and goosebumps!

**CGE383** Two-part with Opt. Percussion  
**CGECD154** P/A CD



## Hope Is the Thing with Feathers

NOAH SALEM

This distinguished text by Emily Dickinson is given a beautifully introspective treatment by new composer, Noah Salem. Carefully crafted vocal lines and lush harmonies are the hallmark of this evocative *a cappella* setting for mixed voices. Sensibly placed divisi help add to the full palate of choral colors in this work for advancing choral ensembles. **A Learning Resource Page is included.**

CGE388 SATB *a cappella*

## Dona Nobis Pacem

VICTOR C. JOHNSON

This peaceful and sensitive setting of the traditional Dona Nobis Pacem text exudes a gentle warmth and expressiveness. With its simple unison phrases, soaring melodic lines and fluid accompaniment, this is a solid choice for building artistry and musicality in developing choirs.

CGE427 Three-part Mixed

CGE428 Two-part

CGECD175 P/A CD

## Rise

BRUCE AND ELIZABETH TIPPETTE

Conveying a positive and uplifting message to singers that they have the ability to make a difference in the world, no matter how difficult it may seem, this rhythmic original by Bruce and Elizabeth Tippette is a perfect choice for developing treble choirs. With opportunities for young singers to sing in unison, in simple two-part harmony, and some call and response moments, this selection promises to be very appealing for budding musicians and is a perfect choice for a concert opener or closer.

CGE387 Two-part

CGECD155 P/A CD

## Love the Earth

RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

This lyrical and expressive view of the beauty of nature is a superb choice for Earth Day or any celebration of creation. With vivid word painting, an easy-to-learn melody, beautiful harmonies and a rich accompaniment, Ruthie has created a powerful work that encourages us to "love, protect, and defend the earth, while preserving her with tender loving care." **A Learning Resource Page is included.**

CGE424 Two-part

CGECD173 P/A CD

## Dors, Dors, Petit Bebe

ARRANGED BY VICTOR C. JOHNSON

Johnson has penned a hauntingly beautiful setting of a tender Cajun lullaby for treble voices. With a delicate melody, evocative harmonies, an expressive accompaniment, this is a work that will showcase the musicality of your choir. Each verse is in Cajun French, which is easily learned, while the original middle section is sung in English. An optional Violin part enhances the gentle mood and a pronunciation guide and translation are included.

CGE425 SSA with Opt. Violin

CGE426 Two-part with Opt. Violin

CGECD174 P/A CD

## Words Apart

ALISA BAIR AND DINA GREGORY

This gently driving piece derives its title from word play on worlds apart. It invites singers and audiences alike to reflect on our personal responsibility to use words to build bridges instead of tearing them down. Suitable developing or advanced choirs, this penetrating piece underscores the theme that "we are all the same, living words apart."

CGE429 SATB

CGE430 SAB

# HOLIDAY/ CHRISTMAS

## What Child?

RUTH MORRIS GRAY

Creative programming at its best is reflected in this unique, contemporary *a cappella* original employing the traditional *What Child Is This?* lyrics. In the opening and closing sections, vocal ostinato patterns support the melody and provide the frame for the middle section which features a lovely setting of the traditional carol tune. The addition of djembe and body percussion will add character and texture to the rhythmic feel of this joyous seasonal offering.

CGE371 SSAB *a cappella* with Opt. Percussion **New voicing!**

CGE284 SATB *a cappella* with Opt. Percussion

CGE285 TTBB *a cappella* with Opt. Percussion

CGE286 SSAA *a cappella* with Opt. Percussion

## What Sweeter Music Can We Bring?

MARY LYNN LIGHTFOOT

This captivating Christmas offering by Mary Lynn Lightfoot possesses flowing melodic lines, warm harmonic colors and an expressive accompaniment. This work is elegantly framed with a lyrical opening and closing section, while featuring a vibrant, more rhythmic middle section which provides interest and movement. Employing the beloved Robert Herrick text and quoted portions of the traditional English carol, *The First Noel*, this piece will perfectly capture the gentle mood of the season and is equally effective for school or church use on December concerts/services. **A Learning Resource Page is included.**

CGE396 SAB

CGE397 Two-part

CGECD160 P/A CD

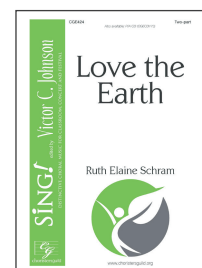
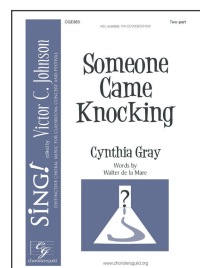
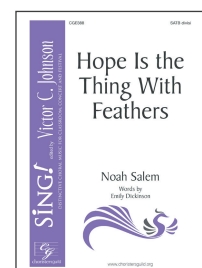
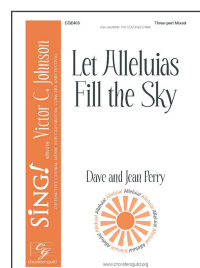
## Chantons Noël

ARRANGED BY MARK PATTERSON

Mark Patterson has masterfully crafted a thrilling, energetic piece for holiday concerts, incorporating the French carol *Noël Nouvelet*. This setting begins with layered choral entrances and culminates with a rich choral sonorities. The driving piano accompaniment, along with the optional drum and finger cymbals, bring an added exuberance to this hearty arrangement and is sure to please audiences and singers alike. A pronunciation guide and translation are provided.

CGE405 TTBB

CGECD166 P/A CD



## The Merry Bells of Christmas

ARRANGED BY MARY DONNELLY AND GEORGE L.O. STRID

This bright and festive Christmas selection features an original melody and lyrics paired with the traditional English carol *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*. The long, melismatic "Gloria" in the refrain of the original carol has been divided into three shorter phrases which makes the passage more accessible for young singers. The piano accompaniment brims with energy while the optional glockenspiel adds sparkle and Christmas cheer.

CGE377 Two-part  
CGECD151 P/A CD

## Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

VICTOR C. JOHNSON

Robert Frost's beloved *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* sings beautifully in this exquisite seasonal ballad for expressive choirs. The contemplative text and breathtaking music will undoubtedly showcase the artistry and musicality of your ensembles while creating an atmosphere of warmth and tranquility during the winter season.

