Proposed Schedule with Session Titles
Alleluia Conference
July 17-20, 2018

DAY I
Tuesday, July 17

10:00 – 12:45  Registration, McCrary Lobby

10:45 – 11:30  NEW: Welcome Mixer  McCrary, Room 114

12:45 – 2:15  Worship led by Randall Bradley
Reading Session I: Joseph Martin  Truett, Powell Chapel

2:15 – 2:30  Transition

2:30 – 3:30  Breakout I (9)
Conducting: Joshua Habermann  McCrary, Meadows Recital Hall
Putting Score Study into Action in the Choral Rehearsal
Organ: Jack Mitchener  McCrary, Jones Concert Hall Stage
Organ Repertoire – Old & New
Repeated Friday, 8:30-9:30
Children’s Choir: Michael Burkhardt  McCrary, Room 114
Hearts, Hands, and Voices – Working with the Whole Person
Repeated Wednesday, 8:00-9:00
Special Session: Benjamin Harlan  McCrary, Room 131
The Composer’s Journey
Repeated Wednesday, 8:00-9:00
Piano: James Stevens  McCrary, Room 133
Chord Chemistry 101
Conducting Basics: David Music  Truett, Room 113
The Beginning Church Choir Director
PIE Talk: Dawn Jantsch, Joseph Martin, and Tom Tillman  Truett, Room 114
As I See It: Where Church Music is Heading
Panel Discussion:
Building a Strong Ministry Team – Best Practices  Truett, Room 115
Finale: Ben Johansen  Moody Memorial Library, Crouch Music Library, 3rd Floor
Introduction to Notation Software

3:30 – 4:00  Break

4:00 – 5:00  Breakout II (9)
Conducting: Joshua Habermann  McCrary, Meadows Recital Hall
Latin American Choral Performance
Organ: Jack Mitchener  McCrary, Jones Concert Hall Stage
Organ Master Class, Part I
Children’s Choir: Michael Burkhardt  
*Working with the Child Voice*

Special Session: Benjamin Harlan  
*Let’s Sing! Congregational Song – Resources and Ideas*
Repeated Friday, 8:30-9:30

Piano: James Stevens  
*From Chords to Accompaniments*

Cantata: Joseph Martin  
*Christmas Dreams & Rhapsody in Bluegrass*

Panel Discussion:  
*Managing Discouragement and Avoiding Burnout*

PIE Talk: Lynne Gackle, Maria Monteiro, and Terry Taylor  
*Engaging Children with Music – Why It Matters*

Worship Planning: Terre Johnson  
*Writing Materials for Worship*

5:15 – 6:00  
Concert: The San Antonio Youth Chorale  
Truett, Powell Chapel

6:00 – 7:30  
Dinner on your own

7:30 – 9:00  
NEW: Evening Worship Opportunities
Option 1: Evening Worship Gathering with Worship Lab  
Common Grounds Coffee
Option 2: Evening Contemplative Worship Gathering  
Armstrong Browning Library Foyer of Meditation

**DAY II: CHILDREN’S CHOIR DAY**  
**Wednesday, July 18**

8:00 – 9:00  
Breakout III (10)

Organ: Jack Mitchener  
*Healthy Playing Techniques for the Organist*

Children’s Choir: Michael Burkhardt  
*Hearts, Hands, and Voices – Working with the Whole Person*
Repeat of Tuesday, 2:30-3:30

Children’s Choir: Terrie Preskitt-Brown  
*Amp It Up @ Music Camp*

Children’s Choir: Terry Taylor  
*Fruit of the Spirit – Older Children*

Pre-School Children’s Choir: Susan Eernisse  
*First Things First: Covering the Basics in Preschool Music*
Repeated Wednesday, 4:00-5:00

Special Session: Benjamin Harlan  
*The Composer’s Journey*
Repeat of Tuesday, 2:30-3:30

