

Music Ministry
Skidaway Island
United Methodist Church

Joyce Luettich Memorial
Music Scholarship
Brochure
2016 - 2017

*Invoking God's spirit to move
through our music to touch the
hearts and lives of his people*

Foreword

Thank you for your interest in learning more about our church's Music Ministry, the Chancel Choir, and the scholarships that we offer for high school, undergraduate, and graduate school students who participate in our choir during the academic year.

About our Music Ministry

The Music Ministry of Skidaway Island United Methodist Church (SIUMC) is comprised of vocal and instrumental ensembles. The Music Ministry exists for the sole purpose of glorifying God through music and worship. In keeping with the foundations of Methodism, we seek to 'move on towards perfection' in our lives and in the musical offerings we bring our creator.

The Music Ministry strives to provide a place for individuals to share and develop their God-given talents while being encouraged through fellowship with other believers. We hope to draw ourselves and others closer to God by invoking his spirit to move through our music and touch the hearts and lives of his people.

About the Chancel Choir

The 50-member Chancel Choir is our Music Ministry's premier ensemble. Known for its strong sense of musical excellence, the choir sings each Sunday at the 10:00 am worship service and at other special services throughout the year. The choir sings a wide range of repertoire including masterworks, hymn arrangements, spirituals, and contemporary settings, some commissioned especially for our choir. The choir also maintains an active presence in the community and tours both stateside and abroad.

Membership in the choir is open to high-school students and adults of all ages. Auditions are not required. However, singers are encouraged to meet with the Director of Music and Worship in order to help place them in the best section for their range and to meet the choir's needs for a well-balanced ensemble.



Major Works & Special Programs

Recent Major Works:

- Handel's *Messiah*
- Faure's *Requiem*
- DuBois' *Seven Last Words of Christ*
- Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*
- Vivaldi's *Gloria*
- Stainer's *Crucifixion*

Recent Special Programs:

- Service of Lessons & Carols
- Tenebrae Service
- Arts on Skidaway choral productions:
 - *Broadway Prayers*
 - *Carousel*
 - *The Sound of Music*



About the Conductor

The Chancel Choir is directed by Justin L. Addington, who has served as Director of Music & Worship at SIUMC since 2010. During his time at SIUMC, Justin has overseen the design and installation of a new 89-rank organ, led the Chancel Choir on concert tours to Italy, NYC, and Austria, and worked to establish the church's reputation for excellence in the areas of music and worship. Scholarship recipients will benefit from his coaching and nurture of their talent and career aspirations.

Justin received a bachelor's degree in Music Education (Cum Laude) from Limestone College, a Master's of Church Music degree in choral conducting from Concordia University Wisconsin, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Worship Studies from the Robert E. Webber Institute. Justin is a member of the Fellowship of United Methodist Musicians, the Savannah Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (past Dean), and serves on the board of directors for the American Traditions Competition.



About the Scholarship

Scholarship Purpose

The Joyce Luettich Memorial Scholarship provides financial support for tuition and fees and nurturing fellowship to university and high-school student recipients. The *Luettich Scholarship Fund* was established in 2011 in memory of Joyce Luettich (1935-2011), who contributed greatly to the SIUMC's Music Ministry and served with distinction as guest organist, interim Chancel Choir director and choir member. Joyce's love of music was contagious, her Christian spirit was indomitable, and her willingness to serve was an example for all.

Scholarship Availability and Amount

- Four annual scholarships are available, one for each voice part (soprano, alto, tenor, bass).
- The scholarship amount for each recipient is **\$2,000** for one academic year.
- For university students, funds will be disbursed in two \$1,000 installments from the *Luettich Scholarship Fund*, at the beginning of consecutive fall and spring semesters.
- Disbursement will be made directly to the student's university.
- For high school students, funds will be disbursed to the institution of higher learning of their choosing upon their graduation.

- Scholarship recipients who pay out-of-state university tuition may be offered a per-performance stipend if they participate in Christmas and/or Easter performances that occur during university vacations. Such stipends, if any, will be paid directly to the student.
- Scholarships are renewable for one or more additional academic semesters if requested by the recipient and approved by the SIUMC Director of Music & Worship.

How to Apply, Qualification Criteria

Candidates may be recommended by a faculty member of their school’s music department or they may apply by contacting SIUMC’s Director of Music & Worship.

To qualify, the candidate must:

- Be enrolled full-time as a university or high school student.
- Be an active choral singer and/or a student of voice.
- Have and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above (on a 4.0-point scale).
- Submit an application with a letter of recommendation from a faculty member of the music department of the candidate’s school.
- Have a successful interview and audition with the SIUMC Director of Music & Worship.

