



Ascension Lutheran Church  
Kansas City, Missouri

# About the organist

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## John Leavitt

John Leavitt is a Kansas native, born and raised in Leavenworth. He completed doctoral work in choral conducting at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music.

His undergraduate work is in music education from Emporia State University. After graduation, Dr. Leavitt moved to Wichita, Kansas, where he worked in television for five years. At Wichita State University he pursued a Master of Music degree in keyboard studies with significant study in composition.

While in Wichita, he directed the parish music program at Immanuel Lutheran Church, which he began in September 1994, and served on the faculty of Friends University, where he won the faculty award for teaching excellence in 1989. In the fall of 1992, Dr. Leavitt accepted a one-year teaching

appointment with Concordia College, Edmunton, Alberta, Canada, where he was director of choral activities and assistant professor of music. Dr. Leavitt's parish choir has been featured on the national broadcast of *The Lutheran Hour*. His organ playing can be heard weekly as his arrangement of *A Mighty Fortress* serves as the signature theme for *The Lutheran Hour* across North America.

Since returning in 1993 to Wichita, he has devoted himself to full-time composing and conducting. He is the artistic director and conductor of a professionally trained vocal ensemble known as The Master Arts Chorale. This year he founded The Master Arts Youth Chorale, a choral ensemble for children ages 7-12.

Dr. Leavitt's works receive wide acclaim and he has received The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) awards since 1991. In addition to his busy guest-conducting and workshop schedule, he writes many commissioned works each year.

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# About the organbuilder

## Michael Quimby

Michael Quimby, organbuilder, received a Bachelor of Music Education degree (1973) and a Master of Arts degree in music history and literature with applied emphasis in organ (1975) from Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg. Mr. Quimby is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda national honor society of music and the American Institute of Organbuilders, of which he served as president (1991-1994). Additionally, he served on the Board of Directors as chair of the Ethics Committee (1987-1989) for AIO. He is a member of the American Guild of Organists, having served as dean of the greater Kansas City chapter (1988-1989); the Organ Historical Society; and the American Choral Directors Association.

He is president of Quimby Pipe Organs Inc. His company is a member of Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America (APOBA). It specializes in building new pipe organs for churches, educational institutions, theaters and private homes, as well as restoring and rebuilding older organs. It also has an extensive maintenance and tuning service. Mr. Quimby presently serves as organist at First United Methodist Church in Warrensburg, Missouri.



# Program

## *The Organ in Praise*

Toccatà in d minor Johann Sebastian Bach

Gigue Fugue Dietrich Buxtehude

## *The Organ for a Wedding Day*

Trumpet Tune Henry Purcell

Allegro from Water Music George Friedrich Handel

Trumpet Voluntary Jeremiah Clarke

## *The Organ in Prayer and Intercession*

Cantabile Cesar Franck

## *The Organ as Song Leader*

O Come O Come Emmanuel  
Verse 1 LW 31

Joy to the World  
Verses 1 and 4 LW 53

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright  
Verses 1 and 6 LW 73

O Sacred Head Now Wounded  
Verses 1 and 4 LW 113

Good Christian Friends Rejoice and Sing!  
Verse 1: men Verse 4: women Alleluias: All LW 129

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  
Verses 1 and 4 LW 298

## *The Organ as Story Teller*

Scenes of Childhood John Leavitt  
Autumn Fires, Rain, The Cow, The Moon, Pirate Story

## *The Organ as King of Instruments*

Toccatà Charles Marie Widor

Dr. John Leavitt, organist  
January 22, 1995