

JIM MOLINA

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Professional Summary

Music Minister with 10 years experience. Areas of expertise include planning and developing music of all styles for Blended Worship Services. Skilled at working with volunteer musicians and professional musicians in all aspects of instrumentation and worship participation. Visionary planning of thematic music to properly fit scripture and sermon, thereby strengthening the Worship Experience. Overall visionary leadership and direction.

Skills

Team Leadership	Concert Pianist/ Organist/ Keyboards
Project Management	Choir Director
Budget Management	Praise Band Leader
Competent Communicator	Composer/ Arranger
Problem solver	Recording Engineer
Volunteer Coordinator	Pro Tools - Expert Level
Long Range Planner	Live Sound Engineer
Big Picture Thinker	Graphic Designer - Photoshop
Detail Orientated	Video Editing - Final Cut Pro
Research and Development	Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint
	Website builder/ Management
	Concert Producer
	Educator - Piano, Music Theory

Work History

Organist/ Pianist/ Worship Leader 09/2016 to Current

Lyonsville Congregational UCC – Indian Head Park, IL

My initial responsibilities are to play the organ/piano, accompany the choir and soloists, and provide overall music for Sunday Worship services. As the year progressed I introduced new styles of music both instrumentally and sung. Sundays would consist of music in the styles of traditional, classical, gospel, contemporary, and jazz.

This summer I was entrusted to develop a more contemporary style of worship that focused on a more Worship Leader type of role and included a Taize service as well. The pastor and I collaborated on a very successful summer of thematic services.

The church has really enjoyed the diverse approach and recognizes the importance such diversity in this ever changing worship climate.

With the organ being programmable through MIDI capability I have been able to orchestrate advanced pieces of music and play the duet parts on the piano as the organ played by itself.

I am also responsible for the selection of prelude, postlude, and offertory music. I also assist in the choosing of the hymns, anthems, and other music needed throughout the service.

I am also currently their Social Media director, assisting them with new ways of advertising and promoting the church.

Worship Leader and Performer 09/2015 to Current

UCC Illinois Conference – Westchester, IL

I have been entrusted with the Worship planning and musical direction for the Illinois UCC Conference since 2015. My responsibilities included putting together all the music for the worship services and other specific events throughout the conference. The music is performed by my personal praise band, Guided Path.

In my first year I also held workshops focusing on how to combine contemporary music with traditional music to provide a more blended type of Worship Experience.

This past year I worked very closely with the pastors that lead the worship. I created the full Powerpoint Presentations, the bulletins, and put together all the props that were needed for the service.

I have been asked to be the Music Director for a third year in a row - 2018 Conference.

Minister of Music and Media

09/2006 to 07/2016

First Congregational UCC - 1047 Curtiss St, Downers Grove, IL 60515

As the Music Minister I was responsible for preparing the Chancel Choir, Praise Band, and the Teen Choir for Sunday Worship participation. I oversaw the entire music program which consisted of a Jr. Choir, Bell Choir, and Cherub Choir. On Sundays I played the piano and organ in all styles from traditional to contemporary. I was also the organist/ pianist for all weddings, funerals, and memorial services.

As the Media Minister I developed the church website and updated the content regularly.

Director

03/1991 to 11/2011

Oakbrook Academy of Music & Art - 2603 W 22nd St, Oak Brook, IL 60523

As owner/founder and Director of the Oakbrook Academy of Music & Art I was responsible for all aspects of the business. I created and developed an arts program which incorporated private lessons in music, drama, and film. I typically managed between 15 and 20 instructors and oversaw a student body between 300 - 350 students. I also taught private piano lessons and was the music director for over 20 musical productions that we produced.

Piano Instructor

01/1990 to Current

Self Employed - Downers Grove

As a private piano instructor I teach students of all ages and levels how to become proficient pianists. I teach various styles from classical to jazz. Lessons also involve theory, composition, and music arranging.

Education

Master of Arts: Piano Performance

1999

Roosevelt University - Chicago

Bachelor of Arts: Piano Performance/ Pedagogy

1990

Roosevelt University - Chicago

Accomplishments

Worship Transformation

At First Congregational UCC, I was instrumental in combining the Contemporary Service with the Traditional Service by blending all styles of music. Using professional musicians and volunteer musicians we were able to maintain a level of excellence that created an inspiring and celebratory atmosphere. We witnessed tremendous growth in our membership and financial giving as a result of a unique worship that brought together all styles of music from traditional to contemporary, classical to world-music.

