

Walter J. Brath, DWS

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PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT

Through teaching, worship leading, and song writing, I desire to skillfully combine biblical truth with music to magnify the worth of God and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, thereby motivating everyone to join me in proclaiming and cherishing the truth about God and seeking to live all of life for the glory of God.

EDUCATION

Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies

Doctorate of Worship Studies, 2018.

Liberty University

Masters of Arts in Ethnomusicology, 2013.

University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music

Bachelor of Music degree in jazz piano and studio music, 1995.

EMPLOYMENT

Program Director and Assistant Professor of Worship Arts

Grace College and Seminary, Winona Lake, IN, June 2016 – Present.

www.grace.edu

- Oversaw fundraising (\$250K), design and construction of rehearsal room space available for all Grace students, 2022.
- Produced first worship album, *Reclaim/Proclaim*, featuring student compositions and arrangements, 2020.
[\(https://www.grace.edu/grace-college-worship-arts-program-releases-reclaim-proclaim-album/\)](https://www.grace.edu/grace-college-worship-arts-program-releases-reclaim-proclaim-album/)
- Planned and implemented new Worship Leadership Concentration, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry with Grace Theological Seminary, Fall 2023.
- Partner with Brent Mencarelli and chapel ministry on campus.
- Planned and implemented a new Music Production major in Fall 2022.
- Planned and led worship arts teams on tour to France 2019, 2022, and Hungary 2024.

- Program coordinator for yearly festival of music - planning and implementing 10-14 concerts and recitals each year for the college and community, raising \$75K in sponsorships from Sweetwater Sound and KCC Foundation, 2016 - present.
- Oversaw fundraising (\$150K), design and construction of recording studio, 2018
- Designed and launched the worship arts program, 2016

Assistant Professor of Worship Arts

Crown College, St. Bonifacius, MN, August 2013 – May 2016.

www.crown.edu

- Teaching music and worship ministry courses.
- Oversee worship teams for chapel 4 times a week.
- Lead ministry teams to churches, schools, conferences and overseas (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPpgTDnQy24>).
- Developed and implemented the Bachelor of Arts in World Music program.
- Member of the Sound, Lighting, and Production (SLAP) committee – a cabinet level committee that is evaluating all AV needs on campus.

Pastor for Worship

Parkside Church, Waconia, MN May 2014 – May 2016.

- Part-time position leading and planning weekly worship services.
- Supervise worship and tech teams.

Director of Worship

Christ Redeemer Church, Woodbury, MN September 2011 – May 2014.

- Church plant from Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN.
- Led and planned weekly worship services.
- Supervised and trained worship and tech teams.

Pastor for Worship and Small Groups

All Nations Christian Fellowship, Minneapolis, MN March 2006 – August 2011.

- Part of the leadership team that planted ANCF in March '06 from Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, MN.
- Led and planned weekly worship services.
- Supervised and trained worship teams and choir for adults and children.
- Supervised 5 Small Group leaders that help shepherd the church.

Adjunct Piano Faculty

Northwestern University, Saint Paul, MN September 2007– May 2011.

Bethel University, Saint Paul, MN September 2005 – May 2013.

- Created a Group Piano course for the Academy of Music, Northwestern College.
- Taught group piano and private lessons for all ages.
- Taught private lessons with emphasis in Jazz theory and improvisation.
- Accompanied Jazz Choir and Orchestra.

Minister for Worship

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN May 2004 – March 2006.

- Planned and led Wednesday and Saturday evening services.
- Planned and led special *Treasuring Christ Together* prayer events.
- Planned and led a Worship Training weekend for recruiting and equipping teams.
- Started and led a monthly songwriting forum.

Worship Leader and Consultant

Westridge Community Church, Elgin, IL January 2004 – March 2004.

Willow Creek Community Church, South Barrington, IL April 2003-December 2003.

- Lead piano/keyboard training at the Willow Creek Arts Conference.
- Provided leadership, planned and led mid-week and weekend services.
- Provided leadership to launch a North Campus for Willow Creek in Northfield, IL.
- Enlisted, equipped, and empowered musicians.

Director of Worship

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, LaFox, IL March 1996 - April 2003.

- Planned and led 3 Sunday morning services and a Wednesday service (1000 in worship).
- Led a worship choir, worship teams, orchestra, children's choir and student bands.
- Led seasonal music events for Christmas and Easter.
- Supervised volunteer worship assistant, children's choir directors, and paid sound tech.
- Initiated and produced a Worship CD used for outreach.
- Facilitated new building project for additional worship space.

Director of Worship

Central College Presbyterian Church, Westerville, OH September 1994 - February 1996.

- Initiated a transition from Traditional to Contemporary Worship.
- Planned and led the Contemporary Service.
- Recruited and equipped musicians.
- Supervised paid musicians.

