

# Greg Scheer

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## CURRENT

**Freelance** composer, author, speaker, teacher, bassist. (2016-present). Recent work has included composing for the Rockford and St. Cecelia orchestras, speaking at conferences from Singapore to Ireland, arranging music for Sandra McCracken, Calvin College and Wendell Kimbrough, writing a column for *The Banner* and a chapter in *A Legacy of Hymnists*, and playing bass in Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith's Christmas tour orchestra.

**Music Associate** at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. (2005-present; ¼ time). Involved in a variety of projects: arranging music, providing web content, contributing to conferences, taking part in planning sessions, and co-founding hymnary.org.

## CHURCH MUSIC

### Author/Editor

- *Essential Worship: A Handbook for Leaders* (Baker Books, 2016)
- *The Art of Worship: A Musician's Guide to Modern Worship Leadership* (Baker, 2006)
- "Praise & Worship, from Jesus People to Gen X" (*New Songs of Celebration Render*, GIA, ed. C. Michael Hawn, 2013)
- *Global Songs for Worship*, hymnal and CD (Faith Alive, 2010)
- Other writings appear in *A Legacy of Hymnists*, *Worship Leader*, *The Choral Journal*, *The Hymn*, *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, *Reformed Worship*, *Int. Journal of Community Music*, *The Banner*, *Call to Worship*, *Creator Magazine*, and *Ethnodoxology*

### Speaker/Conference Leader

- Yale Institute of Sacred Music
- 2017 Routley Lecturer at the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' Montreat Conference
- *Renewed*, a video series introducing new congregational songs
- Music & Liturgical Arts Week at Lake Junaluska (The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts)
- Other speaking engagements have taken me to Singapore, Uganda, Indonesia, Ukraine, Ireland, Korea and throughout the US and Canada speaking on a wide-range of music and worship topics at The Hymn Society, Baylor University's Alleluia conference, the National Worship Leaders Conference, The RCA General Synod, Intervarsity's Cedar Campus, Candler Theological Seminary, Virginia Wesleyan College, New California Conservatory, Ontario County Christian High School, Association of Reformed and Liturgical Worship, Redeemer University College, Trinity School for Ministry, Church of the Resurrection, Trinity Christian College, the Methodist School of Music, and at the Calvin Worship Symposium, where I've led dozens of workshops and worship services over the last decade.

### Previous Church Music Ministry Positions

- Minister of Worship, Church of the Servant, CRC (2005-2016).
- Choir Director, Trinity Reformed Church of Orange City, Iowa (2003 to 2005)
- Director of Music and Worship, Wildwood Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, Florida (1998-2000)
- Chairman, Music and Worship Repertoire and Standards Committee, American Choral Directors Association of Pennsylvania (1997-1998)
- Music Director, Bellefield Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA (1992-1998)

## COMPOSITION

### Commissions and Awards:

- “People of the Lord” was chosen as the official jubilee hymn of the Calvin09 celebration, which marked the 500th anniversary of Jean Calvin’s birth. It has now been translated into ten languages and included in the PCUSA’s *Glory to God* hymnal, *Different Voices* (Scotland), and *Reformed Worship*.
- “6,” commissioned by the Chagall String Quartet in 1998, was a winning composition in the 2000 Southeastern Composers’ Symposium and has been featured on a number of classical radio stations.
- “Patiently (Psalm 40)” won the 2017 Church of the Servant New Psalm Contest.
- Other compositions have been commissioned by Baylor University (TX), the World Communion of Reformed Churches (Leipzig), the Iowa Choral Directors Association and Iowa Composers Forum, Calvin College (MI), Linn-Mar High School String Orchestra (IA), the Christian Reformed Church in North America, Western Theological Seminary (MI), Northwestern College (IA), and River Road Presbyterian (VA). Ten Psalm songs were commissioned by individual patrons during the 2017 “Adopt-a- Psalm” program.
- Musical awards of a quirkier nature include winning the TopGolf Theme Contest with “Bring It On!,” having “We Are the Cougars” named the official fight song of Illinois Central College, winning the FramesDirect Robot Dance Song contest, earning third place in the National Speleological Society Cave Ballad contest, placing in the top 5 of the Celldweller “The Best It’s Gonna Get” remix contest, and enjoying \$100 of pizza for his song and Lego animation “Google Me!”