Piano: James Stevens  
*Anywhere from Here*

Conducting: Joshua Habermann  
*Music Literacy in the Choral Rehearsal*

Youth Choir: Jonathan Rodgers  
*Culture and Choir: Friends or Foes?*

Choir: Randall Bradley  
*Building Your Choir Intergenerationally*

9:00 – 9:15  
Transition

9:15 – 10:15  
Reading Session II:  
Truett, Powell Chapel

Children’s Choir: Michael Burkhardt  
*Repertoire Selection – Where We’re At, Where We’ve Been, Where We’re Going*

Children’s Choir: Terrie Preskitt-Brown  
*Plan the Work - Work the Plan*

McCrary, Room 114
McCrary, Room 131
McCrary, Room 133
McCrary, Room 118
McCrary, Room 113
McCrary, Room 111
McCrary, Room 118
McCrary, Room 131
McCrary, Room 133
McCrary, Room 114
McCrary, Room 115
McCrary, Room 114
McCrary, Room 118
Children's Choir: Terry Taylor
*Fruit of the Spirit – Younger Children*
Jones Concert Hall Stage

Pre-School Children's Choir: Susan Eernisse
*Sing in a Circle*
McCrary, Meadows Recital Hall

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:30 Worship:
led by Randall Bradley and Baylor Church Music Students; Joel Gregory, preacher
Truett, Powell Chapel

11:30 – 1:00 Lunch

11:45-12:45 (Optional: 4 Lunch Discussions; reservations required, limit 20 each)

1:00 – 2:15 Reading Session III:
Children's Choir: Michael Burkhardt
*Children in Worship – Preparing, Praising, Proclaiming, and Praying*
McCrary, Room 114

Children’s Choir: Terrie Preskitt-Brown
*Plan the Music - Work the Plan (A Reading Session)*
McCrary, Room 118

Children’s Choir: Terry Taylor
*Music Outreach and Ministries for Children*
Jones Concert Hall Stage

Pre-School Children's Choir: Susan Eernisse
*I CAN Read Music!*
McCrary, Meadows Recital Hall

2:15 – 2:30 Transition

2:30 – 3:30 Breakout IV (10)
Organ: Jack Mitchener
*Bach Chorale Preludes for the Organ*
McCrary, Markham Organ Studio

Children’s Choir: Michael Burkhardt
*Three “Rs” – Really Rehearsing Repertoire*
Repeated Friday, 9:45-10:45
McCrary, Room 114

Children’s Choir: Terrie Preskitt-Brown
*Musicians – Conductors – Herders of Cats*
McCrary, Room 118

Children’s Choir: Terry Taylor
*Music Reading Games for Grades 1-6*
Repeated Wednesday, 4:00-5:00
McCrary, Jones Concert Hall Stage

Pre-School Children’s Choir: Susan Eernisse
*Puppets and Furry Friends – Fun with No End!*
McCrary, Meadows Recital Hall

Reading Session: Joseph Martin
*SAB/2PT Reading Session*
McCrary, Room 131

Piano: Joel Raney
*Brush Up on Your Technique*
McCrary, Room 133

Conducting: Joshua Habermann
*Sacred Music from Scandinavia and the Baltics*
Truett, Powell Chapel

Youth Choir: Jonathan Rodgers
*The Missing Link: Fostering Non-Musical Connections in Rehearsal*
Truett, Room 114

Worship Planning: Terre Johnson
*Writing Materials for Worship*
Truett, Room 115

3:30 – 4:00 Break

4:00 – 5:00 Breakout V (10)
Organ: Jack Mitchener
*Creative Hymn Playing*
Repeated Thursday, 8:00-9:00
McCrary, Markham Organ Studio
Children’s Choir: Michael Burkhardt  
**Stepping Stones to Part Singing**  
Repeated Friday, 8:30-9:30  
McCrary, Room 114

Children’s Choir: Terrie Preskitt-Brown  
**Special Needs – Special Worship**  
McCrary, Room 118

Children’s Choir: Terry Taylor  
**Music Reading Games for Grades 1-6**  
Repeated Wednesday, 2:30-3:30  
McCrary, Jones Concert Hall Stage

Pre-School Children’s Choir: Susan Eernisse  
**First Things First: Covering the Basics in Preschool Music**  
Repeat of Wednesday, 8:00-9:00  
McCrary, Meadows Recital Hall

