

Hymn Society Online Hymnology Course

Streams of Song:

It's a Lot More Complicated than Traditional versus Contemporary

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Wednesdays and Fridays: 3:00 to 5:00 (EDT)
January 28 through February 20, 2026

Course Description: Rather than limiting ourselves to false dichotomies, participants will explore a “streams” model that examines seven distinct traditions that flow through and shape our worship. Each participant will identify the primary streams in their congregation and develop practical strategies for broadening their community’s sung faith.

Primary Text: *New Songs of Celebration Render: Congregational Song in the Twenty-first Century*, (NSCR) Comp. and Ed. by C. Michael Hawn (Chicago: GIA Publications, 2013).

Contributors:

†James Abbingtion, FHS	John L. Bell, FHS
Emily Brink, FHS	Kathleen Harmon
C. Michael Hawn, FHS	Lim Swee Hong, FHS
Deborah Carlton Loftis, FHS	David W. Music, FHS
Greg Scheer	†Pablo Sosa, FHS

Methodology: Each session will include a chapter from the course text, supplementary readings (optional), and YouTube performance examples. Each session will begin with an orientation to the stream, an update since the book’s publication date (2013), and an analysis of selected examples in each stream. Participants will be invited to discuss each stream’s relevance to their own ecclesial tradition. Drawing on Congregational Music Studies, a discussion of musical style and congregational performance will be included.

Hymn Society Members are encouraged to use *The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology* (CDH), a benefit of Society membership available by logging on as a member: <https://thehymnsociety.app.neoncrm.com/np/constituent/accountHome.do>. From here, you will have access to the CDH homepage: <https://hymnology.hymnsam.co.uk/>. Many of the articles in CDH update the information available at the time of the publication of *New Songs of Celebration Render* (2013).

Course Schedule:

January 28 (Wednesday)

Opening Voluntary: <i>Streams are not pigeonholes.</i> Course Assumptions (aka biases), Probable Misconceptions (including the professor's), and the Inherent Problems with Hymnological Taxonomies (such as the one used in this book).	Primary Readings: Foreword (pp. xv–xvii)—Bell Preface (pp. xvii–xxiv)—Sosa Introduction (xxv–xlvi)—Hawn
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January 30 (Friday)

Stream 1: Singing the Paschal Mystery: Roman Catholic Liturgical Music after Vatican II Primary Reading: Chapter 1 (3–36)—Harmon	Further Suggested Readings: "Tony Alonso." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/t/tony-alonso . "Grayson Warren Brown." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/g/grayson-warren-brown . "Richard Cheri." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/r/richard-cheri . "Rory Cooney." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/r/rory-cooney . "Delores Dufner." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/d/delores-dufner . "Ronald Dean Harbor." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/r/ronald-dean-harbor . "Bob Hurd." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/b/bob-hurd . "Kenneth Wayne Louis." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/k/kenneth-wayne-louis . "Tom Porter." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/t/tom-porter . "Mary Frances Reza." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/m/mary-frances-reza . "Roman Catholic hymnody, USA." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/r/roman-catholic-hymnody-usa . "Flor y Canto." <i>CDH</i> : http://www.hymnology.co.uk/f/flor-y-canto . M. Roger Holland II, Voice of My People: An Expression of Welcome and Liturgical Justice for Afrodiasporic People in North American Catholicism (DPM Thesis, 2025).
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February 4 (Wednesday)

<p>Stream 2: <i>When in Our Music God is Glorified:</i> Classic Contemporary Protestant Hymnody</p> <p>Primary Reading: Chapter 2 (39–68)—Brink</p>	<p>Further Suggested Readings:</p> <p>"David Bjorlin." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/d/david-bjorlin.</p> <p>"Mary Louise Bringle." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/m/mary-louise-bringle.</p> <p>"Benjamin Brody." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/b/benjamin-brody.</p> <p>"James Hart Brumm." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/j/james-hart-brumm.</p> <p>"John Core." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/j/john-core.</p> <p>"Andrew Donaldson." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/a/andrew-donaldson.</p> <p>"Ruth C. Duck." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/r/ruth-c-duck.</p> <p>"David Gambrell." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/d/david-gambrell.</p> <p>"Amanda Husberg." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/a/amanda-husberg.</p> <p>"Jacque Browning Jones." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/j/jacque-browning-jones.</p> <p>"Richard Leach." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/r/richard-leach.</p> <p>"Mark Miller." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/m/mark-miller.</p> <p>"Michael Morgan." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/m/michael-morgan.</p> <p>"Sally Ann Morris." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/s/sally-ann-morris.</p> <p>"Shirley Erena Murray." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/s/shirley-erena-murray.</p> <p>"Thomas John Pavlechko." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/t/thomas-john-pavlechko.</p> <p>"William Rowan." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/w/william-rowan.</p> <p>"John Thornburg." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/j/john-thornburg.</p> <p>"Adam Tice." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/a/adam-tice.</p> <p>The Hymn Society Center for Congregational Song: <i>Singing Welcome</i> (2017): https://thehymnsociety.org/resources/singing-welcome/.</p> <p><i>Songs for the Holy Other</i> (2019): <i>Hymns Affirming The LGBTQIA2S+ Community</i>: https://thehymnsociety.org/resources/songs-for-the-holy-other/.</p> <p><i>Resounding Voices</i> (2023): Women's Sacred Music Project: https://thehymnsociety.org/resources/resounding-voices/.</p> <p>GIA Music Publications, Inc.: <i>Unbound</i>: https://giamusic.com/unbound.</p>
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February 6 (Friday)

