



DILLON JAMES SWANSON

**ORGANIST | CONDUCTOR
TEACHER | COMPOSER**

 [linkedin.com/in/djsorganist22](https://www.linkedin.com/in/djsorganist22)

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 www.djswanson.com

PRONOUNS:

he/him/his
they/them/theirs

RELEVANT SKILLS:

- Conducting
- Accompanist & Performer
 - Organ
 - Harpsichord
 - Piano
- Pedagogy (voice/keyboards)
- Composition & Arranging
- Detail-Oriented Organization

WORK EXPERIENCE



Cantor

August 2021-present

Bethesda Lutheran Church – Moorhead, MN

- Plan, coordinate, and lead music for liturgies (hymnody, etc.)
- Collaborate in creating liturgy bulletins & service folders
- Conduct and plan repertoire for adult choir, children's choir, and handbell choirs
- Compose and arrange new music for liturgies
- Lead and facilitate the Worship & Music Committee meetings
- Oversee the music budget and instrument maintenance schedule
- Administrate and schedule the Bethesda Music Series



Chapel Musician

September 2018 – May 2022

Concordia College – Moorhead, MN

- Plan, coordinate, and lead music for (4) weekly chapel liturgies
- Rehearse and conduct the Concordia Schola (liturgical choir)
- Coordinate and rehearse guest musicians for festival chapel services



Organist & Traditional Worship Coordinator

September 2019 – March 2021

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd – Moorhead, MN

- Plan, coordinate, and lead music for traditional worship services
- Collaborate with ensemble conductors to schedule anthems
- Coordinate musicians for funerals and weddings



Assistant Organist

December 2015 – June 2021

Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Aberdeen, SD

- Lead congregational song for 3 traditional services a month
- Occasional substitute work for funerals and weddings
- Collaborate with Director of Music and Principal Organist on special concerts and music events



Director of Music

December 2014 – May 2018

Presbyterian-United Methodist Church – Ellendale, ND

- Plan, coordinate, and lead music for weekly Sunday liturgy
- Direct the Chancel Choir, Hand Chime Choir, and Children's Choir
- Oversee the music budget and instrument maintenance schedule
- Coordinate and direct the annual Christmas pageant

EDUCATION



B.M. in Instrumental Performance (Organ) 2023

Concordia College – Moorhead, MN

- Minors in Church Music & Religion
- Recipient of the Ida & Selmer Berge Organ Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS (AGO)

Red River Valley (RRVAGO) & Twin Cities (TCAGO) Chapters

- Chapter Dean – RRVAGO (2021 - present)
- Chapter Sub-Dean – RRVAGO (2020-2021)



AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY (ATOS)

Red River Theatre Organ Society

- House Organist of the Fargo Theatre (January 2021 - present)
- President of RRTOS (March 2021 - present)



ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH MUSICIANS (ALCM)

Region 3



AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA)

Minnesota ACDA

FELLOWSHIPS



ORGAN FELLOW

Supervisor: Cantor Chad Fothergill
Lutheran Summer Music Festival & Academy
Valparaiso University – Valparaiso, IN
June 2020 - July 2021



STUDENT CONDUCTING FELLOW

Supervisor: Dr. Kira Haler Knutson
Concordia College – Moorhead, MN
Fall 2020



CHORAL & ORGAN SCHOLAR

Supervisor: Dr. Jean Roberts + (requiescat in pace)
Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral – Fargo, ND
September 2018 – September 2019

PUBLICATIONS



PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Swanson, Dillon J. "An Ethereal Choir in the Roof: Three Methods for Composing Descants," *CrossAccent*, 28 (3): 47-52.

RECORDINGS



SUN OF JUSTICE, REVEAL THE DAWN: CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS 2020

Conductor. "Angelus ad pastores ait (Monteverdi)" Concordia Recordings, 2021.

RECENT COMPOSITION COMMISSIONS



THREE EASTER HYMNS FOR CHOIR, BRASS, AND ORGAN

Bethesda Lutheran Church - Moorhead, MN

Commissioned in memory of Dewey & Margery Possehl

Premiere: April 17, 2022



SIX CHRISTMAS HYMN SETTINGS FOR STRINGS AND PIANO

Bethesda Lutheran Church - Moorhead, MN

Blue Christmas: A Service of Healing on the Longest Night

Premiere: December 22, 2021



LOBE DEN HERREN: PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Hymn Setting for symphonic band and congregation

Concordia College Symphonic Band - Dr. Shauna Pickens, conductor

Centennial Homecoming All-Campus Worship

Premiere: October 3, 2021



HYMN TO CONCORDIA: SCHOOL HYMN

Hymn Setting for brass quintet and organ

Concordia College Campus Ministry

Centennial Homecoming Kick-Off Chapel Service

Premiere: October 1, 2021



HYFRYDOL: LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

Hymn Setting for choir, strings, woodwinds, and piano

Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Diamond Anniversary Hymn Festival

Premiere: September 18, 2021



LOBE DEN HERREN: PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Hymn Setting for choir, brass, timpani, and organ

Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Diamond Anniversary Hymn Festival

