

CHRISTOPHER WIDOMSKI, MM

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Musical Experience

Interim Director of Music & Organist, St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, Texas **March 2015 – May 2016**

Oversee a comprehensive music program including multiple choirs (including handbell) and a concert series. Play organ for all services. Plan liturgy for all services in coordination with Pastors.

Conduct the Sanctuary Choir from the console or piano. Curate the church's *Special Music Concert Series*.

Notable Achievements:

- Revamped order of worship to improve service flow and liturgical integrity
- Auditioned and hired 4 new staff singers.
- Presented a solo recital featuring the music of the early 20th Century.
- Planned and directed a concert featuring music from Notre-Dame Cathedral, including Vierne's *Messe Solennelle* using two organs and various other local recitalists and ensembles
- Increased choir attendance, added instrumentalists for festival services, and restored completely the church's Schulmerich Handbells.

Accompanist/Vocal Coach, *Wading Home: An Opera of New Orleans*, Dallas, Texas **January 2015 – March 2015**

Accompanied rehearsals for the staging of then brand new opera. Assisted Barbara Hill Moore with vocal coaching for principals. Coached chorus rehearsals from the piano. In a special collaboration, worked closely with SMU professor Barbara Hill Moore and composer Mary Alice Rich on a staged reading of a new opera, *Wading Home*; assisted on issues such as vocal ranges, text placement, and stylistic elements.

Assistant Organist, Christ the King Catholic Church, Dallas, Texas **October 2013 – March 2015**

Accompanied Christ the King Singers, St. Cecilia Singers, and Cherub Choir. Conducted handbell choir rehearsals as well as Christ the King singers and the Vigil Schola for anticipated Masses on an as-needed basis. Programmed preludes and postludes based on liturgical seasons. Prepared performance copies for motet accompaniments and service music to reduce pages. Worked closely with cantors to prepare them for Masses. Performed on both the "Farewell" concert to the recently decommissioned Casavant organ and part of the inaugural concerts for the new Juget-Sinclair organ. Conducted rehearsals and Masses in absence of Director of Music. Assisted with Children's Choirs and Bell Choirs.

Guest Conductor, *Elijah*, St. David's Episcopal Church, Dewitt, New York **May 2014**

Prepared and conducted a performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with reduced orchestral forces and multiple choirs combined into large choir. Prepared scores and orchestra parts well in advance of performances. Marked bowings for string parts, rescored brass parts for reduced players, and prepared master choral scores for each choir. Conducted one orchestra rehearsal, one dress rehearsal, and worked with soloists individually.

Organist and Department Head, Dewitt Community Church, Dewitt, New York **September 2012 – August 2013**

Oversaw Music Department activities for a large church, collaborating with directors of the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and Children's Choirs. Planned music for all services in collaboration with Associate Minister of Worship and Choir Director. Incorporated instrumentalists in programming throughout the church year and wrote arrangements for special services. Oversaw maintenance of all church-owned instruments. Coordinated Guest Artists and other concerts.

Notable Achievements:

- Worked with soloists to select and perform repertoire for Saturday services
- Obtained the donation of a parlor grand piano for the Saturday evening chapel services

Accompanist, Syracuse Pops Chorus/Symphony Chorus, Syracuse, New York **September 2012 – August 2013**
Collaborated on multiple concerts as accompanist and vocal coach. Accompanied rehearsals from orchestral scores for numerous works to be sung with the local symphony.

Touring Musician, SHREK the Musical National Tour, NETworks Presentations, LLC. **September 2011 – May 2012**
Played Soprano, Tenor, and Baritone saxophones, as well as Flute, Clarinet, and Bass Clarinet, in 245 performances, spanning 52 cities in the United States and Canada. In addition to core duties, learned microphone and closed circuit conductor camera technology for use in church, concert, and theatre applications.

Interim Organist, First United Methodist Church, Plano, TX **October 2010 – April 2011**
Accompanied adult, youth and children's choirs, as well as soloists, in a large church. Wrote arrangements for the FirstChurch Orchestra for multiple occasions. Conducted rehearsals as needed.

Accompanist, Meadows Chorale and Concert Choir, Southern Methodist University **September 2010 – May 2011**
Accompanied all conducting classes, choir rehearsals, and other choral activities for the Meadows Chorale and Concert Choir. Performed with the Chorale on Organ and Piano for its first tour. Created rehearsal piano reductions for open score works with no published reduction. Also served as principle keyboardist for Meadows Wind Ensemble, performing on Celeste, Organ, and Piano.

Musical Director, *West Side Story*, Bruce R. Foote Foundation, Southern Methodist University **Spring 2010**
Responsible for teaching majority of the score to a studio on an accelerated schedule while Professor Barbara Hill Moore was abroad, preparing them for final rehearsals upon her return. Planned staging, blocked scenes, and organized rehearsals. Coached soloists under the guidance of Jason Smith, SMU Vocal Coach. Led instrumentalists for accompaniment and conducted vocalists from the piano.

Interim Organist, First Christian Church, Arlington, TX **September 2009 – October 2010**
Served as Interim Organist at a church with both traditional and contemporary services. Played continuo in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*. Played for weekly morning services broadcast on local television.