### Recordings, Performances, and Music Publications:

- Dozens of anthems and arrangements published by GIA, Augsburg Fortress, WLP, Abingdon Press, MorningStar, Faith Alive, Worship Today
- Hymns appear in *Lift Up Your Hearts*, *Glory to God*, *Psalms for All Seasons*, *Global Songs for Worship*, *Worship & Song*, *Singing the New Testament*, and *As the Wind* (Japan)
- Performances throughout the world, including Forging Links (NC), Northwestern College A Cappella Choir (IA), University of Akron New Music Group, Krotach 7 (Salzburg, Austria), Ostertreff (Aachen, Germany), the Duquesne University Concert Choir (PA), the Daedalus String Quartet (OH), Hermsdorfer Kirche (Hermsdorf, Germany), the University of Pittsburgh’s Heinz Chapel Choir, Men’s Glee Club, Women’s Choral Ensemble, *Music on the Edge* series, and Symphony Orchestra, University of Rhode Island Composer Recitals, and Camp-of-the-Woods Chorus (NY).
- Worship recordings include *Global Songs for Worship*, *Cry Out to God!*, *The Greg Scheer Songbook* (all of which I produced), as well as contributions to *Songs for the Book of Luke*, and a number of Cardiphonia compilations.
- My pop, rock, jazz, and folk music can be heard on *Half the Man* (2013) and in performances of the St. Sinner Orchestra.
- My music is licensed by Broadcast Music Incorporated, Christian Copyright Licensing International, and OneLicense.net.

## CONDUCTING & DIRECTING

Assistant Conductor, Bach Choir of Pittsburgh (1996-1997)

Led rehearsals, sectionals, and warm ups for director Dr. Brady Allred.

Director, University of Pittsburgh Men’s Glee Club (1991-1992)

Responsible for programming, rehearsing, and conducting two concerts and one tour each year.

Conducting Instruction includes private study with John Goldsmith, director of the University of Pittsburgh Heinz Chapel Choir (1993), *The Art of Choral Conducting* with Dr. Anton Armstrong and Dr. Brady Allred (1995), and taking part in James Jordan’s chamber choir at the 1997 Westminster Conference of Worship and Music.

## TEACHING

### Positions

- Director of Music Ministries at Northwestern College in Iowa (2000-2005). Responsibilities divided between the Music Department, teaching music and worship courses and directing the music ministry major, and Campus Ministries, leading chapel music and overseeing other campus music ministries. Courses: Music of the Church, World Musics, Contemporary Worship Leadership, Hymnology/Liturgy, Orchestration, Music Technology, Church Music Administration, Guitar Class, Music Ministry Practicum, Counterpoint, and Bass, Composition and Songwriting Lessons.
- Teaching Assistant at the University of Pittsburgh (1990-1992). Duties included teaching *Musicianship and Theory*, assisting in lecture halls and leading recitations for *Introduction to Western Art Music*, directing the *Pitt Men's Glee Club*, and managing the *University of Pittsburgh Orchestra*.

### Classes

- Calvin College: Leading Contemporary Worship, 2016, 2014
- Calvin Seminary: Worship & Culture, 2016
- Western Theological Seminary: Introduction to Theology and Worship, 2011
- CALL (Calvin Academy for Lifelong Learning) Worship Essentials, 2017

### Lessons/Mentoring

- Private composition, songwriting, and bass lessons, ongoing
- Urban Doxology Songwriting Internship Mentor, 2014
- Have mentored dozens of students and interns, ongoing

### Guest Lectures

- Whitworth College, Samford University, Baptist University of the Americas, Redeemer University College, Cornerstone University, Lee University, Covenant College, Biola University, Kuyper College, and Calvin College

## BASSIST

### Orchestral/classical

- Northwest Iowa Symphony Orchestra (IA; principal), The Westmoreland Symphony (PA), Carnegie-Mellon Orchestra (PA), The New Music Ensemble of Providence (RI), The Altoona Symphony Orchestra (PA), Salzburger Jugend Symphonie (Austria), Camp-of-the-Woods Orchestra (NY), Amy Grant/M.W. Smith Christmas orchestra

### Jazz/musicals

- Theatre-by-the-Sea (RI), Tallahassee Swing Band (FL), Coates & Company Big Band (FL), Deanna Witkowski

### Rock/pop

- Sandra McCracken, Tony Alonso, Wendell Kimbrough, Urban Doxology, Malpass Brothers, Pierce Pettis, John Fischer, and Justin Rosolino.

## EDUCATION

- 1984-1985 Barrington College (merged with Gordon College in 1985)  
1985-1990 University of Rhode Island, B.A. Music Theory/Composition, minor in German  
1988-1989 Universität Salzburg/Mozarteum  
1990-1993 University of Pittsburgh, M.A. Music Theory/Composition  
2004 Gather into One (Calvin College Seminars in Christian Scholarship, led by C. Michael Hawn)