



Samford University

Center for Worship and the Arts

Year in Review 2021

The mission of The Center for Worship and the Arts at Samford University is to equip congregations to engage intergenerational and artistic worship practices that glorify God, honor Christ, and join the transformative work of the Spirit in the world.



Letter from the Director: Emily Snider Andrews

Greetings from The Center for Worship and the Arts at Samford University,

Friends, as 2021 comes to a close, we are looking forward with hope-filled anticipation to the year ahead. Before we get there, though, we're taking time to reflect on our past year. We entered the year with uncertainty, in a time when we weren't sure of our capacity for programming, events, fellowship, and collaboration. Still, we trekked forward, often on Zoom (Is "You're muted." the most popular phrase of the year?!). We navigated a path that, we realize now, revealed new spaces and avenues for learning, sharing, worship, and ministry.

What stands out as we reflect is that this has been a year of renewed partnerships. More than ever, our work this year has been collaborative. Shared effort and dependency were woven into the very fabric of many of our events and programs. Our Worship in the Black Church Experience and Creativity's Calling conferences are prime examples of these alliances, with Samford's Office of Diversity and Intercultural Initiatives and the Center for Congregational Resources coming alongside our own staff as partners, supporting the work of intergenerational and artistic worship practices among congregations and church leaders. We are learning that church leaders are hungry for resources that support teenagers and their spiritual formation. Despite the zoom-fatigue of post-2020, our virtual and online Animate model was very well-received. As a result, we now see space for these alternative modes of learning and collaboration in our future work.

Our staff welcomed a new member to the team in October. Cathy Nagi joined our staff as Administrative Assistant, and her contributions have proven invaluable to our work. Additionally, we welcomed our largest class of student residents this Fall from a wide range of majors across campus, all of whom learned new ways to invest their gifts through the work of the CWA.

Much of our work—especially in 2021—has asked us to rethink boundaries, to reimagine the flourishing-life, and to lean into a different world, particularly a world in which intergenerational worship and ministry might become the "normal" one for us. It is our hope that we have contributed something to that world this past year. In so doing, we pray that we have contributed to the "already" part of God's kingdom among us.

For the glory of God, for the good of the church,

Emily Snider Andrews

Director, Center for Worship and the Arts



Animate 2021



Animate is a Summer worship arts program for teenagers and their adult mentors. Mentoring young people for faithful worship ministry in the twenty-first century lies at the heart of the Animate philosophy. By encouraging thoughtful, artistic, imaginative worship planning and leadership, Animate seeks to help students and their mentors better understand and facilitate the dialogue of worship. We hope they will, in turn, further enhance the worship life of their local congregation.

Through Animate, teenagers become conversant in multiple styles, expressions, and idioms of worship. They are inspired to invigorate the mission of the church, foster a richer imagination about who God is, promote a deeper level of participation in church life, and create a greater desire to live a life of humility and conviction in the world.

As we reflect on eight years of Animate programming, we can see that Animate has helped to raise up a generation of multi-lingual worshipers and worship leaders: teenagers who are biblically faithful and contextually aware, historically informed and culturally relevant, spiritually sensitive and prophetically challenging, theologically imaginative and artistically astute, locally connected and globally engaged. Informed and inspired by interdisciplinary studies in worship, preaching, music, theatre, dance,

visual art, architecture, and film. Many former Animate participants are currently collaborating with others to create artistic liturgies that will inspire a rich life of faith.

In 2021, The Center for Worship and the Arts offered two options for participating: Animate 21 LIVE and Animate 21 FLEX. Both were virtual experiences, with Animate 21 LIVE happening synchronously in real time and Animate 21 FLEX available on the participants' own time and schedule. Animate 21 engaged 103 registrants who participated in a total of 211 sessions. Several of the registered attendees were adult leaders who used the virtual program to train and equip student worship teams, thereby extending the program's reach exponentially beyond registration totals.

One of the highlights of Animate 21 was a virtual Animate Alumni worship service produced by two former Animate student staff members and led by former Animate students and staff.

Worship Exchange

The Worship Exchange Program is an ongoing effort to provide resources for our faculty, staff, and students to engage and explore topics related to adolescent worship practices, intergenerational worship, and the creative use of worship and the arts.

Worship Exchange with Lester Ruth

Lester Ruth, professor of worship at Duke Divinity School, is a historian of Christian worship with particular interests in the early church and the last 250 years, especially the study of contemporary praise and worship. He is passionate about enriching the worship life of current congregations regardless of style. We welcomed Dr. Ruth to campus for this virtual worship exchange in February 2021, and were joined via video conference by guests from Samford's campus and all across the country.



Worship Leadership Network Fair

To kick off the Fall semester, local church leaders met with Samford music and worship students to discuss possible partnerships and ministry opportunities. Countless numbers of mentor/mentee relationships have developed through the years as a result of these efforts. The CWA's first in-person event involved 15 area church leaders meeting with all of Samford's Worship majors and Worship Leadership minors.



