

Composing for Today's Church

Hands-on Training for
Church Musicians

August 15 & 17
August 22 & 24
2 p.m.- 4p.m.

WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of Music



Composing for Today's Church:

If you are a church musician, chances are you have composed or arranged music for your choir or congregation to sing - or wish you could. Writing your own music used to be a luxury but now it is a necessity.

Composing for Today's Church is a practical, hands-on training seminar for church musicians led by two of Detroit's leading composers of music for worship: **Dr. Jerry Custer**, an accomplished church choir director and published composer, and **Dr. Norah Duncan IV**, who brings a lifetime of experience in creating accessible, powerful music that enables vibrant congregational singing.

No matter what church tradition you come from, *Composing for Today's Church* will help you recognize and develop your own compositional voice. In this seminar, you will:

- Discover how seasoned composers analyze and unlock the content of text
 - Learn how to quickly and easily create introductions, transitions, and descants
 - Turn a hymn into an anthem your choir can sing, regardless of size
 - Compose an original piece of music for congregational singing
 - Go inside the composer's workshop as two master composers share their secrets
 - Get immediate performance, feedback, and coaching for your own compositions
- and much more

Workshop Leaders:

Hailed as "a major talent in choral composition", **Dr. Jerry Custer** is a Grammy-nominated and award-winning composer with more than 100 published works for choirs of virtually every type and size. Dr. Custer is an acclaimed author of three landmark books on the subject: *The Composer's Craft*, *From Works to Music* and *Arranging: A Beginner's Guide*. An accomplished Choral Conductor and educator, he has been a practicing church musician for 45 years, working in Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, and is Director of Music at the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington in Farmington Hills, MI and is on the Composition and Theory faculty at Wayne State University.

Dr. Norah Duncan IV is professor of music, area coordinator for organ, and Chair of the Department of Music at Wayne State University. As a gifted organist, he has concertized extensively in both the United States and Europe and for nearly 30 years was music director at Detroit's Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament. An innovative composer and arranger, Dr. Duncan was part of the music review committee that revised the African-American Catholic Hymnal, *Lead Me, Guide Me* and was a member of the editorial review board for the Oregon Catholic Press. His original compositions, including his *Unity Mass*, *Holy Name of Jesus*, *Three Canticles*, a spiritual arrangement *Hold On!* and numerous anthems are widely sung by congregations in parishes across the country and around the world. He continues to be a sought after conductor having prepared choirs for performances with major orchestras including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and for performances at American Choral Directors Association and Michigan Music Educators State Conventions, at Carnegie Hall in New York, and throughout Europe.



Registration and Directions

- What:** Composing for Today's Church Workshop
- For Whom:** Those who write music for churches, church musicians, choral directors, and composers.
- When:** **August 15 & 17, August 22 & 24**
- Where:** Wayne State University, Department of Music, Old Main Building, 4841 Cass Ave., Detroit, MI 48202. *Free parking in the nearby WSU Structure #6.*
- Register by:** **Monday, August 7, 2017 at 5 p.m.**
- Cost:** \$100 per person, \$75 for high school/college students including parking and all materials.
- How:** Register online to reserve your spot in the workshop here: <https://forms.wayne.edu/5964fd8a4f707>
After submitting the online registration form, mail in payment with the paper registration form below by the deadline above. Your registration will not be official until payment is received.



Please use the Guest/Visitor entrance of WSU's Parking Structure #6 at 61 Putnam St., Detroit, MI 48202. The Department of Music Old Main Building is located on the corner of Warren Ave. and Cass Ave. at 4841 Cass Ave. in Detroit.

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City an State _____ ZIP _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Cost is \$100 per person, \$75 for high school/college students. Make checks payable to *Wayne State University Department of Music* and mail to:

Church Music Workshop
Wayne State Dept. of Music
Suite 1321 Old Main
4841 Cass Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201

Payment and must be received by **Monday, August 7, 2017 at 5 p.m.**



College of Fine, Performing
and Communication Arts