



# CHORISTERS GUILD

---

ANNUAL REPORT  
2024

President-Elect Elizabeth Shepley leads the treble choir at the 75th Anniversary in Richmond, Virginia



choristersguild



We're delighted to share the impact our collective action as Choristers Guild made in 2024! Everyone connected to Choristers Guild -- customers, members, donors, editors, composers, staff, our national board and YOU, the one receiving this message -- contributed to our ability to support church and music leaders in nurturing children through worship and prayer. Together, we are growing children's choirs and raising up a new generation of church leaders!

In 2024:

- Choristers Guild was in the community, teaching others and sharing music in workshops, festivals and conferences across the United States. Choristers Guild was online, leading webinars and publishing articles to inform and inspire.
- Choristers Guild released the first volumes of a multi-year series of faith-based choir curriculum for ages 7-12 (written by Heather Potter) and a worship guide for preschool-age children (written by Mark Burrows). With these series, we are equipping church leaders, both volunteer and staff, with comprehensive action plans and tools for teaching children throughout the church year.
- Choristers Guild marked its 75th anniversary by hosting a celebratory worship service alongside our annual Institute, which was livestreamed and shared online to be experienced by all. Past presidents and board members led the event with prayers and readings. Past president Anton Armstrong conducted the choir, and our president-elect Elizabeth Shepley trained and led the treble choir. Many gave generously to the 75th Anniversary Fund, an investment in continuing the work started in 1949 by dedicated choral leader Ruth Krehbiel Jacobs. To watch this wonderful event, click **here**.

Get the full scoop on 2024 through our attached Annual Report. Thank you for supporting the Choristers Guild mission in 2024! We hope you will continue to be part of our work to enable leaders to nurture the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults.

# SING, RING, REJOICE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2025 Board of Directors



**Todd Arant**  
*President*



**Elizabeth Shepley**  
*President- Elect*



**John Sutton**  
*Immediate  
Past-President*



**Beth Drake**  
*Secretary- Treasurer*



**Anton Armstrong**



**Tim Sharp**



**Eric Posada**



**Meg Granum Gurtcheff**



**Dawn Jantsch**  
*Executive Director*

# SING, RING, REJOICE

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



### ENABLING LEADERS TO NURTURE THE MUSICAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS

#### KEY OBJECTIVES

- Advance the aim of nurturing children through worship and prayer with several methods of assisting children's church choral leaders
- Create curriculum that will assist the choral leader for children in preschool, elementary, and junior high to provide expert leadership in the worship setting
- Continue formal relationships with Christian music associations in this same endeavor to grow children's choirs and their leadership for the future of the church

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Our new resources, *CGC71 Worship and Wonder - Volume 1* and *CGBK88 A Year of Beautiful Singing - Volume 1*, have been a success. In less than six months, we sold or gifted over 245 copies
- Author/composer Mark Burrows led a webinar on *CGC71* drawing in 150 registrants and taught leaders repetitive verse and song for children, while incorporating puppetry in the stories of the Bible
- Heather Potter led a webinar for 126 registrants on her new curriculum *CGBK88 A Year of Beautiful Singing - Volume 1*, leading examples on how a beginning or an experienced choral leader could teach music with weekly lessons covering song, the Bible, prayer, and worship for elementary and junior high students
- Heather Potter taught a participatory lesson for 73 attendees on her *CGBK88 A Year of Beautiful Singing - Volume 1* curriculum as the Helen Kemp Lecturer at the Choristers Guild Institute
- Choristers Guild was present at 32 events nationwide and hosted 5 webinars

# STORIES

**HEATHER POTTER**  
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL  
MUSIC AT COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN  
CHARLOTTE, NC

---

"Many of you have shared that the value of Choristers Guild membership goes beyond resources and pedagogical ideas. The real gem is the connection you form with Choristers Guild members and the inspiration, encouragement, and wisdom you gain from them. This community is the heart of the Choristers Guild legacy--a network of individuals spread around the world, connected as leaders striving to enable the musical and spiritual growth of children, youth, and adults."

**KIMBERLY BEDELL**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND  
ORGANIST AT KING OF KINGS  
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN  
OCEANSIDE, CA

---

"I am so impressed with your editorial staff and the highly skilled composers you work with. I know that when I look at your catalog, there are no duds. I can rely on Choristers Guild as a solid resource where I know don't have to spend time 'culling' suggestions that I don't think meet musical and theological standards for worship. So, thanks to you and the Choristers Guild staff."

