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## **TOM TRENNEY** **Biography**

Tom Trenney shares his passion as pastoral musician, composer, and teacher in worship with his home congregation, in the college classroom, and in performances, hymn festivals, choral and organ workshops and master classes all around the country. Since 2009, he has been blessed to serve as Minister of Music to First-Plymouth Church (United Church of Christ) in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he shepherds four adult choirs, accompanies the congregation on the Schoenstein organ, preaches sermons, and guides the Abendmusik at First-Plymouth Concert Series. In 2015-16, three of First-Plymouth's choirs were honored to perform at conventions of the Nebraska Choral Directors Association, the Nebraska Music Educators Association, and the North Central American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). In March 2017, First-Plymouth's chamber choir, Cantorei, sang two worship services at the national ACDA convention in Minneapolis.

In addition to his ministry at First-Plymouth, Tom is Music Director of *sounding light* — a chamber choir which he founded in southeastern Michigan in 2003. *sounding light* was honored with the invitation to perform at the national convention of the ACDA in March 2017.

Tom's choral compositions have been published by Augsburg Fortress, E.C. Schirmer/Galaxy, Morningstar, MusicSpoke, Pavane, and G. Schirmer. His music has been sung in churches and colleges around the country. Tom's recordings with First-Plymouth and *sounding light* have been featured on national public radio's *Pipedreams*, *With Heart and Voice*, and *Sing for Joy*.

Most notably, Tom has been blessed to perform and teach at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the ACDA, the Organ Historical

Society, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, the Sewanee Church Music Conference, and the Calvin Institute of Worship. In 2017, he was choral clinician at Montreat Worship and Music, Lutheridge Worship and Music, and Atlanta's midwinter Choristers Guild Festival; and he preached, conducted, played, and taught at the National Convocation of the Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts. He is grateful to be featured as worship leader and clinician at Iowa ACDA, Southwest ACDA, and National AGO conventions in 2018.

In 2006, Tom became the first organist to be awarded First Prize and Audience Prize in the American Guild of Organists' National Competition in Organ Improvisation; he has since served as a juror for this competition. Represented by Karen McFarlane Artists Concert Management, he has performed multiple times at such venues as the Schermerhorn Symphony Hall (Nashville), Merrill Hall (Portland, Maine), Spreckels Organ Pavilion (San Diego), and Verizon Hall at Kimmel Center (Philadelphia).

A graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Eastman School of Music, Tom is grateful for the inspiration of his teachers and mentors – especially Anton Armstrong, David Davidson, David Higgs, William Weinert, Anne Wilson and Todd Wilson.

*Current as of August 2017*