Understanding Beauty

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek ... all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord, and to seek him in his temple. Psalm 27:4

It has happened to all of us. We have selected, prepared and offered a piece of music on a Sunday morning that we believe was profoundly beautiful, but a choir member, a congregation member or even our pastor offered comments that indicated they did not appreciate the beauty we saw so clearly. These are frustrating moments. Not only because others did not find beauty as we hoped, but because it seems we have no way of knowing how a listener will respond to our art. After all ‘beauty is in the eye of the beholder’ - right?

We know that when someone is inspired by the beauty of creation or the awesome and eternal presence of God, their hearts are more open to receive him. Demonstrating the beauty of God through our art is the primary arrow we have in our quiver to open hearts and minds to his word. What hope do we have of demonstrating the beauty of our art and of our creative God when an assessment of what is beautiful is so subjective?

I recently attended a talk where we were asked to gather with others at our table and describe a moment where we experienced profound beauty. The answers from the six people around my table could not have been more different. One mentioned a sunset, another a particular piece of art, another, a monument in a city square. What surprised me was that every person who described their moment of beauty, without being prompted, shared the reason they saw beauty in their example. Without exception, my table mates found beauty in something that had great meaning to them.

That experience has led me to a better understanding of how I can lead my congregation toward a greater realization of beauty. If meaning can lead to opening our eyes to beauty, then perhaps my focus should be on communicating meaning. Meaning can be found on many levels in art. In choral music meaning can be found in understanding why the text was written. What does the text communicate, or what inspired the text? The same questions can be asked about the music, the tune or the arrangement.

“... In a world filled with terrors, the heart longs for a vision of divine beauty, and when the church fails to attend to beauty, the life of faith often becomes grim and onerous. We distort the image of God in ourselves and in our understanding of God’s character. ... An unimaginative and aesthetically starved faith not only diminishes God, it also diminishes us. We are no longer all that God made us to be.” - Thomas Troeger

On another level, I can communicate why something is meaningful to me. Why did I select this piece for this particular service? I was struck by how much more I appreciated my table group’s examples of beauty after I understood why those examples were so meaningful to them.

I then began to wonder how much beauty I’ve missed because I haven’t attended to the meaning of things. If I am to communicate meaning, with the hope of opening my congregation’s eyes to the beauty of worship, then I need to open my eyes first.

If beauty is in the eye of the beholder then ... behold ... look ... and understand. Pray for a clearer lens that you might see more, see beneath, that you might wonder and find meaning. In this way beauty will reveal itself and God, the creator of beauty will be understood and worshipped more fully.
We bless your holy name, O God, for all your servants who, having finished their course, now rest from their labors. Give us grace to follow the example of their steadfastness and faithfulness, to your honor and glory; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen. – England, 20th cent.

We remember Luke Nash, Jane Marshall and all members of our Fellowship who have gone before us, guided us and who through their influence live on in our hearts while they praise God in heaven.
2020 Workshop

Our planning team is already hard at work planning for an amazing 2020 Florida Fellowship workshop. We’ll be at the Life Enrichment Center on June 7-12 and hope you will save the date.

We are so excited to welcome these clinicians to our Florida FUMMWA 2020 workshop in June:

**Adult Choral Clinician** – Dr. Andrew Minear – Director of Choral Activities at the University of Alabama.

**Worship Leader** – Brian Hehn – Director of the Center of Congregational Song for the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada.

**Handbell Clinician** – Claudia Dew – Director of the professional bell choir Capital Bells in Tallahassee.

**Voices of Praise** – Victor Johnson – Composer and our 2019 Adult Choral Clinician

Youth Choral Clinician—Mark Borrows—Director of Fine Arts at First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

It’s not too early to volunteer to teach a class. Send ideas of classes you could provide to music@crawfordvilleumc.org

In our next issue of Quarter Notes, we’ll be announcing our theme for the week. Stay tuned!

- Beth Green, 2019 and 2020 Workshop Chair

How To Become A Member

With membership, you receive the quarterly *WorshipArts* magazine, weekly devotions sent to your personal email, announcements of future events, and much, much more! You may join by going online at [umfellowship.org](http://umfellowship.org) or you may email me at karenforrester65@gmail.com if you need help walking through the process.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

JOIN *The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts*

[https://umfellowship.org/membership/benefits-of-membership](https://umfellowship.org/membership/benefits-of-membership)

...and automatically become a member of *The Florida Chapter*!

