

BIO



Randall Swanson grew up in southeastern Wisconsin, where some of his earliest memories include attending church with his family and hearing the pipe organ for the first time, thus beginning a life-long love of sacred music and liturgy. He holds degrees in organ and church music from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin (Bachelor of Music, *cum laude*), the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas (Master of Music), and Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois (Doctor of Music).

Having lived in Dallas for a number of years after completing his Master's degree, Randall returned from Texas to the Midwest in the 1980s to serve as Assistant Organist–Choirmaster under the renowned composer and conductor Richard Proulx at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, and later as Director of Music and Organist at Saint Clement Church in Chicago, where he served with distinction from 1989 to 2010. His 1995 CD recording as conductor of Mozart's *Requiem* with the Choir and Orchestra of Saint Clement was released world-wide on the Amadis label and is featured in 1998's critically acclaimed film "Happiness." He is featured as organist on "The Last Song of Summer," a CD of quiet music for organ and cello, recorded with Chicago Symphony Orchestra cellist Donald Moline and released on the Dorian classical label. Selections from this CD and other of Randall's concert recordings have been featured on public radio and classical music stations throughout North America, including several American Public Media (APM) Pipedreams® programs.

Randall has trained and conducted choirs for services and concerts in many of the great cathedrals and monuments of Christendom, including Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Chartres Cathedral, Saint Sernin Basilica in Toulouse for the highly prestigious *Toulouse les Orgue Festival International*, Saint Mark's Basilica in Venice, the Duomo in Florence, and Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. In 2006 Randall conducted the Saint Clement Choir of Chicago in two well-reviewed concerts for the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists. In its review of the convention concerts, *The Diapason* magazine said "I enjoyed this choir the most . . . Randall Swanson, conductor, was energetic, clearly understood, connected, and at all times sensitive to the music and text." His annual productions of Handel's complete *Messiah* with period instruments were highlights of the December concert season in Chicago for over two decades.

In 2010, Randall was appointed Director of Music and Organist at historic Trinity Church (Episcopal, founded in 1746) in Staunton, Virginia, where he played the church's 2000 Taylor and Boody tracker organ (Opus 34 <https://bit.ly/2s40IQZ>) and conducted the Trinity adult and youth choirs, in addition to serving as Executive Director of the Oratorio Society of Virginia. Returning to the Midwest in late-2012 to help care for an ailing family member, Randall served at St. Raymond Cathedral in Joliet, Illinois, leading the music for all cathedral services as Director of Music and Organist, and conducting the cathedral's adult, children's, and youth choirs in their weekly ministry for four years from 2012 to 2016. During his time in Joliet, the cathedral music program blossomed from a tiny number of adult volunteer choir members into a flourishing program involving over 130 singers in choirs ranging from kindergartners through adults. Returning to Texas after almost 30 years in 2016, Randall currently serves as Director of Music at the musically renowned St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston, where he conducts the adult vocal and handbell choirs, plays the 2010 Paul Fritts organ (Opus 29 <https://bit.ly/2kcqDSP>) and manages the church's music series. In Houston Randall also serves as a substitute organist at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (RC), playing the cathedral's 2010 Martin Pasi organ (Opus 19 <https://bit.ly/2IDGBQG>).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS (AGO)

www.agohq.org

ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN MUSICIANS (AAM)

www.anglicanmusicians.org

EARLY MUSIC AMERICA (EMA)

www.earlymusicamerica.org

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (OHS)

www.organhistoricalsociety.org

ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS (RCCO)

www.rcco.ca

ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC (RSCM)

www.rscm.com | www.rscmamerica.org