



DRAFT October 2024

CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTE WINTER RETREAT

January 2-5, 2025

A time of reflection, learning, exploration of new ideas, and inspiration for church musicians to begin the new year. Come plan for Spring and Summer 2025! Especially designed for musicians at the beginning of their careers and for mature musicians looking for new ideas and time with colleagues..

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

5923 Royal Lane, Dallas, Texas

Presenters

Ms. Annette Albrecht, Organ Repertoire Planning

Dr. Carey Cannon – Church Choral Music

Mr. Ethan Haman – Improvisation and Organist

Dr. Heather Hawk – Vocal Pedagogy

Dr. Don Horisberger – Choral Conducting and Repertoire

Prof. Ellen Johnston – Liturgy and Liturgical Handbells

Mr. Miguel Ruiz, Music for Children

Dr. Tim Shewmaker, Organist and Hymn Playing

Thursday, January 2, 2025

9:00 – 12:00 CMI libraries will be open for exploration of music and liturgical resources, browsing, planning, initial work on projects. Staff are available for informal consultation.

Noon – Welcome and Lunch (provided) in the Parish Hall

1:00 “Beyond the Notes: Pastor Music Ministry for Choirs and Congregation” Dr. Carey Cannon

Church choirs have an important role in leading music for congregations. How does one think of music as ministry to lay musicians, paid staff, and congregations? What specific ways can musicians create community and build faith? Are different approaches needed for categories of those who make music? Chapel

2:00 Panel: Using Masterworks Liturgically – Dr. Tim Shewmaker and Ms. Annette Albrecht, Organ; Dr. Don Horisberger, Choral Chapel

The long history of sacred choral repertoire and non-tune based organ literature are vitally linked to the church. How can resources not familiar to current congregations be used in liturgical ways to enrich today’s worship? How might major masterworks be programmed outside worship to enrich spiritual development of the congregation?

3:00 Break

3:30 Choral Practicum* Chapel, Sanctuary or Choral Rehearsal Room?

5:00 Dinner in the Parish Hall (Provided)

6:00 Using the Liturgical Year for Planning – Prof. Ellen Johnston – Chapel

Prof. Johnston will demonstrate how the liturgical year serves as an organization for planning worship services for coherence, variety, and use of music creatively.

7:00 Teaching Hymns to Children – Miguel Ruiz – Chapel

Children are the future of the church and have great capacity to learn hymns as a means of understanding their faith. Mr. Ruiz demonstrates how core hymnody can be taught to children, music they will grow into but not out of.

8:00 Compline – Sanctuary or Chapel

Friday, January 3, 2025

8:30 Morning Prayer – Sanctuary

9:00 Reading Session for Small Choirs for Lent, Easter, Pentecost – Dr. Don Horisberger and Dr. Robert Mann (CMI staff) Sanctuary or Choir Room

With choirs often smaller there is no reason to use less than the best music. Dr. Horisberger will provide a sampling of composers and titles that are accessible but also maintain high standards for text and music. Both new repertoire and stalwarts will be explored, including ways to adapt existing music to smaller choirs.

10:00 Reading Session for Organ Repertoire – Dr. Tim Shewmaker and Lee Corbin (CMI staff)

New settings of tune-based repertoire for the upcoming seasons will be explored, including concertatos for congregational singing. Sanctuary

11:00 Vocal Technique for Church Musicians – Dr. Heather Hawk

Church choir singers can sing productively for decades with good vocal technique. Dr. Hawk, a vocal pedagogue, will help leaders understand the voice, its capabilities, and how to teach singing to encourage the best from lay singers.

12:00 Lunch – Parish Hall

1:30 Panel Discussion – Building on Denominational Strengths: Where/What Are the Must-Have Resources? Retreat Faculty

Most musicians will serve multiple faith traditions over their lifetimes and can encounter clergy not familiar with liturgical resources. How can these resources cross and enrich other denominations? This session will answer the question “What 5 books/collections/websites I will always consult no matter where I am?” Explore ideas from Lutheran, Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian and other denominations that will fill your bookshelf and electronic files with resources to use again and again.

2:30 Time to Work on Projects, Plan Upcoming Services, Speak with Presenters and Use the CMI Libraries.

4:00 Choral Practicum*

5:30 Leave for the home of Barbara Bradfield for Christmastide on White Rock Lake: A Celebration of 10th Night sponsored by the Dallas Chapter American Guild of Organists. Mrs. Bradfield has a lovely Sipe tracker organ that we are invited to play. Dallas AGO will prepare food featuring meals from the Bach Reader.

8:30 Bach Vespers

Saturday, January 4, 2025

8:30 Morning Prayer - Sanctuary

9:00 Accompanying Congregational Singing as Organist or Choral Director – Dr. Tim Shewmaker and Ethan Haman

10:00 Using Handbells Liturgically – Prof. Ellen Johnston – Choir Room

Not enough people for a bell choir? Want to involve non-singers or budding young musicians in the music program? Fewer bells than needed for a full choir can be used to enhance worship!

11:00 Organ Improvisation to Encourage Congregational Singing – Ethan Haman – Sanctuary

Inspiring congregations to sing by surrounding them with the tunes they will sing in worship. Includes hands-on demonstration – be prepared to try suggestions!

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Conducting for Musical Results – Dr. Don Horisberger – Chapel

Important techniques for conductors who work with [mostly] volunteer singers. Key points for rehearsal, performance and evaluation of the ongoing work of the group. Repertoire packet included.

2:30 Singing in Church: Building Choral Voices that Blend – Dr. Heather Hawk Chapel

Speaking from her experience as a professional singer, voice professor, and church musician, Dr. Hawk will unpack techniques for differentiating between cantoring, solo and choral singing.

3:30 Break and time for work on projects.

4:30 Choral Practicum*

6:00 Dinner (provided) Parish Hall and Evening Prayer

7:30 A Silent Movie Extravaganza – Ethan Haman – Sanctuary

The Aeolian Skinner in the sanctuary of St. Luke's Episcopal is an unusually rich chamber of sounds not only for worship but capable of the improvisatory background needed for early 20th century silent films. Open to the public.

Sunday, January 5, 2025 featuring a HYMN FESTIVAL with local choirs and retreat participants. 5:00 Sanctuary, St. Luke's Episcopal. Open to the public.

Morning: Worship at church of one's choice

Lunch on your own

1:30 Reports on Projects

3:00 Rehearsal for Hymn Festival

4:30 Break and Snacks

5:00 Hymn Festival - Sanctuary

6:00 Depart, Equipped to Serve in the Companionship of Colleagues and with God's Blessing

*Choral Practicum will focus on the practical application of topics in sessions in the process of preparing/rehearsing for worship during the retreat.