

First Christian Church of Orange (Disciples of Christ) Orange, California

First Christian Church of Orange is a Progressive Christian congregation and explicitly welcomes and affirms the LGBTQ+ community.

Project Director: Rev. Dr. Dayna Kinkade
Music Director: Brian Dehn



Project Summary:

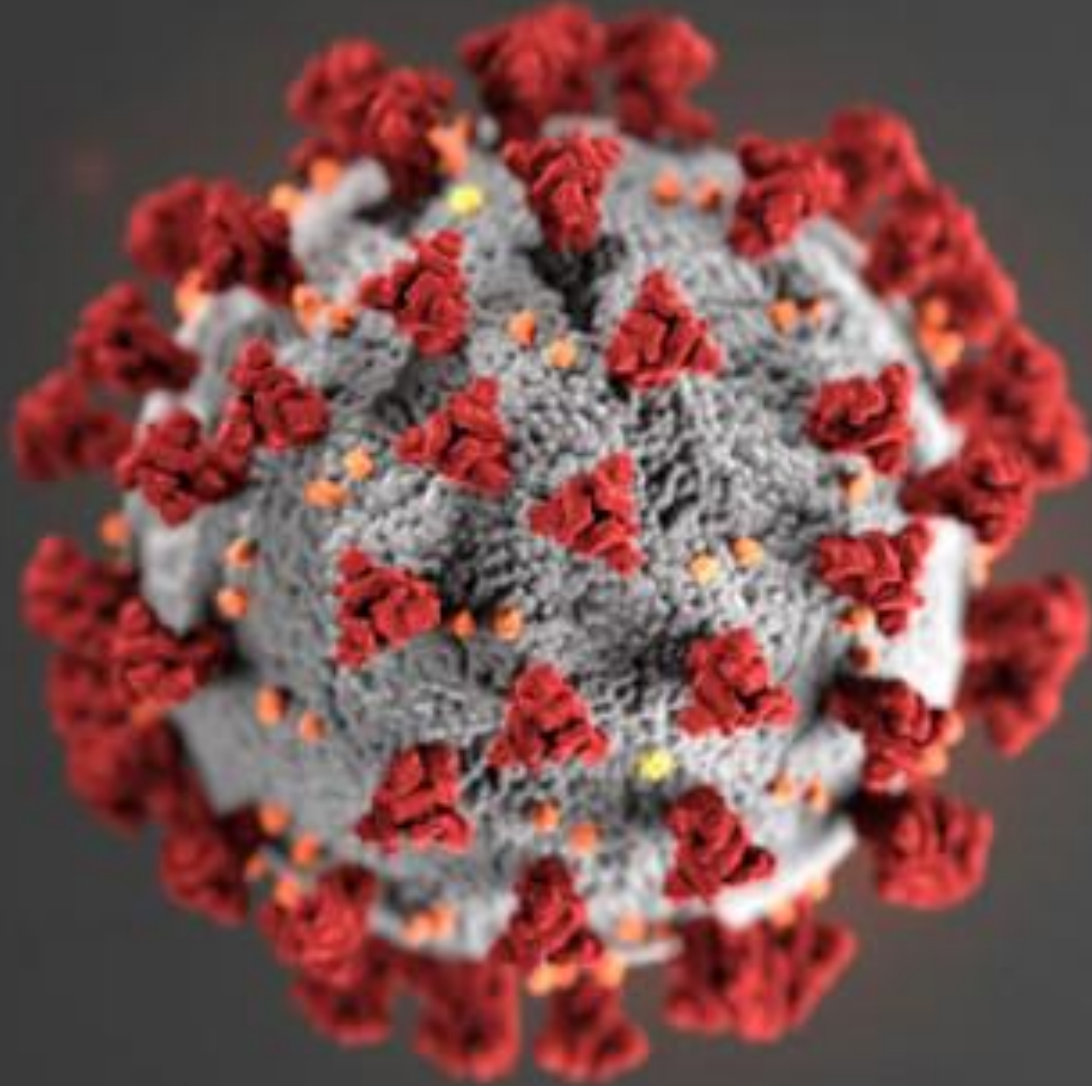
Because we see the potential for collective effervescence, we hope to implement a project that creates a process for selecting songs for congregational singing that are singable, sticky, and sound, in order to promote vibrant worship, congregational solidarity, and individual belonging.

