

100 YEARS



**SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC
AND WORSHIP**

1921–2021



Since its beginning as a department in 1915, later elevated to school status in 1921, what we now know as the School of Church Music and Worship at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has set the standard for musical excellence coupled with effective ministry preparation for individuals serving the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first school of church music of any kind in a Southern Baptist seminary remains today as the last such free-standing school in the world of accredited theological education.

As we celebrate 100 years of the School of Church Music and Worship, I am grateful that the faithfulness of the school's first director, I. E. Reynolds, continues today through the leadership of Dean Joseph R. Crider. It is our prayer that God will grant continued faithfulness for this school and our seminary until Jesus returns.

Adam W. Greenway

President

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary



The year of our Lord Twenty Twenty-One is the centennial anniversary of the School of Church Music and Worship. Begun in 1915 as the Department of Gospel Music of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, the department was elevated to school status in 1921. In these pages, the history of the School of Church Music and Worship is celebrated, marking important milestones that have made this school a model for other seminaries to follow, as well as some of its transformational scholars who have made the school what it is today.

“Under the policy of the Seminary to instruct pastors on congregational singing and to train professional evangelistic singers, Professor Isham E. Reynolds has been elected Music Director. One course in music will be required of all students in the Seminary and Training School in addition to the present requirements for degrees.”

- The Cross and The Lyre, p. 3

1910

1910 The course in hymnology was combined with one in pastoral ministry. The course was taught by Jeff D. Ray, the first professor of preaching at Southwestern Seminary.

1914 A one-year course for evangelistic singers began.

1915 The Department of Gospel Music was established and Isham E. Reynolds was elected music director.

Reynolds stated to the newly elected President L. R. Scarborough the department's curriculum would be based upon three emphases: spiritual and evangelistic fervor; scholarly and efficient musicianship; and practicality in application. Twelve courses were initially listed in the seminary catalog, all taught by Reynolds, with the exception of piano, which was taught by Leota Turner and Lura Mae "Lu" Reynolds, wife of I. E. Reynolds.

The Diploma of Gospel Music was offered.

1917 The first diplomas were issued to Lucile Creede Adkins and Lifus Earl Lamb. Mrs. W. H. Knight and Mrs. I. E. Reynolds graduated in May 1918.

1918 The Bachelor of Gospel Music degree was offered. The first graduates to receive this degree in May 1922 were J. D. Brannon and Mrs. J. R. Mantey. B. B. McKinney was elected to the faculty.

1921 The Department of Gospel Music was reorganized and renamed the School of Gospel Music, the first of its kind in the Southern Baptist Convention. The school began with 15 faculty members and 209 students.

The school gave its first presentation of Handel's *Messiah*, conducted by I. E. Reynolds, on December 20, an annual tradition at the seminary.



1922 The Master of Gospel Music degree was included in the catalog for the first time. Claude W. Lawson was the first to receive this degree in May 1924.

1925 Mrs. George E. Cowden gave the seminary a gift of \$150,000 in memory of her husband (who served on the board of trustees from 1912-1921) for the purpose of a new building for the School of Gospel Music. In a letter to L. R. Scarborough, Mrs. Cowden wrote, "After considering the Seminary's building needs, I wish to erect a building for the School of Gospel Music." At the time, the building was the only one of its kind for training in Gospel music.

Construction began for the George E. Cowden Hall.

The Southwestern Four, the seminary men's quartet, was featured on WBAP, Fort Worth's first radio station.

I. E. Reynolds

(1879-1949)



After an encounter with then-president L. R. Scarborough at the 1915 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, Isham Emmanuel Reynolds, an established evangelistic singer within the denomination, was invited to visit Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and sing solo performances in chapel. After the visit, the trustees elected Reynolds as the first director of the Department of Gospel Music. Reynolds immediately identified three emphases for the new department and its curriculum: spiritual and evangelistic fervor; scholarly and efficient musicianship; and practicality in application.