Additional Benefits offered by The Florida Chapter

- Quarter Notes newsletter delivered four times per year
- A DISCOUNT on the yearly Florida Summer Workshop
- FREE Online Website and Newsletter advertising for events sponsored by or directed by any member

Check out our all-star line up of clinicians in this issue. Look for registration to open early in 2020.

By Beth Green

Workshop Chair

Karen Forrester

Membership Chair
2020 Workshop Clinicians

About Dr. Andrew Minear

We are excited to announce Florida native, Dr. Andrew Minear as our 2020 Adult Choral Clinician. Andrew has conducted our youth workshop in the past. We are excited to bring gifted musician and teacher back as our adult clinician.

With over two hundred appearances across the United States, Dr. Andrew Minear is an active conductor, choral clinician, adjudicator, and presenter. Recent or upcoming conducting engagements include the National Concert Chorus in Carnegie Hall, Music and Worship Arts weeks in Lake Junaluska and Montreat, and all-state choirs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and North Carolina. He has conducted multiple summers at the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan and led the Florida Ambassadors of Music on performance tours of Europe. Internationally in the 2019-2020 season, Dr. Minear will lead choral clinics in the countries of Georgia and Indonesia, teach a conducting masterclass at the Seoul Oratorio Festival in South Korea, and present his research on choral literature at the 12th World Symposium on Choral Music in Auckland, New Zealand. Dr. Minear’s choral directing experience includes professional, university, high school, middle school, children’s choir, community choir, and both youth and adult church choir settings.

In 2016 he was appointed as the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Alabama where he leads the university choirs, oversees the graduate choral conducting program, and teaches courses in conducting and choral literature.

Dr. Minear has attended conducting workshops with Rodney Eichenberger, Simon Halsey and Helmuth Rilling; and he was recognized as a finalist for the 2015 American Prize in Conducting. Dr. Minear received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting from Michigan State University where he studied with Dr. David Rayl, Dr. Jonathan Reed, and Dr. Sandra Snow. He received his Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music Education from Florida State University where he studied with Dr. Judy Bowers, Dr. Kevin Fenton, and Dr. André Thomas.
About Mark Burrows

Mark Burrows received his undergraduate degree in music education from Southern Methodist University and his graduate degree in conducting from Texas Christian University. Mark is currently the Director of Fine Arts at First United Methodist Church – Fort Worth. He directs choral ensembles of all ages and oversees programs in visual arts and theater. Prior to his work in Fort Worth, Mark was a music teacher at Stephen C. Foster Elementary in Dallas, Texas.

Mark has written music and curriculum for numerous major publishers. His song collections, including Groovin' with the Grimms, the Getting' Down with Mama Goose series, and Yo! Leonardo, the first in his Smarty Pants series, top many best-seller lists, as do his percussion resources, which include The Accidental Drum Circle and The Body Electric. Mark also writes extensively for video, television and the stage.

Known to many little listeners as "Mister Mark," he tours nationally, presenting high-energy family concerts. Mark's CDs, You've Got A Song and Go Ape!, have won several awards for children's music.

Mark resides in Fort Worth, Texas, with his wife, Nina, and daughters, Emma and Grace.

About Victor Johnson

We are thrilled to have Victor Johnson returning to us for a second year in a row, this time as director of the intergenerational Voices of Praise.

Victor is a native of Dallas, Texas, and is currently in his 12th year of teaching at the Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts. He is also in his twelfth year as director of the Children’s Choir of Texas. Victor attended the University of Texas at Arlington where he majored in music education with a concentration in organ.

As a composer, Victor has won numerous composition contests and has received ASCAP Awards for the past 12 years. His first piece was published in 1994, while he was a sophomore in high school. To date, he has over 200 octavos and choral products in numerous catalogues.

Victor has led reading sessions and choral workshops in numerous states and has conducted All-State and Regional Honor choirs in Texas, California, Oklahoma, Kansas and Kentucky. His own choir was selected to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in 2011.
About Brian Hehn

Brian is an inspiring song-leader equally comfortable leading an acapella singing of “It Is Well” as he is drumming and dancing to “Sizohamba Naye.”

Experienced using a variety of genres and instrumentations, he has lead worship for Baptists, Roman Catholics, United Methodists, Presbyterians, and many more across the U.S. and Canada. He received his Bachelor of Music Education from Wingate University, his Master of Sacred Music from Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, and is certified in children’s church music (K-12) by Choristers Guild.

He has articles published on sacred music and congregational song in multiple journals and co-authored the book All Hands In: Drumming the Biblical Narrative, published by Choristers Guild.