Expectations and Responsibilities

Scholarship recipients will be expected to:

- Participate in weekly choir rehearsals at SIUMC throughout the academic year for which the scholarship has been granted. Rehearsals are normally 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm on Wednesdays and start at 9:15 am on Sundays before worship. The time of all rehearsals and other important information is also communicated weekly via email from the Director of Music & Worship.
- Attend and participate in weekly Sunday worship as a Chancel Choir member at the 10:00 am service.
- Participate as a Chancel Choir member in other major performances at SIUMC that are scheduled during the academic year.



- Comply with appropriate behavior, grooming, and appearance standards for worship services and other performances.
- Abide by all policies and procedures outlined in the *Chancel Choir Handbook*. The handbook is available at www.siumc.org and each scholarship recipient will receive a copy.
- Attend a review meeting with the Director of Music & Worship at the end of each semester, or more frequently as requested by either party.
- Remain in communication with the Director of Music & Worship regarding needs and scheduling.



Church duties are **not** intended to interfere with school duties. Should an absence be necessary, the recipient must provide prior notice to the Director of Music & Worship. Should more than two absences be necessary or occur in a semester, the recipient must meet with the Director of Music & Worship to discuss make-up arrangements or whether other suitable arrangements can be made for the scholarship to continue.

If at any time a holder of a scholarship becomes ineligible by failing or being unable to continue to meet the qualifications listed above, the unused portion of the scholarship shall accrue to the *Luetlich Scholarship Fund*.



Enrichment Opportunities & Other Benefits

As agreed with the Director of Music & Worship, scholarship recipients may have the opportunity to:

- Perform as a featured soloist or as a member of occasional chamber ensembles.
- Work with a children's or youth choirs for additional leadership, teaching, and conducting experience. (SIUMC has a Safe Sanctuary policy, intended to protect young and vulnerable members of our church as well as the volunteers who work with them. A copy of our Safe Sanctuary policy is available in the church office. Scholarship recipients who work with children are required to have a criminal background check and receive Safe Sanctuary training.)
- Earn additional income by providing voice lessons at SIUMC to members of the choir and congregation.



Scholarship recipients may partake of SIUMC's Fellowship Suppers without charge before Wednesday rehearsals.

Optional expense-paid concert tours with the Chancel Choir are also available. The Chancel Choir has established a tradition of traveling every two years. These concert tours, which serve as wonderful times of fellowship and outreach, alternate between international and state-side destinations. Church members and guests are welcome to sing with the choir on these concert tours or tag along as "groupies."

Testimonials from Past Scholarship Recipients

Through the 2015-2016 academic year, the *Joyce Luettich Memorial Scholarship* has been granted to six recipients studying at Armstrong State University in Savannah, GA. Here are testimonials from four of our scholarship recipients.



Krystin Kicklighter, Soprano **2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years**

Krystin (Seckinger) Kicklighter received her scholarship when she was pursuing a bachelor's degree, majoring in voice and music education at Armstrong University. After graduation, Krystin went on to complete a master's degree in conducting from Georgia Southern University, and is currently employed as a public school choral director. She shared, "My times at SIUMC were some of the greatest times of my life. I never would have thought when I stepped foot in the choir room that first day how much my life would change for the better. The one thing I love about SIUMC is that everyone has a different story to tell. I loved sitting with new people of the Chancel Choir during Wednesday night dinners and learning about their life before Skidaway Island, and I loved making

music to the glory of God with my choir mates each Wednesday in practice, in our worship services and during our concert tour of Italy. Being a part of this group opened so many opportunities for me that I may not have had otherwise. I'm so grateful that this church, this choir, and these people became a part of my life."

Concert Tour Destinations

2012

Italy Concert Tour of Rome, Florence and Venice

2014

Carnegie Hall, New York City
Joint Choir Workshop & Concert
Conducted by Composer John Rutter

2016

Austria Concert Tour of Salzburg and Vienna



Diandra Canzius, Alto
2013-14 academic year

Diandra Canzius received her scholarship when she was pursuing a bachelor's degree in vocal performance at Armstrong University. She traveled with the choir to New York City and thanked the church with this message: *"I am honored to be part of a church with such generous people. I would like to thank everyone involved who helped me get to New York this spring. Singing at Carnegie Hall is a once in a lifetime kind of experience. Singing at Carnegie Hall with John Rutter is even more seldom. I many not have had these opportunities without SIUMC. I humbly thank the congregation for their contribution, however indirect it may have been. I have amazing memories now simply because you're all in my life. I wouldn't change a single thing about our trip if I could. I got to bond with an outstanding group, and that is priceless."*