CGE406 SATB  
CGE407 SAB  
CGE408 SSA  
CGECD167 P/A CD

## A Tongue Twister Holiday

GREG GILPIN

"Fantastic and phenomenally fun" are the only words one could use to describe this perfect novelty piece for your December concert! Utilizing holiday-themed tongue-twisters, such as "snowy snowmen slip and slide on snowy skis down snowy slopes" and "many magic merry moments make a magical holiday", this clever work is set in a fun-to-sing Broadway-esque musical style over a bright, rhythmically driving accompaniment. Fasten your seatbelts and get ready to see the grins and giggles on the faces of your singers and your audiences!

CGE386 Two-part  
CGECD163 P/A CD

## Snow on Snow

ARRANGED BY RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

Gorgeous musical moments set the mood for this creative setting of Gustav Holst's *In the Bleak Midwinter*. Coupled with an original section comprised of cascading vocal lines, this beautiful work creates a mood of wonder, mystery and anticipation of the solitude and serenity on that first Christmas

night. A fluid, supportive accompaniment graces this memorable piece that is equally suitable for school or church settings.

CGE409 SATB  
CGE410 SAB  
CGE411 SSA  
CGE412 TB  
CGECD168 P/A CD

## Christmastide Is Here

LINDA SPEVACEK

Louisa May Alcott's text comes alive in this new Christmas delight from Linda Spevacek that is sure to put everyone in a festive spirit! Rhythmic, echoing vocal lines are interweaved with a crisp and bright accompaniment that will engage and enliven your singers and audience. An ideal choice for younger and developing choirs!

CGE417 Three-part Mixed  
CGE418 Two-part  
CGECD170 P/A CD

## Hear Them Ring

DAVE AND JEAN PERRY

Ignite a festive mood with this jazzy and infectious holiday original from Dave and Jean Perry! A catchy melody, imitative bell-like motives in the vocal parts, and syncopated rhythmic energy in the accompaniment makes this piece one that is not to be missed!

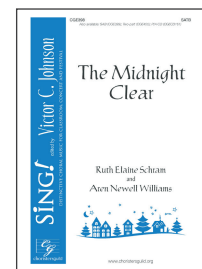
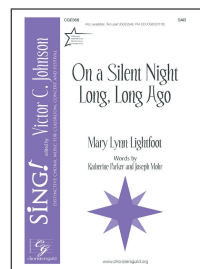
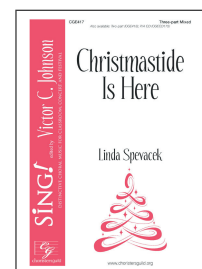
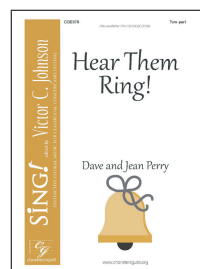
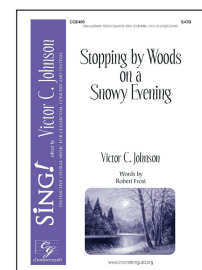
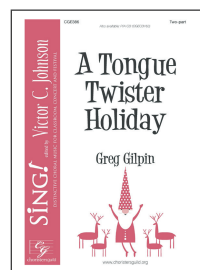
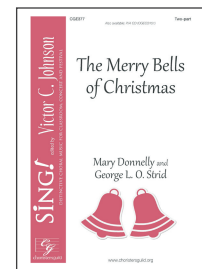
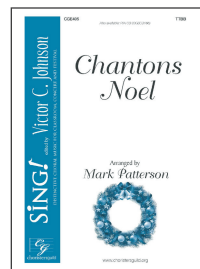
CGE378 Two-part  
CGECD152 P/A CD

## On A Silent Night, Long, Long Ago

MARY LYNN LIGHTFOOT

Perfect for that reflective, quiet moment on your December concert, Lightfoot has created a haunting minor melody to showcase Katherine Parker's well-known "winds through the olive trees" text which seamlessly leads us into strains of the familiar, *Silent Night*. Later in the piece, Parker's last two verses meld perfectly with the beloved carol melody and culminate in an ending of quiet splendor. An exquisite example of beauty in simplicity, this work would be equally effective in both school and church settings. **A Learning Resource Page is included.**

CGE368 SAB *New voicing!*  
CGE294 Two-part  
CGECD116 P/A CD



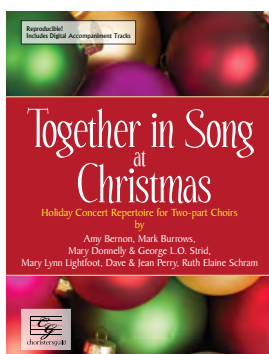
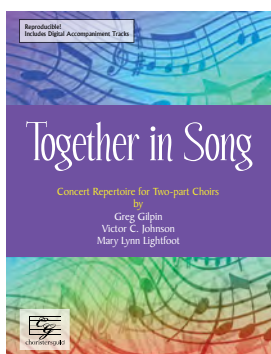
## The Midnight Clear

RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM AND AREN NEWELL WILLIAMS

The beloved carol *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* is beautifully melded with original words and music by Ruth Elaine Schram and Aren Newell Williams to form this enchanting musical offering suitable for school or church. Sensitive vocal scoring and a nuanced accompaniment fit seamlessly together to create a gentle and memorable moment that will inspire and delight your choirs and audience.

CGE398 SATB  
CGE399 SAB  
CGE400 SSA  
CGECD161 P/A CD

## COLLECTIONS



### Together In Song

REPRODUCIBLE CONCERT REPERTOIRE FOR TWO-PART CHOIRS

**CGE431** TWO-PART WITH DOWNLOADABLE ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS **REPRODUCIBLE**

### Together In Song at Christmas

REPRODUCIBLE HOLIDAY CONCERT REPERTOIRE FOR TWO-PART CHOIRS

**CGE432** TWO-PART WITH DOWNLOADABLE ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS **REPRODUCIBLE**

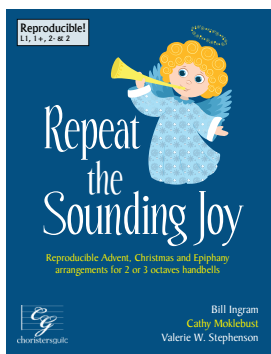
These fully reproducible collections are both unique in value and a great resource for exceptional concert pieces for two-part choirs. Reproducible PDFs are included on the supporting CD, along with an accompaniment track for each title. Featuring the works of today's leading educational choral composers, these collections offer a wide array of diverse musical styles while being a budget-friendly resource.