While working for The Hymn Society as the Director of The Center for Congregational Song, he is also Director of Music at Light Street Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, Maryland, and adjunct professor of church music at Wingate University in Wingate, North Carolina. Brian lives in Baltimore, Maryland, with his wife, Eve, and son, Jakob.

About Claudia Dew

Claudia Dew, our handbell clinician, is a rare, Native Floridian! Originally from Lake City, she has lived in Tallahassee for the past 38 years. A graduate of the Florida State University College of Music, she is a former High School Choral Director. She has previously served in two United Methodist Churches where she directed Chancel Choirs, Youth Choirs, an Adult Ensemble, led the Praise Teams, and developed graded bellchoir programs. Claudia is the Director of Capitol Bells, an advanced, auditioned community bellchoir in Tallahassee. They just completed their 11th season together! Performing throughout Tallahassee and surrounding areas, they are always looking for new venues to share handbells with a broader audience. Claudia is a member of the Tallahassee Community Chorus, and traveled to the 2019 National ACDA Convention to sing in the premiere performance of Dr. Andre Thomas’ Gospel Mass, under his direction.

Claudia and her husband, John, also run an Airbnb (The Dew Drop Inn) and love meeting FAMU & FSU parents - especially parents of music students! Together, they have 3 grown children, and 3 precious grandsons who call them "Yaya" and "Papa"! 
COMING EVENTS
(As one of your membership benefits, Quarter Notes will happily advertise any FUMMWA members’ coming events, for FREE. Just send us the information by the Submission Deadline, with a picture if you have one, and we will put it in the issue(s) of the Quarter Notes prior to the event(s). If you would like, we will also be happy to share it on our website...just let us know.)

THE INDIALANTIC CHAMBER SINGERS
Beth Green, Conductor

“Celebrating 20 Years - How Can We Keep from Singing?”

FREE        Sunday, October 13, 2019  3pm
Advent Lutheran Church at Suntree
7550 N Wickham Rd.
Melbourne, FL 32940

FREE        Sunday, October 20, 2019  3pm
Eastminster Presbyterian
106 N Riverside Dr.
Indialantic, Florida 32903

Check this website for more information: indialanticchambersingers.org
The Brass Roots Trio
Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Trio Voilà
Sunday, October 20, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Trio Voilà is a rare, mixed ensemble comprised of flute, viola and guitar. Offering a unique musical experience this combination of instruments has a long tradition with original music from the 19th and 20th centuries, along with new, ground-breaking and exciting music by contemporary composers.

By nature, the tone creation of a wind, bowed and plucked instrument is very different, producing sound colors which cannot be created by traditional wind or string ensembles. Trio Voilà is, to our knowledge, the only one of its kind in Florida and one of a handful in the U.S. Using some period instruments, Trio Voilà places the highest artistic demand on their work and performance.

The members of the trio include flutist Jane Hoffman, principal flutist for the Sarasota orchestra; guitarist Thomas Rech, founding president of Guitar Sarasota; and violist Laura Jensen-Jennings, violist with the Sarasota orchestra.

The Brass Roots Trio creates symphonic sounds with trumpet, French horn and piano. Native American flute, flagellophone and the horns of a brilliant operatic tenor add to the colorful mix of styles and sounds in the trio’s programs. Travis Heath (Trumpet & Flagellophone), Douglas Tundrean (French Horn & Vocals) and Rosetta Sekuklu Bacon (Piano) infuse their music with exuberant energy. Their warmhearted presentation, with commentaries that are informative and often humorous, makes an immediate connection with the audience.

Individually the artists have demonstrated their prodigious talents across the country and around the world with engagements at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York City, and at cultural centers and festivals in Switzerland, England, Ireland, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium, The Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Lithuania, Japan, China and Taiwan.

This concert is free, however we are asking everyone to bring cans of food to support our All Faiths Food Bank through our “Soup for Soul of Caring” campaign.

The State College of Florida Chamber Choir
Sunday, March 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

The State College of Florida Chamber Choir is an auditioned mixed vocal ensemble which regularly performs on campus concerts, official programs and off-campus events. The Choir is honored to have partnered with Choral Artists of Sarasota for several presentations including Haydn’s Creation, Mendelssohn’s Gloria, Libby Larsen’s Rammun’s Bird, the gospel version of Messiah - Too Hot To Handel as well as the Holiday 2015 concert. Featured in the 2015 Munchen Music Academy series at Holy Rosary, the Choir also performed as the featured ensemble in the 2018 Sarasota Concert Music Matinee series at the Van Wezel.