Although he was a skilled singer and musician, Reynolds was known to study late into the night to improve his own skills and to be better equipped to teach. The department started with only nine students, and Reynolds taught all courses except piano, which were taught by his wife, Lura Mae. Reynolds quickly grew the faculty and the curriculum. In 1921, when he helped the department transition to become the School of Gospel Music, there were 15 full-time faculty members and 209 music students enrolled. By the time he retired in 1945, Reynolds had not only made a name for himself as a pioneer in church music, but he had established a foundation that would sustain the music school for decades to come.



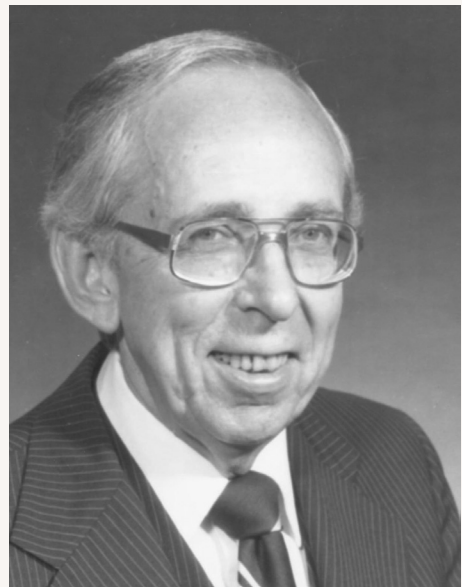
B. B. McKinney (1886–1952)

Baylus Benjamin McKinney was a popular evangelistic singer and Southwestern Seminary professor whose influence inspired dozens of Southern Baptist musicians and ministers. Much of his own musical and pedagogical training came from Southwestern Seminary as one of the first students to enroll in classes with I. E. Reynolds when the department was established. In 1919, the trustees elected him to join the faculty as assistant director of music and teacher of voice. During that time, he taught music notation, elementary and advanced harmony, elementary conducting, and men's chorus.

When the Great Depression required budget and faculty cuts at the seminary, many faculty members offered their resignation. President L. R. Scarborough ultimately accepted McKinney's resignation, explaining that he had the best opportunity for financial security. McKinney was also a part-time music director at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth and began working for Dallas publisher Robert H. Coleman as a part-time music editor for hymnals and songbooks. After leaving the faculty in 1931, he continued to live near the seminary's campus and was allowed to retain an office until his move to Nashville to work for the Baptist Sunday School Board, where his leadership and contributions resulted in the 1940 *Broadman Hymnal*. McKinney was also a skilled songwriter and arranger, with more than 450 compositions published.

James C. McKinney (1921–1998)

James Carroll McKinney was the longest-serving dean in the school's history and the nephew of B. B. McKinney. He was a skilled singer, conductor, teacher, and administrator who spent the entirety of his career at Southwestern Seminary. McKinney joined the faculty in 1950 to teach in the area of music theory, and after the resignation of J. Campbell Wray in 1956, McKinney was appointed the acting director of the school and permanently appointed to the role of dean in 1957. One of the first changes made under his leadership was the renaming of the School of Sacred Music to the School of Church Music in 1957, a change he believed better reflected the vision of training church musicians. He provided extensive leadership in the development of new curriculum and programs for students, and initiated building projects including renovations to Cowden Hall in 1960 and the addition of the Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library in 1992. One of his most notable achievements was leading the school to finally achieve accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) in 1964, a goal the school's administration had worked for since the 1940s.



