

CLAY WHITTINGTON

Music Director

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

MASTER OF MUSIC | *Choral Conducting*
University of Arizona • Tucson, AZ

BACHELOR OF MUSIC *magna cum laude* | *Sacred Music*
East Carolina University • Greenville, NC

ASSOCIATE IN FINE ARTS | *Music*
Lenoir Community College • Kinston, NC

PUBLICATIONS & LECTURES

Author | 2025, forthcoming
Call to Worship, Office of Theology & Worship PC(USA)
When Dissonance Finds Resolution: Healing and Strengthening
Clergy–Musician Partnerships in the Church

Interest Session Presenter | 2026
Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM)
Worship & Music Conference • Montreat, NC
Come Sunday: Duke Ellington in Worship

Lecturer | 2025
Summer Choral Literature Intensive
University of Arizona • Tucson, AZ
The Choral Music of Kurt Weill

AFFILIATIONS

Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society
American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)
Vice President, UA Graduate Chapter | 2024–2025
Presbyterian Association of Musicians
American Guild of Organists

PROFILE

Accomplished choral conductor with over two decades of experience across Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist traditions. Combines artistic excellence with pastoral care, cultivating volunteer and professional musicians. Skilled in curating repertoire bridging Anglican tradition with gospel, jazz, and global sacred styles. Brings collaborative leadership, emotional intelligence, and vision to inspire choirs and advance music in worship and civic life.

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP & CONDUCTING

Artistic Director & Conductor | 2024–Present
Tucson Summer Chorus • Tucson, AZ

- Lead an 80+ voice community ensemble in performances that have drawn strong community attendance and support.
- Programmed diverse repertoire—based on concert themes—balancing accessibility with high artistry.
- Built partnerships with local arts organizations and cultivated donor support for sustained growth.

Director of Music Ministries | 2022–Present
Immanuel Presbyterian Church • Tucson, AZ

- Direct a multi-ensemble program (sanctuary choir, handbell choir, contemporary band) serving 300+ weekly.
- Introduced seasonal festivals, hymn celebrations, and cantatas, broadening audience engagement.
- Recruit, train, and mentor singers and instrumentalists, ensuring both artistic excellence and sustainability.

Assistant Conductor | 2023, 2024
University Singers & Treble Glee
University of Arizona • Tucson, AZ

- Assisted in preparing major choral works and training student ensembles in advanced choral artistry.
- Conducted performances broadcast on Classical 90.5 AZPM, extending reach to statewide audiences.

Previous Artistic Roles

- *Director of Music Ministries* | 2020–2022
First United Methodist Church • Fuquay-Varina, NC
- *Music Director* | 2019–2021
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church • Kinston, NC

A complete résumé may be found on my website.