

CHAPLAINCY MUSIC

newsletter

Welcome to the University Chaplaincy Music Program. If you are new to Tufts or if you've been active in our community for years, know that your contributions of time and talent to us are gratefully received. As Music Director, I believe that my role in the Chaplaincy is not just to provide music for services and special occasions but to enhance spiritual understanding, growth, and community through music. I work closely with the students and Chaplains to enrich worship and create ceremonies of deeper meaning, as well as present and play concerts. I especially love making music with students and other community members. When someone asks if they can audition for me, my usual response is "you don't need to audition, just come play music with me and we'll see what happens!" In my first year as Music Director, the University Chaplaincy hosted three concerts, several interfaith services, and formed a choir at the annual Baccalaureate service with nineteen graduating seniors. We saw couples joined in marriage, and we gathered with friends and family to say farewell to those who passed. We came together in celebration and in solidarity, in praise and in protest, to learn and to grow, and sometimes simply to have fun as a community. This coming year I hope to continue these experiences in the Music Program with new and returning performers at my side. So whether you like to play, sing, or listen to music, there is a place for you in the University Chaplaincy Music Program!



**Thomas Dawkins, University Chaplaincy
Music Director and Organist**



"I would say that the Chaplaincy Music Program provides the most brilliant atmosphere for people at Tufts to help them enjoy music."

Jason Zhang, G20

Jason Zhang, G20, accompanies Music Director Thomas Dawkins on the piano during the Holiday Concert 2018.

Performing with the University Chaplaincy

It is my privilege and pleasure to enhance the weekly Protestant worship service with piano, organ, and vocal music. The beautiful Goddard Chapel is blessed with wonderful and historic instruments, but no instrument is as great as the one that we have all been given: the human voice. I highly value and welcome students' input on the music. We all come from different places and traditions; music is a great way to share each others' experiences and enrich our



Elliot Pavlovich, A20, Alice Dempsey, A21, and Mira Guha, A19 sing in the Protestant choir for weekly worship.

time together. In worship, students take part by singing in a choir, as well as by playing instruments. In 2018, we drew on many different Christian traditions from Taizé chant and traditional Protestant hymns to spirituals, modern hymns, and prayer responses. I look forward to expanding our repertoire each year.

"I love going to choir each week before service. The other people in the worship choir are some of my closest friends. I enjoy singing, so getting to sing the hymns twice (once for practice and once for service) is always great."

Elliot Pavlovich, A20

Since 2014, Tufts University Chaplaincy has hosted a Halloween (All Saints' Eve) concert; a late-night recital of haunting music, played by the Music Director and Organist on the 1883 Hook & Hastings' organ at Goddard Chapel. In the fall of 2018, Tufts community members filled every seat in Goddard Chapel at midnight, eagerly anticipating this popular tradition. The 2018 Halloween Concert featured a student performance for the first time. The 2019 concert will continue this new tradition.



Mira Guha, A19, assists Music Director Thomas Dawkins during the annual Midnight Organ Halloween Concert.

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"I was lucky enough to take part in the Chaplaincy Music Program every week through the Protestant Students Association (PSA) choir as well as in the Baccalaureate choir and at the Halloween Midnight Organ Concert this year. Music has always been a large part of my life and I am so grateful that Tufts gave me so many opportunities to continue to create music."

Mira Guha, A19

Holiday Concert

In the fall of 2018, the University Chaplaincy hosted its annual Holiday Concert. The concert featured the Tufts Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Jamie Kirsch from the Tufts Music Program; organ, piano, and vocals by Music Director Thomas Dawkins; and undergraduate and graduate student performances, including Samuel Werthmuller, F19, trumpet, McLane Harrington, F20, flute, Jason Zhang, GA20, piano, and Erika Madrian, A19, piano.



Students from the University Chaplaincy student communities gathered to decorate Goddard Chapel for the annual Holiday Concert.



McLane Harrington, F20, on flute and Samuel Werthmuller, F19, on trumpet perform with Music Director Thomas Dawkins during the Holiday Concert 2018.



“Love of life means hope for me”

Excerpt from John David’s “You are the New Day,” performed by the Baccalaureate Choir during the 2019 service.

The Baccalaureate Service at Tufts dates back to 1864. In May 2019, Baccalaureate was attended by about 3,500 people, including seniors and their families and friends. This service featured the first performance of the Baccalaureate Choir. The addition of this choir increased the number of seniors participating in the service from 12 to 30. The choir sang John David’s “You are the New Day,” originally arranged for the King’s Singers by Peter Knight as a response to the readings. This created a musical interlude that was refreshing and inspiring. The choir also led opening and closing songs with the entire assembly.

“It was a wonderful experience participating in the Baccalaureate Choir and getting an opportunity to perform one last time in front of our graduating class.”

Edwin Jain, A19



Jason Zhang, G20, and Music Director Thomas Dawkins perform a piano duet during the annual Midnight Halloween Organ Concert in the fall of 2018.



Graduating seniors gathered to sing in the University Chaplaincy's Baccalaureate Choir.

Get Involved in the University Chaplaincy Music Program

The University Chaplaincy Music Program serves the whole community, principally the students of Tufts, but also their families, friends, faculty, staff, as well as our neighbors in Medford and Somerville. If you want to get involved in our music program, the first step is to talk with or email the Music Director. Annual opportunities include:

- Participation in Protestant Evening Worship (PEW) Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Singers and instrumentalists are welcome.
- Participation in Catholic Worship Sunday evenings at 5:00 p.m. The Choir usually practices at 4:00 p.m. Interested parties should contact the Catholic Chaplain, Lynn Cooper, at Lynn.Cooper@tufts.edu.
- Performing in the Halloween Concert. The Music Director gives an organ and piano recital that includes student performances.
- Performing in the Holiday Concert. The Music Director plays and presents a program that includes the Concert Choir, student musicians, and student readers.
- Baccalaureate Choir. Seniors form a choir and lead the music during the service. Any senior who likes to sing is welcome to audition for the choir. Rehearsals are held during Senior Week.

The Music Director is always available to receive inquiries from students or community members who are interested in playing or participating in the musical life of the University Chaplaincy. He is also happy to talk about the role that music plays in our spiritual lives. Please reach out to the University Chaplaincy Music Director, Thomas Dawkins, about opportunities to get involved with our Music Program at Thomas.Dawkins@tufts.edu.