Piano: Joseph Martin  
**New Piano Releases**  
McCrary, Room 131

Conducting: Joshua Habermann  
**Around the World in 60 Minutes**  
Truett, Powell Chapel

Worship Planning: Mark Humphrey  
**Putting the Pieces Back Together: Designing Worship Toward Reconciliation and Redefining the “Other”**  
Repeated Friday, 8:30-9:30  
Truett, Room 113

Youth Choir: Jonathan Rodgers  
**Demolition Derby: Building, Renovating, Reimagining Student Choirs**  
Truett, Room 114

PIE Talk: Kerry Burkley, Terre Johnson, and Leslie King  
**My Most Important Ministry Lesson**  
Truett, Room 115

5:15 – 6:00  
Student Concert

6:00-7:30  
Dinner on your own

7:30-9:00  
Reading Session IV:  
**Choral Reading Session with Orchestra**  
Truett, Powell Chapel

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**DAY III: HANDBELL/PRAISE BANDS DAY**  
**Thursday, July 19**

8:00 – 9:00  
Breakout VI (10)  
Organ: Jack Mitchener  
**Creative Hymn Playing**  
Repeat of Wednesday, 4:00-5:00  
McCrary, Markham Organ Studio

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Children’s Choir: Michael Burkhardt  
**Nuts and Bolts – Before, During, and After the Rehearsal**  
McCrary, Room 114

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Beginning Handbells: Sueda Luttrell  
**Foundations in Technique and Notation**  
McCrary, Room 118

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Cantata Reading Session: Joseph Martin  
**Portraits of Grace**  
McCrary, Room 131

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Piano: James Stevens  
**Piano Arranging and Composition**  
McCrary, Room 133

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Advanced Handbells: Ron Mallory  
**Techniques for Handbell Ringers and Conductors**  
McCrary, Jones Concert Hall

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Reading Session: Brian Schmidt  
**Advanced Choir Reading Session**  
McCrary, Meadows Recital Hall

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Praise Bands: Josh Stewart  
**Rehearsing Your Band**  
Repeated Friday, 9:45-10:45  
Truett, Powell Chapel

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Worship: Zac Hicks  
**God is Actually in the Room: Worship as Encounter**  
Truett, Room 107

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Technology: Mason Williams and Danny Andrade  
**Technology Session 1**  
Truett, Room 114

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9:00 – 9:15  
Transition

9:15 – 10:15  
Reading Session V  
Truett, Powell Chapel
Beginning Handbells: Sueda Luttrell  
*Resources and Composing for Processionals, Bell Trees, and Descants*  
McCrary, Room 118

Advanced Handbells: Ron Mallory  
*Composing and Arranging for Handbells*  
McCrary, Jones Concert Hall

Praise Bands: Josh Stewart  
*Understanding the Band’s Language*  
Revised Friday, 8:30-9:30

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:30 Worship:  
led by Randall Bradley and Baylor Church Music Students; Joel Gregory, preacher

11:30 – 1:15 Luncheon with Award and Student Recognition  
Foster, Room 250

1:15 – 2:30 Reading Session VI  
McCrary, Room 118

2:30 – 2:45 Transition

2:45 – 3:45 Breakout VII (10)  
Organ: Jack Mitchener  
*Beginning Improvisation*  
McCrary, Markham Organ Studio

Children’s Choir: Michael Burkhardt  
*The Care and Feeding of Children’s Choirs*  
McCrary, Room 114

Handbells: Sueda Luttrell & Ron Mallory  
*Paths to Musicality*  
McCrary, Jones Concert Hall

Reading Session: Joseph Martin  
*Children’s Music Reading Session*  
McCrary, Room 131

Piano: James Stevens  
*Hymn Improvisation for the Church Pianist*  
McCrary, Room 133

Praise Bands: Josh Stewart  
*Recruiting and Keeping Musicians*  
McCrary, Meadows Recital Hall

Worship: Zac Hicks  
*Planning Worship Like a Dietician*  
Truett, Room 107

Worship Talkback: Randall Bradley  
*Worship Talkback*  
Truett, Room 113

Technology: Mason Williams and Danny Andrade  
*Technology Session 2*  
Truett, Room 114