**TODD ARANT**  
DIRECTOR OF TRADITIONAL  
WORSHIP ARTS AT APEX  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,  
APEX, NORTH CAROLINA

---

"I joined Choristers Guild in 2010 shortly after taking my first full-time position in music ministry, and I attended the Choristers Guild Institute from 2012-2014. My connections through Choristers Guild have helped our church's music ministry thrive, especially for children and youth. I continue to support Choristers Guild because this nonprofit organization has given so much to me, and my ministry would not be possible without the training and resources I have been fortunate to receive."

**LANDRY DUVALL**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AT  
IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH IN MEMPHIS, TN

---

"The Choristers Guild Institute was one of the best Continuing Education courses I have ever attended. I felt that I truly walked away with new skills and a great deal more confident in leading music with Children and Youth. Great community of people. I look forward to returning next year!"

# Choristers Guild Chapters

## California

Orange County  
San Diego

## Florida

Central Florida

## Georgia

Atlanta

## Maryland

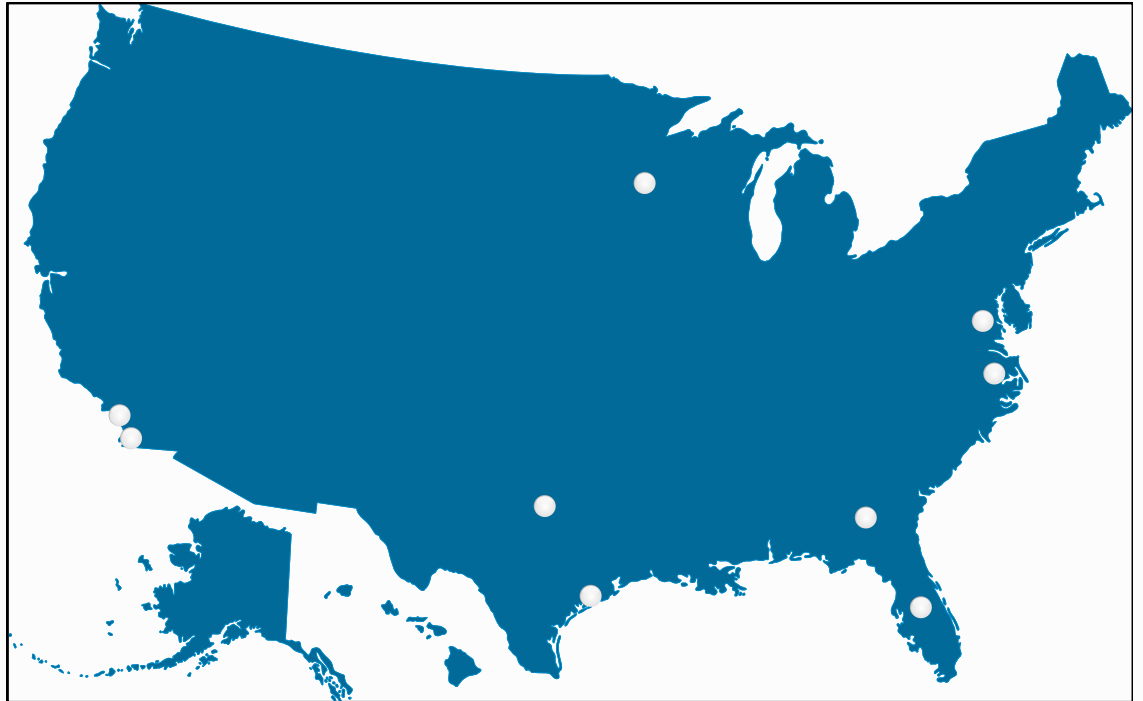
Capital Beltway

## Minnesota

Twin Cities

## Virginia

Richmond

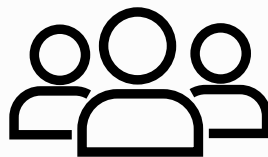


## Texas

Dallas  
Houston



6 Children's  
Choir Festivals



9 Local Chapters



5 Workshops for Children's  
Choral Leaders

**Are you interested in starting or reviving a chapter?**

Please contact Meredith Smith for more information.