**Together in Song:** *A Jubilant Song* (Johnson); *Rainsong* (Lightfoot); *Little Innocent Lamb* (Gilpin); *Ezekiel Saw The Wheel* (Lightfoot); *Ubi Caritas* (Johnson); *Tafta Hindi*; (Gilpin); *If I Knew You* (Lightfoot); *Sisi Kushangilia* (Johnson)

**Together in Song at Christmas:** *Season's Greetings* (Lightfoot); *Falling Snow* (Burrows); *Pat-a-Pan Noel* (Schram); *This Is Winter* (Bernon); *Our Caroling Wish for You* (Donnelly/Strid); *The Merry Bells of Christmas* (Perry/Perry); *On a Silent Night Long, Long Ago* (Lightfoot)



## Handbell Collections



### Repeat the Sounding Joy

REPRODUCIBLE ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY ARRANGEMENTS  
VARIOUS COMPOSERS AND ARRANGERS

*PUBLISHED IN COMPATIBLE EDITIONS:*

**CGB1116** 2 OR 3 OCTAVES HANDBELLS

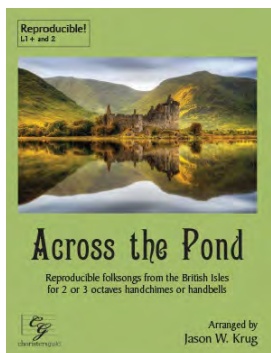
**CGB1117** 3, 4 OR 5 OCTAVES HANDBELLS

*Repeat the Sounding Joy* offers attractive and accessible selections for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany in a budget-stretching, reproducible format. The collection offers delightful carol arrangements to enrich your seasonal celebrations. "Savior of the Nations, Come" features optional percussion parts for chime tree (or wind chimes), triangle and finger cymbals.

**Composer:** George Frederick Handel; C.C.N. Balle; John H. Hopkins, Jr.; 16th century German tune; attr. John Francis Wade

**Tune source:** Various | **Season:** Advent, Christmas, Epiphany | **Level:** 1, 1+, 2- & 2

**Contents:** The Bells of Christmas; Joy to the World; Prince of Peace (For Unto Us a Child Is Born and O Come, All Ye Faithful); Savior of the Nations, Come; We Three Kings



## Across the Pond

REPRODUCIBLE FOLKSONGS FROM THE BRITISH ISLES  
FOR HANDCHIMES OR HANDBELLS  
JASON W. KRUG, ARRANGER  
**CGB1105** 2 OR 3 OCTAVES HANDCHIMES OR HANDBELLS  
**CGB1106** 3, 4 OR 5 OCTAVES

These creative arrangements of folk melodies are accessible both for beginning groups looking to play something familiar, as well as groups working on advancing their skills from beginner to intermediate. The titles in this set – all of them from England, Ireland, and Wales – are well-known traditional folk tunes which have also been paired with sacred texts in church settings, making them suitable for school, church, and community groups alike. This versatile, reproducible collection is sure to be a hit with both handchime and handbell choirs.

**Contents:** Ar Hyd Y Nos; The Ash Grove; Bunessan; Londonderry Air; O Waly Waly

**Level:** 1+ & 2

## Joyfully Ring

*PUBLISHED IN COMPATIBLE EDITIONS:*  
VARIOUS COMPOSERS AND ARRANGERS  
**CGB1061** 2 OR 3 OCTAVES HANDBELLS  
**CGB1062** 3, 4 OR 5 OCTAVES HANDBELLS

*Joyfully Ring* is a wonderful, budget-stretching reproducible collection published in compatible editions for 2 or 3 and 3, 4 or 5 octaves. The collection includes joyous hymn arrangements and fun, upbeat originals by outstanding composers Cynthia Dobrinski, Sandra Eithun, Susan Geschke, Cathy Moglebust and Margaret Tucker. Ranging in difficulty from level 1 to level 2, these delightful and easily-learned pieces will be very useful both for developing ringers and for more experienced groups needing music they can learn quickly.

**Voicing:** Compatible editions for 2-3 and 3-5 octaves

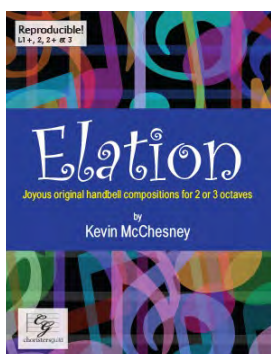
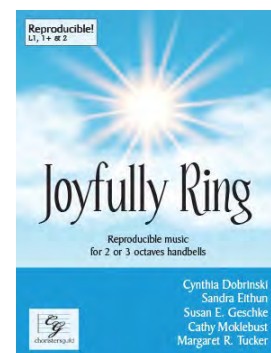
**Composers:** Susan E. Geschke, John Hatton, Margaret R. Tucker, Michael Praetorius

**Arrangers:** Cynthia Dobrinski, Sandra Eithun, Cathy Moglebust,

**Tune sources:** DUKE STREET, FOUNDATION, Original, PUER NOBIS

**Contents:** Jesus Shall Reign, Processional and Bell Chime, This Day of Gladness, That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright (On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry, What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright), How Firm a Foundation

**Season:** General, Easter, Eastertide, Advent, Epiphany | **Level:** 1, 1+ & 2



## Elation

KEVIN MCCHESENEY  
**JOYOUS ORIGINAL HANDBELL COMPOSITIONS**  
*PUBLISHED IN COMPATIBLE EDITIONS*  
**CGB1162** 2 OR 3 OCTAVES HANDBELLS  
**CGB1163** 3, 4 OR 5 OCTAVES HANDBELLS

*Elation* is a reproducible collection of joyous and energetic Kevin McChesney originals that will keep ringers happily busy. Excitement is enhanced through the use of a variety of handbell techniques, and the collection features one title that is played entirely with mallets. These uplifting pieces will add joy and festivity to worship services, concerts and festivals.