Panel Discussion:  
*Forming a Spiritually Healthy Congregation Through Song*  
Truett, Room 115

3:45 – 4:15 Break

4:15 – 5:15 Breakout VIII (10)  
Organ: Jack Mitchener  
*Performance Practice from Alpha to Omega*  
McCrary, Markham Organ Studio

Children’s Choir: Michael Burkhardt  
*The Care and Feeding of the Children’s Choir Director*  
McCrary, Room 114

Beginning Handbells: Sueda Luttrell  
*Beginning Handbell Reading Session*  
McCrary, Room 118
Advanced Handbells: Ron Mallory
Advanced Handbell Reading Session
McCrary, Jones Concert Hall

Global Song: Carlos Colón and Maria Monteiro
Somos pueblo que camina (We Are People on a Journey)
Repeated Friday, 8:30-9:30
McCrary, Meadows Recital Hall

Conducting: Stephen Gusukuma
Conducting Session 1
McCrary, Room 131

Reading Session: Joseph Martin
Advanced Choral Music Reading Session
McCrary, Room 133

Piano: James Stevens
Can You Hear It?
McCrary, Room 141

Praise Bands: Josh Stewart
Live Band Rehearsal
Truett, Powell Chapel

Worship: Zac Hicks
The Lord Will Fight for Us: Worship as War
Truett, Room 107

5:15 – 7:00  Dinner on your own

7:00 - 8:30  First Baptist Church, San Antonio Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra
McCrary, Jones Concert Hall

DAY IV
Friday, July 20

8:30 – 9:30  Breakout IX (9)
Organ: Jack Mitchener
McCrary, Jones Concert Hall Stage

Organization Repertoire – Old & New
Repeat of Tuesday, 2:30-3:30
McCrary, Room 114

Children’s Choir: Michael Burkhardt
Stepping Stones to Part Singing
Repeat of Wednesday, 4:00-5:00
McCrary, Room 118

Conducting: Stephen Gusukuma
Conducting Session 2
McCrary, Room 131

Piano: Joseph Martin
Master Class
McCrary, Room 133

Special Session: Benjamin Harlan
Let’s Sing! Congregational Song – Resources and Ideas
Repeat of Tuesday, 4:00-5:00
McCrary, Meadows Recital Hall

Global Song: Carlos Colón and Maria Monteiro
Somos pueblo que camina (We Are People on a Journey)
Repeat of Thursday, 4:15-5:15
McCrary, Room 133

Praise Bands: Josh Stewart
Understanding the Band’s Language
Repeat of Thursday, 9:15-10:15
Truett, Powell Chapel

Worship: Zac Hicks
A Touchy Subject: Emotions and Worship
Truett, Room 107

Worship Planning: Mark Humphrey
Putting the Pieces Back Together: Designing Worship Toward Reconciliation and Redefining the “Other”
Repeat of Wednesday, 4:00-5:00
Truett, Room 113

Technology: Mason Williams and Danny Andrade
Technology Session 3
Truett, Room 114

9:30 – 9:45  Transition

9:45 – 10:45  Breakout X (10)
Organ: Jack Mitchener
McCrary, Jones Concert Hall Stage

Master Class, Part II
McCrary, Room 114

Children’s Choir: Michael Burkhardt
Three “Rs” – Really Rehearsing Repertoire
Repeat of Wednesday, 2:30-3:30
Worship Planning
   Overview of Worship Planning Platforms
Piano: Joseph Martin
   Master Class
Conducting Basics: David Music
   The Beginning Church Choir Director
Praise Bands: Josh Stewart
   Rehearsing Your Band
   Repeat of Thursday, 8:00-9:00
Worship: Zac Hicks
   Architecting Gospel-Shaped Worship Services in Any Tradition
Technology: Mason Williams and Danny Andrade
   Technology Session 4
Concert Talkback: Aaron Hufty
   Concert Talkback
Choir: Randall Bradley
   Building Your Choir Intergenerationally

10:45 – 11:00  Transition

11:00 – 12:15  Reading Session VII

12:15 – 12:35  Closing Worship
   A Service of Blessing and Commission

Please refer to our printed conference book or mobile guidebook for finalized version of schedule.
Building Your Choir Intergenerationally  
Randall Bradley  
Many church choirs are aging and lacking the ability to attract younger members. Based on a working model, this session will explore strategies that, in a local church context, are proving to be effective.

