

Greg Scheer

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Greg Scheer is a composer, author, speaker and music minister. His music is published by Augsburg Fortress, GIA, Abingdon Press, Faith Alive and at www.gregscheer.com. His writings include *The Art of Worship* (Baker Books, 2006) and contributions to *The Hymn, Worship Leader, Reformed Worship, Call to Worship, Perspectives*, and the forthcoming *New Songs of Celebration Render* (GIA, ed C. Michael Hawn). He has spoken on a variety of music and worship topics in Singapore, Uganda, and throughout the US. He has served churches and colleges in Pittsburgh, Tallahassee, and Iowa. Greg, his wife Amy, and their sons Simon and Theo live in Grand Rapids, Michigan where Greg is Minister of Worship at Church of the Servant and Music Associate at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. A complete list of compositions, publications and workshops can be found at <http://www.gregscheer.com>.

CURRENT

Minister of Worship at Church of the Servant, CRC (2005-present; $\frac{3}{4}$ time). Oversees worship and the arts in this liturgical Christian Reformed church.

Music Associate at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. (2005-present; $\frac{1}{4}$ time). Involved in a variety of projects: arranging music, providing web content, contributing to conference materials, taking part in planning sessions, and a leading role in The Hymnary.

CHURCH MUSIC

Author/Editor

- *The Art of Worship: A Musician's Guide to Modern Worship Leadership* (Baker, 2006)
- *Global Songs for Worship*, hymnal and CD (Faith Alive, 2010)
- "Praise & Worship, from Jesus People to Gen X" (*New Songs of Celebration Render*, GIA, ed. C. Michael Hawn, forthcoming)
- "Hands around the World: An Introduction to African and Latin American Percussion in Worship" (*The Hymn: A Journal of Congregational Song*. Vol. 57, No. 3, Summer 2006: 16-22)
- "Sing to the Lord a New Psalm" (*Call to Worship. Volume 41.4, 2008, pages 16-24*)

Speaker

- "A Theology of the Heart" plenary at the Methodist School of Music in Singapore
- "Art of Worship Leadership" all day workshop with Paul Ryan (Redeemer University College Ontario, Calvin CRC Ottawa, Calvin Worship Symposium and Trinity Christian College, IL)
- Two weeks of teaching and musical collaboration in Mukono, Uganda, 2007
- Contemporary Worship Institute (Church of the Resurrection, Kansas City)
- Calvin Worship Symposium (Fifteen workshops over the last five years)

Worship leader/planner

- Yale Institute of Sacred Music chapel, 2008
- RCA General Synod 2007 (IA), 2008 (MI)
- Music and Liturgical Arts Week at Lake Junaluska (NC), 2009
- "Recovering the Heart, Uncovering the Art" conference, (Singapore), 2009
- "Heart Songs, Global and Local" (Third CRC Kalamazoo, RCA/CRC Hymnal Consultation, Worship Teleseminar)

Choir Director, Trinity Reformed Church of Orange City, Iowa (2003 to 2005)

Director of Music and Worship, Wildwood Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Florida (1998-2000)

Chairman, Music and Worship Repertoire and Standards Committee, American Choral Directors Association of Pennsylvania (1997-1998)

Music Director, Bellefield Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA (1992-1998)

COMPOSITION

Commissions and Awards:

- “Spring and Fall: to a young child” (SATB and piano) was commissioned in 2007 by the Iowa Choral Directors Association and Iowa Composers Forum.
- “People of the Lord” was chosen as the official jubilee hymn of the Calvin09 celebration, which marks the 500th anniversary of Jean Calvin’s birth. The hymn was subsequently sung at the Pentecost day celebration in Geneva and in Reformed churches throughout Europe and the US and was published in *Different Voices* (Scotland) and *Reformed Worship*.
- “5 for orchestra” was commissioned in 2006 by the Linn-Mar High School String Orchestra (IA).
- “Let the Peoples Praise You” was commissioned in honor of the inauguration of Dr. Bruce Murphy, 8th president of Northwestern College.
- “6” was commissioned by the Chagall String Quartet in 1998, was a winning composition in the 2000 Southeastern Composers’ Symposium and has been featured on a number of classical radio stations.
- “We Are the Cougars” won the Illinois Central College fight song competition and is now ICC’s official fight song.