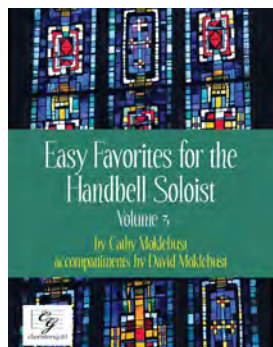
**Voicing:** Published in compatible editions for 2 or 3 and 3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells

Composer: Kevin McChesney

**Tune source:** Original | **Season:** General | **Levels:** 1+, 2, 2+ & 3

**Contents:** Antiphonal Celebration; Joyful Rhythm; Jubilance; Jubilant Fanfare; Mallet Melody (Percussive Praise)

## COLLECTION FOR SOLO RINGERS



### Easy Favorites for the Handbell Soloist, Volume 3

CATHY MOKLEBUST & DAVID MOKLEBUST

**CGB1183** HANDBELL SOLOIST WITH KEYBOARD ACCOMPANIMENT

**CGCD76** EASY FAVORITES FOR THE HANDBELL SOLOIST, VOLUME 3 - ACCOMPANIMENT CD

Calling all handbell soloists! As with the popular first and second volumes, *Easy Favorites for the Handbell Soloist, Volume 3* features some of the best-loved handbell music of Cathy Moklebust arranged for handbell soloist and keyboard accompaniment. Several pieces can be played off the table or with a bell tree, and some can be played with only 2 octaves. The seven pieces span the church year, with the Advent and Christmas titles being the easiest. Parts for the soloist are included. The keyboard accompaniments are also available on CD, which may be purchased separately.

**Voicing:** Handbell soloist with keyboard accompaniment

**Composer:** Cathy Moklebust | **Keyboard Accompaniments:** David Moklebust

**Tune sources:** Original; ORIENTIS PARTIBUS; PUER NOBIS; TERRA BEATA (TERRA PATRIS); Traditional German; UNE JEUNE PUCELLE

**Contents:** Calming Peace (Prayer for Kristin); Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (From the East the Donkey Came); Kyrie; On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry (That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright; What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright); This Is My Father's World; 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

**Seasons:** Advent, Christmas, Lent, Communion, General, Times of Meditation, Easter, Eastertide, Creation

## BEGINNING MUSIC FOR DEVELOPING RINGERS

### Chime Time

VARIOUS COMPOSERS AND ARRANGERS

**CGB1064** REPRODUCIBLE MUSIC FOR 2 OR 3 OCTAVES HANDCHIMES OR HANDBELLS

This delightful reproducible compilation of mostly originals by Sandra Eithun, Linda Lamb, Kevin McChesney and Anna Laura Page will be a terrific resource for handchime and handbell ringers in schools, community groups, and churches. The pieces range in difficulty from level 1- to level 1+, with the easiest titles incorporating only half and whole notes. *Chime Time* will be a wonderful find for developing ringers and for their teachers and directors!

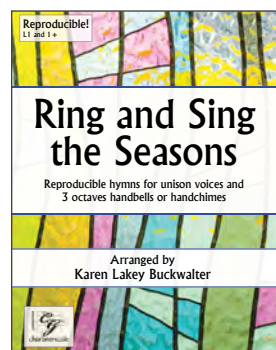
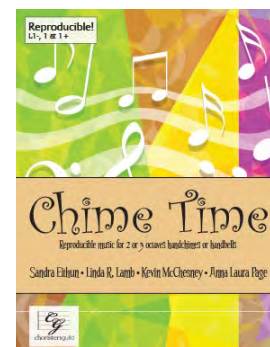
**Voicing:** 2 or 3 octaves handchimes or handbells

**Composers:** Dimitri Borniansky, Sandra Eithun, Linda R. Lamb, Kevin McChesney, Anna Laura Page

**Tune sources:** Original, Borniansky VESPER HYMN

**Contents:** Evening Light, Prelude to Sunrise, Processional Celebration, Processional Jubilee, Soliloquy, Song of Triumph (Fanfare), Tranquil Chimings

**Season:** General | **Levels:** 1-, 1 & 1+



### Ring and Sing the Seasons

KAREN LAKEY BUCKWALTER

**CGB969** REPRODUCIBLE HYMNS FOR UNISON VOICES AND 3 OCTAVES HANDBELLS OR HANDCHIMES

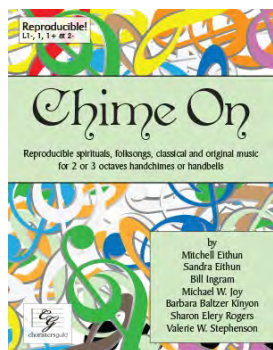
*Ring and Sing the Seasons* is a reproducible collection comprised of both seasonal and general use hymn arrangements. The arrangements feature very simple rhythms and chords for handbells or handchimes, and unison vocal parts. Also included is an original processional, composed of layered ostinato patterns, with alternate texts for General, Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter use. In her preface, Karen Lakey Buckwalter writes, "Having served 38 years in full time music ministry, I realized some of the most joyful moments were convincing choirs of all ages that they could ring and sing simultaneously." One also has the option of having a soloist or vocal choir sing the hymn tune accompanied by the handbell or handchime choir. Separate vocal pages are included for the convenience of non-ringing singers.

**Voicing:** 3 octaves handbells or handchimes and unison voices

**Composers:** W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*; 18th century French carol; Carl C. N. Balle; African American spiritual; European tune, adapt Michael Praetorius; Karen Lakey Buckwalter; Franklin L. Sheppard; Traditional Welsh

**Arranger:** Karen Lakey Buckwalter

**Contents:** The Bells of Christmas; Christians, We Have Met to Worship; God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven; He Is Born; I Want Jesus to Walk with Me; Processional; That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright; This Is My Father's World



## Chime On

VARIOUS COMPOSERS AND ARRANGERS

**REPRODUCIBLE SPIRITUALS, FOLKSONGS, CLASSICAL AND ORIGINAL MUSIC FOR 2 OR 3 OCTAVES HANDCHIMES OR HANDBELLS**  
**CGB1154 2 OR 3 OCTAVES HANDCHIMES OR HANDBELLS**

The accessible *Chime On* reproducible collection is extremely versatile! It will be a valuable resource for school, church and community groups. Written by seven outstanding handbell composers and arrangers, the contents include a delightful variety of spirituals, folksongs, classical and original music. The pieces will work well on either handchimes or handbells. Chime on!

**Voicing:** 2 or 3 octaves handchimes or handbells

**Composer:** Mitchell Eithun, Michael W. Joy, Barbara Baltzer Kinyon, Johann Sebastian Bach, Irish folksong, African American spiritual, Traditional Shaker tune

**Arrangers:** Sandra Eithun, Bill Ingram, Sharon Elery Rogers, Valerie W. Stephenson

**Tune source:** spirituals, folksongs, classical and original music

**Season:** General | **Level:** 1-, 1, 1+ & 2-

**Contents:** Freedom March, Londonderry Air, Ring Merrily, Sheep May Safely Graze, Shimmering Reflections, Simple Gifts, Steal Away, We Shall Overcome

## Let's Begin!

SANDRA EITHUN

**FIRST RINGING EXPERIENCES FOR HANDBELLS OR HANDCHIMES**

**CGB1164 2 OR 3 OCTAVES HANDBELLS OR HANDCHIMES**

**CGB1165 3, 4 OR 5 OCTAVES HANDBELLS OR HANDCHIMES**

Through folk, classical, sacred and original titles, the new and exciting *Let's Begin* collection offers simple music to young or beginning musicians that will foster success and provide the building blocks to future ringing experiences. The integrity of these short, teaching pieces will give your ringers the confidence to perform and take on future music that will expand their musicianship even further.

