



DILLON JAMES SWANSON

**ORGANIST | CONDUCTOR
TEACHER | COMPOSER**

[linkedin.com/in/djorganist22](https://www.linkedin.com/in/djorganist22)

swanson.dillon@gmail.com

(701) 408.9414

www.djswanson.com

PRONOUNS:

he/him/his

they/them/theirs

RELEVANT SKILLS:

- Conducting
- Collaborative & Solo Performing
 - Organ
 - Harpsichord
 - Piano
- Pedagogy (voice/keyboards)
- Composition & Orchestration

WORK EXPERIENCE

Director of Music Ministries

August 2023-present

Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church – Roanoke, VA

- Plan, coordinate, and lead music for liturgies (hymnody, etc.)
- Collaborate in creating liturgy bulletins, service folders, and worship slideshows
- Conduct and plan repertoire for adult choir, youth choir, children's choir, and handbell choirs
- Compose and arrange new liturgical music
- Teach worship skills components of Christian Education
- Oversee the music budget and instrument maintenance
- Administrate and schedule the Music in Raleigh Court Series
- Serve as primary musician for weddings and funerals

Cantor

August 2021 - July 2023

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 liturgical music
- Lead and facilitate the Worship & Music Committee meetings
- Oversee the music budget and instrument maintenance
- Administrate and schedule the Bethesda Music Series

Chapel Musician

September 2018 - May 2022

Concordia College – Moorhead, MN

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

Organist &

September 2019 - March 2021

Traditional Worship Coordinator

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

Director of Music

December 2014 - May 2018

Presbyterian-United Methodist Church – Ellendale, ND

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

EDUCATION

B.M. Vocal & Instrumental (Organ) Performance - 2023

Concordia College – Moorhead Minnesota

- Minors in Vocal Performance, Church Music, & Religion
- Recipient of the Ida & Selmer Berge Organ Scholarship
- Recipient of the Christiansen Music Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS (AGO)

Red River Valley (RRVAGO) & Roanoke Chapters

- Chapter Dean – RRVAGO (2021-2023)
- Chapter Sub-Dean – RRVAGO (2020-2021)

AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY (ATOS)

Red River Theatre Organ Society

- House Organist of the Fargo Theatre (2021-2023)
- President of RRTOS (2021-2023)

THE FELLOWSHIP OF WORSHIP ARTISTS

Virginia Chapter

- At-Large Board Member (2024 – present)

PRESBYTERIAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSICIANS

Mid-Atlantic Region

ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH MUSICIANS

Region 2

CHORISTERS GUILD

PUBLICATIONS & RECORDINGS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL: *CROSSACCENT*

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

CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS 2020: SUN OF JUSTICE, REVEAL THE DAWN

Conductor. Concordia Recordings, 2021.

O Come, Emmanuel – Elaine Hagenberg

Under the Stars, One Holy Night – Jocelyn Hagen

Angelus ad pastores ait – Claudio Monteverdi

FELLOWSHIPS

ORGAN FELLOWSHIP

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

STUDENT CONDUCTING FELLOWSHIP

Supervisor: Dr. Kira Haler Knutson
Kantorei | Cantabile | Concordia Chapel Choir
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Fall 2020

CHORAL & ORGAN FELLOWSHIP

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & HONORS

VISITING ORGANIST

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

BETHESDA MUSIC CAMP - FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

Bethesda Lutheran Church - Moorhead, MN
July 2021 - July 2023

RECENT RECITALS & PERFORMANCES

LIFE'S LITURGIES - ROANOKE COLLEGE & VOICES OF APPALACHIA

Organist - April 22, 2024 | Salem Presbyterian Church - Salem, VA
Gabriel Fauré - Requiem, Op. 9
Michael Pekel, conductor

RECENT RECITALS & PERFORMANCES (CONT.)

STRAUSS ECTSTASY - OPERA ROANOKE

Organist - October 22, 2023 | Jefferson Center - Roanoke, VA

Richard Strauss - *Ariadne auf Naxos*

Steven White, conductor

FAREWELL TO FARGO RECITAL

Featured Organist - July 9, 2023 | First Presbyterian Church - Fargo, ND

Michael Burkhardt - *In Thee is Gladness*

Hymn: *Come to Us, Creative Spirit* (CASTLEWOOD)

J. S. Bach - *Prelude and Fugue in A minor*, BWV 543

Richard Elliott - *Improvisation on "SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER"*

Felix Mendelssohn - *Sonata No 6: Vater Unser*, Op. 56, No. 6

Charles-Marie Widor - "Toccata" from *Organ Symphony No. 5*

(other titles available upon request)

