

# Edward R. Schneider

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## Professional Profile

A skilled Music Director, with exemplary experience in planning liturgy, and delivering engaging performances, having worked for renowned organizations as a singer and conductor. Collaborative team leader, who discipled and ministers to staff, choir members, encouraging participation and inspiring performances, facilitating numerous global tours.

## Key Achievements

- A skilled music ministry administrator in expanding programs, connecting people within the ministry, collaborating with music staff and pastors in worship theme development and liturgy, and leading ministry teams.
- Has sung and conducted at national and regional events for the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and National Association for Music Educators (NAfME) as well as coached and adjudicated conductors at regional ACDA events.
- Founder and director of community chamber choir, Sacre Voci, securing a reputation for musical excellence with invitations to sing at the Piccolo Spoleto Arts Festival in Charleston, SC.
- Has sung professionally with the Los Angeles Master Chorale (Grammy Award Winners), Pacific Chorale (Grammy Award Winners), Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati, and has sung under the batons of Zubin Mehta, JoAnn Falletta, Dale Warland, Roger Wagner, and Paul Salamunovich, among others.
- Developed and led international tours including singing in the Duomo of Florence, San Marco of Venice, and the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, as well as singing in the catacombs outside of Rome, and singing in the Holy City, Jerusalem.

## Career Summary

**2023-Present**                      **Snellville United Methodist Church, Snellville, GA**

### ***Director of Traditional Music and Worship***

- Grew Sanctuary Choir (primary choir) by 30%.
- Created volunteer team within music ministry to relocate and recatalogue 1500 volume music library.
- Built and nurtured strong professional relationships with music ministry, church staff, and congregation.
- Increased ministry productivity in worship and fellowship offerings.
- Raised the quality of traditional worship through music and arts by coordinating all worship support groups; ushers, acolytes, communion servers, flower guild, music ministry, and communication team.

**2016-2020**                      **Central United Methodist Church, Asheville, NC**

### ***Director of Music and Worship Arts***

- Administer a 7-ensemble music ministry, Chancel Choir, Wesley Singers, Central Brass, Youth Choir, 2 children's choirs and 1 handbell choir, delivered to a congregation of 2100, with a worship attendance of 700, led a ministry team of 4 music staff (full and part-time)
- Deliver annual presentations of Choral Masterworks, including: Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*, Handel's *Messiah*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Rutter's *Gloria and Requiem*
- Built and nurtured strong professional relationships with the Asheville Symphony, Asheville Symphony Chorus and the Asheville Choral Society
- Negotiate budgets, justifying the rewriting of cost plans as necessary to deliver optimum results, presenting a persuasive argument, indicating the potential benefits to worship services and congregation, managing all accounts

**2014-2016**                      **Bethany United Methodist Church, Summerville, SC**

### ***Minister of Music and Worship***

- Administered 9 ensemble music ministry, including a Chancel Choir, Bethany Men's Ensemble, Chamber Singers, Bethany Brass, 3 children's choirs, 1 youth choir and 1 handbell choir, for a congregation of 3500, with a worship attendance of 950, led a team of 5 music staff (full and part-time)
- Led annual presentations of Choral Masterworks, including Musicians from the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, delivering Handel's *Messiah*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*
- Devised and facilitated a mentoring program for singers using one on one vocal coaching and training.
- Created and developed a 75-voice male chorus for special worship presentations
- Raised numbers within the Chancel Choir from 40 to 65 through persistent interaction with individuals from the congregation and community inviting them to participate.

**2007-2014**                      **Sacre Voci, Inc.**

### ***Founding Artistic Director***

- Instrumental part of creating a non-profit Community Chamber Choir, liaising with other Board members to manage fundraising and governance, devising strategic plans and monitoring financial activity

- Auditioned and chose an 18-voice appella chamber choir specializing in Renaissance polyphony and contemporary sacred works for chamber choir
- Outreach of First Presbyterian Church Music Ministry - Sacre Voci was an outreach from the music ministry into the community of Atlanta to promote music and FPC Marietta.
- Participated in the Piccolo Spoleto Arts Festival, securing an annual invitation to the celebrated Charleston arts festival

## **2003-2014 First Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA**

### **Director of Music and Worship**

- Directed 10-ensembles, including a 90-member Chancel Choir, Chamber Choir, Sanctuary Singers, Youth Choir, 2 children's choirs, 3 handbell choirs and brass ensemble, to a congregation of 2800, with a worship attendance of 850, led ministry team of 8 music staff (full and part-time)
- Planned, organized and administered all global and national Chancel Choir and Youth Choir tours, travelling to Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Italy, Ireland, Charleston, SC, Savannah, GA and Washington DC
- Chancel Choir invited to be featured choir at the ACDA "One Voice" southeastern choral music event
- Adjudicated and coached conductors at the ACDA "One Voice"
- Delivered annual presentations of 2 choral masterworks, collaborating with musicians from the Atlanta Symphony and Atlanta Opera Orchestras, including Schubert's *Mass in E-flat*, Rutter's *Gloria*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, and Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*
- Develop and implemented cantoring program for Sunday morning worship services.

## **Qualifications and Professional Training**

Doctoral Studies: Choral Conducting/Sacred Music

University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music - full scholarship: 1998

- Undertook role of Assistant Director for the Chamber Choir, with Elmer Thomas as Director
- Conducted the Chamber Singers
- Taught Undergraduate Choral Conducting
- Co-directed Choral Music Workshop and Church Music Workshop
- Developed Sacre Music cognate for graduate students in music
- Developed sacred music cognate with emphasis on worship music and liturgy

Masters of Music / Conducting - full scholarship

California State University, Northridge: 1992

- Conductor at the Dale Warland Choral Conducting Workshop and of the auditioned, 16-voice Chamber Singers
- Created, produced and directed Dickens' Christmas Feast and directed the Elizabethan Madrigal Feast
- Worked as the assistant director and tour coordinator for the Soviet Union Tour, with John Alexander as Director

Bachelor of Arts in Voice/Woodwinds – research grant

California State University, Northridge: 1990

- Choral seminars: Roger Wagner/Paul Salamunovich - Renaissance Reclaimed; Dale Warland Master Class; Joseph Flummerfelt Master Class; Frauke Hassemann, "The Choral Sound," Westminster Choir College, Princeton

Mentors: John Alexander, Dr. Earl Rivers, Dr. Elmer Thomas, Dr. John Leman, Paul Salamunovich, Dale Warland, Roger Wagner, David Aks

## **Additional Skills**

IT skills: Excel, Word, Finale, diverse music software, video / audio technology, AI Chat GPT

Language skills: French, Italian German, Russian (diction), and liturgical Latin

## **Memberships**

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

## **PROFESSIONAL CHOIRS - Tenor**

Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati, OH, Earl Rivers, director

Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles, CA, Paul Salamunovich, director

Pacific Chorale, Orange County, CA, John Alexander, director