

Student Music Kickoff
Sunday, August 27
4:30-6:30 PM

Eric L. Mathis
Biographical Information
Pianist, Organist Full



Eric Mathis, PhD is Chair of Academic Studies and Assistant Professor of Church Music and Worship Leadership at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. There, he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in music and worship and is program director of *anima: the Forum for Worship and the Arts*. Before moving to Alabama, Eric taught as an adjunct professor at Azusa Pacific University and Baylor University. He has maintained leadership roles in various congregations across the United States, and is currently Music Associate and Organist at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham.

An ordained minister and musician, Eric holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance with a minor in organ from Wheaton College (IL), a Master of Music in Church Music with concentrations in choral conducting and organ from Baylor University, a Master of Divinity from George W. Truett Theological Seminary, and a PhD in Theology (Christian Worship, Preaching) from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

As an organist and pianist, Eric has accompanied choral ensembles nationally and internationally with notable conductors Jeffery Ames, Anton Armstrong, Donald Bailey, Rodney Eichenberger, Mary Hopper, Weston Noble, Paul Salamunovich, Z. Randall Stroope, and others. He maintains memberships in the American Choral Directors Association, the Academy of Homiletics, Choristers Guild, the North American Academy of Liturgy, and The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada where he has served on the editorial board for *The Hymn*.

He is published in *Choral Journal*, *The Hymn*, and *Christian Reflections*, and is a regular contributor to *Worship Leader Magazine* and *WorkingPreacher.org*. With Lester Ruth of Duke Divinity School, he is co-authoring a book on Baptist worship practices among Argentinian missionaries during the middle twentieth century, to be published in *The Church at Worship* series by Eerdmans.

Eric is married to Brittany, a CPA and Manager of Tax for the Alabama Gas Company in Birmingham. And, Eric is a worshiper himself. To that end, the heart of his vocational calling is to help other worshipers deeply experience the privilege it is to offer worship to God in Christ through the Spirit so that the Kingdom of God may flourish in the world.