Musical Director/Conductor, SummerStage at The Capitol Theatre, Rome, NY **Summers 2006 – 2009**
Conducted 2 operettas and 7 musicals. Directed from the keyboard when necessary and utilized as many live musicians as space allowed. Orchestrated two Gilbert and Sullivan operettas for reduced sized orchestras than originally intended. Taught scores for most shows in 2 to 3 rehearsals gaining insight to the most efficient rehearsal techniques possible. Hired musicians and devised seating plans to best utilize space in an otherwise cramped orchestra pit. Also performed music before movie screenings and for other occasions on the historic 1928 Möller Theatre Organ.

Musical Director/Conductor, Clarkson University Orchestra, Potsdam, NY **September 2007 – December 2008**
Programmed concerts and selected music both to challenge and to encourage an ensemble built of mostly Engineering students and some community members. Grew ensemble from 16 to over 40 players. Incorporated basic music theory and history lessons into rehearsals, as well as performance practices. Implemented standards and explained expectations to give volunteers a goal to meet and a sense of accomplishment in the activity. Ensemble gained notoriety and was requested to perform at Academic Convocations and for the Theatre Club's production of *Guys and Dolls*.

Director of Music/Organist, Grace Episcopal Church, Canton, NY **August 2007 – January 2009**
Oversaw musical activities of a small parish. Programmed and played for Lessons and Carols services, and occasionally Evensong.

Organist, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Canton, NY **August 2007 – January 2009**
Played for Saturday anticipated Masses and high feast Masses.

Organist, First United Methodist Church, Rome, NY **January 2006 – August 2007**
Accompanied choirs in rehearsals and services. Organized organ recitals with local organists.

Organist, St. Ann & St. Leo Catholic Churches, Hinckley & Holland Patent, NY **January 2005 – August 2007**
Played for Saturday anticipated Masses at both parish churches which shared a priest.

Organist, St. Andrew Catholic Church, Norwood, NY

August 2003 – January 2005

Rebuilt a music program in a rural parish that had been utilizing a digital hymn box for nearly 10 years. Taught the congregation new hymns and service music. Trained new cantors and lectors. Built up music library with octavos and collected works. Formed a small but regular choir and taught them a repertoire of accessible but rewarding music.

Organist, St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Ogdensburg, NY

August 2002 – August 2003

Played organ for all Sunday masses and choir rehearsals. Expanded skillset by learning special elements of Cathedral Masses and the requirements of worship services unique to the Cathedral. Often served as cantor from the organ.

Director of Music/Organist, First United Methodist Church, Waterville, NY

March 2001 – August 2002

Managed all musical activities, conducted choir, and played organ for a rural church with a small choir of six singers.

Specialized Skills

Organ Building and Maintenance: Studied various historical organ building practices, specifically focused on France and America. Working knowledge of the mechanics of organs and ability to diagnose problems, in some cases performing simple repairs.

Orchestration/Arranging: Wrote reduced orchestrations for two Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas. Completely orchestrated and arranged the score for 25 musicians for a new Revue at SUNY Potsdam. Wrote a medley of Christmas hymns for orchestra, organ, and choir while at FUMC Plano. Arranged music for various chamber ensembles for use in church and concert.

Computer: Extensive experience with Sibelius notation software, Microsoft Word and Publisher, and Planning Center Online (web-based worship planning software).

Education

MM Organ Performance, Southern Methodist University, Meadows School of the Arts, Dallas, Texas, 2011

- Organ Studies with Dr. Larry Palmer

BA Music Education, SUNY Potsdam, Crane School of Music, Potsdam, New York, 2009

- Saxophone Studies with Timothy McAllister, and Christopher Creviston
- Organ Studies with Dr. Christopher Marks, Dr. Michelle Martin-Atwood, and Will Headlee

Academic / Teaching Experience

Graduate Assistant, Organ and Harpsichord, Southern Methodist University, 2010 to 2011

Taught Music History Review for graduate students needing remedial study. Scheduled practice times on Fisk Opus 101. Moved Harpsichords and the continuo organ for various performances. Organized all studio functions.

Student Teaching, Remsen Middle and High Schools, Remsen, New York, Spring 2009

Taught 6-12 Choir and Band. Helped prepare building and setup for Area All-State Music Concert with over 400 students in attendance. Taught daily lessons in voice, brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments.

Student Teaching, New York Mills Elementary School, New York Mills, New York, Spring 2009

Taught K-6 General Music and Choir. Prepared daily lesson plans for various beginning levels of music education. Selected and taught music for beginning choirs. Rehearsal pianist and lighting designer for the high school musical.

Other Experience

Building Manager – Meadows School of the Arts – Office of Facilities and Events

January 2014 – Present

Organize equipment and schedule rooms in the Owens Fine Arts Building. Track and adjust building temperatures, cleanliness, and student safety. Oversee student workers, train stage managers, and work with Box Office staff during productions. Move large instruments, furniture, and sound equipment.

School and Charter Bus Driver, Birnie Bus Service, LLC. – Rome, and Port Byron, NY **August 2012 – October 2013**
Maintain a CDL Class B Drivers License with Passenger and Student endorsements, transferred to Texas. Excellent safety record, became knowledgeable enough to begin basic training of other new drivers. Worked periodically as a dispatch operator.

Professional Affiliations

American Guild of Organists – Dallas and Fort Worth Chapters
Organ Historical Society
National Association of Pastoral Musicians
American Association of Notaries