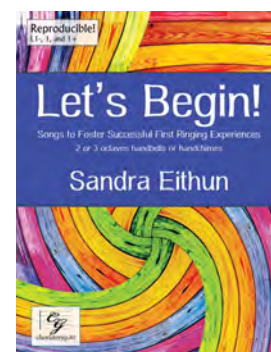
**Voicing:** Published in compatible editions for 2-3 and 3-5 octaves (handbells or handchimes)

**Composer:** Sandra Eithun, F.J. Gossec; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; Original; Jean Sibelius; Traditional; William Walker

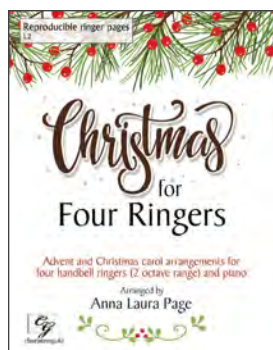
**Arranger:** Sandra Eithun

**Contents:** At Dawn; Excerpt from Alleluia; Finlandia (Be Still, My Soul); Gavotte; The Journey Begins; The Lone, Wild Bird; Sharing the Joy!; Shenandoah; Wildwood Flower

**Season:** General | **Level:** 1-, 1, 1+



## HANDBELL MUSIC FOR 8 TO 12 BELLS



## Christmas for Four Ringers

ANNA LAURA PAGE, ARRANGER

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS FOR FOUR RINGERS AND PIANO**

**CGB1184 PIANO AND 8 BELLS (2 OCTAVE RANGE)**

This delightful collection features accessible Advent and Christmas carol arrangements for four ringers with piano accompaniment. Each setting is written for 8 bells within the 2 octave handbell range. Some of the tunes may be used with other texts that are usable during various times of the year. Since there are no bell changes, the four ringers can easily play these carols without requiring bell tables. Reproducible ringer pages are included. Share the joys of the season with *Christmas for Four Ringers!*

**Voicing:** 8 bells (2 octave range) and piano

**Composer:** French carol, 17th cent.; Old French tune; Piae Cantiones, 1582;

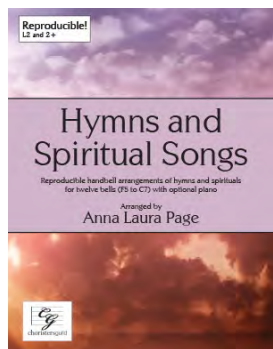
Johann A. P. Schulz; John F. Wade;

**Arranger:** Anna Laura Page

**Tune source:** ADESTE FIDELES; IHR KINDERLEIN KOMMET; NOEL NOUVELET; PICARDY; TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM;

**Contents:** Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (Good King Wenceslas); Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending); Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful; Oh, Come, Little Children; Sing We Now of Christmas (Now the Green Blade Rises)

**Season:** Advent, Christmas, Eastertide | **Level:** 2



## Hymns and Spiritual Songs

ANNA LAURA PAGE, ARRANGER

**REPRODUCIBLE HANDBELL ARRANGEMENTS OF HYMNS AND SPIRITUALS FOR TWELVE BELLS (F5 TO C7) WITH OPTIONAL PIANO**

**CGB1153 12 BELLS (F5 TO C7) WITH OPTIONAL PIANO**

This reproducible collection provides delightful arrangements of hymns and spirituals for 12 bells with optional keyboard accompaniment. The pieces may be played by six ringers using standard bell assignments. If some or all ringers wish to ring 4-in-hand, it may be played by as few as three ringers. Suggestions for various assignment options are included. Not only do these arrangements present opportunities for ringers to learn 4-in-hand ringing, it also offers satisfying music for services, schools and other events that may be played with fewer ringers.

**Voicing:** 12 bells (F5 to C7) with optional piano

**Composer:** African American spiritual; Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882; William H. Runyan, 1870-1957; Welsh hymn tune

**Tune source:** BLOTT EN DAG; FAITHFULNESS; ST. DENIO; SOJOURNER; WEARY LAND

**Seasons:** Lent, Transfiguration, General | **Levels:** 2 & 2+

**Contents:** Day by Day; Great Is Thy Faithfulness; I Want Jesus to Walk with Me; Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise; Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

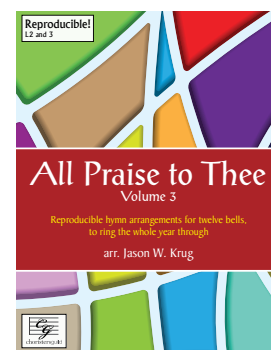
## All Praise to Thee, Volume 3

JASON KRUG, ARRANGER

**CGB1130 REPRODUCIBLE HYMN ARRANGEMENTS FOR TWELVE BELLS (F5 TO C7)**

From Jason Krug comes the third volume in his popular "All Praise to Thee" series of reproducible collections for 12 bells. This volume comprises sixteen brand-new hymn arrangements for use throughout the church year. Each title uses only twelve bells between F5 and C7, but not always in the traditional F major, which provides new and exciting harmonies, and opens possibilities for arrangements of tunes never before set for a 12-bell ensemble. Suitable for three to six ringers, these selections will enhance your worship year-round and delight your ringers and congregants!

**Contents:** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming; It Came Upon the Midnight Clear; Sing We Now of Christmas (Now the Green Blade Rises); Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies; O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair; Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days; My Song Is Love Unknown; Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!; Were You There; Easter People, Raise Your Voices (Angels from the Realms of Glory); The Strife Is O'er; Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart; Shall We Gather at the River; Now Thank We All Our God; I Come with Joy; To God Be the Glory



## Glory to the Newborn King

ANNA LAURA PAGE, ARRANGER

**CGB961 REPRODUCIBLE COLLECTION FOR 12 BELLS (F5 TO C7) WITH OR WITHOUT KEYBOARD**

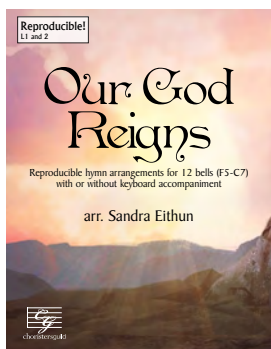
This is a delightful reproducible collection of six beloved Christmas carols arranged for 12 bells (3-6 ringers) with optional piano accompaniments. These useful settings offer a variety of opportunities for smaller groups of ringers to play in various locations during the Christmas season since they are playable with or without piano accompaniments. These carols promise to add joy and celebration to any Christmas service or program!

