



Trinity Presbyterian Church
Bixby, Oklahoma

MUSIC AT TRINITY *2023–2024*

Erik M. Collins, Director of Music & Pianist



Trinity Presbyterian Church
Bixby, Oklahoma

2023 - 2024 HANDBOOK CONTENTS

Letter from the Director of Music

Information about the Trinity Music Program

Membership Standards

Procedures and Practices

A Festival of Lessons & Carols

About Trinity Presbyterian Church

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Welcome back to another exciting year with the Trinity Music Program. As we begin this new church season, I would like to thank the congregation of Trinity for the years of dedication and support that you have given to our music program.

We always look forward to beginning each year through fellowship at the *Fall Choir Social & Dinner Party* that takes place in mid-October. Beautiful autumn weather and coming together in anticipation of a great choir year ... it just doesn't get any better than that!

Our repertoire consists of many musical styles and genres - everything from spirituals to traditional Shaker songs. I very much enjoy selecting a variety of pieces for the choir to sing and present in worship, and I have heard many times the appreciation from the congregation on keeping the choral music *diverse*. Of course, we will also continue to sing music that is rooted in our Christian faith and that is familiar to the congregation - hymn arrangements and new tunes on traditional words.

I very much anticipate a very successful and enjoyable year! I cannot begin express what serving Trinity has done for my life and love of music. I am wholeheartedly proud to call myself your friend and music director.

In harmony,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Collins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erik Collins

Director of Music & Pianist

INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRINITY MUSIC PROGRAM

Mission Statement...

The mission of the Trinity Music Program is to connect with the spiritual message spoken from the pulpit, becoming the living sound of that message. We seek to uplift and inspire the congregation through an eclectic mixture of musical offerings, helping to raise the hearts and voices of all in praise and thanksgiving.

Who We Are...

The goal of the Trinity Choir is to enhance and enliven our worship of God. The music program draws the congregation into the music rather than leaving the congregation as spectators at a performance. It offers the opportunity to learn great masterworks of choral literature from all style periods. Over the course of the year, our music reflects a broad diversity of musical styles including folk, spiritual, jazz, gospel, and contemporary works from our own American heritage, as well as works from many other countries and languages. The teaching of diverse musical styles not only enriches the knowledge and experience of the choir but also promotes understanding of other peoples and cultures.

Other music opportunities...

The choir goes on hiatus in the summertime. During this time members of the choir and congregation are given the opportunity to participate in worship by either singing a solo or playing a musical instrument. This is what makes our choir program a church-wide music program.

Music Program Fellowship...

Members of the Trinity Music Program enjoy three fellowship gatherings through the year: Fall Choir Social & Dinner Party (mid-October), Choir Christmas Party (early December), and the Choir Summer Cookout (early June).

The music director does not hold regular office hours. However, an appointment can be made at any time by contacting the director or by calling the church. If you have further questions regarding the music program and/or are interested in joining the choir, please contact the director at (918) 369-3690 or music@trinitychurchbixby.org.

MEMBERSHIP STANDARDS

CHOIR IS A TEAM SPORT!

The choir season...

Membership in the choir is for a complete season. Active participation from mid-August through May is requested.

Sunday participation...

The choir sings during all Sunday worship services (September-May) unless otherwise stated by the Director of Music. Singing during worship on Sunday mornings is the number one priority of the choir. Active members in the choir are **required to be present during at least 80% of the Sunday services** that the choir sings for. Singers are also asked to remain in the sanctuary throughout the duration of the worship service.

Attendance outside of Sunday mornings...

In addition to singing in worship on Sunday mornings, there may be multiple times that the choir sings outside of the regular schedule. These may include, but are not limited to: Handel's Messiah presentation, Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, etc.

Rehearsal schedule...

Sunday mornings (weekly): **8:15 – 9:15 PM**
Sunday morning pre-service warm-up: **10:00 AM**

In accordance with the Sunday morning participation rate, active choir members are **required to be present during 80% of Sunday morning rehearsals.**

Mutual respect...

