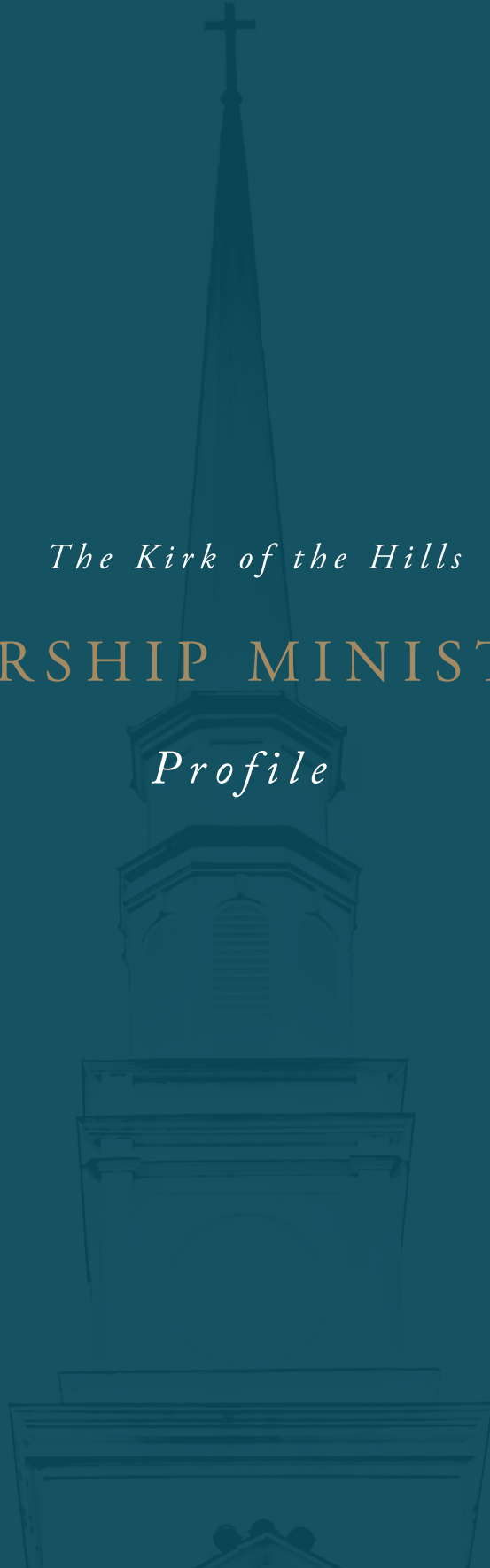




The Kirk of the Hills

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Profile



P a s t



With deep gratitude, the Kirk celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018! This occasion marked 50 years, among other things, of making beautiful music to the Lord. Previous Worship Directors have brought significant professional musical experience, developing a robust and excellent musical ministry. Sunday mornings at the Kirk hold a heritage of singing classic hymns accompanied by an inspiring organ. Over the decades we have enjoyed a large mixed choir, specialty chancel choirs, children's choirs, a bell choir, and seasonal musical productions.

In more recent years, as in many churches, we have intentionally added tasteful modern worship songs in with our traditional hymns. Our Ensemble, featuring piano, violin, cello, upright bass, guitar, mandolin, drum kit, creative uses of the organ, occasional cameo instruments (banjo, sax, etc.), and a select team of skilled singers, has become more and more prominent in our worship service. Currently, the Ensemble leads most of our weekly worship songs and provides the core of our musical identity. Roughly 2/3 of our selections are tunes written in the last 20 years (Getty, Indelible Grace, Sandra McCracken, Norton Hall, Bifrost, Fernando Ortega) with the remaining 1/3 being more traditional hymns.