**Voicing:** 12 bells (F5 to C7) with optional keyboard

**Composer:** Thoinot Arbeau; French processional; Henry J. Gauntlett; Felix Mendelssohn; William J. Kirkpatrick; George Frideric Handel

**Tune source:** BRANLE DE L'OFFICIEL; VENI, EMMANUEL; IRBY; MENDELSSOHN; CRADLE SONG; ANTIOCH

**Season:** Advent; Christmas | **Levels:** 2 and 2+



## Our God Reigns

SANDRA EITHUN, ARRANGER

**CGB1056** REPRODUCIBLE HYMN ARRANGEMENTS FOR 12 BELLS (F5-C7) WITH OR WITHOUT KEYBOARD ACCOMPANIMENT

Varying in mood and ranging in difficulty from level 1 to 2, this collection of favorite hymns set for 12 bells and optional keyboard will become a "go-to" resource that your small or shorthanded ensemble can turn to time and again. Requiring short amounts of rehearsal and fewer ringers, this collection features arrangements within the F5 to C7 range and in a variety of keys. The optional keyboard part offers a fullness to the settings when ringers are limited.

**Voicing:** 12 bells (F5 to C7) with optional keyboard accompaniment

**Composers:** John Darwall, Robert Jackson, Michael Praetorius, traditional melodies

**Tune source:** BUNESSAN, DARWALL, KELVINGROVE, LONESOME VALLEY, PUER NOBIS

NASCITUR, TRENTHAM

**Seasons:** Lent, Easter, Pentecost, General

**Contents:** Breathe on Me, Breath of God; Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley; Morning Has Broken; Prelude on Kelvingrove; Rejoice the Lord Is King; That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

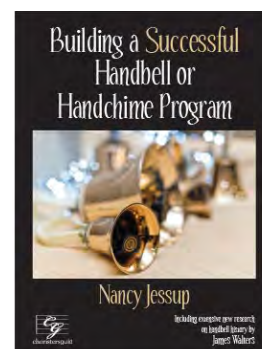
**Levels:** 1 & 2

## RESOURCE FOR DIRECTORS

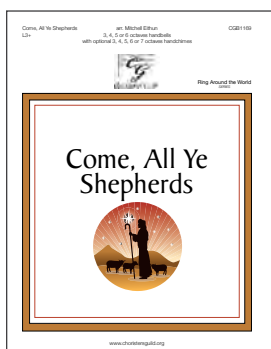
### Building a Successful Handbell or Handchime Program

NANCY JESSUP **CGBK78**

*Building a Successful Handbell or Handchime Program* offers up-to-date information and will be your go-to resource to help prepare your existing (or intended) ensemble to make music with our unique instruments. Subjects covered include adjusting, cleaning and maintaining handbells, planning and identifying needs and numbers, assignments, finding and training ringers, choosing literature, rehearsal techniques, conducting, notations, techniques, and much more. The book includes extensive new research on handbell history by James Walters.



## FALL 2020 HANDBELL SHEET MUSIC



### Come, All Ye Shepherds

**CGB1169** 3, 4, 5 OR 6 OCTAVES HANDBELLS WITH OPTIONAL 3, 4, 5, 6 OR 7 OCTAVES HANDCHIMES

Mitchell Eithun's setting of the German carol "Come All Ye Shepherds" is a rhythmic work that plays on the song's short melody. The middle section uses suspended mallets and handchimes to offer a tender reflection before returning the driving main melody. This piece is a great addition to Advent and Christmas services.

**Voicing:** 3, 4, 5 or 6 octaves handbells with optional 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 octaves handchimes

**Arranger:** Mitchell Eithun

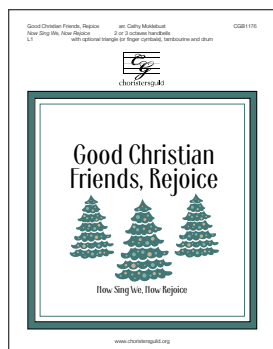
**Tune source:** KOMMET IHR HIRTEN, Traditional Bohemian tune

**Season:** Christmas

**Series name:** Ring Around the World

**Level:** L3+





## Good Christian Friends, Rejoice *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*

**PUBLISHED IN COMPATIBLE EDITIONS:**

**CGB1176** 2 OR 3 OCTAVES HANDBELLS WITH OPTIONAL TRIANGLE (OR FINGER CYMBALS), TAMBOURINE AND DRUM

**CGB1177** 3, 4 OR 5 OCTAVES HANDBELLS WITH OPTIONAL TRIANGLE (OR FINGER CYMBALS), TAMBOURINE AND DRUM

Rejoice! Here is a delightful level 1 arrangement of the Christmas hymn IN DULCI JUBILO for handbells or handchimes, which includes optional parts for triangle or finger cymbals, tambourine, and drum. LV is the only technique used, and styles range from full and chordal to waltz-like and delicate. Compatible editions for 2 or 3 and 3, 4, or 5 octaves are available. An alternative title is provided, *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice*.

**Voicing:** Published in compatible editions for 2-3 and 3-5 octaves

**Arranger:** Cathy Moklebus

**Tune source:** IN DULCI JUBILO; 14th century German tune

**Season:** Christmas

**Level:** 1

## He Is Born

**PUBLISHED IN COMPATIBLE EDITIONS:**

**CGB1187** 3 OCTAVES HANDBELLS

**CGB1188** 4, 5, 6 OR 7 OCTAVES HANDBELLS

Alex Guebert's exciting arrangement of the traditional carol, "He Is Born," offers the flexibility of a wide tempo range. The two editions for 3 octaves and 4 to 7 octaves may be played together if desired.