<p>Stream 3: <i>If It Had Not Been for the Lord on My Side:</i> Hymnody in African-American Churches</p> <p>Primary Reading: Chapter 3 (71–101)— Abbingdon</p>	<p>Further Suggested Readings:</p> <p>"African American hymnals." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/a/african-american-hymnals.</p> <p>"Nicholas Ballanta." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/n/nicholas-ballanta.</p> <p>"Edward Hammond Boatner." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/e/edward-hammond-boatner.</p> <p>"Glenn E. Burleigh." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/g/glenn-e-burleigh.</p> <p>"Lucie Eddie Campbell-Williams." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/l/lucie-eddie-campbell-williams.</p> <p>"Kirk Franklin." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/k/kirk-franklin.</p> <p>"Gospel Pearls." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/g/gospel-pearls.</p> <p>"Jester Joseph Hairston." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/j/jester-joseph-hairston.</p> <p>"Francis Hall Johnson." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/f/francis-hall-johnson.</p> <p>"V. Michael McKay." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/v/v-michael-mckay.</p> <p>"Kenneth Morris." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/k/kenneth-morris.</p> <p>"Verolga Nix." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/v/verolga-nix.</p> <p>Total Praise (Lord, I will lift mine eyes to the hills)." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/t/total-praise-(lord,-i-will-lift-mine-eyes-to-the-hills).</p> <p>"Willa Townsend." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/w/willa-townsend.</p> <p>Selected Spirituals:</p> <p>"I am a poor wayfaring stranger (Going over Jordan)." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/i/i-am-a-poor-wayfaring-stranger-(going-over-jordan).</p> <p>"Mary had a baby." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/m/mary-had-a-baby.</p> <p>"Tis the old ship of Zion." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/t/tis-the-old-ship-of-zion.</p> <p>"We shall walk through the valley in peace." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/w/we-shall-walk-through-the-valley-in-peace.</p> <p>Dr. James Abbingdon on Music and the Black Church:</p> <p>Traditional vs. Traditionalism: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljVh65hocvc</p> <p>Livestream for Lift Every Voice and Sing: An Informance with Dr. Jimmie Abbingdon: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3wrA_fbNNI</p>
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February 11 (Wednesday)

<p>Stream 4: <i>I Sing for I Cannot Be Silent:</i> Gospel and Revival Hymnody in the Twentieth Century</p> <p>Primary Reading: Chapter 4 (105–127)—Music</p>	<p>Further Suggested Readings: "Cliff Barrows." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/c/cliff-barrows. "Christian popular music, USA." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/c/christian-popular-music,-usa. "I have decided to follow Jesus." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/i/i-have-decided-to-follow-jesus. "Billy Ray Hearn." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/b/billy-ray-hearn. "Kurt Kaiser." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/k/kurt-kaiser. "John W. Peterson." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/j/john-w-peterson. "Homer A. Rodeheaver." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/h/homer-a-rodeheaver. "Rodeheaver Hall-Mack Co.." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/r/rodeheaver-hall-mack-co. "John Wimber." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/j/john-wimber.</p>
<p>Stream 5: <i>Dance Then Wherever Your May Be:</i> Folk Hymnody</p> <p>Primary Reading: Chapter 5 (131–171)—Loftis</p>	<p>Further Suggested Readings: "Bob Gillman." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/b/bob-gillman. "Linnea Good." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/l/linnea-good. "Marty Haugen." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/m/marty-haugen. "Gordon S. Light." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/g/gordon-s-light. "Pat Mayberry." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/p/pat-mayberry. "Robin Mann." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/r/robin-mann. "Joe Wise." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/j/joe-wise. "John Ylvisaker." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/j/john-ylvisaker.</p>

February 13 (Friday)

