DRAFT

CHURCH MUSIC INSTITUTE WINTER RETREAT

January 7-9, 2027

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 2027! 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

Ethan Haman – Hal Hopson Lecturer

Robert Simpson – Dr. Paul Lindsley Thomas Lecturer

CMI Staff

Thursday, January 7, 2027

9:00 – 12:00 CMI libraries will be open for exploration of music and liturgical resources, browsing, planning, initial work on projects. Coffee will be waiting for you! Bring laptops or iPads. Internet will be available. Staff and resident presenters are available for consultation:

Ethan Haman – organ, improvisation/composition

Robert Simpson – choral, vocal pedagogy, service planning

Dr. Tim Shewmaker – liaison for Paul Lindsley Thomas Society members

Mr. Lee Corbin, CMI Staff – organ music library

Dr. Robert Mann, CMI Staff – choral music library

Dr. Charlotte Kroeker, CMI Staff – piano repertoire, liturgical planning

Noon – Welcome and Lunch (provided) in CMI office complex

1:00 "Beyond the Notes: Pastoral Music Ministry for Choirs and Congregations" Developing a vocation as a church musician. Clinicians and staff.

Given: We are trained musicians and now apply that skill in a different context than we were trained (usually the case!). How do we become an effective church musician? What questions should we ask – and answer? How do music-making and ministry work hand in hand in congregational settings? How do we prioritize our time and that of the people we serve – what is most important? How do we choose music worthy of putting into the mouths of our choirs and congregations?

2:00 Preparing Music for Worship, Session I** – Ethan Haman and Robert Simpson

3:00 Break

3:30 Choral Practicum* Sanctuary – Ethan Haman and Robert Simpson

5:00 Dinner in the CMI Complex (Provided)

6:00 "Lights…Camera…Rehearsal!" **-** Robert Simpson, presenter

Your repertoire is well chosen, you know the score, you've developed an artistic interpretation for each piece. Now comes the challenge of communicating your insights and knowledge to your choir. But, how? Through the imaginative use of language, pacing and gesture, we will explore the ways you can make each rehearsal a time of discover, fulfillment and fun.

7:00 "I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also": *Exploring the Resources for Young Singers provided by the Royal School of Church Music* - Robert Simpson, Presenter

Since its founding in 1927, the Royal School of Church Music has played an important part in the spiritual and musical development of young singers. Employed worldwide by music programs in over 40 countries, the RSCM's integrated training program can be an inspiring addition to the music ministry in churches of any denomination.

8:00 Compline (Catholic) – Sanctuary

Friday, January 8, 2027

8:30 Morning Prayer (Presbyterian liturgy & hymnody) – Sanctuary

9:00 Reading Session for Small Choirs for Lent, Easter, Pentecost – Robert Simpson with assistance from Dr. Robert Mann

Smaller choirs have no reason to use less than the best music. Mr. Simpson will provide a sampling of composers and titles from the CMI libraries that are accessible but also demonstrate

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 – TBD 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 One Sound Does Not Fit All: Matching Choral Sound to Musical Period - Robert Simpson, Presenter

Imagine how your choir would look if everyone wore the same size choir robe. Singing music of differing styles with the same choral sound is just as mismatched. Discover how to create "choral clothes" that fit music from the Renaissance to jazz through warm-ups and vocal techniques.

12:00 Lunch – CMI Office Complex

1:30 Panel Discussion – Resources that Presenters and Attendees have turned to again and again in their work as church musicians.

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

4:00 Choral Practicum* - Sanctuary –

5:30 Leave for the home of Barbara Bradfield for 6:00 dinner & program TBD. Mrs. Bradfield has a lovely Sipe tracker organ that we are invited to play. **Address is 3535 W. Lawther, Dallas 75214.**

7:00 Lutheran Vespers –

Saturday, January 9, 2027

8:30 Morning Prayer (Methodist) - Sanctuary

9:00 "Encouraging Congregational Singing from the Organ" – Ethan Haman

An exploration of ways that organists can highlight hymn texts through creative improvisation before and during congregational singing, through chorale prelude introductions, interludes, and variation of texture to enhance awareness of the text's meaning.

10:00 "What I Wish I Had Known. . ." – Mr. Simpson reflects on important facets of his career as learning tools for those building skills for the journey.

11:00 "Preparing Music for Worship" Session II** – Ethan Haman and Robert Simpson

12:00 Lunch (provided) – CMI Office Complex

1:00 Conducting from the Console/Masterclass in Improvisation – Ethan Haman – Sanctuary

Considerations for conducting from the organ console. How can we show our choir that we are there with them while we are busy accompanying as well?;
Participatory masterclass on quickly developing ideas in improvisation and composition, with both hymn-based and freely conceptual themes.

Choral Conducting Masterclass – Robert Simpson – Chapel

Masterclass with Mr. Simpson on conducting techniques to communicate effectively desired musical outcomes.

2:00 Sharing of Projects and Resources - Attendees

3:00 Break

3:15 Closing Prayer Service

3:45 Depart to Serve/More time in CMI Libraries, and for those staying over Saturday night. . .

6:30 Invitation to Drs. Kroeker and Mann home. **3525 Turtle Creek Blvd., #17D, Dallas, TX 75219.** Self park on the back drive or on the top level of the parking garage, or valet parking with no tipping at the front door. Share rides if needed!

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

**Mr. Simpson and Mr. Haman will demonstrate how tried-and-true repertoire can be prepared for use with choirs and congregations in worship. Attendees will receive a packet of music to keep.