



# The BAPTIST CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Conference Dates: March 17–19, 2019  
Nashville, Tennessee



**63rd Annual**  
 **The BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
MUSIC  
CONFERENCE**

**Judson Baptist Church  
Nashville, Tennessee**

*An Interactive Gathering of  
Worship Leaders,  
Denominational Specialists,  
Church Music Professors, and Students*

**AARON C. HUFTY • PRESIDENT**

Registration is now open.

Go to [www.sbcmc.org](http://www.sbcmc.org) to register

at the early bird rate of \$195.00 through January 18, 2019.

## Hotel Options

### Four Points by Sheraton

760 Old Hickory Boulevard  
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027

**[615] 964-5500**

[marriott.com/hotels/maps/travel/bnafp-four-points-nashville-brentwood/](http://marriott.com/hotels/maps/travel/bnafp-four-points-nashville-brentwood/)

Rate of \$125 per night (from Saturday -  
Wednesday, March 16-20)

### Baymont by Wyndham

111 Penn Warren Dr,  
Brentwood, TN 37027

**(615) 376-4666**

[wyndhamhotels.com/baymont/brentwood-tennessee/baymont-inn-and-suites-nashville-brentwood/overview](http://wyndhamhotels.com/baymont/brentwood-tennessee/baymont-inn-and-suites-nashville-brentwood/overview)

Rate of \$106 per night (from Saturday -  
Wednesday, March 16-20)

# Songwriting Competition

The word “creativity” has long been associated with the work of God. From the first act of creation until today, God has been uniquely at work in our world. Creativity has also been an important aspect of music through the ages. From the very first song, singers and players alike have found personal expression through their craft.

For today’s church musician, more than ever there is need for creativity in all aspects of worship leadership. To help our churches respond effectively to our diverse and ever-changing culture, we need to search for the freshest and most relevant expressions of praise and responses in worship.

Therefore, a brand new feature of the March 17-19, 2019 Baptist Church Music Conference is a **Songwriting Competition**.

There are two (2) songwriting categories, with these exciting features:

- \$500 awarded to winner in each category
- Song will be published by LifeWay Worship Music
- Premiere performance of the songs will be at the 2019 Baptist Church Music Conference in Nashville, TN.

***The first category is for a “congregational” song, a song intended to be sung corporately.***

Therefore note ranges (no more than an octave and a third), melodic and rhythmic appropriateness (not too difficult) should be

considered. Content can be anything appropriate for a congregation to sing together, either to one another (“horizontal”) or to God (“vertical”).

***The second category is for a “presentational” song, a song intended to be “performed” for an audience.*** This category would include a song designed as a choir anthem (could be for any age), or to be sung as a solo, or by an ensemble.

All submissions, in both categories, should be songs that are appropriate for use in a worship service setting, in terms of content. Any musical style can be explored. The writer is required to submit an mp3 recording of the song and at least a lyric document. However, if possible, a lead sheet with melody line, lyrics, chord symbols is preferred. More involved choral or instrumental arrangements of your song may also be submitted. There is a \$25 per song entry fee. This competition is open to anyone, of any age. Songs will be judged with no writer names attached, so everyone will have an equal and fair chance. Come join the fun!

## DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: February 1, 2019

Mail submissions with entry fee to:

**Gary Anthony,  
2705 Olympia Dr.,  
Temple TX 76502**

For questions or more information, email  
Dennis Allen at  
**dallen@truett.edu**

# Emotional Health in Ministry

Kirk Kirkland

*Local Church Musician Representative, East*



I had the privilege in June of this year to teach at LifeWay's Worship Life Conference in Gatlinburg, TN. Though I have worked extensively in the fields of church music, music recording, and music publishing for over 25 years I did not teach on any of those topics. My class wasn't even on the topic of biblical worship, which I have spent much of my personal and professional life studying. LifeWay asked me to address an issue that I'm finding more and more prevalent in the church among pastors and ministers of music. That's the issue of the emotional health of church leaders. My graduate degree is in Counseling Psychology so I have a heart to help those in ministry dealing with the unique stresses of that life.