CONFERENCES, TOURS, LECTURES, AND AFFILIATIONS

- Presented Jazz Psalms service and lecture entitled: The Swinging Psalter - Using Jazz and Improvisation to Expand the Emotional Range of Our Musical Language for Worship at the Calvin Worship Symposium, February 5-7, 2025.
(https://www.youtube.com/live/F94wHULJg0Q?si=6lm8wC_e0OgayBEed)
- Guest lecturer for worship conference, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 2024.
- Guest lecturer for Anglican Church North America Great Lakes Diocese retreat, 2024.
- Poland tour with Proclaim International, 2024.
- Guest worship leader Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies, 2023, 2024.
- Guest worship leader at Calvin Worship Symposium, Grand Rapids, MI, 2023.
- Guest lecturer at Karoli Gaspar University, 2023.
- Poland and Belarus tour with Proclaim International, 2019.
- Worship leader for NEXT Conference, Christian & Missionary Alliance youth conference, 2015-2016.
- Member of SEM (Society of Ethnomusicologists) and ICE (International Council of Ethnodoxologists)
- Taught worship and music courses for the Kachin Baptist Convention in Burma (Myanmar), May 2011 and November 2012.
- Teacher/Clinician - Piano/keyboards, Willow Creek Arts Conference, Barrington, Illinois, 2003 – 2004.
- Worship Leader - Wycliffe Bible Translators Conference, Chang Mai, Thailand, 2002.
- Piano/Keyboards - Bethlehem Baptist Church Pastor's Conference, 1999-2008.
- Piano/keyboards - Department of Defense Tour, Italy, Spain, Greece, Turkey, 1991.

PRESS

- <https://www.inkfreenews.com/2026/06/20/patriotic-concert-jazz-fest-in-winona-lake-in-july/>
- <https://www.inkfreenews.com/2026/04/28/grace-college-announces-upcoming-free-music-events/>
- Calvin Symposium Jazz Psalms presentation
(<https://timesuniononline.com/news/2025/feb/13/grace-college-worship-arts-professor-performs-original-album/>)
- <https://www.grace.edu/grace-college-worship-arts-professor-performs-original-album-at-calvin-symposium-on-worship/>
- Article written about the worship arts program for *Music Educators Technology Resource Directory*, published by Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, Indiana.
(<https://www.grace.edu/building-the-worship-arts-program/>)
- Article about former worship arts student, Samuel Schmidt, building a career in music.
(<https://www.grace.edu/sam-ule-is-building-a-career-as-a-full-time-musician-at-grace-college/>)
- Grace Story Podcast interview
(<https://www.grace.edu/podcast/grace-story-podcast-episode-42-wally-brath/>)
- Article about former worship arts student, Sarah Clemans.
(<https://www.grace.edu/worship-arts-degree-takes-a-whole-new-meaning/>)

- [Article about Jazz Psalms album, *Connexion - a Jazz Psalter*.](https://www.grace.edu/grace-college-worship-arts-professor-dr-wally-brath-releases-album-on-the-psalms/)
(<https://www.grace.edu/grace-college-worship-arts-professor-dr-wally-brath-releases-album-on-the-psalms/>)
- Article about worship arts collaboration with Encompass World Partners.
(<https://www.grace.edu/grace-worship-ministry-students-collaborate-with-encompass-world-partners/>)
- *Connexion - a Jazz Psalter*, review by nationally recognized, *Worship Leader Magazine*.
(<https://worshipleader.com/worship-culture/christian-jazz-album-review-wally-brath-s-connexion-a-jazz-psalter/>)
- *Connexion - a Jazz Psalter*, press release in Ink Free News.
(https://www.inkfreenews.com/2023/11/06/grace-worship-arts-professor-releases-album-on-the-psalms/?fbclid=IwAR04nl8R9VUgE0lrR258tPesb77waKusmUwz0FK6-jKJteG7rBoC_ABhwlo#google_vignette)
- *Connexion - a Jazz Psalter*, press release in Fort Wayne Journal Gazette
(https://www.journalgazette.net/living/local-arts/grace-college-professor-releases-jazz-psalm-album/article_280ff814-7d94-11ee-b755-23da8ce4a0c6.html).
- New and notable music mention in UTR blog.
(<https://utrmedia.org/nn1023/?fbclid=IwAR3eVj1fhDhxWQVN5FtHQflrH4DrAIRgGBpNvhpd6DYqGG41-u3fh3Pbq8>)
- Featured interview in Post Consumer Report podcast.
(<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/postconsumer-reports-podcast/id1076058023?i=1000639388665>)

ORIGINAL WORKS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Performed George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Symphony of the Lakes, July 3, 2026.
- Wrote choral piece, *Phos Hilaron*, for choir. Performed at Christmas in the Village, December 2026.
- Collaborated with Dr. John Poch on poem and music piece, *Belief at Cherry Creek*. Performed the piece at the Worship Arts Faculty recital February 27, 2026.
- Kazakhstan music project - arranged and recorded 4 songs for global partners in Kazakhstan, 2024.
- Article in Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies blog.
(<https://iws.edu/2023/11/connexion-a-jazz-psalter/>)
- Absolute Necessity blog - personal blog covering a range of topics.
(<https://www.wallybrathmusic.com/blog>)
- *Connexions - a Jazz Psalter* - 9 original Psalm settings for voice and chamber ensemble, 2023.
(https://open.spotify.com/album/5zttOobF8utbzt8cQeymNW?si=8Jj_0aSXQR2KfmRvp9QthQ)
(<https://www.wallybrathmusic.com/psalms-album>)
- Spanish World Ministries - arranged and recorded intro/exit music for radio show, 2023.
- Encompass World Partners - recorded 2 songs with worship arts students for Kevin Stauffer, global partner in France, 2023.