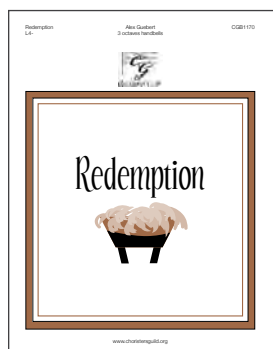
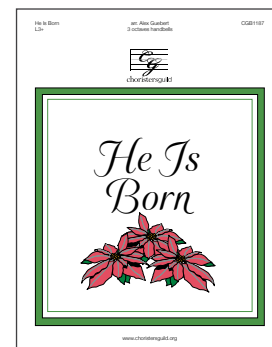
**Voicing:** Published in compatible editions for 3 and 4-7 octaves

**Arranger:** Alex Guebert

**Tune source:** IL EST NÉ, Traditional French carol

**Season:** Christmas

**Level:** 3+



## Redemption

**PUBLISHED IN COMPATIBLE EDITIONS:**

**CGB1170** 3 OCTAVES HANDBELLS

**CGB1171** 4, 5, 6 OR 7 OCTAVES HANDBELLS AND OPTIONAL 5, 6 OR 7 OCTAVES HANDCHIMES

Alex Guebert's exquisite *Redemption* beautifully portrays the scene of a Hebrew woman in exile, soothing her child with a lullaby. Unable to ignore her soul's plea for the promised Messiah, the lullaby gives way to the strains of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Through the urgent cries of the people, "Rejoice! Rejoice" resounds as a loud refrain. As the promised one arrives, another lullaby is heard. The two editions for 3 and 4-7 octaves are not identical but may be played together.

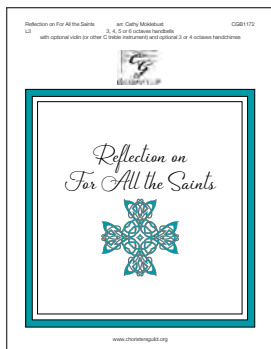
**Voicing:** Published in compatible editions for 3 and 4-7 octaves handbells

**Composer:** Alex Guebert

**Tune source:** Original, quoting VENI EMMANUEL (15th century French) and LULLABY (Johannes Brahms)

**Season:** Christmas

**Level:** 4-



## Reflection on For All the Saints

**CGB1172** 3, 4, 5 OR 6 OCTAVES HANDBELLS WITH OPTIONAL VIOLIN (OR OTHER C TREBLE INSTRUMENT) AND OPTIONAL 3 OR 4 OCTAVES HANDCHIMES

The grand hymn, SINE NOMINE by Ralph Vaughan Williams has been thoughtfully arranged by Cathy Moklebust. It features a beautiful original melody, optional handchimes, and also includes an optional part for violin or other C treble instrument. The majority of the arrangement is of a gentle, flowing style, that gradually grows to an exciting, moving final verse with a triumphant conclusion.

**Voicing:** 3, 4, 5 or 6 octaves handbells with optional violin (or other C treble instrument) and optional 3 or 4 octaves handchimes

**Composer:** Ralph Vaughan Williams

**Arranger:** Cathy Moklebust

**Tune source:** SINE NOMINE;

**Season:** All Saints' General

**Level:** 3

## Spiritus Sanctus

### Precipice

**CGB1167** 3, 4, 5, 6 OR 7 OCTAVES HANDBELLS WITH OPTIONAL 3 OCTAVES HANDCHIMES

*Spiritus Sanctus* is inspired by Hildegard von Bingen's poem of the same name. The poem speaks of the Holy Spirit giving life to all life, moving all creatures, washing them clean and healing their wounds. The ideas of life and movement are conveyed throughout most of the piece. The sudden grand pause (G.P.) represents the ancient sleep mentioned in the poem. The expansive middle section musically depicts the poem's phrases, "washing them clean" and "healing their wounds." The awakening of the heart is represented by the sudden burst of energy and unusual chord changes from measure 109 to the end.

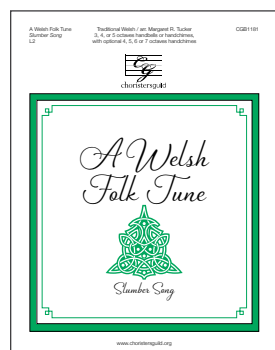
**Voicing:** 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 octaves handbells with optional 3 octaves handchimes

**Composer:** Matthew Compton

**Tune source:** Original

**Season:** General, Pentecost

**Level:** 3+



## A Welsh Folk Tune

### Slumber Song

**CGB1181** 3, 4, OR 5 OCTAVES HANDBELLS OR HANDCHIMES, WITH OPTIONAL 4, 5, 6 OR 7 OCTAVES HANDCHIMES

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

**CGB159** A WELSH FOLK TUNE (3 OCTAVES)

Margaret Tucker's sensitive setting of the traditional Welsh tune, SUO GAN, will be a welcome addition to worship services and concerts. The melody will be familiar to many, as it was used in the film *Empire of the Sun*. This new expanded setting for 3-5 octaves with optional low bass chimes is compatible with the earlier edition for 3 octaves, CGB159.

**Voicing:** 3, 4, or 5 octaves handbells or handchimes, with optional 4, 5, 6 or 7 octaves

handchimes

**Arranger:** Margaret R. Tucker

**Tune source:** SUO GAN, Traditional Welsh tune

**Season:** Christmas, General

**Level:** 2



## Alleluia! Amen!

**CGB817** 3, 4 OR 5 OCTAVES HANDBELLS

*Alleluia! Amen!* by Karen Lakey Buckwalter is an easy, festive arrangement of the tune MADRID, known in some hymnals as "Come, Christians Join to Sing." Sparkling, original material combines with the familiar tune, making "Alleluia! Amen!" a joyful addition to worship services, concerts and festivals.

**Voicing:** 3, 4 or 5 octaves handbells

**Composer:** Henry Rowley Bishop

**Arranger:** Karen Lakey Buckwalter

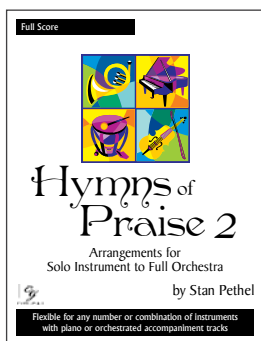
**Tune source:** MADRID

**Season:** General

**Level:** 1+



# Instrumental Collections



## Hymns of Praise 2

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOLO INSTRUMENT TO FULL ORCHESTRA**

FLEXIBLE FOR ANY NUMBER OR COMBINATION OF INSTRUMENTS WITH PIANO OR ORCHESTRATED ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS

*Hymns of Praise 2* is the newest in Choristers Guild's popular line of instrumental music. The ten hymns are suitable for use at various times throughout the year, and are designed to allow for maximum flexibility of use. Many of the tunes are associated with multiple hymn texts sung at different times of the year. The arrangements are flexible for any number or combination of instruments, ranging from solo instrument or small ensemble (with piano or accompaniment tracks) to full orchestra. Each book includes a Solo and an Ensemble part for each hymn. The primary hymn titles, alternate titles, and various books in this series are listed below. In case you missed them, please also explore our previous Stan Pethel instrumental publications: *Hymns of Praise*, *Carols of Christmas, Set 1*, and *Spirituals of Faith*.

