

William Clayton Whittington

CANTOR | CONDUCTOR | LITURGIST

252.525.5043 • www.claywhittington.com • wclwhittington@icloud.com

Church Music Experience

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Tucson, Arizona

Director of Music Ministries

2022 – Present

- Led and shaped weekly worship music rooted in Scripture and Reformed liturgical practice, supporting congregational song and the theological flow of services
- Directed a comprehensive, multi-ensemble sacred music program (choir, handbells, worship band), cultivating musical excellence and intergenerational participation
- Planned and led music for seasonal services and the church year, strengthening congregational engagement while selectively incorporating community-facing artistic events

First United Methodist Church

Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina

Director of Music Ministries

2020 – 2022

- Shaped and sustained traditional worship music through consistent leadership of vocal and instrumental ensembles and thoughtful accompaniment across the church year
- Developed and mentored lay worship leaders and cantors, strengthening congregational song and musical leadership capacity
- Guided music for special services and adaptive worship formats, including expanded digital offerings during COVID, maintaining continuity and participation

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church

Kinston, North Carolina

Music Director

2019 – 2021

- Provided consistent musical leadership for traditional worship, shaping choral and bell repertoire in support of the liturgical calendar
- Adapted worship music for digital formats during COVID, sustaining congregational connection and participation

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Salinas, California

Music Director

2015 – 2017

Westminster United Methodist Church

Kinston, North Carolina

Music Director

2014 – 2015

Camp Ground United Methodist Church

Fayetteville, North Carolina

Chancel Choir Director, Pianist

2012 – 2014

Sharon United Methodist Church

Kinston, North Carolina

Music Director

2008 – 2012

Other Choral Experience

Tucson Summer Chorus <i>Artistic Director, Conductor</i> <i>Assistant Conductor, Collaborative Pianist</i>	Tucson, Arizona 2024 – Present 2024
Tucson Interfaith Choir & Orchestra <i>Chorus Director (Volunteer Role)</i>	Tucson, Arizona 2024 – Present

Academic Experience

Cochise College <i>Associate Faculty – Music: Piano</i>	Sierra Vista, Arizona 2025 – Present
University of Arizona <i>Assistant Director, University Singers (Graduate Assistantship)</i> <i>Assistant Director, Treble Glee (Graduate Assistantship)</i>	Tucson, Arizona 2024 2023 – 2024

Entertainment Experience

The Gaslight Theatre <i>Pianist, Entertainer</i>	Tucson, Arizona 2023 – Present
Clay Whittington Music & Entertainment Lead Vocals, Keys, Guitars • <i>Dreams & Rumours: The Fleetwood Mac Experience</i> Producer, Pianist • <i>Straighten Up & Fly Right</i>	Tucson, Arizona (Touring) 2025 – Present 2025 – Present
Every Era Entertainment Lead Vocals, Keys • <i>The Best of Huey Lewis and the News</i> Producer, Performer • <i>Gaslight Dueling Pianos</i>	Tucson, Arizona (Touring) 2025 – Present 2024 – Present
Carnival Cruise Line <i>Piano Bar Entertainer</i>	Miami, Florida 2016 – 2018

Education & Certifications

University of Arizona <i>Master of Music, Choral Conducting</i> Graduating GPA: 4.0	Tucson, Arizona
East Carolina University <i>Bachelor of Music magna cum laude, Sacred Music (Vocal/Choral)</i> Graduating GPA: 3.82	Greenville, North Carolina
Lenoir Community College <i>Associate in Fine Arts in Music</i>	Kinston, North Carolina

Publications & Lectures

Worship & Music Conference, Presbyterian Association of Musicians	Montreat, North Carolina
Interest Session: <i>Come Sunday: Duke Ellington in Worship</i>	2026
<i>Tactus</i> , American Choral Directors Association Western Region	
Article: "When Dissonance Finds Resolution: Healing and Strengthening Clergy–Musician Partnerships in the Church"	Spring 2026
Choral Conducting Program, University of Arizona	Tucson, Arizona
Guest Lecturer: <i>Mozart's Vespers and Martinis' "Dixit Dominus"</i>	2026
Guest Lecturer: <i>Pipe Organ Essentials for Choral Conductors</i>	2025
Summer Choral Literature Intensive, University of Arizona	Tucson, Arizona
Lecture: <i>The Choral Music of Kurt Weill</i>	2025
Choral Journal, American Choral Directors Association	
Choral Review: " <i>Kiddush</i> " by Kurt Weill	vol. 64, no. 8 (May 2024), p. 89

Honors & Awards

University of Arizona Scholarship Awards	
<i>Donald and Mary Ruth Shropshire Scholarship</i>	2023, 2024
<i>Merrylees W. Mayer Choral Scholarship</i>	2024
<i>John Bloom Choral Scholarship</i>	2024
<i>Bruce Chamberlain Endowed Scholarship</i>	2023
<i>Albert M. Haldeman Music Scholarship</i>	2023
<i>Lutheran Brotherhood Bach Scholarship</i>	2023
The Society of Pi Kappa Lambda	Inducted 2022
Beta Zeta Chapter, East Carolina University	
Boy Scouts of America	
<i>Eagle Scout</i>	2005

Professional Memberships, Leadership, & Philanthropy

American Choral Directors Association	Member since 2009
<i>Vice President</i> , University of Arizona Graduate Chapter	2024 – 2025
American Guild of Organists	Member since 2018
<i>Communications Officer</i> , East Carolina Chapter	2019 – 2022
Presbyterian Association of Musicians	Member since 2022