- 1926** The School of Gospel Music was renamed the School of Sacred Music.
Cowden Hall formally opened in December.
- 1930** A new degree was introduced: a combination sacred music and religious education degree.
A course in “The Ministry of Music” was offered. This was the first use of this terminology at Southwestern.
- 1937** The school launched a bachelor’s degree in public school music for students who would become church music directors and public school music teachers.
- 1940** The school celebrated I. E. Reynolds’ silver anniversary as director of Sacred Music.
- 1941** The school was recognized and accepted as a member of the Texas Association of Music Schools.
- 1944** The Southwestern Singers choral ensemble was established.
- 1945** I. E. Reynolds retired after 30 years of service to the school.
- 1945** Ellis L. Carnett elected director of the school. Carnett was previously a professor in the school and pastor of a Baptist church in Arkansas. He resigned after one year to serve at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth.
- 1947** J. Campbell Wray elected director of the school. Wray had served on the music faculty since 1943 and also served as minister of music at the University Baptist Church in Fort Worth. Course work in graded choirs was also offered.
- 1950** In honor of I. E. Reynolds and his contribution to church music in the Southern Baptist Convention, the board of trustees voted to name the new Casavant pipe organ the I. E. Reynolds Memorial Organ.
- 1951** The music library in Cowden Hall opened and was led by Sara Virginia Thompson, the first professionally trained music librarian in any seminary. Thompson had served on the faculty since 1945 teaching theory and music history.
- 1952** The Church Music Workshop was established through the leadership of J. Campbell Wray. The workshop was created to help and inspire church music ministers through practical methods and current trends in church music.
- 1954** Southwestern Seminary alumni, Donald and Violet Orr, became the first music missionaries for the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, now known as the International Mission Board. More than 100 Southwesterners have served as music missionaries.



J. Campbell Wray

1957

1957 James C. McKinney elected dean of the school. He first joined the faculty in 1950 to teach music theory.

The School of Sacred Music renamed the School of Church Music.

The recital auditorium in Cowden Hall was renamed the Reynolds Recital Hall in dedication to Mr. and Mrs. I. E. Reynolds. The recital hall has since been renamed Reynolds Chapel and then Reynolds Auditorium.

1960 Cowden Hall received extensive renovations including the installation of air conditioning and other structural changes to optimize sound for performances and recording. The renovation was celebrated in December with an open house and special musical performances.

1961 The Doctor of Church Music degree was established.





T. W. Hunt (1929–2014)

Among his many contributions to church ministry and music, Thomas W. Hunt was a pioneer in music missions. After joining the faculty in 1963 as a professor in piano and organ, his work included advocating for the importance of music ministry on the mission field and for that to be reflected in the school's curriculum. In 1966, the music faculty unanimously voted to approve the addition of the course Music in Missions to the 1967-1968 academic catalog. The course was taught by Hunt and designed to give students a practical approach to music in a missions context. In 1987, he published *Music Missions: Discipling Through Music*. He continued to develop new courses and curriculum for the seminary in the area of music missions.



William J. Reynolds (1920–2009)

William Jensen Reynolds, nephew of I. E. Reynolds, joined the seminary's faculty in 1980 as a guest professor with a one-year appointment and then was elected to the faculty in 1981 as associate professor of church music. Reynolds earned the Master of Sacred Music degree from the seminary in 1945. He taught primarily in the areas of hymnology, the practice of church music, and creative congregational singing. He also taught doctoral seminars in hymnology. Prior to his service at the seminary, Reynolds worked on the editorial team of the Church Music Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board and was appointed director of the department in 1971. During that time, he was involved in the formation of the 1956 and 1975 *Baptist Hymnal*, used widely in churches through the 1990s. He composed and arranged more than 700 choral anthems, hymns, and songs. Many of the hymns were published in the 1956, 1975, 1991, and 2008 editions of the *Baptist Hymnal*. After his retirement, Reynolds donated a collection containing more than 1,500 items including volumes on hymnody, hymnals, and biographies to the Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library.



Bruce H. Leafblad (1939–)

Bruce H. Leafblad joined the seminary's faculty in 1983 as professor of church music and worship and taught at the seminary until 2007. Prior to his role at Southwestern Seminary, Leafblad taught church music at Bethel College in Minnesota and as a guest professor at universities and colleges in California, Minnesota, Canada, South Korea, and the Philippines. Leafblad regularly spoke at the annual Church Music Workshop at the seminary, specifically teaching how to incorporate creativity in plans for a corporate worship service. In the classroom, he emphasized that the music minister's primary calling is to the local church. Although Leafblad encouraged musical excellence, he prioritized ministry over musicianship. Leafblad taught in the first 1986 Oxford program, a four-week study and travel program that offers courses for credit in theology, religious education, and church music.



