

# Edward R. Schneider

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## Professional Profile

Director of Music and Worship Arts with national-caliber conducting experience in both choral and instrumental music. Proven record of leading large, traditional sacred music programs in prominent church settings with the ability to build and inspire volunteer choirs, elevate choral artistry, and integrate sacred music into liturgical worship that is engaging and vibrant. Executive-level leader with an EMBA that equips him to lead complex organizations, manage staff, budget, and resources effectively, and think strategically while sustaining growth.

## Key Achievements

- Led music ministries serving 2,000–3,500+ member congregations
- Directed multi-ensemble programs including adult, youth, and children's choirs, orchestras, and handbell choirs
- Led music staff teams of 5–9 with large volunteer ministries
- Produced major choral-orchestral works with professional musicians
- Grew choir membership by up to 35% through recruitment and community-building strategies
- Collaborated with clergy and staff to align music, liturgy, and worship themes

## Artistic & Professional Highlights

- Professional tenor with the Los Angeles Master Chorale and Pacific Chorale (Grammy Award-winning ensembles)
- Collaborated with internationally recognized conductors, including Zubin Mehta, JoAnn Falletta, John Rutter, Dale Warland, Joseph Flummerfelt, and Paul Salamunovich
- Active participant and contributor to ACDA and GMEA at regional and national levels
- Extensive experience in choral masterworks, traditional sacred repertoire, and liturgical programming
- Planned and led numerous national and international concert tours

## Professional Experience

### Snellville Community Church (formerly UMC), Snellville, GA

#### Director of Music and Worship Arts / 2023-present

- Recruited and developed a volunteer Sanctuary Choir, increasing membership by 35% while elevating musical excellence and engagement in worship
- Collaborated with clergy to shape worship themes and align music with the broader liturgical vision
- Led and coordinated all aspects of traditional worship, aligning music, liturgy, and supporting ministries into a cohesive worship experience
- Elevated musical standards and choir performance quality, strengthening the overall worship experience
- Cultivated a relational, spiritually grounded culture that strengthens participation and connection across the congregation
- Organized and cataloged a 1,900-volume music library, improving accessibility and long-term ministry sustainability

### Central United Methodist Church, Asheville, NC

#### Director of Music and Worship Arts / 2016-2020

- Led a 7-ensemble music ministry serving a congregation of 2,800 (882 weekly attendance), supervising a team of 5 staff members
- Directed major choral-orchestral works at Christmas and Easter
- Developed a concert series partnership with the Asheville Symphony, featuring international artists
- Managed budgets and financial planning, aligning resources with artistic and program priorities
- Strengthened volunteer engagement through intentional rehearsal culture and leadership development

### Bethany United Methodist Church, Summerville, SC

#### Minister of Music and Worship / 2014-2016

- Led a 9-ensemble music ministry within a 3,500-member congregation (973 weekly attendance), supervising 5 staff members
- Presented major choral works with Charleston Symphony musicians

- Developed a mentorship program for singers, providing individualized vocal training
- Created and led a 75-voice men's chorus for special services
- Increased Chancel Choir membership from 37 to 60 through targeted recruitment and engagement

### **Sacre Voci, Inc.**

#### **Founding Artistic Director / 2007-2016**

- Founded and led a non-profit chamber choir, overseeing artistic direction, governance, and fundraising
- Built a nationally recognized ensemble specializing in Renaissance and contemporary sacred repertoire
- Secured recurring invitations to the Piccolo Spoleto Arts Festival
- Managed board relationships, financial planning, and organizational strategy

### **First Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA**

#### **Director of Music and Worship / 2003-2014**

- Led an 11-ensemble music ministry within a 2,800-member congregation (958 weekly attendance), supervising a staff of 9
- Directed a 90-member Chancel Choir and multiple ensembles, including chamber choir and youth choir
- Produced annual choral-orchestral works with musicians from the Atlanta Symphony and Atlanta Opera
- Planned and led international and domestic tours (Israel, Italy, Ireland, Washington, DC, and more)
- Invited to present at ACDA regional events; coached and adjudicated conductors

## **Qualifications and Professional Training**

### **Executive Master of Business Administration**

#### **Georgia State University, J. Mack Robinson College of Business - May 2026, *Summa cum Laude***

- Executive-level training in leadership, strategy, and organizational development within complex institutions
- Strategic planning and execution in multi-stakeholder environments, including long-term visioning and program alignment
- Conflict management and organizational communication, with emphasis on high-level interpersonal leadership
- Crisis leadership and decision-making in rapidly changing environments
- Financial stewardship, including budgeting, resource allocation, and performance analysis
- Legal and governance frameworks supporting ethical and effective organizational leadership

### **Doctoral Studies / Choral Conducting & Sacred Music - full scholarship**

#### **University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music - 1998**

- Assistant Director, Chamber Choir; conductor, Chamber Singers
- Taught undergraduate conducting
- Co-Director of the CCM Summer Choral Music and Church Music Workshops with John Rutter

### **Master of Music / Conducting - full scholarship**

#### **California State University, Northridge - 1992**

- Conducting Fellow at the Dale Warland Choral Conducting Workshop
- Wrote the Charter and was the founding President of the CSUN ACDA Student Chapter

### **Bachelor of Arts / Voice & Woodwinds – (organ research grant)**

#### **California State University, Northridge - 1990**

## **Additional Skills**

- Liturgical planning and leadership in traditional worship settings
- Music technology, notation software, digital media tools, and office administrative software
- Languages/diction: French, Italian, German, Russian, Latin
- Choral sound development and ensemble pedagogy

## **Professional Memberships**

- American Choral Directors Association
- Chorus America
- Georgia Music Educators Association
- Sigma Alpha Phi Fraternity