[msmith@choristersguild.org](mailto:msmith@choristersguild.org)



### January 19-20

- Choristers Guild Atlanta, Georgia Chapter held a Midwinter Workshop for choral leaders
  - Andrew Minear served as the youth clinician
  - Katie Houts served as the elementary clinician
  - Karol Kimmel, Betsy Homer, and Heather Ellison served as preschool clinicians
  - Ryan Ferguson led a breakout session on beginner/intermediate conducting
  - Emily Floyd led a breakout session on intermediate/advanced conduction

### January 24

- Choristers Guild hosted a webinar with Sierra Norris on Accessibility in the Music Rehearsal

### January 27

- Choristers Guild Richmond, Virginia Chapter held a Children's Music Celebration for choral leaders

### February 2-3

- Utah Music Educators Association Conference in St. George, Utah
  - Victor Johnson led a Choristers Guild Sing! reading session

### February 7-10

- Texas Music Educators Association Clinic/Convention in San Antonio, Texas
  - Victor Johnson led a Choristers Guild Sing! reading session

### March 2

- Choristers Guild Central Florida Chapter held a Children's Choir Festival for choral leaders

### March 7

- Choristers Guild hosted a webinar with Emily Floyd on Bringing a Song to Life

### April 21

- Sacred Music Series at Westminster Choir College
  - Composer Tom Shelton led a four-part webinar featuring four clinicians, two of which (Vincent Oaks and Andrea Ramsey) were contributors to *CGBK87 Start Singing!* with Tom Shelton
- Choristers Guild Houston, Texas Chapter held a Children and Youth Choir Festival for choral leaders
  - Courtney Daniell-Knapp and Sonja Sepulveda served as clinicians

### April 27

- Choristers Guild Twin Cities, Minnesota Chapter held a Children's Choir Festival for choral leaders
  - Mari Espeland led a breakout session on Planning and Leading Effective Rehearsals with Children's Choirs
  - Katie Houts led a breakout session on *CGBK87 Start Singing!*

### June 16-28

Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship & Music Conference in Montreat, North Carolina

- Emily Floyd served as clinician for the middler choir featuring Choristers Guild music
- Mark Patterson served as clinician for the children's choir music

### June 24

Music & Worship Arts Week in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

- James Wells led a Choristers Guild reading session

### June 26

Arizona ACDA Summer Conference in Mesa, Arizona

- Victor Johnson led two breakout sessions on Innovative and Fun Techniques to Use in Choral Rehearsals and Activities for Building Community in the Choral Classroom
- Victor Johnson conducted the Collegiate All-State Choir

### July 8-11

- National Pastoral Musicians Conference in Kansas City, Missouri
  - Katie Houts led a Choristers Guild reading session
  - Katie Houts led two breakout sessions on Healthy Vocal Techniques for Children and Youth and Five Strategies to Teach New Music to Children and Developing Singers

### July 10

- National Handbell Seminar in Hartford, Connecticut
  - Mitchell Eithun, Sandra Eithun, and Cathy Moglebust led a reading session of handbell music during the Choristers Guild Showcase
  - Shoreline Ringers performed a mini concert of new Choristers Guild handbell music

### July 11

- National UCC Music and Worship Conference in Old Greenwich, Connecticut
  - Tom Shelton and Gregory Chestnut led a seminar on involving children and youth in worship in unique ways that featured Choristers Guild music

### July 14-19

- Bonclarken Music Conference in Flat Rock, North Carolina
  - Todd Arant served as clinician for the youth choir

### July 14-20

- Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians Bible Camp in Green Lake, Wisconsin
  - Katie Houts served as children's and youth choir clinician
  - Katie Houts led a Choristers Guild reading session
  - Katie Houts led four breakout sessions



## July 16

- Augsburg Fortress Music Clinic in St. Paul, Minnesota
  - Carolynne Mathis led a reading session of Choristers Guild handbell music
  - David Cherwien and Mark Sedio presented *CGBK88 A Year of Beautiful Singing - Volume 1: Let's Sing!*, *CGC71 Worship and Wonder - Volume 1*, and Choristers Guild music during the children's choir session
- Workshop Inspired in Indianapolis, Indiana
  - Greg Gilpin led a Choristers Guild Sing! reading session

## July 19

Augsburg Fortress Music Clinic in Columbia, South Carolina

- Marsha Brantley led a reading session of Choristers Guild handbell music
- David Cherwien and Mark Sedio presented *CGBK88 A Year of Beautiful Singing - Volume 1: Let's Sing!*, *CGC71 Worship and Wonder - Volume 1*, and Choristers Guild music during the children's choir session

## July 22

- Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Conference in Valparaiso, Indiana
  - Andrea Baxter led a Choristers Guild reading session
- Vandercook College of Music Symposium
  - Composer Greg Gilpin led a Choristers Guild reading session

## July 22-25

- Choristers Guild Institute in Richmond, Virginia
  - Karol Kimmell, Emily Floyd, Tom Shelton, Michael Burkhardt, and Katie Houts led the Choristers Guild Institute participants in a week of learning and fellowship
  - Katie Houts led a Choristers Guild Reading Session
  - Helen Kemp Lecturer Heather Potter held a lively, participatory workshop on her new curriculum, *CGBK88 A Year of Beautiful Singing - Volume 1: Let's Sing!*

