

CHAPLAINCY MUSIC

newsletter

Welcome from the Music Director

Through all uncertain times, there is one truth to which I hold fast: music unites us and sustains us through the most challenging times of our lives.

This past fall, we had our usual concerts and services. The last occasion for which we were able to gather in person was Ash Wednesday, and then we found ways to gather virtually. Even though our community was geographically scattered, it was wonderful to be able to be together in this way.

As music director, my role in the University Chaplaincy is not just to provide music for services and special occasions but to enhance spiritual understanding, growth, and community through music. This past year, we accomplished, adapted, and advanced the mission of the University Chaplaincy Music Program, thanks to students, staff, faculty, and community members like you. Whether you are new to Tufts or if you've been active in our community for years, know that the gifts of the Music Program are here for you, too, whether you are an experienced singer, instrumentalist, a beginner, or just an appreciative audience member. It would be my pleasure and privilege to be a part of your musical journey here at Tufts. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or comments, or if you just want to introduce yourself.

Thomas Dawkins, University Chaplaincy Music Director and Organist



**Music Director and Organist,
Thomas Dawkins**

"Music is an intrinsic part of the service with Protestant Evening Worship (PEW). PEW students are even able to request songs that fit with a given week's service, as I did on several occasions. As a lover of history, being able to request and hear "The Old Hundredth Psalm"—a hymn that was popular with the first settlers of Plymouth Colony--played at the Thanksgiving service in November allowed music, history, and faith to become one for me."

Liam Cronan, A20



The Hook & Hastings organ is original to Goddard Chapel and was dedicated at the same time as the building in 1883

Halloween Concert

Fall 2019 was a busy season in the Tufts University Chaplaincy. We held our biggest annual event, the Halloween Midnight Organ Recital. This event attracts community members for a late night concert with donuts and apple cider. It is a highlight for many students and always fills the chapel completely.

This year's program included music of Bach, Böellmann's Suite Gothique, and arrangements of classic video game pieces by Koji Kondo.

Standing: Dan Bell, Protestant Chaplain; Walker Bristol, Humanist Chaplain; Thomas Dawkins, Music Director; **kneeling:** Micah Kraus, A22; Iman Ali, A22; Alexandria Chiu, former Chaplaincy Coordinator; Shelby Carpenter, Program Coordinator



Holiday Concert

In early December, the University Chaplaincy hosted the annual Holiday Concert, which featured the 60-voice Tufts University Concert Choir, a quartet of kazoo players, trumpet, and a sing-along, as part of an hour-long program in the festively decorated Goddard Chapel.



Thomas Dawkins with Charles Ewing, A16, on guitar

Protestant Evening Worship (PEW)

Each Sunday night, the Protestant Chaplaincy hosts an evening worship service in the chapel. Students enjoy singing their favorite seasonal hymns with the Music Director at the organ or piano, providing accompaniment, contemplative preludes, and music for reflection.



Protestant Chaplain Dan Bell with guest preacher Rowan Larson

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, and 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 email the Music Director, Thomas Dawkins. Here are some ways you might get involved:

- Participating in Sunday Protestant Evening Worship (PEW) or Catholic Mass
- Participating in special chaplaincy programs such as the Halloween Concert or Holiday Concert
- Singing in the Baccalaureate Ceremony Choir—any senior who likes to sing is welcome to audition for the choir during spring semester