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A MUSIC AND MINISTRY STORY

[In mostly chronological order.]

Marvin has participated in church music ministry since elementary school when his family presented together at churches primarily in southern California; Mom and Dad sang and the three kids played instruments.

In ninth-grade Marvin was exposed to Jazz Piano by an Orthodontist in Salina, Kansas. He has subsequently sought to integrate stylistic diversity when leading worship from the keyboard.

Upon completing his Bachelors of Science in Music Education (University of Illinois '79 - Trumpet) he was hired as a Graduate Assistant and Arranger for the University of Louisville Marching Band (1 year).

Marvin served as High School Band Director for five years in the Appalachian Mountains of southeastern Kentucky. He was active as the Hazard First Presbyterian Church Organist, sang Tenor in the Community Choir, played electric bass with a County-wide Children's Choir, worked as a free-lance sound engineer, completed his Masters in Music Education, and met his wife Doris who was serving as a full-time volunteer with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

Following a career change to Software Engineering, in 1988 he served as the paid Organist at Faith Covenant Church (FCC) in Farmington Hills, MI. In 1994, Marvin and Doris were short-term Missionaries for fifteen months to St. Petersburg, Russia.

Upon returning to FCC from Russia, Marvin briefly resumed ministry as Organist, organized the Church's first Praise Team, and subsequently volunteered at the Dearborn Covenant Church to help them transition from a traditional to more blended format.

During the late 90's first Marvin, then Doris chaired the FCC Missions Commission. They led our church in several two-week mission trips to countries of the former Soviet Union with Josh MacDowell Ministries.

After 2000 Marvin was FCC vice chair for three years.

It was early in 2003 when Marvin began to seriously re-think the role of Music in the modern church. In addition to inspiring worship attenders, should we more actively consider "**worshipping with all of our gifts**"? Should we be exploring and discovering fresh ways for Christ-followers to contribute their diverse vocal and instrumental leadership abilities at a worship service?

In late 2003, Marvin and Doris became focused with the adoption of a seven year-old daughter from Russia.

During the next ten years Marvin contributed as volunteer Pianist and substitute Choir Director. However, he never lost passion for engaging a broader segment of the church family in "**leading worship**".

In 2014 Marvin directed the Choir for the annual Christmas Program and for the first time expanded use of his arranging gift to include modernizing traditional **vocal** arrangements.

An emphasis on a "Convergent Service" format in 2016 became an excuse for exploring use of an instrumental ensemble of twelve musicians. Such a small group required Marvin to write custom arrangements. The experiment grew into an inter-generational Orchestra in which at least thirty have participated and are now capable of playing both classical and contemporary (inclusive of rhythm section) published arrangements.

During the Christmas season of 2017 Marvin (directing the Orchestra) partnered with the lead-pastor in a modern Christmas Musical with ~sixty musicians, Children's choir and narrators participating.

[<https://www.facebook.com/4fcc.org/videos/1394355874007346/> --- excuse the quality]

Recently Marvin partnered with Vocalist Carol Schoch (Founder of the Detroit Children's Choir) implementing a "Worship Choir". This innovative approach seeks to broaden the skillset of an adult classical choir into a Worship Team suitable for handling eclectic literature.

Marvin believes that the North American Protestant church is *gifted* with a unique point in human history to enable ***incredible diversity and creativity*** including:

- Creative Worship Service Design – worshipping with "all" of our gifts
- Inclusion of a Worship Choir and/or Orchestra with Contemporary Music
- Prioritization of children and youth participating in Leading Worship
- Worship Arts visioning to attract those not currently part of the church family

The *gift* is exercised with confidence knowing "the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



Marvin (upper-left) playing electric bass with Perry County, Kentucky Children who subsequently travelled to Washington D.C. performing the "Kids Praise" musical at the National Cathedral in 1984.