Hearts, Hands and Voices – Working with the Whole Person  
Michael Burkhardt  
A hands-on session and experience focusing on whole person and learning style awareness in working with children’s choir singers.

Working with the Child Voice  
Michael Burkhardt  
A session focusing on understanding the child voice and developmental experiences for singers of all shapes and sizes (speech-like singer, dependent singer, limited-range singer, untuned singer).

Repertoire Selection:  
Michael Burkhardt  
Where we’re at, where we’ve been, where we’re going  
A session focusing on choosing meaningful and appropriate literature for children of all ages and backgrounds.

Children in Worship – Preparing, Praising, Proclaiming and Praying  
Michael Burkhardt  
A hands-on session and experience focusing on engaging children in worship and children leading worship.

Three “Rs” – Really Rehearsing Repertoire  
Michael Burkhardt  
A hands-on session and experience focusing on score study, rehearsal planning and rehearsal strategies.

Stepping Stones to Part Singing  
Michael Burkhardt  
A hands-on session and experience focusing on sequential planning for and development of part singing skills.
Nuts and Bolts – Before, During, and After the Rehearsal  
Michael Burkhardt  
A session focusing on the non-musical aspects of a children’s choir program.

The Care and Feeding of Children’s Choirs  
Michael Burkhardt  
A hands-on session and experience focusing on both the spiritual and musical nourishment of young singers.

The Care and Feeding of the Children’s Choir Director  
Michael Burkhardt  
A session focusing on the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of children’s choir leaders.

PIE TALK: My Most Important Ministry Lesson  
Burkley/Johnson/King  
Ministry leadership is often confusing and challenging, but lessons are learned along the way that offer hope amidst the difficulty. Join these church leaders as they each share their most important ministry lessons, followed by an invitation to discuss.

First Things First: Covering the Basics in Preschool Music  
Susan Eernisse  
We will look at key music concept categories and engaging activities to plug into weekly preschool music sessions...singing, listening, moving, and more. We will use the new Growing in Grace Preschool Fall Unit “Fruit of the Spirit” as a guide.

I CAN Read Music!  
Susan Eernisse  
Help preschoolers develop pre-reading music skills to put them on the path to a lifetime of music making. We’ll explore colorful, active, hands-on activities that will leave the PreK bunch (& their teachers) wanting more.

Puppets and Furry Friends – Fun With No End!  
Susan Eernisse  
Add puppets to music for a winning combination! Story songs, singing skills and musical concepts are great fun with these furry friends; AND you don’t have to be a ventriloquist to be successful!

Sing in a Circle  
Susan Eernisse  
Singing songs, playing games and exploring instruments...so much better when we do it together. Help preschoolers develop musically and socially through shared learning experiences.

PIE TALK: Engaging Children Through Music - Why It Matters  
Gackle/ Monteiro/Taylor  
We all agree that musical engagement should begin at an early age, but why does it matter so much? Join these children's music leaders, advocates, and innovators as they each share their philosophy on children's music ministry, discussing how and why music is used to form the children in our churches.

Putting Score Study into Action in the Choral Rehearsal  
Joshua Habermann  
95% of our time is spent not in performance, but in rehearsal. How can we make our rehearsal process both more efficient and more enjoyable? Explore best practices of score preparation and rehearsal techniques designed to engage singers of all levels.
Latin American Choral Performance
Joshua Habermann
More and more of our singers are from Spanish language backgrounds, yet they rarely get the chance to sing the great literature of Latin America. In this session explore the traditions of choral music from Argentina to Mexico, with a focus on performance practices of the various folk traditions, differences in national styles, incorporating improvisation into choral performance, and tips on how and when to use percussion.

