

Joel Martinson

Short Biography 2006-2007

Joel Martinson holds the position of Director of Music Ministries and Organist at The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas, Texas, where he coordinates the vibrant musical life of the parish, including choral and instrumental ensembles for all ages, a music series, and an exciting new organ project by the firm of Richards, Fowkes & Co. A product of two generations of clergy-musician families, Martinson has worked as a musician in Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Reformed Jewish houses of worship.

An active composer, Mr. Martinson has been commissioned by a wide array of churches, musical organizations, and individual performers across the United States. His award-winning compositions have been widely featured at conventions of professional and denominational musicians' organizations in the US, and have been performed throughout the US and Great Britain, as well as in Europe, Scandinavia, South Africa and South Korea. His works have been recorded by professional choral organizations, university choirs and wind ensembles, community and church choirs, acclaimed organ recitalists, and other performers. They have been heard nationally on both *Pipedreams* and NPR's *Performance Today*. Martinson is represented by a complete setting of the liturgy in the newly released hymnal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as compositions in the official hymnal supplements and new music resource materials of both the ELCA and The Episcopal Church. Nearly 100 of his works are published by Oxford University Press, Paraclete Press and a number of other respected US music houses.

An accomplished organist and national competition winner Martinson holds both the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Organ Performance with secondary area of composition from The University of North Texas where he was a student of Charles S. Brown. A frequent organ recitalist and performer of hymn festivals, he has also been invited to lecture on the diverse styles of sacred music at the turn of the twenty-first century as well as his work as a composer, speaking to AGO chapters and conventions, denominational gatherings, and university students. From 2000-2004, he was Adjunct Faculty in Church Music at the University of North Texas in Denton, where he taught a series of courses in the historical and modern practice of liturgy and church music.

Joel Martinson has been Dean of the Dallas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, as well as Director of the Recital Series and a member of the Steering Committee for the 1994 National Convention. He has served two terms on the national Committee for New Music Competitions and Commissions of the AGO and is currently Performance Chair for the Region VII 2007 convention.