



Tina Schneider Honored as Fellow of The Hymn Society

Raise your hand if you have used Hymnary.org as a resource. If you found information there that was accessible and useful, there is a good chance that Tina Schneider had something to do with it.

The Spring 1998 issue of *The Hymn* included an article entitled “Timothy B.

Mason and *The Sacred Harp* (1834)” by Christina Mennel. Having attended her first full conference in Savannah in 1997 as a Lovelace Scholar, Mennel quickly concluded that she had “found her people,” and the article followed shortly thereafter. Subsequent articles were published under her more familiar name: Tina Schneider.

Tina grew up in Durham, NH. During her high-school years, she joined a UCC church and eventually found her way to St. Olaf College, where she sang alto in the St. Olaf Choir and served as a section leader, and where she received her BA in Music in 1994. In subsequent years, she played the organ for ELCA, American Baptist, and United Methodist congregations. She married David (a Mennonite and also a familiar face at THS conferences) in 1997, and they moved to Lima (“like the bean!” she will quickly tell you), OH, in 1999 when she started work for The Ohio State University, Lima Campus, where she is now the library director. Tina completed her education with an MA in musicology from The Ohio State University (1997) and an MLS from Kent State University (1999).

In 2008, she became the Director of Research for THS and thereafter became the editor of the Dictionary of North American Hymnology (DNAH). At the 2008 conference, Harry Plantinga presented on his new database, Hymnary.org, and negotiations for merging DNAH data into Hymnary quickly began. In 2009, Tina, Harry, and Paul Powell, FHS, collaborated to establish the editorial guidelines for the new expansion of Hymnary.org. Tina has served on the Editorial Board of Hymnary.org since 2009, and on the Advisory Board of Christian Classics Ethereal Library since 2018.

The year 2009 was important for another reason. That year, Mary Louise van Dyke, FHS, who was the custodian of a portion of the Society’s hymnal collection housed at Oberlin College, contacted the Executive Committee to

say that Oberlin had asked her to find a new home for the 900-volume collection. Tina rented a box truck, drove to Oberlin, loaded up the boxes that had been carefully packed by Mary Louise, and brought them to Lima, where they are now fully catalogued and housed in a special collections room. Tina has overseen the collection since then and has facilitated the addition of more than 100 hymnals to the collection.

Over the years, Tina has served THS in so many ways: Director of Research (2008-2014), Executive Committee, Editorial Advisory Board, Sectional Leader, Hymn Festival Leader, contributor to *The Hymn* (notably editing the annual report of “Theses and Dissertations” since 2018), and the Academic Concerns Committee. At the request of the EC in 2009, she started the Emerging Scholars Program. When asked about special memories of her participation at conferences, she says there are many, but shared one that stands out: “In Birmingham, David Music tapped me and a few others to join him in keeping time in the middle of a shape-note square. I haven’t had an aural sensation like that anywhere else—utterly intoxicating.”

Over the years, Tina was able to focus her professional academic research at Ohio State on hymnology, creating a fortuitous intersection between her career and her love of congregational song. She is particularly proud of her recent research with Spanish-language hymnals, which took place over five years and is recorded in the article “Women Composers in Spanish-Language Hymnals: Exploring Emerging Sources for Research” (*The Hymn* 75, no .2, [Spring 2024]). She reports, “I noticed a lot of composers’ names that I hadn’t seen before and a lot of them were women. They were, unfortunately, not covered well in the literature. So, I used them as a case study on how to use data from Hymnary to surface people who have been overlooked in our research.”

In recognition of her work at Ohio State—which includes serving on copious committees and mentoring students who have received Undergraduate Research Library Fellowships—she has been honored to receive the University Libraries Annual Teaching Award, the University Libraries Distinguished Scholar Award, and the Lima Campus Faculty Award for Student Mentorship. Her CV lists many scholarly publications and presentations on topics ranging from “Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online” to “Building New Networks: Outreach, Campus Partnerships, and Student Employment in a Pandemic,” to name two.

Outside of Ohio State and THS, Tina stays busy with her family, her church, and her community. She and David sing with the Lima Symphony Chorus. She

volunteers with a conversational English class at the local public library, and with the local parks district, where she does wildflower data entry and trail monitoring. She and David have two sons—Quinn (currently an assistant high school band director) and Charlie (graduating soon from Ohio State with a degree in Public Affairs)—who have made appearances at THS conferences over the years.

Stephanie Budwey, current Director of Research, shared this: “I am so grateful to call Tina my colleague and friend. She has contributed tirelessly to The Hymn Society, including her tremendous work with Hymnary.org and with her time as Director of Research. Her being named a Fellow is truly a well-deserved honor!”

Over the years, Tina has done what librarians do best—collect and organize information that supports and empowers the work of others. Those who have relied on the work of librarians like Tina understand what Barbara Kingsolver meant when she wrote, “I’m of a fearsome mind to throw my arms around every living librarian who crosses my path, on behalf of the souls they never knew they saved.” In naming Tina Schneider a Fellow, The Hymn Society has thrown its institutional and grateful arms around Tina and said, “Thank you!”

Submitted by Jacque Browning Jones, FHS.