Event Planning

As the Director of Resurrection Players, I planned a Concert Event that helped raise over \$5,000 for our church and brought in over 300 people. The money was used to assist people going through financial hardships. We also held a successful silent auction that raised over \$7,000.

Affiliations

Member of MTNA (Music Teachers National Association)

Member of DGMC (Downers Grove Music Club)

Member of SDMG (South DuPage Music Guild)

Teaching

- Manage private teaching studio for over thirty private piano students (classical, jazz, contemporary)

- Prepare students for recitals and competitions
- Manage private recording studio
- Teach recording and engineering techniques

Musical Direction

As a Musical Director, I have directed over 40 musical productions (including Children Productions). Some notable productions: Annie, Hello Dolly, 42nd Street, Music Man, Jesus Christ Superstar, Peter Pan, High School Musical, The Sound of Music, Godspell, Into the Woods, Wizard of Oz, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

I have also played many cabaret shows helping raise funds for various theatre groups.

Theatres I have directed for: Summer Place Theatre (Naperville), Wheaton Drama Theatre (Wheaton), Village Theatre Guild (Downers Grove), First Street Playhouse (Batavia), Elmhurst Children's Theatre, St. Isaac's Middle School (Hinsdale), St. Mary's (Downers Grove), Stacey De & Company, Oakbrook Academy of Music & Art

Performance

Classical Piano Recitals - Featuring the works of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin, Debussy, Liszt, Mozart, Schubert, Scarlatti, Schumann and others.

Live Concerts with my Contemporary Christian Rock band, "Guided Path"

National Tours with professional bands

References

Reverend Nayiri Karjian (203) 722 - 9174 nayirikarjian@att.net

Reverend Bill Hogle (608) 519-2485 wchogle@gmail.com

Dick Hill (630) 272 - 4246 rjhill16@gmail.com

Beverly Binder (630) 308 - 8329 gbbinder@comcast.net

Virginia Hopley (630) 242 - 2776 vhopley@comcast.net

Letters of recommendation available upon request.

Additional Information

Quotes from members of the congregation

Jim - Couldn't get to sleep tonight without saying how much I loved the music during the service today. It doesn't get any better than Meg singing 'How Great Thou Art.' Words can't express how awe-inspiring that was for me. But your twist on 'Be Thou My Vision' was equally inspiring. For me, the repetitive, sometimes somewhat trite, lyrics of the modern praise songs simply can't compete with the poetry and power of the lyrics of the old hymns. Your interpretation of the music to that old hymn was phenomenal. Thank you for your dedication and continuous hard work to inspire us through music.

Peace, Mary D.

Greetings, Jim!

Our Sunday of music was superb! We love it!! The 7:00 all church service was a work of art. We love our kids and choir. A candle light service for all three Christmas services sounds wonderful! Many thanks for all your hard work and sharing your professional expertise. We greatly appreciate all you do.

Blessings,

Marilyn J.

Hi Jim,

Susan and I wanted to extend a big THANK YOU for the fabulous Christmas concert last night. What a wonderful outpouring of song and spirit by a multi-generational group of singers and instrumentalists. The sequence of numbers was well planned, the selections reflected a good array of themes, the visuals added a

special dimension to the production, and the enthusiasm of all participants was very evident. Needless to say, the music itself was superb with outstanding performances across the board. While it looked seamless from the audience point of view, such a production takes a lot of planning and coordination.

Congratulations on your "ringmaster" role, and kudos to all who helped make this concert such a success. It was a joyous celebration of the season.

Cheers, David and Susan E.

Hi Jim:

I just wanted to Thank you for all of your hard work for our Easter Services. The music in both services was phenomenal. The extra rehearsals were worth it! Guided Path has seemed to become more a part of the church and the choir and it is great. Please thank them for their dedication, since we know that their paycheck barely covers their gas expense. I hope your band members feel "the love" too. If not, then that is something we will need to work on. I am so glad you are our music director, you have turned this church around. Your little Easter baskets for the kids were well appreciated. It really made them feel special. I only wish that we did Jesus Christ Superstar for both services. Then we really would have blown the roof off. Thanks again Beverly B.