Music literacy in the choral rehearsal
Joshua Habermann
When was the last time you heard a choir director complain about too much rehearsal time? All of us, at every level, wish that we could spend less time teaching parts are more time shaping the music. Our choirs' ability to read and internalize music quickly usually varies widely person to person, yet we are tasked with bringing them all together across the finish line. How can we infuse that corporate learning process with literacy-building in such a way that our singers' individual skills grow?

Sacred Music from Scandinavia and the Baltics
Joshua Habermann
Explore great sacred music from the land of the Northern Lights. Pieces appropriate for a variety of levels.

Around the World in 60 Minutes
Joshua Habermann
This session will focus on the most common difficulties for American choirs singing in Spanish, French, Italian and German, and how to correct them. This will not be a review of diction rules, but rather a primer for working directly with singers with careful listening and humor to help them perfect their pronunciation of the most commonly used languages. The cheapest way to see Madrid, Paris, Rome and Berlin in just one hour!

The Composer's Journey
Benjamin Harlan
Congregational Song - Resources and Ideas
Benjamin Harlan

God is Actually in the Room: Worship as Encounter
Zac Hicks
When we gather for worship, do we really believe that God will be present in a unique way? In this session, we will examine a biblical and theological case for the presence of God in worship's various elements, and explore practically how we can recover the wonder of the God who is there.

Planning Worship Like a Dietician
Zac Hicks
Worship planning is all too often enslaved to the tyranny of the urgent. In this session, we will look at planning through the helpful metaphor of a "theological dietician," exploring the breadth of themes in the Scriptures and how we can successfully plan a healthy "diet" of those themes into the short-term and long-term rhythms of weekly worship.

The Lord Will Fight for Us: Worship as War
Zac Hicks
When we enter into gathered worship, we step into a battlefield where a spiritual war is taking place. How does Scripture tell us to arm ourselves? What are our chief weapons? How are we made ready? How do we cultivate a sense of urgency in others? We will explore these questions and more.
A Touchy Subject: Emotions and Worship  Zac Hicks
What do our emotions have to do with worship? Is healthy emotionalism even imaginable in our contexts, and if so, how do we help the people of God engage in “faithful feelings” when we gather to sing, pray, preach, and come to the table? We will explore biblical themes and the history that has shaped our thinking, and we will look at some practical ways to move toward a more Christian understanding of emotions in worship.

Architecting Gospel-Shaped Worship Services in Any Tradition  Zac Hicks
The gospel is the center of our Christian faith, and its story has anchored worship for centuries across many different traditions. How do we structure worship services which are "in step with the truth of the gospel" (Gal 2:14), simultaneously faithful to the historic traditions and practices of the church and engaged with the needs and expressions of our local community’s time and place? We will explore this and more.

Introduction to Notation Software  Ben Johansen
This session is designed to equip musicians with the fundamentals of using notation software effectively and efficiently. Whether you have never used notation software or if you use it daily, this session is for you. You will get experience using Finale, Dorico, and some free alternatives as you sit at your own lab computer equipped with Finale and Dorico software, a MIDI keyboard, and headphones. Sessions will take place on the 3rd floor of the Moody Library in the Crouch Library’s Music Lab.

PIE TALK: My Most Important Ministry Lesson  Burkley/Johnson/King
Ministry leadership is often confusing and challenging, but lessons are learned along the way that offer hope amidst the difficulty. Join these church leaders as they each share their most important ministry lessons, followed by an invitation to discuss.

Foundations in Technique and Notation  Sueda Luttrell
Teaching strategies addressing basic ringing and the interpretation of handbell notation and the related techniques.

Resources and Composing for Processionals, Bell Trees, and Descants  Sueda Luttrell
Learn to create your own simple yet effective embellishments and textures to worship services and concerts.

Managing Multiple Bells  Sueda Luttrell
Strategies for successfully managing multiple bells, including weaving, displacement, shelley, and four in hand.

Paths to Musicality  Sueda Luttrell
Explore a variety of ways to infuse musicality into ringing from the first rehearsal. This will be a joint class with the Advanced Handbell track.

Beginning Handbell Reading Session  Sueda Luttrell
Read and ring great recent releases for Levels 1 - 2+, plus a few older gems.
Techniques for Handbell Ringers and Conductors  Ron Mallory
Good technique provides a foundation for good musicianship. We'll explore advanced techniques for both handbell ringers and conductors, and along the way will help each to better understand the other's role in making great music.

