

# Creating Worship Collaboratively: The Music Director's Relationships

Taught online 2016-17

Instructor: Mark Vogel

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*This course is generically titled Music and Worship in the MLCP's 3-year rotation.*

## PURPOSE

This course will develop the music professional's ability to create transformational worship as part of a collaborative team. By the end of the class the participant will have an increased understanding of the role and function of music in worship and how to access appropriate resources within a Unitarian Universalist setting.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES (GOALS)

Through online class participation and written assignments participants will demonstrate:

- an awareness of the role and function of music in worship
- an awareness of historical and current worship resources
- an increased awareness of the challenges and opportunities in collegial relationships

## READING

Please note the contact information for purchasing/accessing reading material. Nothing is overly expensive and may be available in your church library.

**Read these two books prior to the UUMN conference. We'll have some discussion of these at the conference, and they can inform your thinking and participation throughout the course.**

- 1) *Rivals or a Team? Clergy-Musician Relationships in the Twenty-First Century* by Eileen Guenther [amzn.to/15tNiv3](http://amzn.to/15tNiv3)
- 2) *Worship That Works* by Wayne Arnason and Kathleen Rolenz (available from the UUA bookstore) [bit.ly/oPWqiA](http://bit.ly/oPWqiA)

**Have these resources available and be familiar with them:**

- 4) *Singing the Living Tradition* [bit.ly/Y96AQR](http://bit.ly/Y96AQR)
- 5) *Come, Sing a Song with Me* [bit.ly/12p7UH9](http://bit.ly/12p7UH9)
- 6) *Singing the Journey* (both the book [[bit.ly/XOQO0X](http://bit.ly/XOQO0X)] and the website [[bit.ly/15tOY7R](http://bit.ly/15tOY7R)])
- 7) *Las Voces del Camino* [bit.ly/XSh8nO](http://bit.ly/XSh8nO)

## ASSIGNMENTS

### 1) **Introductory Assignment: Due by June 1, 2016.**

*Upload to Haiku platform. You will receive instructions.*

Submit two different orders of service from the participant's home congregation, one that worked well and one that could have worked better. For each order of service, include 2-3 paragraphs summarizing why things worked well or what could have been improved. Discuss how music choices were made, and how these choices were received by the congregation. What kinds of collaborations were involved in the shaping of these services? What kinds of things would you do differently next time?

2) **Participate in four Discussion Topics** (on Haiku platform), which will occur in October and November (2016), and January and February (2017). Topics will be announced. Our desire is for this Discussion element to reflect the spirit of the course topic itself: Collaboration. We hope to promote a sense of openness in the sharing of ideas, and participant feedback that is both supportive and constructive.

We will have four month-long discussion topics throughout the year. You will need to engage in each topic in the following ways.

- **By the 1st of the month**, I will supply a question or topic for exploration in the forum. This may include some separate reading.
- **By the 10th of the month**, each candidate will post to the discussion forum regarding the question or topic. Typically this will be about two paragraphs.
- **By the 20th of the month**, each candidate responds to three of their fellow candidates' posts. Your response can be in the form of a question, an observation, or an idea.

### 3) **One final paper of no more than 1,000 words: Due March 1, 2017.**

Using a specific case study, analyze your professional collaboration in creating a worship experience.

- a. What are the successes and what are the unresolved challenges? Articulate your underlying philosophy of collaboration and how you apply it to your work environment.
- b. How was the outcome different from your vision, and how was your vision fulfilled?
- c. Indicate how you perceive God (however defined) at work in the event. What does this event teach about human beings before God? How were you employing your theology as you were involved in the event?

## **SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

The Haiku platform will be used for submitting assignments. You will receive instructions for uploading. Your introductory and final papers will be seen by the instructor. Your discussion topic responses will be posted to all class participants and the instructor.

## **EVALUATION**

Course Instructor will provide written feedback to the participant within six weeks of receiving the the final paper. The Course Instructor will also monitor Forum participation.

## **ABOUT MARK VOGEL**

Mark Vogel is currently Director of Music at First UU Church of Houston (2015-present), and former Director of Music at the UU Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, Virginia (2007-14). He also is Director of Choir and Professor of Music at Lone Star College-North Harris. He has a master's degree in piano performance from Manhattan School of Music.