



REFLECTIONS ON A DECADE OF MUSIC

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Atlanta, Georgia
August 12, 2018

Has it really been 10 years since I became your Director of Music Ministries? I'm grateful to be celebrating the last decade of music at Shallowford, and it has been a wonderful exercise to reflect back at all that has come about in music ministry.

Shallowford friends - you have empowered me to do my best work and to foster beauty and community, which are so important in our life together. I'm certain that you have kept me and the entire music staff in your prayers. Always exercising generosity, you have shown your appreciation in many ways. You have helped me serve the greater church by allowing time for me to be away teaching and conducting at the Montreat Music and Worship Conference, teaching at the Choristers Guild Institute, conducting school honor choirs throughout Georgia, and volunteering in choir classrooms at nearby schools. You have been patient with me and have loved me and my family. The admiration and love is mutual. I hope we will continue to dream together about music ministry here in this place.

What have we been up to in the last 10 years?

- Membership in choirs and handbells has blossomed
- We now have 200 servant musicians singing and playing instruments in worship each year
- The youth choir has made a concert tour to Scotland twice
- Speaking of choir tour - we've outgrown one bus and now take 2 buses each summer
- We launched the "Sounds of Christmas" concert in an effort to reach out to the surrounding community
- We have joined with other local Presbyterian churches to worship on Good Friday, to sing in concert, to tour in Italy, and to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.
- We have had 3 different children's choir directors and 3 organists (shout out to the fabulous Anne Thomas and amazing Wooyoung Kwon)
- We have added administrative support for music (First with Sarah Wikle and her insightful vision of how to support our growth and extraordinary work ethic & now with Frances Hart who nurtures us with love and care)
- The music budget has increased to meet our growth and reflect our values
- We adopted the new hymnal, "Glory to God"
- We own an extra set of handbells and 3 new pianos
- We have new choir chairs for every singer in the choir room and sanctuary
- We bought enough choir robes for 100 youth and 80 children
- We added a new electronic organ in the chapel and a new pipe organ in the sanctuary
- We renovated the music space with a beautiful music library storage system
- And we are ready for an Associate Director of Music

We have been busy, and the sense of vitality and enthusiasm is palpable!

A STORY

There once was a singer named Maya who was very inexperienced and had been told all her life that she wasn't really "choir material". She faced her fears and joined the non-auditioned choir at her college. The choir director heard her sing on the first day, and took a deep breath hoping that her voice and her participation wouldn't be a problem. After the first concert had passed, the choir sat down to listen to the

concert recording and evaluate their performance. Maya raised her hand first and said with tears in her eyes, "I never thought that I could be part of something so beautiful."

May we find the courage (as Maya did) to lift up our voices...to enter the spiritual realm of music through which God strives to connect us to one another.

Do we dare dream that we are part of something so beautiful? Shallowford's congregational song lifts to the heavens, and God must surely say that together our voices create more beauty than the world can hold. May it be so!

PEACE, LOVE, PRAISE, & SINGING,

Emily