People responded well, I believe, to the class and I had the further privilege of seeing a few people privately for some independent counseling. This only confirmed what I believe is true of many of us living in the scrutiny of the ministry "fishbowl." That is that the pressures often seem to outweigh the blessings of seeing lives and families helped and healed. And this is causing many to want to walk away from the calling they felt so sure of a few years ago. Add to that the pressure we church musicians feel to appropriate and satiate the opinions of our congregations when dealing with something so subjective as the music we use in worship settings, and you have a recipe for burnout.

I hope to begin a conversation here that we can continue at the BCMC conference taking place at Judson Baptist Church in Nashville, TN next spring. This happens to be the church where I serve as the Minister of Music, and I'm so excited to be hosting you all. Please make plans to come. I pray that it will be as refreshing for your souls as it is for your ministries back at home.

But let me give you just a few things to think about before we see you in a few months. We are created beings, made in the image of God. That alone is a staggering thought. As God is mysteriously triune (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), we are triune in Body, Soul and Spirit. Imagine these three areas of our beings as overlapping circles. Even secular studies show that when we suffer in one area, it will show up in the other areas eventually. For instance, if we are unhealthy physically, and continue to leave that unaddressed, we are likely to find ourselves depressed or anxious after a few months or a year. Or if we are struggling

emotionally in our relationships, eventually we are likely to begin to feel bad physically without an apparent cause. God has made us this way, and unless we are intentional about being healthy in all three areas of our beings, it will catch up with us eventually.

My encouragement to you would be to set one goal in each area of your life today:

- 1. Set one goal in your physical life. I.e. more regular, or more healthy meals; better sleep schedule; etc.**
- 2. Set one goal in your emotional life (nourishing your soul), which includes your mind, will and emotions. I.e. carve out more margin in your time; read more; find time for an activity that truly gives you joy, like listening to music you love - not just to find the next anthem; spend time with the people you love most; forgive that person who's harmed you; let go of what you cannot control.**
- 3. Set one goal in your spiritual life. I.e. read a Psalm and / or Proverb each morning; determine to pray for your family, or church staff by name each day; ask God to search you and try you and see if there is any unconfessed sin there to repent of; find time to mentor someone younger in their faith.**

We have to be intentional about these things or they will not happen. I hope you won't hear any of this as something else to add to your busy life, and potentially fail. (I think that way a lot!) I pray that you will see this intentionality as crucial to your mental stability, your family life and your ministry effectiveness. Our greatest holistic health means our greatest usefulness to God. Be encouraged by this today:

"We are God's workmanship [work of art], created in Christ Jesus for good works that He's prepared beforehand that you should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

See you in Nashville, and we can continue the conversation!

# It's the Advent Season

Dr. Robert Pendergraft

Music Educators Representative, West



The text of "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" has for its source a 5<sup>th</sup> century Eucharistic prayer from the church in Antioch and Jerusalem. Though often sung during the Advent season because of the explicit language of anticipation found in the opening stanza, the hymn is a complete picture of the gospel narrative; not only does Jesus Christ the Son come down, but God the Father remains above seated on his throne. The hymn calls for all creation to worship God in the heavens above and on the earth below.

*Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

The opening stanza communicates the revelation and response aspect of worship as seen in the birth narrative: God comes down and reveals himself to his people, in return he expects the honor and respect of his chosen people.

*King of Kings, yet born of Mary as of old on earth he stood.  
Lord of lords, in human vesture—in the body and the blood.  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food  
The second stanza walks through Christ's life and foreshadows his death. He is King, yet he was born of a virgin. He is Lord, yet he is*

*fully man. That physical body will be sacrificed, yet will become spiritual food for his chosen people—Christ's death and resurrection will make a way for his people to be present with him for eternity.*

*At His feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord most high!"*

The final stanza is a reminder that all creation in heaven and on earth will, as the prophet Isaiah writes, cry for all eternity

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" (Isaiah 6:3).*

As we enter this season of Advent, let us remember that even though we look back to the time when Israel was anxiously waiting for the Messiah to come, we live and minister in a time when Christ has come, Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again! May our worship gatherings in the coming month remind our congregations of these important truths.



