Greetings from Baylor University’s Dunn Center for Christian Music Studies! Our students, faculty and staff wish you a blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year. We joyfully share a bit about our year with you and look forward to hearing from you as well.

Looking back...

Hearn Innovators Series
We were privileged to have Elias Dummer join us as the Fall 2023 Hearn Innovator. Elias spent three days on campus giving a presentation entitled “Your Brain on Worship”, appearing in classes, and sharing meals with the students. We look forward to welcoming Laura Story to campus in February as the next Hearn Innovator.

Northcutt Lecture Series
The 2023 Northcutt Lecture welcomed James Abington as guest speaker on April 4, 2023. Dr. Abington presented a lecture entitled “Reimagining Howard Thurman’s Use of Negro Spirituals in Worship”. On April 9th, we will host the 2024 Northcutt Lecture with guest speaker Anton Armstrong. We hope you will make plans to join us for this event.

Children’s Worship Initiative
In March, Lilly Endowment Inc. accepted the CCMS’s proposal for a phase 2 implementation grant Shaping Young Worshipers Through Transformative Music Ministry, a $125 million project, will explore best practices in the area of children’s music and worship over a four-year period. Program Manager (Elizabeth Laube) and Coordinator (Meg Burleson) joined the CCMS team in June.

With summer and fall presentations at Alleluia, the Christian Congregational Music Conference in Oxford, and Sing! Houston, the project team is building the four regional learning communities, whose members will actively contribute to this research. Drs. Bradley and Monteiro will serve as Co-Principal Investigators for this work.

Youth Worship Initiative
Building Bridges to the Future will complete its fifth year of work in February 2024. In 2023, the scope of this project expanded to offer in-person worship workshops in Texas and South Carolina. These workshops allow us to meet students where they are, stepping into their communities and providing vital support.

Alleluia Conference
The 2023 Alleluia Conference was an exciting year of growth. This summer’s event was one of the largest conferences to date with the highest attendance since 2017. 2023 included a 50th anniversary performance of Bill and Gloria Gaither’s work, Alleluia! A Praise Gathering for Believers, the introduction of a new intensive for technology in worship, and an evening concert with alumnus David Phelps (’92). To learn more about Alleluia visit: baylor.edu/alleluia.

Worship Lab
Eighty-nine high school students came together for the 2023 Worship Lab in July. Students spent the week engaged in conversation while building upon their musicianship skills and learning more about how and why we worship. Read more about next summer’s camp by visiting baylor.edu/worshiplab.

Music & Missions
This past May, the Baylor University Men’s Choir took a 15-day trip to Kenya to experience culture and share music with the people there. The choir traveled around the country singing pieces in Kenya’s national language of Swahili while also having the privilege to hear songs from folks who are native to the country. The Men’s Choir visited a remote village known as Komolion where they ran a medical clinic, installed solar panels in a school building, and taught the kids to play Duck, Duck, Goose. The Kenyan people’s constant praise of the Lord was truly inspiring for the choir, and so they seek to bring that praise back here in America as they continue singing about the gospel and the universal joy of Jesus’s love.

Looking forward...

February 10, 2024
Sacred Harp Sing

February 22, 2024
CCMS Advisory Board Meeting

February 26-28, 2024
Hearn Innovator Series: Laura Story

April 9, 2024
Northcutt Lecture: Anton Armstrong

July 22-26, 2024
Worship Lab

July 23-26, 2024
Alleluia Conference (Registration available now at baylor.edu/alleluia)

Dr. Stephen Newby
We were delighted this year to welcome Dr. Stephen Newby to his new School of Music professorship. Dr. Newby joined the Baylor faculty as the Lev H. Prichard III Endowed Chair in the Study of Black Worship and Life.

About his time so far at Baylor, Dr. Newby commented that he has been encouraged by the Christlike hospitality and the mission of God reflected in the talent of Church Music students. You can read more about Dr. Newby’s work on the School of Music website.

