

Creating Worship Collaboratively: The Music Director's Relationships
Taught at the 2013 UUMN Conference in Dallas, TX
By Evan Keely and Mark Vogel

This course is generically titled Music and Worship in the MLCP's 3-year rotation.

Purpose

This course will develop the music professional's ability to create transformational worship as part of a collaborative team. By the end of the class the participant will have an increased understanding of the role and function of music in worship and how to access appropriate resources within a Unitarian Universalist setting.

Course Objectives (Goals)

Through class participation and written assignments participants will demonstrate:

- an awareness of the role and function of music in worship
- an awareness of historical and current worship resources
- an increased awareness of the challenges and opportunities in collegial relationships

Reading List

Please note the contact information for purchasing/accessing reading material. Nothing is overly expensive and may be available in your church library.

- 1) *Rivals or a Team? Clergy-Musician Relationships in the Twenty-First Century* by Eileen Guenther amzn.to/15tNiv3
- 2) *Worship That Works* by Wayne Arnason and Kathleen Rolenz (available from the UUA bookstore) bit.ly/oPWqiA
- 3) Jason Shelton's essays on music ministry
 - a. "Changing the Words" bit.ly/YoYIgh
 - b. "Music, Community and Identity" bit.ly/13ARM4D
 - c. "Thoughts on Music and Cultural Appropriation" bit.ly/YoZbze
- 4) *Singing the Living Tradition* bit.ly/Y96AQr
- 5) *Come, Sing a Song with Me* bit.ly/12p7UH9
- 6) *Singing the Journey* (both the book [bit.ly/XOQO0X] and the website [bit.ly/15tOY7R])
- 7) *Las Voces del Camino* bit.ly/XSh8nO

These items should be read prior to the class.

Course Completion Requirements

- 1) **Pre-class assignment:** Submit to the instructors (emails will be provided) two different orders of service from the participant's home congregation, one that worked well and one that could have worked better, including 2-3 paragraphs summarizing why things worked well or what could have been improved. Due by May 15, 2013.
- 2) Active Class Participation

- 3) An annotated outline or video (in Real Player or Windows Media formats) of a service the participant had a key role in designing and presenting. Due by December 1, 2013.
- 4) Two papers of no more than 1000 words each:
 - a. Due February 15, 2014: Using a specific case study, analyze your professional collaboration in creating a worship experience.
 - i. What are the successes and what are the unresolved challenges? Articulate your underlying philosophy of collaboration and how you apply it to your work environment.
 - ii. How was the outcome different from your vision, and how was your vision fulfilled?
 - iii. Indicate how you perceive God (however defined) at work in the event. What does this event teach about human beings before God? How were you employing your theology as you were involved in the event?
 - b. Choose one of the following (due February 15, 2014):
 - i. How does congregational participation (such as hymn singing) affect an individual congregant's worship experience?
 - ii. Discuss the word "performance" in the context of worship music.
 1. What role (if any) should applause have in the worship experience?
 2. Are there discernible aesthetic objectives (e.g., quality of musical performance, level of congregational participation, etc.) that make for a more meaningful worship experience? If so, what might they be?
 3. How do we, as worship leaders, manage the friction between ego needs and service?

Submitting Assignments

The appropriate contact name and email address will be provided.

Evaluation

- One of the Course Instructors will provide a short (one page) written evaluation to the participant within six weeks of the end of the UUMN conference based on the pre-course assignment and class participation.
- One of the Course Instructors will read and respond to post-course assignments by March 15, 2014.

Instructor Bios

The Rev. Evan Keely lives in the Washington, DC area with his wife and two sons, and has served UU congregations in Massachusetts, Texas, New Jersey, Virginia and Maryland. He has a bachelor's degree in musicology and has dabbled in composing, arranging and choral conducting.

Mark Vogel is Director of Music and Arts at the UU Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, Virginia. He also performs regularly with the Washington Master Chorale, Vienna Choral Society, and other ensembles in and around Washington, DC. He has a master's degree in piano performance from Manhattan School of Music.