- Every Tribe and Tongue - The Winona Lake Sessions Live, 2022
(https://open.spotify.com/album/444JHt56hRhI7Q1momzkAi?si=BxN5rl5cTnKzS94Q5JXO_w)
- Reclaim/Proclaim Worship Arts Album, 2022
(<https://open.spotify.com/album/6XfSQHQginoVQmEIOTbOdp?si=j3tLdHe-RRuBFVtebT6-8g>)
(<https://www.grace.edu/grace-college-worship-arts-program-releases-reclaim-proclaim-album/>)
- Grace College Worship Arts jazz vespers service featuring the two-time Grammy award winning bassist, John Patitucci. Performed at Warsaw United Methodist Church on Friday, November 8, 2019.
(https://youtu.be/8r6rfyJhdyc?si=t8vzhjTiotP_b6_)
- ENHANCING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER FOR WORSHIP ARTS STUDENTS AT GRACE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY IN WINONA LAKE, INDIANA, Doctoral Dissertation, 2018.
- KACHIN SOUND INSTRUMENTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE KACHIN BAPTIST CONVENTION OF NORTHERN BURMA: HISTORY, CLASSIFICATION, AND USES, Masters Thesis, 2013.
- Of The Father's Love Begotten - original composition with words by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (<https://youtu.be/dAmOQFsx6dc?si=ELX7B1yo0wEWV6LR>)
- Gospel choir with original arrangement of African chorus, *Amen Siakudumisa*, with Matt Redman's, *Let Everything That Has Breath*.
(<https://youtu.be/Dg3d0g6IPQI?list=PLDKQSuw6grNsUX1k1XsswdZ5Sh7m0mr2r>)
- Rejoice Rejoice Believers with Joy to the World - Original arrangement and orchestration (<https://youtu.be/vn-l8wWMjNo?si=XbjOLdKIZyuTvpfa>)
- Phos Hilaron - Original composition of the 4th century Christian hymn traditionally sung at Vespers (<https://youtu.be/FBSunKM45m4?si=mO3ify84LzYyf3ql>)
- O Worship the King - original arrangement and chorus of this traditional hymn.
(https://youtu.be/w_zMbKvgnrw?si=zRj-4L8VRk3gp5WS)
- My Jesus I Love Thee - original arrangement of this traditional hymn with original chorus. (<https://youtu.be/IQDaLIompwk?si=GAAaiKjw0QDR9CRh>)
- Hymn medley of It Is Well, Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus, and Take My Life and Let it be Consecrated - original arrangement for solo violin.
(<https://youtu.be/cqD8r2LkUL4?si=gOoyfvmpjqELEVtk>)
- O Sacred Now Wounded - original solo piano arrangement.
(<https://youtu.be/7Uver4K1Eb0?si=TDGM-1XEs8v-IEuS>)
- Traditional Memorial Acclamation with original music.
(https://youtu.be/6gBBdY7zkyk?si=U9xQ3_X8qb4BWzYp)
- Sanctity Me - original composition
(<https://youtu.be/cRkY4gV75D8?si=i3xvAPm72h5W9xoT>)
- Traditional Sanctus with original music.
(<https://youtu.be/2wyT6DEG1S0?si=N18AYFeamWv2Mggn>)
- Kadosh - traditional Hebrew prayer with original composition
(https://youtu.be/tOwvkiGO_IU?si=QWjGf77m6-LF6xzs)
- All Hail the Pow'r of Jesus' Name - original arrangement of this traditional hymn.
(<https://youtu.be/yviRJHGtz4o?si=dphlr3vUmUor8--1>)

- Agony of Da Feet - original jazz composition.
<https://youtu.be/eGKYKI7SfqA?si=xFsh4QRz-6B7q3Vs>
- Kadosh - instrumental jazz version.
<https://youtu.be/qkAfSV7pSIQ?si=BFjnmEeCH03VdvgN>

REFERENCES

- Dr. Bill Kuhn, Campus Chaplain, Crown College, St. Bonifacius, MN.
952-232-7237 kuhnb@crown.edu
- Dr. Gene Rivard, Professor of Music Emeritus, Crown College, St. Bonifacius, MN.
952-913-7405 drgeneriv@gmail.com
- Dr. Chuck Steddom, South Campus Pastor for Worship, Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN 612-619-2004 chuck.steddom@hopeinGod.org
- Dr. Kip Cone, Pastor for Preaching, Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church, Winona Lake, IN 574-377-2127 kccone@wlgbc.com