## July 23

- Vandercook College of Music Choral Rehearsal and Repertoire Symposium
  - Victor Johnson led two Sing! Choristers Guild reading sessions of concert/festival and holiday music

## July 25

- The 75th anniversary of Choristers Guild held a celebratory worship service in Richmond, Virginia
  - A volunteer children's choir, with some adult voices, was led by Elizabeth Shepley
  - Anton Armstrong led the adult choir, including joint pieces with the treble choir
  - Chris Titko led the James River Ringers throughout the service
  - Tom Shelton and Katie Houts accompanied with piano
  - Michael Burkhardt served as organist
  - Numerous past presidents and other leaders of Chorister Guild led the worship service in readings and scripture
  - The service ended with choirs, bells, organ, brass, timpa, and the congregation singing Victor Johnson's CGA1699 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

## July 27

- Texas Conference Choir Camp in San Antonio, Texas
  - Victor Johnson led a reading session on Choristers Guild Sing! music
  - Mark Burrows led a sacred choral reading session featuring Choristers Guild music

## July 29-30

- St. Olaf Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts in Northfield, Minnesota
  - Katie Houts led two breakout sessions entitled Beyond the Christmas Pageant and Palm Sunday and The Church Year Through a Child's Eyes

## July 29-August 1

- Brentwood UMC Music and Arts Camp in Brentwood, Tennessee
  - Victor Johnson served as clinician

## July 31

- Choristers Guild Twin Cities, Minnesota Chapter held a Social Gathering for choral leaders

## August 1

- Augsburg Fortress Music Clinic in Ardmore, Pennsylvania
  - Michael Joy led a reading session of Choristers Guild handbell music
  - David Cherwien and Mark Sedio presented *CGBK88 A Year of Beautiful Singing - Volume 1: Let's Sing!*, *CGC71 Worship and Wonder - Volume 1*, and Choristers Guild music during the children's choir session

## August 5

- Augsburg Fortress Music Clinic in Dublin, Ohio
  - Jeremy Bankson led a reading session of Choristers Guild handbell music
  - David Cherwien and Mark Sedio presented *CGBK88 A Year of Beautiful Singing - Volume 1: Let's Sing!*, *CGC71 Worship and Wonder - Volume 1*, and Choristers Guild music during the children's choir session

## August 8

- Augsburg Fortress Music Clinic in Park Ridge, Illinois
  - KC Congdon led a reading session of Choristers Guild handbell music
  - David Cherwien and Mark Sedio presented *CGBK88 A Year of Beautiful Singing - Volume 1: Let's Sing!*, *CGC71 Worship and Wonder - Volume 1*, and Choristers Guild music during the children's choir session

## August 10

- Choristers Guild Atlanta, Georgia Chapter held Annual August Workshop for choral leaders
  - An overview of *CGBK88 A Year of Beautiful Singing - Volume 1: Let's Sing!* was presented

### August 16

- Choristers Guild Houston, Texas Chapter held a Summertime Luncheon and Reading Session for Choral Leaders
  - Katie Houts led a breakout session on *CGBK87 Start Singing!*

### October 11

- Choristers Guild hosted a webinar with Mark Burrows on his new worship resource, *CGC71 Worship and Wonder - Volume 1*

### October 26

- Choristers Guild Capital Beltway Chapter held a Church Children's Choir Festival for choral leaders in Alexandria, Virginia

### November 7-9

- Louisiana American Choral Directors Association Fall Vocal Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana
  - Victor Johnson conducted the All-State Middle School Honor Choir

### November 9

- Choristers Guild Twin Cities, Minnesota Chapter held a Children's Choir Round Table for choral leaders

### November 15

- Choristers Guild hosted a webinar with Heather Potter on her new curriculum, *CGBK88 A Year of Beautiful Singing - Volume I: Let's Sing!*

### November 16

- Choristers Guild Richmond, Virginia Chapter held a Children's Choir Festival for choral leaders
  - Mark Patterson led a roundtable discussion

### November 19

- Choristers Guild hosted a webinar with Sandra Dager on Move Well, Sing Well: The Alexander Technique

## FOLLOW US

-  Choristers Guild
-  choristersguild
-  Choristers Guild
-  Choristers Guild Institute



12404 Park Central Dr Ste 100-S Dallas, TX 75251

469-398-3606

[www.choristersguild.org](http://www.choristersguild.org)