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Church Music Faculty & Staff

Dr. C. Randall Bradley, Professor & Director of Church Music Program

Dr. Monique Ingalls, Associate Professor, Graduate Program Director, Church Music

Dr. Matthew Laube, Assistant Professor

Dr. Maria Monteiro, Lecturer

Dr. Stephen Newby, Lev H. Prichard III Endowed Chair in the Study of Black Worship and Life

Dr. David Music, Professor Emeritus

Dr. Shannan Baker, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Church Music & Digital Humanities

Mrs. Melinda Coats, Administrative Associate, Graduate & Academic Studies

Mr. Chason Disheroon, Associate Director

Mrs. Elizabeth Laube, Program Manager

Miss Meg Burleson, Program Coordinator
Faculty Updates

Dr. Monique M. Ingalls
Dr. Ingalls took a semester-long research leave in Spring 2023. She spent several weeks in the United Kingdom as a visiting fellow at the University of Bristol, as well as a week in residence at the University of Haifa, Israel, as a visiting scholar. In September, she and two co-editor colleagues submitted the final manuscript for *Black British Gospel Music: From the Windrush Generation to Black Lives Matter*, a book forthcoming in Spring 2024 from Routledge Press. Since her return to Baylor, she has been hard at work on her next solo book project chronicling the history and social significance of British gospel choirs.

Dr. Matthew Laube
Now in his second year at Baylor, Dr. Laube has continued to enjoy his teaching of undergraduate and graduate church music students this year. In March 2023, Dr. Laube was invited to speak at a conference organized by the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) in Nuremberg celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran hymnal. He was invited to speak at the British Museum in London in July 2023 and led a breakout session at Sing! Houston in October 2023. He is continuing to complete his book on church music in the German Reformation and has several exciting articles in progress.

Dr. Maria Monteiro
This summer, Dr. Maria Monteiro led the Morning Prayer services at the annual meeting of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada in Montreal. There, she was elected to serve on the Society’s Executive Committee. She also gave a presentation at Alleluia about the work of music missionaries in Brazil (based on her oral history project) and participated in a panel at the Christian Congregational Music Conference in the UK (about children’s engagement in church life through music). In October, four doctoral students joined Dr. Monteiro in an interactive presentation about multicultural worship at Sing! Houston. As Co-Principal Investigator for *Shaping Young Worshipers through Transformative Music Ministry*, the Center’s new grant funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., Dr. Monteiro has participated in a number of round table discussions about this exciting research project. She continues to serve as music director at First Mexican Baptist Church of San Antonio.

Dr. Randall Bradley
Dr. Randall Bradley spoke for the inauguration service for the naming of the Dunn Center for Christian Music Studies in February, led the Baylor Men’s Choir on a tour of South Texas in March, and to Kenya for two weeks in May. Also, in May he was awarded the Elizabeth Vardaman Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduates. He also presented sessions at Baylor’s Alleluia Conference, and participated in sessions at the Christian Congregational Music Conference at Oxford in August. In the fall, he toured with the Baylor Men’s Choir, coordinated the 22nd annual Baylor Men’s Day Out event, and presented sessions at Sing! Houston.

Giving to the Center

Baylor’s Dunn Center for Christian Music Studies (CCMS) was established in 1984 with a modest endowment and continues to encourage students and professionals interested in Christian music. Your support will help Baylor remain one of the premiere Christian music centers worldwide. Consider giving a gift of any size today to support the continued work of educating young men and women for leadership in the church.

Major Giving
Those wishing to support the CCMS Excellence Fund or the Dunn Endowment with major gifts may contact:

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Randall_Bradley@baylor.edu

Mail Gifts to:
University Advancement
Baylor University
One Bear Place #97050
Waco, Texas 76798-7050

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Dunn Family Endowment

In February, Baylor announced a gift of approximately $6 million from the estate of Harold W. Dunn of Ballwin, Missouri, supporting the School of Music’s Center for Christian Music Studies. Dunn, an alumnus and retired elementary school music teacher, gave the entirety of his estate to the University, making the largest gift in the School of Music’s 100-year history.

The roughly $6 million gift to the School of Music will support the Dunn Family Endowed Fund for the Center for Christian Music Studies, now newly named Dunn Center for Christian Music Studies.

Dunn’s decision to leave his estate to Baylor came from a desire to honor the memory of his family and the Christian faith they all shared, while making a difference in the lives of students – something he had done for so many of his elementary pupils as a teacher.

In Baylor’s Center for Christian Music Studies, Dunn found a place where music, education and ministry merge in a powerful way. The Center serves as an academic hub where transformational leadership in all aspects of Christian music develops on a daily basis.

For a quiet man, who led a quiet life, Harold Dunn’s legacy is now forever etched upon the foundations of the institution, echoing through future generations who will benefit and be inspired by his lasting impact at Baylor University.