## Happy Reformation Day!?

C. Scott Shepherd

Denominational Representative, East

On October 31, Christians around the world celebrated Reformation Day, a day on which we memorialize Martin Luther's posting of the "95 Theses," the proverbial "shot heard 'round the

world" that triggered the Reformation. It is fitting that we celebrate. We should be grateful that Luther—and countless others—recognized the abhorrent theology and practical abuses within the sixteenth century Church. Reform was essential, and Luther provided the final impetus to begin the transformation. Reformation Day also causes us to rejoice because we are reminded of other reformers throughout history who have strengthened the Church by taking a stand against heresies, abuse, and other mismanagements of the Church. But Reformation Day is also a time to grieve. I mourn that the Church deteriorated to such a degree that it was ever in need of Reformation—much less a complete split. Such a fracture within Christianity, after all, is never an admirable goal, especially when the very Scriptures that form and shape our faith speak of unity as a necessary gauge

of true faith. Christianity is, by its very nature, a religion of reconciliation. Followers of Christ are reconciled to God, and Christians are reconciled one to another. Sadly, Christianity is often known more for disunity than unity, especially since this Reformation fissure

in the church has given way to an ever-increasing splintering within the Christian faith. In fact, some estimate there are now as many as 33,000 denominations in the world! If the world will know Christians by our love, how's that going for us?

By all means, let's celebrate Reformation Day. But let's grieve, too. May it be a reminder that though some issues divide us, our ultimate pursuit as followers of Jesus is that He will bring us to "complete unity" (John 17:23).

*"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."  
Ephesians 4:3-6*

# The Patron Program

The Baptist Church Music Conference has been in existence for more than 60 years as a unique organization with members from the following four areas of church music and worship: local church; educational; denominational; and students.

The primary sources of funding for the BCMC are annual conference registration fees and display vendor fees. But in order to keep our conference affordable and to be able to provide scholarships for college and seminary church music students to attend our annual conference we are asking for your help.

Would you, your church or organization consider investing in these students and this conference through our Patron Program?

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Here are the levels of patronage that can also be designated "in memory of" or "in honor of:"

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Platinum Patron | \$1,000 or more |
| Gold Patron     | \$500-\$999     |
| Silver Patron   | \$250-\$499     |
| Bronze Patron   | \$100-\$249     |
| Patron          | \$1-\$99        |

Details will be available in the near future on the BCMC website at

[sbcmc.org](http://sbcmc.org)

The Baptist Church Music Conference is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization so all donations are tax deductible. Thank you for considering an investment in the future of this Conference.

# History

Since 1957, the Baptist Church Music Conference has been instrumental in serving and supporting Baptist ministers of music, denominational workers, and educators from around the world.

## OUR MISSION

The BCMC is for every Baptist church musician, educator, and denominational support employee who seeks quality resources, engaging fellowship, and up-to-date discussions of the current and future church music landscape, allowing you to take part in and add to the great heritage of Baptist music which is ours today.

There are 3 primary ministry divisions in the BCMC: Local Church, Educational, and Denominational. Our conference is unique in this regard, that we intentionally bring together these three division of music ministry in dialogue and cooperation. We have found that when we work together to bring a comprehensive approach to music ministry, we all grow and mature in our depth of understanding of music's role and our role in the body of Christ.

## Executive Council

Aaron Hufty, *President*

Tom Tillman, *President-Elect*

David Manner, *Past-President*

Mark Burnett, *Vice President*  
*Local Church Musicians Division*

Dennis Allen, *Vice President*  
*Music Educators Division*

Jason "Bubba" Stewart, *Vice President*  
*Denominational Musicians Division*

## Division Representatives

Kirk Kirkland, *Local Church Musicians - East*

Dan Baker, *Local Church Musicians - West*

Don Scott, *Local Church Musicians - West*

Emily Andrews, *Music Educators - East*

Robert Pendergraft, *Music Educators - West*

C. Scott Shepard, *Denominational Musicians - East*

Randy Lind, *Denominational Musicians - West*

Gary Anthony, *Secretary-Treasurer*

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