Under the direction of Melodie Dickerson with accompanist, Lorraine Myers, the SCF Chamber Choir presents a varied repertoire of music from Renaissance madrigals to cutting edge choral works as well as contemporary jazz tunes and traditional choral literature. The choir is led by Melodie Dickerson who is in her fifteenth year as Director of Choral and Vocal Studies at State College of Florida. Lorraine Myers has served as staff accompanist for the Music Program at SCF since 1993.

If you are interested in supporting these concerts, please contact our Director of Music Rick Holdsworth for more information. music@pineshorespres.org (941) 922-1597 ext. 104.

Ring Sarasota
Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Fresh off of our incredibly successful 9th season tour, titled “Celebrate Sarasota,” Ring Sarasota is excited to announce the theme for our 10th anniversary season: “The Beat Goes On — Ring Sarasota Celebrates 10 years.” The program will include audience favorites chosen from our past nine seasons as well as a few new dynamic handbell arrangements, composed arranged in the last 10 years, demonstrating that the beat indeed does go on!

To honor this landmark year, Ring Sarasota commissioned Michael Glasgow, a world renowned composer, conductor and arranger, to write a special piece for us. We are very proud to be able to premier this exciting composition, “Beneath the Sparkling Skies,” during our 10th season! Whether you like upbeat and energetic, melodic and calm, hummable, catchy, or jazz, we are sure you will enjoy this year’s concert selections!

All concerts are free and open to the public. This Concert Series is made possible by the generosity of many donors. Concerts are held in the Pine Shores Presbyterian Church Sanctuary. For tickets, please call 941-922-1597 ext. 104.
COMING EVENTS (continued)

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Advertising here is OPEN to ALL Members of the Florida Chapter
Ads may be text or flyer, and must be received by the listed Submission Deadline
Blog Submission Guidelines

- Submission of Posts is open to ALL CURRENT MEMBERS of Florida FUMMWA.
- Please write posts in a more conversational (personal) tone than as in a regular newsletter “article”.
- Each post must address a RELEVANT TOPIC to our organization.
- A Word document containing a submission is sent to Communications at floridafummwa@gmail.com for review before publishing.
- Each post should be a minimum of 700 and a maximum of 2500 words. If your post exceeds 2500 words, it will be serialized over several posts.
- All authors are responsible for answering comments and engaging in “conversation” with commenters via the blog. To this end:
  - Communications accesses blog every day
  - Communications sends any comment(s) to author via email
  - Author replies to Communications email within 24 hours
  - Communications posts reply on blog
- This is ongoing.
- You must obtain permission for any text in your blog post that is taken from a copyrighted source, and include the permission statement with your submission.
- By submitting a post for the blog, you grant to Florida FUMMWA a non-exclusive license to edit and publish your post, and any supporting materials submitted.
- All quotes must contain proper attribution.
- You, the author, retain all rights for uncopyrighted material. Requests for reprinting of your material will be directed to you.
- Please include a sentence about your present occupation and any other pertinent information you feel would help our readers to know you better. If you are willing to have your contact information published (email address), please include that in your information.
- Please send a picture of yourself—jpeg preferred. (However, don’t let the lack of a picture keep you from submitting a blog post! We can work it out.)
Quarter Notes is the quarterly newsletter for the Florida Chapter of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts, Inc.

Jeff Faux, President
Judi Hurst, Editor

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What is The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music & Worship Arts?

Our Mission...
We are CHRISTIANS, called to minister through our creative gifts, to foster worship, which makes disciples of Jesus Christ.

We Value...
WORSHIP ARTS that lead to spirituality and faith formation, and RELATIONSHIPS that lead to hospitality, fellowship, and nurture.

We Are...
Musicians, clergy, dancers, artists, lay ministers, and others—all involved in creating, supporting, and implementing worship in local congregations.

An affiliate of The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, serving as a resource for all worship artists.

Guidelines for Submissions to Quarter Notes

Submission of articles is open to ALL current members of Florida FUMMWA. Articles should deal with some aspect of church music or Worship Arts. Reprints or copyrighted material must include written permission from the original owner, and proper attribution.

Calendar items may include concerts, workshops, special services, seminars, etc. which are directed or sponsored by a current member of Florida FUMMWA, or by an Official in the Florida United Methodist Church. Brochures should be sent to the editor by email for review and possible inclusion in Quarter Notes.

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE
January 1, 2020