WORSHIP EXCHANGE

Liz Vice



Worship in the Black Church Experience

The merger of African faith traditions with the Christian gospel has resulted in a fascinating 400-year-old story of strength and grace, freedom and solidarity, faith and action. Participants in *Worship in the Black Church Experience* engaged in enlightening and meaningful conversations with special guests Dr. James Abbington, Associate Professor of Church Music and Worship at Candler School of Theology, and Mr. David Bailey, Founder and Director of Arrabon Ministries. The WBCE Worship Exchange included classroom visits and lectures; a community-wide Lunch-time Q&A with Dr. Abbington; dinner and guided conversations with area church leaders, Samford faculty and administrators; and a very well attended documentary screening of *11 AM: Hope for America's Most Segregated Hour* which was followed by a panel discussion.



MGS&A Music Exchange Cadre

The CWA is honored to lead and support a unique music exchange cadre between Samford School of the Arts students and Mt. Gilead Scholastic and Artistic Institute in Coy, Alabama. The MGS&A Music Exchange Cadre is in its second year, and is offered in partnership with the Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership under the direction of CWA Program Manager, Tracy Hanrahan, who is also a Mann Center Staff Fellow. In 2021, a total of 24 Samford students participated in the community-based learning program which included a combination of in-person and virtual music lessons and performances. The MGS&A began as an idea from the Rev. Dr. Stanford Angion in 2010 after several years of failed attempts to find musicians to lead worship at his home church. The program is now in its tenth year of providing year-round services to about 30 students in Southwest Alabama.



Creativity's Calling

What is the relationship between our life as a worshiper on the Lord's day and our daily life as a Christian disciple? Teenagers and emerging adults in particular find themselves in a season of searching for identity and intentionality in life and need to see explicit connections between worship and daily life. Dr. Cory Willson, co-author of the book *Work and Worship: Reconnecting Our Labor and Liturgy*, explored the biblical connections between labor and liturgy during this unique on-campus workshop. Willson was joined by Kimberly Williams and Hayden Hobby of the Urban Doxology Project who offered innovative worship songwriting sessions. The event was offered in partnership with the Center for Congregational Resources. Recorded sessions are available on the CWA's website.



Worship Exchange with Bobby Smith

Bobby Smith is an Emmy award winning composer, producer, and worship pastor who lives in Atlanta, Georgia. High school success in songwriting and music led him to Samford where he studied classical voice, piano, and composing. The CWA enjoyed welcoming Bobby back to campus during homecoming week. During his time with us, Bobby encouraged student worship teams, shared with community-wide guests during a Lunchtime Q & A, and was a special guest presenter in a few lucky Samford classrooms.



Online Resources

The Center for Worship and the Arts is committed to leveraging worship practices into resources that can be disseminated to a broader audience, especially those that create agency, develop responsibility, foster intergenerational mentoring, and encourage long-term relationships.





Compline

Compline: Evening Liturgies for Anxious Souls is a meditative prayer resource offered Sunday through Thursday evenings. Based on the ancient practice of Praying the Hours, *Compline* features original music and the curation of scripture and prayers built into an invitation to commune with God in a time of reflection, quiet, and stillness at the end of the day in our anxious age. *Compline* seasons change with the liturgical calendar. *Compline* consistently ranks as one of the CWA's most popular resources with a total of 74,433 downloads at last count and a per day average of 168.



Toolbox Tutorials + Worship Orders

We want to do more than teach how to lead others in worship. We want to provide worship leaders the tools needed to create more meaningful, authentic, powerful, and intentional worship. These resources are available on our website free of charge with frequent updates and new additions throughout the year.



Online Certificates

In partnership with Samford's Ministry Training Institute, the CWA is excited to offer two online, non-degree certificate programs: the *Online Certificate in Worship Leadership* and the *Online Certificate in Worship Administration*. Taught by a combination of Samford faculty and additional professional worship leaders, the online certificate program regularly garners praise from participants for both quality of content and flexibility of schedule.



Green Room

The Green Room is a collection of behind-the-scenes interviews with worship arts professionals who have visited campus as participants in other CWA programs and events. It's a great place to tune in to what experts are thinking and saying about topics relevant to worship, teenagers, and the arts. We invite constituents to watch these videos with friends, engage their content, and let them prompt conversation. Alicid quis dolore nem expliatus as rem volorum aut explati restio ommolor rerferum aliquam antio quatur, ut asimus, ute et occum repudi voles dolore, suntium



Blog Posts

Through the years, the CWA has developed relationships with Samford faculty and other worship arts professionals, and we always love to learn and share with our constituents from their areas of expertise. We frequently call on these ministry partners to write blog posts on timely topics related to teens, worship, and the arts.

