



# Orin E. Johnson

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## PROFILE

I seek positions in Catholic Christian communities and organizations where my gifts of music, speaking, writing, organization, and leadership can be used to build a strong faith community committed to vibrant worship and active participation in our baptismal call to be both evangelists and missionaries.

## EXPERIENCE

### **Director of Music and Liturgy, St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, St. Louis, MO — 2022-Present**

Coordination and supervision of all aspects of the musical and liturgical life of the parish. Accompany and direct the parish choir, and supervise other accompanists, cantors, instrumentalists, and others. Hire “outside” musicians as needed. Provide accompaniment for school masses during the year. Chair the parish liturgy committee, and provide for creative and meaningful prayer and musical experiences for the congregation within and alongside the Catholic tradition. SMOS Music Ministry received the Great Preacher Award from Aquinas Institute of Theology in 2024.

### **Director of Music Ministries, Sts. Joachim and Ann Parish, St. Charles, MO — 2012-2022**

Had direct leadership of a contemporary ensemble and choir, the children’s choir, the funeral choir, and cantors; supervised two other “adult” choirs and all aspects of liturgical music at the parish; was responsible for masses with the parochial school as well (5-6 each month). Coordinated a few concerts of sacred/secular music each year. Was a member of the parish liturgy committee. OCP parish grant recipient in 2014. Recorded CDs of parish music ministries in 2013, 2015, and 2019. Assisted with the musical aspects of a Church completion initiative (2020-2022), including bringing a pipe/hybrid organ to the building.

### **Coordinator of Music and Liturgy, National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL — 1998-2012**

Duties included coordination of all aspects of Shrine liturgical life; chairing Shrine liturgy committee; supervising team of sacristans and paid musical staff; serving as principle organist and pianist; training liturgical ministers; coordinating annual novena, music and liturgy workshops, musical aspects of the holiday Way of Lights and annual concerts; assisting with youth camp Youth Sing Praise in either theatrical or retreat roles; preparing and managing music and liturgy budget.

### **Liturgical Music Minister, Drama Musical Director, Chaminade College Preparatory, Creve Coeur, MO — 2014-Present**

Plan and implement music for monthly masses and occasionally assist with various musical needs of the retreat program. Musical director for drama department musicals, with both high school and middle school students. Occasional composition for both as needed.

### **Worship Aid and Program Designer, Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO — 2011-Present**

Design and update various programs and worship aids for the Archdiocese on an as-needed basis, principally with Adobe InDesign.

### **Oddwalk Ministries — 2004-Present**

With Shannon Cerneka, Oddwalk Ministries is a Catholic duo with a charism of “Jesus, Justice, Joy” that provides keynotes, gives concerts, leads prayer, offers workshops, and guides retreats for youth and adults through engaging music, storytelling, engaging and fun activities, and faith-sharing. Our several hundred appearances have included many national Catholic conventions and gatherings, and several diocesan, parish, and school events and programs. We have recorded two CDs with GIA and have many songs published by GIA (and WLP) as well as by OCP. Visit [www.oddwalkministries.com](http://www.oddwalkministries.com) for more information.

### **Principal Accompanist, Congregation Shaare Emeth, Creve Coeur, MO — 2005-Present**

Accompany Friday night services and Saturday morning Bar and Bat Mitzvahs on piano and organ; accompany occasional midweek services and High Holy Day services under direction of the Cantor. Shaare Emeth is a Reform Judaism Temple.

### **Assistant Director, Saint Louis Chamber Chorus, St. Louis, MO — 2004-Present**

Assist the artistic director with rehearsals and occasionally direct in performances. For the 2009-2010 season, while the artistic director was away on sabbatical, I and another assistant prepared the chorus for the season’s six concerts, shared conducting duties on four, and attended monthly board meetings. On occasion, compose and arrange pieces for concerts. I have sung with the chorus since 1998.

### **Summer Camps and Conferences Staff —**

- One Bread One Cup, St. Meinrad, IN: Instrumental Music Catechist — 2019-Present
- Youth Sing Praise, Bellville, IL: Music Director, Assistant Music Director, Prayer Coordinator — 1999-2020
- Young Neighbors in Action, various locations: Prayer and Music Coordinator and Program Director — 2007-2018

## EDUCATION

### Aquinas Institute of Theology; St. Louis, MO - Master of Arts in Theology Cum Laude, 2008

Liturgical focus; major paper dealt with liturgical postures and the formerly expanded use of the Tridentine Rite of the Mass.

