

The Sacred Music Institute *presents*
BRIDGES OF BEAUTY AND FAITH:
Sacred Music in the Midst of Renewal

JULY 22 –24, 2026

DIRECTORS & CHOIRS



DR. CHRISTOPHER HOLMAN joined the faculty at Mount St. Mary's Seminary & School of Theology (MTSM) in 2025 as Director of Music, Assistant Professor of Music, and Director of the Sacred Music Institute. He teaches coursework in sacred music, directs the Latin Schola—the seminary's principal choir—and plays the monumental Pasi Opus 29 organ in daily liturgies. He also directs the Athenaeum Chorale in the Music & Liturgy Series and organizes the annual summer Sacred Music Institute Conference.

Dr. Holman earned a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Music from the University of Oxford, England, M. A., Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, a M.M., University of Houston, and a B. M., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Equally active as a scholar and performer, Dr. Holman has lectured at leading institutions, including the University of Oxford, the Université Sorbonne and Trinity College Dublin, and presents regularly at major internationally conferences. Since winning the Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition, he has performed in esteemed venues worldwide, such as St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Cathedral in London, the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame University. His performances have been broadcast by BBC Radio 3, German national television and Swiss National Radio and Television. He has also curated interdisciplinary projects on sacred music and cultural heritage in collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Center, Shakespearean actors from London's West End and prominent museums of historical instrument across Europe.

Advanced: Capella | This ensemble, so named for the Church's long tradition of small, highly trained choirs entrusted with the more demanding repertoire of the liturgy, is intended for experienced singers. It presumes competency in vocal technique, music reading in both modern and chant notation, and experience in high-level ensemble singing. Particular emphasis is placed on leadership within the choir and on how the treasury of sacred music speaks to the faithful, both historically and today.



DR. KEVIN VOGT is a native of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and is currently Director of Worship and Sacred Arts for St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in Leawood, Kansas. He previously served churches in Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska, most notably the Cathedral of Saint Paul in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Saint Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska. During his tenure in Omaha, Dr. Vogt oversaw the commission of a renowned cathedral organ by Martin Pasi & Associates, one of two large organs in the world capable of playing in two distinct temperaments or tuning systems. The organ was completed in 2003 and has been lauded by admirers worldwide. He concurrently held a position as Visiting Lecturer at The Liturgical Institute in Mundelein, Illinois, and since 2010 has been Lecturer in Organ and Church Music at the University of Kansas.

Dr. Vogt enjoys varied professional activity as a composer, organ teacher, lecturer, performer, conductor and consultant. His liturgical music is published by GIA Publications, The Liturgical Press and MorningStar Music Publishers. His scholarly interests include research and writing in organology, liturgical theology, and musicology—a particular interest in the latter being the history of Catholic church music in North America and the legacy of Catholic choir schools. He is a contributor to the fourth edition of *Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart*, and a lecturer in the School of Music at the University of Kansas, where he teaches classes in the history of liturgy and church music, organ building and design, organ literature, Gregorian chant, children's choir techniques, service playing and improvisation. Dr. Vogt has served as organ consultant for several prominent organ building projects in the United States, and since 2024 he has been Associate for Project Development at Saint John's Abbey Organ Builders in Collegeville, Minnesota.

A graduate of St. Olaf College, he earned the master's degree at the University of Notre Dame, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Kansas. His principal teachers were James Higdon, Craig Cramer, David Boe and John Ferguson.

Kevin Vogt and his family reside in Overland Park, Kansas.

Intermediate: Cantores | This ensemble is intended for those with some prior choral experience. It builds upon the essential skills of choral singing: vocal production, reading modern musical notation, aural development, and clear diction. Participants sing plainchant and straightforward polyphony, develop greater independence within the ensemble, and are introduced to reading chant notation. Particular emphasis is placed on singing with unity and precision, and on deepening understanding of the role of the choir within the liturgy.



FR. MICHAEL O'CONNOR, O.P. is the Director of Liturgical Music at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He has been involved in Catholic Liturgical Music for the past 30 years, as a singer, organist, choir director, composer and arranger and is the proud co-editor of the St. Michael Hymnal, which he has worked on for the past 20 years.

Fr. Michael also holds a Doctorate in Sacred Theology and has taught theology at Providence College, the Dominican House of Studies, and presently, at Mount St. Mary's Seminary.

Beginner: Schola Cantorum | This ensemble, literally a “school of singing,” is intended for those with little or no prior choral experience. It provides a foundation in the essential skills of sacred music: healthy vocal production, reading modern musical notation, aural development, and clear diction. Particular emphasis is placed on understanding the role of the choir within the liturgy and on forming participants to sing with confidence and reverence.



EMALIE BEACH is a seasoned vocalist, dedicated music educator, and the Founder and Executive Director of The Cantor Coach, an initiative providing vocal coaching, workshops, and faith-centered resources to cantors, choirs, and parish musicians across the country. Deeply rooted in her Catholic faith, Emalie discovered her love for cantoring at just ten years old when she cantored her first Mass—an experience that sparked a lifelong devotion to liturgical music. Today, she is passionate about helping parish musicians confidently embrace their ministries, echoing St. Augustine's reminder that “he who sings, prays twice.”

A highly accomplished soprano, Emalie holds a Master's degree in Vocal Performance. Her versatility as a classical artist has led her to perform in numerous musical productions, operas, competitions, and concerts. In addition to her stage performances, she shares her expertise as a private voice instructor and active cantor, helping singers of all skill levels develop healthy, effective vocal techniques.

Complementing her musical career, Emalie is a skilled development professional with over a decade of experience in strategic advancement and relationship-building. She currently serves as the Director of Advancement for The GIVEN Institute, where she works to help Catholic women discover and activate their unique, God-given gifts. When she isn't singing or cultivating mission-driven partnerships, she enjoys traveling, spending time outdoors, and life with her husband and young daughter.