Peter Louglas, Tenor
2014-2015 & 2015-2016 academic years

Peter Louglas received his Luettich scholarship when he was pursuing a bachelor's degree in vocal performance and composition at Armstrong University. Peter has been singing in church for as long as he can remember. Peter has wanted to compose music for religious services since he was a preteen, and his [2015] winning of the J.H. Perse Composition Competition with his benediction setting of the text *Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies Sake* is a testimony to his gifts in this arena. Peter shared, *"I love my adopted family at SIUMC. The exuberance it brings me knowing the feelings are reciprocated cannot be overstated."*





Abbey Terry, Mezzo-Soprano 2015-2016 academic year

Abbey Terry received her scholarship when she was 40 to support her undergraduate studies in music. A native of Louisville, KY, Abbey reached Savannah by way of Portland, OR, where she spent a decade working in university libraries. She has been active in church music since childhood, starting with her Catholic school experience as well as community arts and theater. When not at school or church, Abbey teaches voice and piano at Portman's Music Center, writes, gardens, and makes art with recycled clothing. Abbey shared, *"The opportunity to be part of the worship experience here at SIUMC has been truly life changing for me. The music ministry has opened up new life paths for me, deepened my faith, and made me understand at last what is meant by 'church family'."*

Testimonials from Members of our Congregation

"Joyce would say, 'Music is the voice of God and it was brought to us by God.' Though she served choirs and churches throughout our country, she had a special affinity for SIUMC and an undying love for the choir. Every time we lost an organist, she came in because of her feeling for the choir. So, when she passed, our children and I felt we had to do something to keep her memory alive within the choir. Establishing the *Joyce Luettich Scholarship* was just our way of saying thanks to the glory of God. We couldn't be more pleased and happy that people have responded this way. The scholarship recipients need our support, and we are grateful that the scholarship has grown to benefit them." — *Dick Luettich & family*

"We have been so happy to have the students from the *Luettich Scholarship* involved in our worship services. They add so much to the life of our church and bless us in many ways." — *Rev. Jim Giddens, Minister*

"I strongly believe the scholarship program enables SIUMC to attract talented college music students with wonderful voices who will not only enhance the quality of music of our choir but also contribute in other ways to the important music ministry of our church." — *Bill Peterson, Chancel Choir member and donor*

"The music scholarship program enables a win-win situation. It provides students the opportunity to sing with a volunteer church choir, learn music techniques and direction from a master, be exposed to religious music and participate in a Christian experience. The church benefits from the addition of these young voices to our choir and enables us to provide a stronger musical worship experience for our congregation." — *Erv Hietbrink, past chair, Scholarship Committee.*

“The scholarship program has brought talented new young voices and added energy to a successful choir program. These students added not only excellent voices but a new dynamic to the choir and to the church. Youth has a way of doing that! Also, SIUMC is a *welcoming* church and this is another way we demonstrate that quality to our congregation and our community. Carol and I are very thankful we supported the scholarship program as we received far more from recipients’ participation than we gave.” — *Ron Medinger, donor and past chair, Music Search Committee*

“As a regular attendee of the 8:30 a.m. “early” service, I am extremely grateful for the solos provided by the scholarship recipients. The music ministry and the congregation’s worship experience are greatly enhanced by having them available to sing at a service where the Chancel Choir is absent. Thank you!” — *Beth Logan*

For More Information:

If you would like more information regarding Skidaway Island United Methodist Church and its Music Ministry, or if you have questions regarding the scholarship application and audition process, please contact:

Justin L. Addington

Director of Music & Worship

912-598-8460

Justin@siumc.org

How to Become a Donor:

Tax-deductible contributions to support *The Joyce Luettich Memorial Scholarship* may be made to SIUMC. Please note *Luettich Scholarship Fund* in the memo line.



**Skidaway Island United Methodist Church
Music Scholarship Application and Audition Registration Form**

Please type or print legibly

Date: _____ Voice: __Soprano __Alto __Tenor __Baritone __Bass

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Current email: _____

Permanent
Address: _____
Street address, City, State, Zip code

Current High School or University: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____ Scholarship Application for
Academic Year starting: _____

Expected/ Declared Major: _____ Year in School _____

Most recent SAT or ACT Composite Test Score: _____ Date taken: _____

What two musical selections have you prepared for your audition?

Title: _____ Composer: _____

Title: _____ Composer: _____

List performing experiences, honors, awards, theory or history study, career goals or other pertinent information regarding your musical and academic background.

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Skidaway Island United Methodist Church
Music Scholarship Application and Audition Registration Form
(continued)

Thank you for your interest in the Joyce Luettich Memorial Scholarship. Please submit your application with one letter of recommendation from a music professional to:

Justin L. Addington
Director of Music & Worship
Skidaway Island United Methodist Church
54 Diamond Causeway, Savannah, GA 31411
Justin@siumc.org