1973

The school's degree programs and curriculum received significant revisions during the spring meeting of the board of trustees. The Bachelor of Church Music degree was updated to the Master of Church Music degree, better suited to train students for music ministry in the local church. The new Master of Music in Church Music degree was also added, emphasizing an advanced level of performance and scholarship.

- 1964** The National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) elected Southwestern Seminary's School of Church Music as an associate member. The association was at the time made up of about 300 universities, colleges, and conservatories.
- 1966** NASM admitted Southwestern Seminary to full membership, making it the first seminary of any denomination to receive such recognition. This achievement was the result of more than two decades of strengthening the curriculum and pursuing accreditation requirements.
- The first Doctor of Musical Arts degree was awarded.
- 1967** Course work in music missions was offered.
- 1970** The school received accreditation by both the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- 1977** The Chapel Choir was approved as a new course in the School of Church Music and open to students from all three schools. The choir was designed to provide worship music for the seminary's chapel services and was first directed by Cecil M. Roper and A. Joseph King in 1977.
- Dean James C. McKinney was elected president of the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference in Kansas City for a two-year term. This role gave him an opportunity to represent Southwestern Seminary and influence all Southern Baptist Churches and their music programs.
- 1980** By recommendation of a faculty committee, "Lead On, O King Eternal" was named the official seminary hymn.
- 1984** Plans were made for the Thad Roberts Chair of Music Ministry, the music school's first academic chair. Thad Roberts had served as the minister of music at South Main Baptist Church in Houston for 32 years. David M. and Charis W. Smith were members of his church and announced that they would endow the chair in his honor.
- 1985** The first annual Sacred Harp Sing was hosted.
- 1988** The George C. Stebbins Hymnal Collection was transferred from the National Cathedral.
- A music missions concentration was offered.
- 1992** The Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library was completed and dedicated. The library was a 30,000-square-foot addition to Cowden Hall and as of 2021, contains more than 40,000 books, 16,000 recordings, 6,597 academic journals, 230,000 music scores, and 10,000 hymnals.
- 1993** Master of Arts in Church Music and Doctor of Philosophy degrees were added to the music school degree options.

1995

1995 Benjamin Harlan elected dean of the school. Harlan earned a Doctor of Musical Arts with a major in church music from Southwestern Seminary and served six years as associate professor of church music at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

2001 The Thad Roberts Chair of Music Ministry was established, with David W. Music named to the chair. Music had served on the school's faculty since 1990 in the areas of music ministry and music history.

The Robert L. Burton Chair of Conducting was established, with A. Joseph King, professor of conducting and associate dean for the performance division, named to the chair.

2003 The Master of Arts in Worship was launched.

2004 The School of Church Music hosted the first annual Gala Concert of Sacred Music.

The Dick Baker Chair of Music Missions and Evangelism was established. Richard D. "Dick" Baker was a distinguished alumnus of the seminary and a well-known composer and former minister of music. After he earned a degree in sacred music in 1953, he went on to publish more than 300 Gospel compositions in his life, many written with his brother, Bo. Together they traveled the world for evangelism efforts.

The Southwestern Music Academy began.

2005 Stephen P. Johnson elected dean of the school. A graduate of the Moody Bible Institute and University of Southern California, Johnson had served as an assistant professor of music in California.

2006 The chapel orchestra began.

2007 Following the founding of the new College at Southwestern, the Bachelor of Arts in Music began. The degree allowed for new undergraduate work within the music school. The first degree was awarded in 2009.

2011 Southwestern Seminary celebrated the dedication of the MacGorman Chapel and Performing Arts Center.

2012 In a report from the National Association of Schools of Music, Southwestern was listed as the only accredited institution to offer a Ph.D. in church music and one of only seven to offer a D.M.A. in church music.



Benjamin Harlan



The Gala Concert of Sacred Music was presented for the first time in the new MacGorman Chapel, featuring the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra.

- 2013** Leo Day elected dean of the school. Day previously served as minister of music at Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida, and as associate professor of voice at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary from 1999-2005.

A new streamlined Master of Arts in Worship made courses available in both online and hybrid options.

