

LUTHERAN SUMMER MUSIC

ACADEMY & FESTIVAL

LSM is Everywhere!

After 36 years of [Lutheran Summer Music](#), there are now thousands of alumni who serve in their communities as musicians, teachers, and pastors. The connections made at LSM are lifelong and alumni often cross paths in choirs, symphonies, and congregations after they leave LSM.

When you run in these circles, you are bound to meet someone with an LSM story, whether they were a student, counselor, or faculty member. LSM alum Zach Westermeyer shares his own LSM story below!

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There are only **10 days left** to take advantage of our \$500 Early Bird Tuition Discount! [Apply by September 30](#) to save your spot! LSM 2018 will take place July 1-29 at Valparaiso University.

If you know a young musician who would thrive in our program, [refer them to us!](#)

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Admissions Corner: Fall Travel

Our Admissions team is actively visiting schools, churches, and families across the country! They would love to see you, so please reach out to catch them as they pass through your neighborhood.



KRISTINA RODEL

October 2 & 4: Chicago, IL
October 3: Rockford, IL
October 5: Valparaiso, IN
October 13-15: Fargo-Moorhead
End of October: Northwest Ohio

Contact Kristina to plan a visit:
krodel@lutheransummertime.org



DIETRICH JESSEN

October 22-24: Lectures in Church Music (Chicago)
November 2: Luther College, Decorah, IA
November 6-9: Concordia University-Irvine, CA
November 9 - 13: WA (Seattle, Olympia, Tacoma) & OR (Portland)
November 15: Dallas, TX

Contact Dietrich to plan a visit:
djessen@lutheransummertime.org



Mission in Action: Zach Westermeyer

This month's spotlight shines on 2009 & 2010 LSM alum Zach Westermeyer. As a graduate from St. Olaf with a BA in Music and Mathematics, Westermeyer shares how LSM shaped him musically and spiritually in his life then and now.

What is your current involvement musically?

I currently sing in *Magnum Chorum*, a 60-voice Twin Cities choir focused on sacred choral music. Last year, I served as a composer-in-residence for them. The choir premiered two of my new choral pieces, which was a wonderful experience for me. I sing in my church choir and in a choir at work when I am able. I also enjoy writing pop music on the side, though I was a bit more prolific when I was in college.

How would you describe your experiences as a student at LSM?

LSM changed my entire perspective around music; my first summer opened up a passion that I hadn't felt before. My peers and instructors challenged me to be a better musician. In just four weeks' time, I went from dreading practicing my trumpet and voice to seeking out extra time to get that practicing in. I used to find Bach's choral music boring. After LSM, I would stare and listen to his cantatas with wonder and awe. In short, LSM was my gateway to fully comprehending the awesomeness of jazz & classical music.

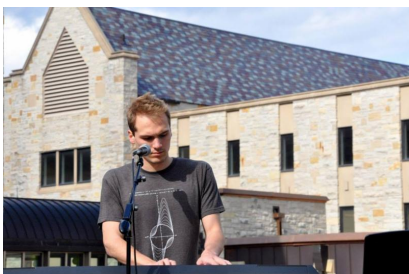
What is one of your favorite memories from LSM?

The best part of LSM was all the friends that I made. I remember coming back to the dorms once after having a rough day. A couple of my friends could tell that I wasn't feeling great. To cheer me up, we moved all the furniture out of the way and played an awesome game of Nerf soccer, and all of my stress was alleviated.



Describe your worship experience at LSM. How has LSM influenced your own faith journey?

I absolutely loved the worship experience at LSM, from singing Carl Schalk's "Luther's Morning Prayer," to traditional liturgy and hymn-singing, to singing a full Bach Cantata. My worship experience during my time at LSM showed me how faith and music are intertwined. As Kurt Vonnegut's epitaph reads, "the only proof he needed for the existence of God was music." LSM is also proof that churches don't need praise bands and flashing screens to capture young people's attention. The most genuine passion I've ever seen surrounding worship & young adults was at LSM, listening to students play and sing traditional liturgy, offering up their praise to God.



Is there a particular faculty member that made a lasting impression on you?

I met my long-time voice teacher, Karen Wilkerson, as a student at LSM. Her patience, her ability to nurture her students both vocally & emotionally, and her ability to bring out the best in her students left a lasting impression on me and many others. She remains a close friend to this day.

Why is LSM an important program for young people to know about?

LSM unlocks passion and potential in student musicians that might otherwise be unrealized. It provides young musicians with a faith-based community to grow and develop their craft. LSM creates life-long connections between musicians, Lutheran and otherwise. If I think of all the organists, choral directors, instrumentalists, and vocalists I have worked with in the past few years, I can trace a huge proportion of them back to my two summers at Lutheran Summer Music.

WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR ALUMNI! PLEASE [KEEP US POSTED](#) ON YOUR SUCCESS SINCE LSM.