Composing and Arranging for Handbells  Ron Mallory
Learn methods of creating your own arrangements and original compositions for advanced handbell choirs, from hymn settings to processional and beyond.

Handbells in Contemporary Worship  Ron Mallory
More and more churches are switching to contemporary worship styles, and there's no reason handbell musicians can't participate. Come explore some creative ways to use a handbell choir, ensemble, or soloist in a contemporary worship setting.

Paths to Musicality  Ron Mallory
Explore a variety of ways to infuse musicality into ringing from the first rehearsal. This will be a joint class with the Beginning Handbell track.

Advanced Handbell Reading Session  Ron Mallory
Discover some of the great music released by various publishers in the past several years. This reading session will primarily cover music in HMA Levels 3 through 5.

Advanced Choral Music Reading Session  Joseph Martin

Cantata Reading Session: Christmas Dreams/Rhapsody in Bluegrass  Joseph Martin
(Christmas Dreams) The Christmas story is told with fresh perspective in this collaborative cantata from Joseph Martin and Heather Sorenson. Throughout time God has touched and motivated hearts through dreams and visions. Christmas Dreams visits these moments in scripture and connects the experiences of ancient times with our modern journey of faith, pointing to Christ, in whose birth the hopes, yearnings and dreams of all the world are fulfilled. (Rhapsody in Bluegrass) Set hearts soaring with this joyful Christmas cantata based on American folk songs, spirituals, bluegrass-styled carols and original gospel songs. Traditional choral elements dance easily with the rustic qualities of the "mountain" music and the results are pure joy.

Cantata Reading Session: Portraits of Grace  Joseph Martin
Portraits in Grace is a musical gallery of faith displaying the life, ministry and passion of Jesus. Through scripture, narration and song, the backdrop is created for the reflections of the Lenten season, particularly during Holy Week. As the cantata moves through Christ's extraordinary life, each song displays the sacred beauty of the Savior and lingers with His many graceful acts of love.

Children’s Music Reading Session  Joseph Martin

New Piano Releases  Joseph Martin
Piano Masterclass  
Joseph Martin

SAB/2PT Reading Session  
Joseph Martin

Creative Hymn Playing  
Jack Mitchener
A discussion and demonstration of ideas about all aspects of playing hymns on the organ including introductions, interludes, modulations, registration and general approaches to hymn playing.

Beginning Organ Improvisation  
Jack Mitchener
An introduction to the art of improvisation on the organ. The primary focus will be on improvisations based on hymn tunes, but there also will be a general discussion of how to improvise short interludes and various non hymn-based pieces.

Organ Master Class, Part I  
Jack Mitchener
Participants will have the opportunity to play any piece they wish and to receive comments from Dr. Mitchener. If possible, please email mitchener_je@mercer.edu with the title of the piece you would like to play.

Organ Master Class, Part II  
Jack Mitchener
Participants will have another opportunity to play any piece they wish and to receive comments from Dr. Mitchener. This class will be for anyone who did not play in the first master class. If possible, please email mitchener_je@mercer.edu with the title of the piece you would like to play.

Organ Repertoire - Old & New  
Jack Mitchener
A demonstration of organ repertoire through the centuries. The emphasis will be on literature that is appropriate for church services.

Bach Chorale Preludes for the Organ  
Jack Mitchener
J. S. Bach was one of the greatest church musicians in history. This session will be a discussion and demonstration of Bach's art of "preluding" on a chorale tune. The approach will include a chronological journey through Bach's chorale-based works.

Healthy Playing Techniques for the Organist  
Jack Mitchener
Have you ever felt tired or even exhausted after practicing the organ or playing a church service? Come and hear some ideas of ways to alleviate tension in playing. Renew your love for playing the organ!

Performance Practice from Alpha to Omega  
Jack Mitchener
We live in a time when it is understood that we should play Bach and Buxtehude differently from Brahms and Bolcom. This will be a discussion and demonstration of the stylistic differences in organ literature and the performance practices of various styles.