P r e s e n t



Our church is now filled with five generations of dearly valued people who bring their musical desires to church every week. We recognize stylistic preferences can often be categorized along generational lines, but we've also come to appreciate that this is not always a reliable assumption. In fact, musical tastes vary even from friend to friend. We also recognize the God-given power of music to serve our faith, and the legitimate importance of listening to our people and trying to satisfy the longing of their hearts for opportunities to sing praises to the Lord in their "musical mother tongue." But there is, then, a constant communal tension in our musical choices, and so above all, we recognize the beautiful opportunity to learn self-sacrifice as we acknowledge one another's desires in the pews. Our leadership embraces the spirit of Philippians 2:1-5 when preparing for our worship services:

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

F u t u r e

As we move forward, stewarding this awesome and fragile responsibility, we seek a leader who will help us arrange a worship environment for our people through the following priorities:

L o v e G o d

The responsibility of the Worship Director, first and foremost, is to foster a personal lifestyle of worshipping God with heart, soul, mind, and strength. We seek a leader who is keenly aware of the presence and grace of God in his or her own life.

L o v e t h e K i r k C o n g r e g a t i o n

The secondary responsibility of the Worship Director is to invite others into a lifestyle of worship by modeling it through the worship service. We believe in the power of music to shape worldviews and drive truths deep into hearts, and we place a premium on participatory congregational singing, with occasional solos or special performances.

We also seek a leader who is able to relationally engage the congregation during and outside of worship. Our pastors and liturgists do most of the speaking during the worship service, but we welcome a partner who will add sensible comments pointing people toward Christ. Whether behind his/her instrument or in casual conversation in the hallways, we desire someone who feels a humble affinity for the particular people who make up our church family.

L o v e M u s i c

It is far too simplistic to divide 21st-century worship into traditional and contemporary styles. Our goal is to cull from the best of every era of the historical church's storeroom in order to present a rich spread of melodic worship to God. We also recognize that some songs and styles are best left in the history books, as they ministered well for a window of time but did not emerge to join the ranks of the timeless. As we minister to those who recall singing old gospel hymns on their grandparent's knee 90 years ago alongside those who recently participated in a trendy campus ministry while in college, we seek someone with a reliable sense of taste, a creative spirit, and a strong ability to read a particular culture and its needs. Having said all this, we trust that mature believers will be able to balance their own desires with the ever-important task of handing the church over to the next generations. Therefore, we do place a priority on music which will best serve the 21st-century ear.

We are in the process of hiring our first dedicated media tech. To augment our worship service, we seek a leader who will work closely with media staff and volunteers to seamlessly coordinate our microphone network, soundboard, slide show, lighting, stage layout, and decor, and livestream needs to achieve a dynamic, undistracted, engaged worship environment.

While not required, we welcome a leader eager to develop and enjoy a relationship with the broader St. Louis arts community; to participate in and learn from regional and national worship conversations; to lead the Kirk worship team in outreach efforts; and/or to work on original recording and production.

Future cont.



Love Leadership

We understand that music is at its best when instruments, voices, and hearts are in harmony. In order to accomplish this, we seek a leader who knows how to lead a group toward unison, musically and relationally. Musical leadership is a matter of both performance standards and personal tone. The weekly rehearsal process is a chance to both draw out talent and give care. We are looking for someone who will be glad to discover and develop talent within our congregation, prepare to lead the leaders every week with diligence and passion, and will prepare for every season with foresight and consistency.

We offer the opportunity for a worship leader to recruit and work with musically talented Covenant Theological Seminary interns, thereby resourcing and shaping worship leadership for other churches across the country. And we are glad for our staff to pursue their own theological training at CTS using our employee tuition-assistance program.

Love the Kirk Staff Culture

The Kirk staff is a tightly knit group of hard-working, fun-loving people. Our church is alive with activity, so our leaders stay busy and face many demands. The staff make it a priority to look out for one another, go above and beyond to serve one another, take opportunity to enjoy one another, and believe that the trust and love among us will overflow into a culture the entire church can enjoy. We seek a leader who is willing and ready to join a team with a sacrificial, social and happy spirit.