**Voicing:** Any number or combination of instruments with piano or orchestrated accompaniment tracks

**Composers:** Adolphe Adam; African American spiritual; Appalachian folk tune; John Bacchus Dykes, *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle*, John Hatton; Martin Luther; Lyra Dividica, Traditional French carol; Welsh melody

**Arranger:** Stan Pethel

**Tune sources:** CANTIQUE DE NOEL; DUKE STREET; EASTER HYMN; EIN FESTE BURG; ELLACOMBE; NICAEA; PEACE LIKE A RIVER; PICARDY; St. DENIO; WONDROUS LOVE

**Contents:** Give to Our God Immortal Praise (*Jesus Shall Reign; I Know that My Redeemer Lives*); A Mighty Fortress (*God's Word Is Our Great Heritage; Rejoice Today with One Accord*); I've Got Peace Like a River; Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (*Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending*); O Holy Night; Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise (*How Firm a Foundation; We Welcome Glad Easter*); What Wondrous Love Is This; Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (*We Sing the Mighty Power of God; The Day of Resurrection*); Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today; Christ the Lord Is Risen Again*); Holy, Holy, Holy (*God Is King Forever*)

**Season:** Advent; Christmas; Transfiguration; Lent; Palm Sunday; Easter; Eastertide; Holy Trinity; Reformation; Christ the King; Thanksgiving; General; Communion; Creation

**Grade:** II to IV (8th grade and above)

CGIN53	Full Score	CGIN62	Tenor Saxophone(s)/TC Euphonium(s)
CGIN54	Piano/Rhythm	CGIN63	Baritone Saxophone
CGIN55	Flute(s)	CGIN64	Tuba
CGIN56	Oboe	CGIN65	Violin(s)
CGIN57	Bb Clarinet(s)	CGIN66	Viola
CGIN58	Eb Alto Saxophone(s)	CGIN67	Cello/Double Bass
CGIN59	Horn(s) in F	CGIN68	Percussion
CGIN60	Bb Trumpet(s)	CGCD77	Hymns of Praise 2 - Accompaniment CD
CGIN61	Trombone(s)/Bassoon(s)/BC Euphonium(s)		



# News From National: I Choose Love

BY DAWN JANTSCH,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHORISTERS GUILD

## RESOURCES: EXPRESSING PEACE AND LOVE

### Books

Roll Down, Justice!  
(songbook for choir and  
congregation)  
*by Mark A. Miller*

Halle, Halle - We Sing  
the World Round  
(songbook)  
*compiled by  
C. Michael Hawn*

Again, I Say Rejoice  
(songbook for children)  
*by Mark Burrows*

### Anthems

I Believe  
I Choose Love  
Christ Has Broken Down  
the Wall  
Roll Down, Justice  
Ubi Caritas  
Let Us Pray for Peace  
Be Not Afraid  
The Lord Is My Shepherd  
God Is Always There

As a chorister, I spent years on the top row of the sopranos. And while my eyes only lifted from my music to watch the conductor, at the end of the anthem I had a few seconds to scan the congregation for reaction. I always had a chill deep down to my bones when I saw tears coming from members in the congregation because of the beauty, depth, and raw emotion that a great choir can generate, and the knowledge that God is there in the sanctuary with all of us.

In such challenging times, reeling from viruses, natural disasters, mass shootings...our choirs are the backbone of the service, matching the message of peace and love. In the time of crisis, music can help relieve the pain. In the midst of pain, I Choose Love.

In February, Sacred Music Editor Katie Houts interviewed Josh Taylor and the two of them compared notes of some of the most beautiful music that brings peace to a congregation. We know that sometimes finding the time to watch a webinar live can be challenging. But as a Choristers Guild member, you have access to our members-only library of webinars at any time. Take a look at the "Singing in Time of Crisis" webinar available on our website, or see if there are webinars covering topics meaningful to your choir.

These webinars are a resource offered as part of our mission to enable leaders to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults. In the spring, we offered webinars free to all to help choir directors and music educators stay in touch with and continue to serve alongside their choirs and students in facing restrictions from COVID-19. And for services in March and April, we also made free multiple streaming licensing options for our members only, in addition to some free licensing made available to all. Though we made this offer, we will still be paying our composers for each license that was granted.

As an organization, we are striving to live into our mission even in these difficult days. Choristers Guild has been hit hard by this public health crisis and resultant economic turmoil, just as all of you have been personally or professionally impacted. Through Choristers Guild, we want to continue to serve and be a blessing to you and your choristers.

We are so glad you are staying with us as we transition to digital in the Chorister and with our music packets. You make possible Choristers Guild's educational outreach, publishing of new music, and best of all, coming together as singers and ringers at events around the nation.

Sing joyfully!

-Dawn

# CALLED

A musical for unison/two-part voices, piano, and percussion

by Mark Burrows



## What it means to be Called

*"If you believe that children don't have to wait till they grow up to make a real difference in God's world, then I wrote this for you!" – Mark Burrows*

This musical for unison/two-part voices affirms that God has placed something beautiful in everyone and is calling us to share it with the world.

CGC66 Called, available from [choristersguild.org](http://choristersguild.org)



choristersguild

12404 PARK CENTRAL DRIVE  
SUITE 100  
DALLAS, TX 75251

DATED MATERIAL DO NOT DELAY

# MORE POWER TO YOU!



# GIT TOP



NON-PROFIT ORG  
PRESRT STD  
U S Postage  
PAID  
Pontiac, IL  
Permit No. 592

## “Don't Let The GITOP Git ya!”

### TRUSTING IN THE AWESOME POWER OF GOD!

A children's Musical by Kim Ingram & Joe Milton

Trust in God to Face a Gigantic, Intimidating, Troubling, Overwhelming Problem!

Children will bring three Bible stories to life, memorize Scripture, invent dialogue and movement, create sound effects and props, and learn what these stories mean for us today. Together, we will learn how God gives us the power and courage to face any problem - even a GITOP!

Preview pack, singer score, CDs and a digital teacher resource kit all available at [www.choristersguild.org](http://www.choristersguild.org) or call 1-800-CHORISTER