The James C. McKinney Chair of Church Music was established. Professor of Voice David Robinson was named to the chair.

The school launched *Artistic Theologian*, a new online theological journal and blog.

- 2016** The school received the distinction of becoming an “All-Steinway School.” The Doctor of Philosophy in Worship degree program was offered.

- 2017** The school celebrated Reynolds Auditorium renovations and reopening.

- 2018** The Oneta and Curtis Tally Collaborative Keyboards Classroom was unveiled featuring 13 keyboards.

- 2019** Joseph R. Crider elected dean of the school. Crider joined the faculty after nearly 30 years of vocational ministry experience and 20 years of teaching experience.

The School of Church Music renamed the School of Church Music and Worship.

- 2020** The school launched a new Master of Music in Worship Leadership designed to be the “gold standard” for worship leadership.

The revised Master of Arts in Worship Leadership degree became available entirely online.

The school offered family worship resources to help Christians lead worship in their homes after the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily prevented larger church gatherings.





GEORGE E. COWDEN HALL



Cowden Hall today houses the expanded degree programs of the School of Church Music and Worship, including the Master of Music in Worship Leadership and the Doctor of Educational Ministries in Christian Worship, in addition to the Master of Arts in Worship Leadership, Master of Music in Church Music, Master of Arts in Church Music, Doctor of Musical Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

A Word from the Dean

Those of us privileged to serve on the faculty in the School of Church Music and Worship (SCMW) at Southwestern Seminary stand on the shoulders of scores of faithful Christian musicians. For 100 years, countless ministers of music, missionaries, conductors, educators, musicologists, professors, and performers have been shaped and molded by some of the world's most esteemed music pedagogues and music ministry leaders, including Isham E. Reynolds, B. B. McKinney, William Reynolds, A. Joseph King, Bruce Leafblad, T. W. Hunt, Jack Coldiron, G. Campbell Wray, and many others.

The legacy of music and ministry instruction at Southwestern Seminary is unparalleled among seminaries and Christian institutions. It was indeed a pioneering spirit that led L. R. Scarborough to invite Isham E. Reynolds to begin a music training program at the seminary in 1915, and in 1921 explosive growth in student numbers and faculty warranted the birth of the School of Gospel Music. One hundred years later, the current SCMW faculty adopted three foundational pillars upon which all our curricular and educational initiatives are based that are nearly identical to the ones Reynolds shared with Scarborough in 1915. The School of Church Music and Worship will be biblically faithful, musically excellent, and ministry driven.

Today, we are thrilled and honored to see the Lord working in powerful ways. Under the leadership of Chuck Lewis, associate dean and professor of music and worship, and Scott Aniol, associate professor of church music and doctoral worship studies director, the entire worship curriculum has been streamlined to prepare the next generation of music ministry leaders for the local church. Our incredibly gifted faculty are finding new and creative ways of serving our Southern Baptist churches so pastors and ministry leaders see the SCMW as an invaluable partner in providing quality resources and highly trained ministry leaders. We were delighted to launch our first series of professional doctoral seminars in the new Doctor of Educational Ministries in Christian Worship degree program in the fall of 2021. The performance division of the SCMW is thriving under the direction of Ben Caston, and groundbreaking courses, such as the theology of music pedagogy, are creating significant research interest among current students and attracting talented Christian musicians from all over the world.

While there is much to be done, the future is bright for the SCMW. In the fall of 2021, three new music ensembles launched, including the Hispanic Band, which will serve and resource the growing number of Spanish-speaking churches in the Fort Worth-Dallas Metroplex, and two more worship bands, one at the undergraduate level and one at the graduate level. New band and computer labs are being designed to meet the ever-growing technological challenges facing local churches, and new music videos are planned to accompany the 10 videos already produced since 2020.

Our goals through the SCMW are that God the Father would be glorified; Jesus Christ would be worshiped; and through the power of the Holy Spirit, SBC churches would be served and resourced in significant ways. We pray that the enduring legacy of the SCMW would continue for the next 100 years, or until Jesus comes again.



Joseph R. Crider, dean



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