PIE TALK: Engaging Children Through Music - Why It Matters  
Gackle/ Monteiro/Taylor
We all agree that musical engagement should begin at an early age, but why does it matter so much?
Join these children’s music leaders, advocates, and innovators as they each share their philosophy on children's music ministry, discussing how and why music is used to form the children in our churches.

**The Beginning Church Choir Director**
David Music
This session is designed for musicians with little background or training in choral directing who find themselves leading a church choir. Questions to be discussed will include "What do you listen for"? and "What does the choir need from you"? as well as others.

**Amp It Up @ Music Camp**
Terrie Preskitt-Brown
A guide for producing a fun, musical, spiritual week of summer camp for children using Orff-Schulwerk as the guiding principal.

**Plan the Work - Work the Plan**
Terrie Preskitt-Brown
Beautiful singing isn't easy, but with the right tools, your rehearsals can become the conduit through which praising God through song becomes an act of artistic creation, and your choirs will stay engaged, and sound great!

**Plan the Music - Work the Plan - Reading Session**
Terrie Preskitt-Brown
A continuation of "Plan the Work - Work the Plan" in which we'll look at specific anthems and discover the keys to the beautiful singing that is locked inside each one.

**Musicians - Conductors - Herders of Cats**
Terrie Preskitt-Brown
When we step in front of a group of children, we become Herders of Cats. How to keep the Musician & Conductor inside us happy as we work with wee ones. Tips and Tricks!

**Special Needs - Special Worship**
Terrie Preskitt-Brown
Almost three years ago, at Highland Park UMC in Dallas, we created an All-Inclusive Choir and a service with the Special Needs Community. what we do, how we do it, and the Holy Spirit at work!

**Brush Up on Your Technique**
Joel Raney
This session will serve as a refresher course; focusing on improving piano techniques.

**Culture and Choir: Friends or Foes?**
Jonathan Rodgers
Are these two entities really in conflict with one another? Some say yes. Some say no. In this more interactive, discussion-based session, we will exchange ideas and personal experiences that will help us understand how culture is influencing choral music and how choral music can influence culture. Come ready to share your experiences and insights.

**The Missing Link: Fostering Non-Musical Connections in Rehearsal**
Jonathan Rodgers
In the pursuit of making excellent music, one can often overlook intangible elements of the music-making process. These elements often include shared experiences, goals, student/conductor interaction, and purposeful activities associated with the choral music experience. This session will discuss ways to create a communal environment through shared experiences within the choral ensemble that, when combined with well-rehearsed music, help yield a dynamic musical product.
Demolition Derby: Building, Renovating, Reimagining Student Choirs  
Jonathan Rodgers

Many churches have given up on student choir and realized the error of their ways. They are seeking to go back and start their student choir ministry over from scratch. Some are stepping into new ministry positions and need to make some drastic changes to make way for future success. Whatever the situation, we will discuss ways to get a student choir program going in the right direction after it has not existed or after it has stalled.

Anywhere from Here  
James Stevens

How to make smooth modulations and transitions from any key to any key with demonstrations on the spot.

Can You Hear It?  
James Stevens

The basics of playing piano by ear for the non-ear player and opportunities to participate.

Chord Chemistry 101  
James Stevens

Learn the exact meaning of chord symbols from the most basic to the most complex and how to accurately and practically form them for playing.

From Chords to Accompaniments  
James Stevens

How to take the chords from a lyric or lead sheet and create effective accompaniments emphasizing contemporary accompaniment patterns and tasteful voice leading.

Hymn Improvisation for the Church Pianist  
James Stevens

Learn different practical techniques of improvisation of traditional hymns with examples of different styles and on the spot discussing of selected hymns.

Piano Arranging and Composition  
James Stevens

Discuss and examine writing techniques for the piano with an overview of Stevens' personal process of composition for the piano and other instruments.

PIE TALK: Engaging Children Through Music - Why It Matters  
Gackle/ Monteiro/Taylor

We all agree that musical engagement should begin at an early age, but why does it matter so much? Join these children's music leaders, advocates, and innovators as they each share their philosophy on children's music ministry, discussing how and why music is used to form the children in our churches.