Meet Brian. He's frustrated.

This project began with the hiring of a new music director at First Christian Church of Orange. Tasked with the responsibility of selecting music for worship, he quickly realized selecting music for a Progressive Christian congregation is a challenge. He had many questions and spent hours each week sifting through piles resources to try find just the right songs.

So began our journey to find singable, sticky, and sound (theologically appropriate for our congregation) music for congregational singing.





PANDEMIC

Coronavirus changed everything...
The big plans we had for singing labs with the congregation, workshops for worship designers, and a guest choir for worship, all had to change.

No singing. No choirs. No gathering.

Our congregation quickly pivoted to online worship streamed live from our sanctuary. Meetings and workshops shifted to zoom. Our grant morphed into a series of online events and conversations.

Lift Every Voice!

September Worship Series

Why do we sing? Why don't some people sing? What are the selection criteria for music sung in worship at FCCO? There are just a few of the questions we will be addressing in this series.

This worship series addressed song selection, collective effervescence, the importance of singing in faith formation, lament, and the types of music we sing in worship. The series emphasized the importance of music in worship and the challenges of finding music for a Progressive Christian worshipping body. The series was well received. It challenged people to think about music for congregational singing in new ways.

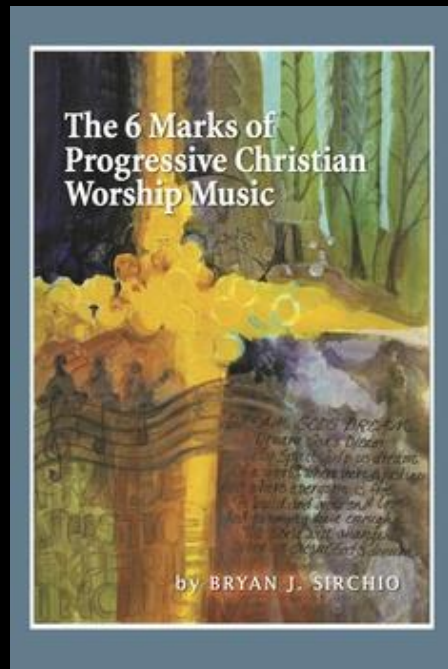
Sunday, September 6, 2020
How Can I Keep from Singing?
Colossians 3:12-17

Sunday, September 13, 2020
O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Psalm 100

Sunday, September 20, 2020
We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God
Exodus 15:20-21

Sunday, September 27, 2020
I Will Sing
Psalm 77

Progressive Worship Music Zoom Session
Presented By Bryan Sirchio
Thursday, September 10, 6:30 PM



We discussed *The 6 Marks of Progressive Christian Worship Music* with author/musician Bryan Sirchio. The congregation and interested parties from other Progressive Christian congregations were invited to participate.