<p>Stream 6: Shout to the Lord: Praise and Worship from Jesus People to Gen X</p> <p>Primary Reading: Chapter 6 (175–205)—Scheer</p> <p>Additional Sources:</p> <p>Swee Hong Lim and Lester Ruth, <i>Lovin' on Jesus: A Concise History of Contemporary Worship</i> (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2017).</p> <p>Lester Ruth and Lim Swee Hong, <i>A History of Contemporary Praise and Worship</i> (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2021).</p> <p>Lester Ruth, ed. <i>Essays on The History of Contemporary Praise and Worship</i> (Eugene, Oregon: Pickwick Publications, 2020).</p>	<p>Further Suggested Readings:</p> <p>"2024 Round of Vetting for CCLI Top 100 + Beyond Project for United Methodist Worship Leaders": https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/2024-round-of-vetting-for-ccli-top-100-beyond-project-for-united-methodist-worship-leaders.</p> <p>"Paul Baloche." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/p/paul-baloche.</p> <p>"Christian popular music, USA." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/c/christian-popular-music,-usa.</p> <p>"Eddie Espinosa." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/e/eddie-espinosa.</p> <p>"Rick Founds." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/r/rick-founds.</p> <p>"Daniel Gardner." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/d/daniel-gardner.</p> <p>"Hillsong: Hillsong (Hillsong Music Australia); Hillsong (Church)." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/h/hillsong-hillsong-(hillsong-music-australia)-hillsong-(church).</p> <p>"Indelible Grace." HA: https://www.hymnologyarchive.com/indelible-grace</p> <p>"Indelible Grace Music." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/i/indelible-grace-music.</p> <p>"Twila Paris." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/t/twila-paris.</p> <p>Adam Perez, "Towards a Reformed Perspective on Contemporary Praise and Worship Music," <i>Reformed Journal</i> (August 23, 2023): https://reformedjournal.com/2023/08/28/towards-a-reformed-perspective-on-contemporary-praise-and-worship-music/.</p> <p>Samuel Shepely, "Christian Worship Music: Dr. Adam Perez Reflects on Challenges and Opportunities," <i>Good Faith Media</i> (March 13, 2025): https://goodfaithmedia.org/christian-worship-music-dr-adam-perez-reflects-on-challenges-and-opportunities/.</p> <p>Anneli Loepp Thiessen, "Whose Worship? An Examination off Women's Gendered Experiences in thee Contemporary Worrship Music Industry," PhD Dissertation, Université d'Ottawa: https://ruor.uottawa.ca/items/4c96f385-141b-4a83-89a2-dd0c8ffc742f.</p> <p>"Kevin Twit." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/k/kevin-twit.</p> <p>"Lanny Wolfe." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/l/lanny-wolfe.</p>
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February 18 (Wednesday)

<p>Stream 7: <i>Through Every Land, By Every Tongue:</i> The Rise of Ecumenical Global Song</p> <p>Primary Reading: Chapter 7 (209–353)— Hawn & Lim</p>	<p>Further Suggested Readings:</p> <p>"Goodness is stronger than evil." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/g/goodness-is-stronger-than-evil.</p> <p>"Helen Kim." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/h/helen-kim.</p> <p>"Hymnal 21 (Sambika 21)." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/h/hymnal-21-(sambika-21).</p> <p>"Hymns of Universal Praise (Putian Songzan, 普天頌讚) (Shanghai, 1936; Hong Kong, 1977, 2006)." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/h/hymns-of-universal-praise-(putian-songzan,-普天頌讚)-(shanghai,-1936-hong-kong,-1977,-2006).</p> <p>"Here, O Lord, your servants gather." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/h/here,-o-lord,-your-servants-gather.</p> <p>"Bernard Kyamanywa." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/b/bernard-kyamanywa.</p> <p>"Jorge Lockward." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/j/jorge-lockward.</p> <p>"Lü Xiaomin (吕小敏)." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/l/lue-xiaomin-(吕小敏).</p> <p>"Daniel Malgas." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/d/daniel-malgas.</p> <p>"Raquel Mora Martínez." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/r/raquel-mora-martínez.</p> <p>"NETO, Rodolfo Gaede." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/n/neto,-rodolfo-gaede.</p> <p>"Nigerian Christian Songs Website—Baylor University": https://ccms.music.baylor.edu/resources/nigerian-christian-songs-website</p> <p>"Postcolonial and Decolonial Perspectives on Hymnody." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/p/postcolonial-and-decolonial-perspectives-on-hymnody.</p> <p>"Patrick Prescod." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/p/patrick-prescod.</p> <p>"Carlos Rosas." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/c/carlos-rosas.</p> <p>"Sarawak hymnody in the Chinese Methodist Church in Malaysia." <i>CDH</i>: http://www.hymnology.co.uk/s/sarawak-hymnody-in-the-chinese-methodist-church-in-malaysia.</p>
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February 20 (Friday)

<p>Benediction: <i>Shaping Faith through Congregational Music</i></p>	<p>Application of Streams to local contexts.</p>
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