The music director expects every choir member to contribute towards the creating and maintaining of a healthy learning environment. Please be respectful to your fellow choir team members.

PROCEDURES & PRACTICES

Worship music...

The weekly worship music can be found on the north wall in the plastic music slots on Sunday mornings. After worship, please remove the music from your folder and separate the pieces into piles on the table in the choir room.

Respect the music...

The cost of sheet music is perpetually increasing. Most publishing companies release their music somewhere between \$1.95 and \$2.50. Please refrain from defacing, tearing or misplacing your music. When making rehearsal marks in the music, PENCIL ONLY markings are acceptable. If you wish to highlight your music, please ask for a copy to be made from the original. All choir music is numbered.

Choir robes...

The choir robes are on the south wall of the choir room and are dry-cleaned every year. The robes are utilized every Sunday in worship. The occasional free-dress Sunday may be permitted at the discretion of the music director.

Procedures preceding choir rehearsals...

IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN A HIGH-QUALITY MUSIC PROGRAM, PLEASE MAKE AN EFFORT TO BE PRESENT AT ALL REHEARSALS.

- Early is on time, on time is late! Please arrive five (5) minutes (8:10AM) prior to the rehearsal starting time
- Please bring only water into the choir room
- Set your phone to "SILENT" during all rehearsal times
- Please refrain from wearing strong perfumes and colognes as they often cause other singers to tear or sneeze

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS



The **Festival of Lessons & Carols** is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music.

The format was based on an Order drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve in 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10 pm service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden shed serving as his cathedral and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve.

The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. Lessons and Carols most often occur in Anglican churches, but also in some Roman Catholic, Lutheran parishes, and Presbyterian institutions. However numerous Christian churches have adopted this service, or a variation on this service, as part of their Christmas celebrations. In the UK, the service has become the standard format for schools' Christmas carol services.

The best-known version is broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve. It features carols sung by the famous Choir of King's College, Cambridge. Groton School of Groton, Massachusetts, has performed the festival longer than any institution other than King's, holding its first Lessons and Carols in 1928.

The **2023 Festival of Lessons & Carols** will take place on Sunday, December 10th at 10:30AM and will feature music by John Rutter, Daniel Pinkham, Robert Lau, Philip Kern, and more. The choir will begin the service by singing their tradition processional, *Personent Hodie from Piae Cantiones*.

ABOUT OUR CHURCH

Trinity's history is marked by a strong commitment to glorify God and serve the world. With God's help, we have been able to develop a ministry that helps our members grow spiritually as we serve others. Our South Tulsa church first began meeting at Holland Hall School in 1981. The first building was built on South Memorial Drive. It served the congregation well until a change in demographics and aging building made a new structure necessary. The current sanctuary on 111th Street between Memorial and Mingo contains many elements moved from the building on Memorial. The cross, communion table, and baptismal font were moved into the new church. The pulpit in the chancel and the font in the narthex were given to Trinity from our sister congregation, Second Presbyterian Church, Tulsa.

Trinity Presbyterian Church in Bixby is a Christian church centered on a belief in Jesus Christ. Grounded in that belief, we encounter the world and all its complexities with integrity, authenticity and a healthy dose of humor. How we go about living that faith in the world varies greatly among members. We believe a diversity of thinking, grounded in Christ, is good for our community, good for the church, and good for the world. How we live together amidst diverse views is one of the greatest witnesses to our faith in Christ. For over 30 years, the people of Trinity have been gathering together to worship, growing together in faith, giving generously to share the grace of Jesus Christ with others, and engaging in Christian fellowship. We ask questions, we are pushed to act and risk in the world, we are offered forgiveness and love when needed, and we celebrate times of new life and new beginnings together.

"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."

-J.S. Bach

Trinity Presbyterian Church

9303 E. 111th St. S.

Bixby, OK 74008

(918) 369-3690

www.trinitychurchbixby.com

music@trinitychurchbixby.org