### Radford University; Radford, VA - Master of Arts in Music, 1998

Emphasis in choral direction and vocal performance; held two-year teaching assistantship with director of choral activities.

### Harvard University; Cambridge, MA - Bachelor of Arts in Music and Folklore and Mythology Cum Laude, 1996

Honors thesis, an original composition, *The Green Lady*, a fairy tale set to music, received grade *magna cum laude*.

### RTR High School; Tyler, MN - Diploma, 1992

Graduated first in class, with honors.

## OTHER EXPERIENCES AND SKILLS

### Publications and Recordings, Competitions

I have over fifty sacred pieces, both choral and congregational, published by OCP, GIA (WLP), ECS, Chorister's Guild TMP, and SLM, (2008-present). GIA placed several pieces in a songbook titled *Cross Generation* (2008) and has recorded two collections of the music of Oddwalk Ministries. OCP has placed a composition of mine, "Light of Christ, Burn Bright," in its *Breaking Bread / Music Issue* and *Heritage Missal* hymnals. My composition, "True Presence Now Among Us" won the 2023 Archdiocese of Detroit Hymn and Song Composition Contest in support of the National Eucharistic Revival. More information available at [www.orinjohnson.com/music/publications](http://www.orinjohnson.com/music/publications)

Shannon Cerneka and I published a book of interactive prayer services for teens with Twenty-third Publications, titled *Let Us Go Forth* (2018). I was also a co-author for the 2021-2024 and 2027 editions of the *Living Liturgy* sourcebook, published by Liturgical Press. Published in March, 2023 from Liturgical Press is my book on liturgical music and living and sharing The Word, titled *Incarnate in Word and Song*. Additional articles on music and liturgy have been published by Liguori, NPM, and GIA Quarterly. More information available at [www.orinjohnson.com/books](http://www.orinjohnson.com/books)

### Diocesan Liturgical Leadership

Member of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois Liturgical Commission, 2008-2012: helped revise and publish diocesan marriage ritual and music guidelines (2012), musical leadership at Chrism Mass 2009-present; on training team in Diocese of Belleville, Illinois for seminars on lay presiding at Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest and at allowed funeral rites, 2007-present; served on task force charged with planning implementation of new English Roman Missal translation in the diocese (2010-11).

### Theater and Dramatics

Over many years, I have had many opportunities to musically, artistically, and technically direct several musicals, plays, and "dramatic prayer services" for various community theater productions, schools, Youth Sing Praise (for which I co-wrote the 2015 musical, *Just Pretend*, based on the biblical story of Queen Esther), and several OLS Shrine and Shaare Emeth pastoral events.

### Other Choruses

I have sung with the St. Louis Symphony Chorus (1998-2003) and helped prepare the chorus for one performance (2001); I have sung with and been assistant director of the St. Louis Archdiocesan Choir (2003-2004); I sang one concert (as a substitute) with Pro Arte St. Louis (2016).

### Computing and Web Management

- Proficient with Macintosh, iOS, and PC platforms, comfortable with many software packages including MS Word, Finale, iMovie, Pages, GarageBand, Powerpoint/Keynote, some MS Excel, Google Docs/Sheets, and Adobe InDesign and Photoshop.
- Experience managing websites powered by WordPress ([www.oddwalkministries.com](http://www.oddwalkministries.com), [www.orinjohnson.com](http://www.orinjohnson.com)) and utilizing social networking sites including Facebook, X (Twitter), Bluesky, Substack, Instagram, YouTube, SoundCloud, and LinkedIn.

### Organizations and Memberships; Other Skills and Information

- Member of National Pastoral Musicians (St. Louis chapter board member), Liturgical Composers Forum, ASCAP, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia
- Simply Liturgical Music review board, 2022-present
- Basic Spanish pronunciation ability, some comprehension of both written and verbal Spanish
- Active as an accompanist and music director for liturgies, choral and instrumental concerts, and more
- Maintain a collection of Apple Computer devices and collectibles: [www.myaapplechapel.com](http://www.myaapplechapel.com)
- Audio, video, writing, and composition samples available upon request or at [www.oddwalkministries.com](http://www.oddwalkministries.com) or [www.orinjohnson.com](http://www.orinjohnson.com)

## REFERENCES

Professional and personal references available upon request