RRVAGO BACH CANTATA VESPERS

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)

Samuel Scheidt - *Magnificat noni toni*

Service Music - ELW Evening Prayer | Hymns - RAQUEL, ICH HEB MEIN AUGEN SEHLICH AUF

Marcel Dupré/J. S. Bach - *Sinfonia from Cantata 29* (transcription)

SENIOR ORGAN RECITAL & COMPLINE

Organist & Conductor - February 21, 2023 | Trinity Lutheran Church - Moorhead, MN

Michael Burkhardt - *Partita on "O Morning Star How Fair and Bright"*

J. S. Bach - *Prelude and Fugue in E-flat Major*, BWV 552

Max Reger - *12 Stücke: Toccata, Fugue*

Herbert Howells - *Psalm Preludes, Set 1, No. 2* (Psalm 37 v. 11)

Marcel Dupré - *Prelude and Fugue in B Major*, Op. 7, No. 1

Choral Music - Tallis: *Te lucis*; Lauridsen: *O Nata Lux*; Palestrina: *Nunc Dimittis*

Service Music & Hymn - LBW Night Prayer; Chants: Norris, Swanson; TALLIS' CANON

Jehan Alain - *Postlude pour l'office de Complies*, JA 29

RECENT COMPOSITION COMMISSIONS

CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR

Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church – Roanoke, VA

Commissioned in honor of the centennial celebration of Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church

Premiere: October 27, 2024 | SATB Choir, Piano, & Clarinet

COME, GREAT GOD OF ALL THE AGES

Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church – Roanoke, VA

Commissioned in honor of the centennial celebration of Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church

Premiere: May 19, 2024 | SATB Choir, Brass Quintet, & Organ

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! LORD GOD ALMIGHTY

Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church – Roanoke, VA

Commissioned in honor of the centennial celebration of Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church

Premiere: May 19, 2024 | SATB Choir, Brass Quintet, Handbells, Timpani, Cymbals, & Organ

JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church – Roanoke, VA

Commissioned in Celebration of the Completed Sanctuary Renovation

Dedicated to Rev. Andrew C. Whaley

Premiere: October 22, 2023 | SATB Choir & Organ

THREE EASTER HYMNS FOR CHOIR, BRASS, AND ORGAN

Bethesda Lutheran Church – Moorhead, MN

Commissioned in memory of Dewey & Margery Possehl

Premiere: April 17, 2022 | SATB Choir, Brass Quartet & Organ

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 | Congregation, String Ensemble, & Piano

LOBE DEN HERREN: PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Concordia College – Moorhead, MN | Symphonic Band – Dr. Shauna Pickens, conductor

Commissioned for Centennial Homecoming All-Campus Worship

Premiere: October 3, 2021 | Congregation and Symphonic Band

HYMN TO CONCORDIA: ALMA MATER

Concordia College – Moorhead, MN | Campus Ministry

Commissioned for Centennial Homecoming Kick-Off Chapel Service

Premiere: October 1, 2021 | Congregation, Brass Quintet, & Organ

SELECTED ORGAN STUDIES

ANDREW STEINBERG

Instructor of Organ & Church Music; Choral Area Accompanist
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Fall 2020 - Spring 2022

DR. JAY HERSHBERGER

Professor of Music; Piano & Church Music
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Fall 2019 - Spring 2020

DR. PEGGY JOHNSON

Instructor of Organ & Church Music (Retired)
Concordia College - Moorhead, MN
Fall 2018 - 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, French)
Vocal Pedagogy

MASTER CLASS PERFORMANCES

DR. DAVID CHERWIEN

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

SARAH MACDONALD

University Organist, Cambridge University | Fellow & Director of Music, Selwyn College
Director of Girl's Choristers, Ely Cathedral - Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
Location: Gethsemane Episcopal Cathedral - Fargo, ND | February 15, 2017
J. S. Bach - *Prelude and Fugue in C minor*, BWV 549
Herbert Howells - *Collegium Regale & Like as a Hart*

SELECTED RELIGIOUS STUDIES

DR. ELNA K. 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

Concordia College - Moorhead, MN

Christianity and Religious Diversity - Spring 2019

Faith and Leadership - Spring 2022

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH: Native Language

SPANISH: Advanced Speaker, Advance Reading & Writing

LATIN: Advanced Speaker, Advance Reading & Writing (Ecclesiastical)

GERMAN: Novice Speaker, Advance Reading & Writing

HEBREW: Novice Speaker, Advance Reading & Writing (Biblical and Modern)