Recordings and Music Publications:

- Augsburg Fortress Press: a dozen anthems and arrangements appear in collections and as octavos.
- GIA: choral anthems “Deeper than the Sea” and “If the Lord Had Not Been on Our Side.”
- Faith Alive: over 50 songs and arrangements appear in various hymnals.
- Abingdon Press: arrangements of “Shukuru” and “Kwake Yesu” appear in the global collection *For Everyone Born*.
- Michael Burkhardt’s arrangement of my song “I’ll Be a Witness to the Light” will be included in the new MorningStar collection *From A Distant Home*.
- “Crossfade” is featured on the *Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers* compilation CD.
- “Lord, We Sing to You,” and “The Beauty of Your Holiness” are published by Worship Today.
- Two arrangements were featured on Pittsburgh radio’s 3WS *Home for the Holidays* CD, one was sung by Lou Christie.

Founding Member and current Vice President of the *Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers*; member of *Broadcast Music Incorporated*, *Christian Copyright Licensing International* and *LicenSing*.

Performances: Forging Links (NC); Northwestern College A Cappella Choir; University of Akron New Music Group concerts; Krotach 7 (Salzburg, Austria); Ostertreff (Aachen, Germany); the Duquesne University Concert Choir (PA); the Daedalus String Quartet (OH); Hermsdorfer Kirche (Hermsdorf, Germany); the University of Pittsburgh’s Heinz Chapel Choir, Men’s Glee Club, Women’s Choral Ensemble, *Music on the Edge* series, and Symphony Orchestra; University of Rhode Island Composer Recitals; Camp-of-the-Woods Chorus (NY).

TEACHING

Director of Music Ministries at Northwestern College in Iowa (2000-2005). Responsibilities divided between the Music Department, teaching music and worship courses and directing the music ministry major, and Campus Ministries, leading chapel music and overseeing other campus music ministries. Courses: Music of the Church, World Musics, Contemporary Worship Leadership, Hymnology/Liturgy, Orchestration, Music Technology, Church Music Administration, Guitar Class, Music Ministry Practicum, Counterpoint, and Bass, Composition and Songwriting Lessons.

Teaching Assistant at the University of Pittsburgh (1990-1992). Duties included teaching *Musicianship and Theory*, assisting in lecture halls and leading recitations for *Introduction to Western Art Music*, directing the *Pitt Men’s Glee Club*, and managing the *University of Pittsburgh Orchestra*.

CONDUCTING & DIRECTING

Assistant Conductor, Bach Choir of Pittsburgh (1996-1997)

Led rehearsals, sectionals, and warm ups for director Dr. Brady Allred.

Director, University of Pittsburgh Men's Glee Club (1991-1992)

Responsible for programming, rehearsing, and conducting two concerts and one tour each year.

Conducting Instruction includes private study with John Goldsmith, director of the University of Pittsburgh Heinz Chapel Choir (1993); *The Art of Choral Conducting* with Dr. Anton Armstrong (1995); and taking part in James Jordan's chamber choir at the 1997 Westminster Conference of Worship and Music.

BASSIST

The Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra (IA; principal), The Westmoreland Symphony (PA), Carnegie-Mellon Orchestra (PA), The New Music Ensemble of Providence (RI), The Altoona Symphony Orchestra (PA), Salzburger Jugend Symphonie (Austria), Theatre-by-the-Sea (RI), Camp-of-the-Woods Orchestra (NY), Tallahassee Swing Band (FL), Coates & Company Big Band (FL), Pierce Pettis, John Fischer, Deanna Witkowski and Justin Rosolino.

EDUCATION

1984-1985 Barrington College (the college closed when it merged with Gordon College in 1985)

1985-1990 University of Rhode Island, B.A. Music Theory/Composition, minor in German

1988-1989 Universität Salzburg/Mozarteum

1990-1993 University of Pittsburgh, M.A. Music Theory/Composition

2004 Gather into One (Calvin College Seminars in Christian Scholarship, led by C. Michael Hawn)