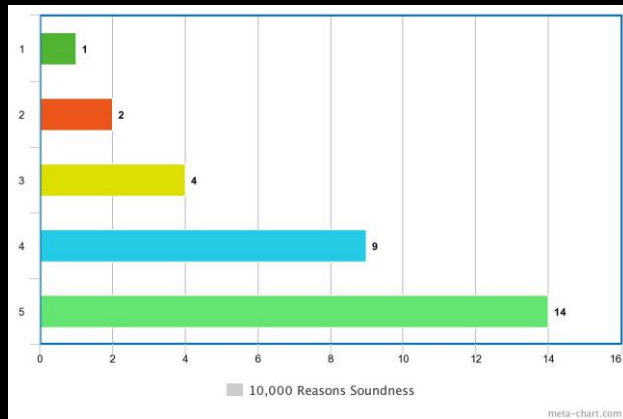




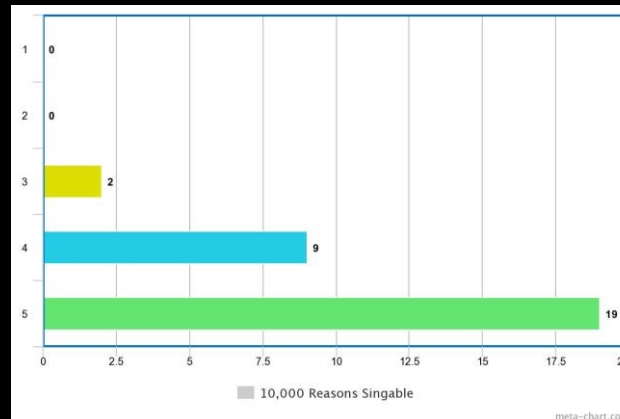
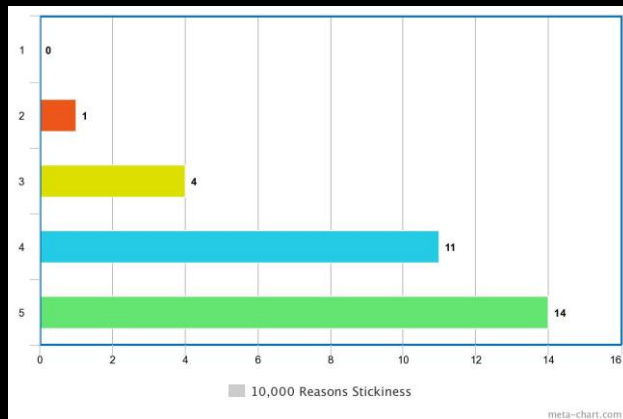
Singing Progressive Faith

Started: "Singing Progressive Faith" Facebook Group





Our worship team hosted an online music festival presenting sixteen songs for the congregation to evaluate using the polling feature in zoom. We explained the categories of singable, sticky, and sound and the congregation voted on each song. Some of the songs were new to the congregation, others were very familiar to the congregation. This was one of three planned labs/festivals.



A Conversation with The Many

*An uncommon, intentionally
diverse music collective*

Sunday, February 21, 4pm





A Conversation with Andra Moran

*A Progressive Christian Singer
Sunday, January 24th, 4pm*



Our 2nd Music Festival



VIRTUAL
**MUSIC
FESTIVAL**

March 21st at 5:00 pm

An online Conversation with Laura Hall

Sunday, April 11, 3PM

#4 in a series focusing on congregational music
for Progressive Christian congregations.



Welcome to FCCO Worship:

Andra Moran

Sunday, May 16 - 10 AM Worship

The Worship Grant Team is excited to share that Andra Moran will be in FCCO's sanctuary and leading our worship music on Sunday, May 16. Andra is a gifted song leader/performer/author/artist. Andra is part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has led worship for General Assemblies and regional events across the country. She lives in Nashville, Tennessee, and is the Creative Director and worship pastor for The Bridge, an alternative worship service of Woodmont Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

In addition to her work in concert and commissioned music, Andra is a consultant in worship design, modern liturgical music and leadership in churches and denominational conferences across the country. She is regularly engaged as a clinician and workshop leader, teaching songwriting and creative expression in colleges and retreat centers.



Learnings:

- People are not accustomed to thinking critically about music they sing congregationally in worship
- There is no central location or source for finding singable, sticky, and sound music appropriate for a Progressive Christian congregation
- Initiating conversations about the music we sing in worship generate engaging and provocative theological conversations
- Congregational singing is not an adornment to worship, it is integral to the proclaimed word
- There is controversy over the appropriateness of changing the lyrics of copyrighted songs
- Upbeat and energizing Progressive Christian Worship music is much more difficult to find than slow, reflective music
- Progressive Christian worship music is not limited to any one genre

We will return to in-person worship on June 13 with masks. Singing will be allowed. Calvin Institute of Christian Worship has graciously extended our grant through the summer so we can do several in-person events with the congregation and extended community. In the summer months we plan to host an outdoor music festival with one set done by a guest band. We also plan to invite two more artists to lead worship music .

One of our goals was to compile a songbook /catalog of music for worship at FCCO and we hope to have this completed by the end of the summer.

Thank you!