Premiere: September 18, 2021

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HONORS



VISITING ORGANIST

Supervisor: Dr. Kira Haler Knutson & Fr. Mark Strobel
Choral Evensong with the Most Reverend Michael Curry
Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral - Fargo, ND
October 22, 2022



BETHESDA MUSIC CAMP - FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

Bethesda Lutheran Church - Moorhead, MN
July 2021 - present

RECENT RECITALS & PERFORMANCES



RRVAGO BACH CANTATA VESPERS

Featured Organist & Associate Artistic Director - March 26, 2023 | Peace Lutheran Church - Fargo, ND
J. S. Bach - *Prelude and Fugue in C Major*, BWV 547
Fuga sopra il Magnificat, BWV 733
Meine Seel erhebt den Herren, BWV 10 (continuo)
Scheidt - *Magnificat noni toni*
Service Music - ELW Evening Prayer | Hymns - RAQUEL, ICH HEB MEIN AUGEN SEHLICH AUF
Dupré/J. S. Bach - *Sinfonia from Cantata 29* (transcription)



SENIOR ORGAN RECITAL

Organ Recital & Compline - February 21, 2023 | Trinity Lutheran Church - Moorhead, MN
Burkhardt - *Partita on "O Morning Star How Fair and Bright"*
J. S. Bach - *Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major*, BWV 552
Reger - 12 Stücke: Toccata, Fugue
Howells - Psalm Preludes, Set. 1, No. 2 (Psalm 37 v. 11)
Dupré - *Prelude and Fugue in B major*, Op. 7, No. 1



ST. ANDREW ANNUAL ORGAN CELEBRATION

Featured Recitalist - October 31, 2022 | St. Andrew Lutheran Church - West Fargo, ND
J. S. Bach - *Toccata and Fugue in D minor*, BWV 565
Howells - Psalm Preludes, Set. 1, No. 2 (Psalm 37 v. 11)
Reger - 12 Stücke: Toccata, Fugue
J. S. Bach - *Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major*, BWV 552
Duruflé - *Prélude, Adagio et Choral varié sur le theme du 'Veni Creator'*
III. Choral Variations
*Swanson - Improvisation on EIN FESTE BURG (audience selected theme)

SELECTED ORGAN STUDIES



ANDREW STEINBERG

Instructor of Organ & Church Music; Choral Area Accompanist
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Fall 2019 - present



DR. PEGGY JOHNSON

Instructor of Organ & Church Music (Retired)
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Fall 2016 - Spring 2019

SELECTED CONDUCTING STUDIES



DR. MICHAEL CULLOTON

Director of Choral Activities; Associate Professor of Music Education & Church Music
Conductor, The Concordia Choir
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Spring 2021



DR. KIRA HALER KNUTSON

Assistant Professor of Music; Conductor: Chapel Choir, Kantorei, & Cantabile
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Fall 2020



DR. KEVIN F. E. SÜTTERLIN

Director of Orchestral Activities & Opera; Associate Professor of Music, Instrumental Conducting
Conductor, The Concordia Orchestra & Concordia Opera
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Spring 2020

SELECTED VOICE & DICTION STUDIES



PETER HALVERSON

Associate Professor of Voice (Retired)
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Fall 2018 - Spring 2022
Private Voice Instruction - Tenor



DR. HOLLY JANZ

Professor of Voice & Diction
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Fall 2018 - Spring 2021
Diction (English, Italian, German, and French)
Vocal Pedagogy

SELECTED RELIGIOUS STUDIES



DR. ELNA SOLVANG

Professor of Religion & Women's and Gender Studies; Chair, Religion
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Reading and Interpreting the Bible - Fall 2021
The Good Life: Old Testament (Creation & Wisdom Literature) - Fall 2022
Biblical Hebrew I & II - Fall 2022 & Spring 2023



DR. DAVID CREECH

Associate Professor of Religion & Social Activism
Conductor, The Concordia Orchestra & Concordia Opera
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Christianity and Religious Diversity - Spring 2019
Faith and Leadership - Spring 2022

MASTER CLASS PERFORMANCES



DR. DAVID CHERWIEN

Cantor, Mount Olive Lutheran Church - Minneapolis, MN
Location: First Lutheran Church - Fargo, ND
Congregational Song & Improvisation - February 10, 2018



SARAH MACDONALD

Director of Music, Selwyn College
Director of Girl's Choristers, Ely Cathedral - Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
Location: Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral - Fargo, ND
Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BWV 549 - February 15, 2017

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH: Native Language

GERMAN: Novice Speaker, Advanced Reading and Writing

LATIN: Advanced Reading and Writing (Ecclesiastical)

HEBREW: Advanced Reading and Writing (Biblical)

REFERENCES



THE VERY REVEREND FATHER MARK STROBEL

Dean, Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral - Fargo, ND
markstrobels@gmail.com
w (701) 232.3394
c (701) 866.6568



REVEREND DAVE ADAMS

Campus Pastor, Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
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c (218) 779.8482



SALLY HARMON

Music Coordinator & Organist, First Presbyterian Church - Fargo, ND
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