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## THE SOCIETY FOR UNIVERSAL SACRED MUSIC

275 East Main Street, Suite 103  
 Mt. Kisco, New York 10549  
 914-241-0303 • Fax: 914-241-0311  
[www.universalsacredmusic.org](http://www.universalsacredmusic.org)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Roger Davidson**  
*Why are we unique?*

**T**o date, we are the only organization dedicated to taking a step beyond gathering sacred music from existing traditions to creating a new repertoire of sacred music—primarily vocal—devoted to the essential unity of all mankind, the unconditional love of God, and the inevitable emergence of a universal faith. Universal sacred music is “universal” because it reflects the core truths common to all humanity, the eternal love and compassion of God, and the beauty of the spirit that we all carry in our innermost beings.

It is our prayer that one day *all* music intended to reflect the divine, whether directly about God or about the divine within our hearts, will be free of the many contradictions inherent in our scriptures, and will—with every composition—become a clear reflection of the true nature of God and of the fundamental unity we all share as eternal brothers and sisters. While we support and encourage interfaith work, we are ourselves not an interfaith organization; we rather take a step beyond that into a world of conscious unity—and therefore the possibility of lasting peace.

Unlike other sacred music festivals to date, our events are not designed to bring together sacred music of the world's traditions—as constructive as this may be. Instead, we foster the creation of a new repertoire of sacred music that emphasizes our common spiritual heritage as eternal children of God. This is not to say that there are no examples of universal sacred music written prior to the founding of our Society; these examples, however, are few and far between, and have not been central to the major practices of musical worship.

Please join us in helping to make universal sacred music the main tradition in every house of worship and fellowship in which music plays a part. When every human being has learned to forgive one another, in either current or future lives on Earth,

and sing together as the brothers and sisters we have always been, then the Society for Universal Sacred Music will have become dispensable—and our work will have become the common property of all mankind.

*Roger C. Davidson*

## ABOUT THE FOUNDER

Born in Paris in 1952, Roger Davidson grew up in New York City. He began his musical career by teaching himself the piano at the age of four. After obtaining his Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Olaf College in Minnesota with a major in German, he went on to a M.Mus. degree in composition from Boston University, and a M.Mus. in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey.

Mr. Davidson has recorded more than 20 albums in various genres, including many sacred choral works. Notable among these are *Missa Universalis* and *One God, One World*, both of which represent the beginnings of what he later termed “universal sacred music.”

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



**Harold Rosenbaum**

**H**arold Rosenbaum is one of the most accomplished and critically acclaimed choral conductors of our time. He is the winner of the

2008 American Composer Alliance's Laurel Leaf Award, given in recognition of “distinguished achievement in fostering and encouraging American music.”

A tireless proponent and advocate for contemporary composers, he has created an annual choral composition competition, commissioned more than twenty works, and conducted more than 250 world premieres.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Society for Universal Sacred Music is to foster the creation and performance of music that celebrates God's unconditional and eternal love for us all, and to archive such music to make it available worldwide.

We sponsor composers and performers at our international festivals with the goal of expanding the repertoire of universal sacred music, as well as building a community of artists who are committed to breaking the barriers of their traditions to help create a world of greater tolerance and unity. As such, we seek to better the world through the fine arts and educational efforts, and by partnering with humanitarian organizations with compatible goals.

## ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR UNIVERSAL SACRED MUSIC

The Society For Universal Sacred Music is a 501(c)3 educational non-profit organization that provides support and resources for those who are interested in the creation and performance of universal sacred music. Its commissioning program fosters the creation of new works that are premiered at its concerts and festivals. The production of CDs and DVDs provides an important element in promoting a consciousness of our universal kinship.

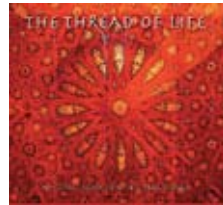
The Society for Universal Sacred Music is a membership organization. We invite you to join us as partners in the work that we, as composers, performers, and listeners can and must do to build bridges around the world through universal sacred music.

## PROGRAMS

The Society for Universal Sacred Music offers several programs that support the mission of fostering the creation and performance of music that celebrates God's unconditional love.

- The biennial Festival, as well as single concerts, with performances of new and existing works of universal sacred music by artists from around the world.
- The archiving of universal sacred music as a resource for religious leaders, music directors, composers, educators, and others who seek new material for their spiritual work.

- CDs and DVDs capturing the spirit of our mission with performances excerpted from our concerts and festivals, available for purchase.



- Our biennial composition contest, open to interested composers anywhere in the world. Selected works are performed in our festivals and are archived in our library.
- Educational programs, currently being developed, including future academic courses in universal sacred music.



## MEMBERSHIP & DONOR LEVELS

### Friend: \$1-99

- Subscription to printed newsletter
- Donor listing on website

### Associate: \$100-249

- Subscription to print newsletter
- Donor listing on website
- Discount on products in website store

### Activist: \$250-499

- Subscription to print newsletter
- Donor listing on website
- Discount on products in website store
- Framed certificate of thanks

### Leader: \$500-999

- Subscription to print newsletter
- Donor listing on website
- Discount on products in website store
- Framed certificate of thanks
- Music CD

### Reformer: \$1,000-2,499

- Subscription to printed newsletter
- Donor listing on website
- Discount on products in website store
- Framed certificate of thanks
- Free music CD and DVD
- Two free tickets to Festival or concert

### President's Circle, Bronze: \$2,500-4,999

- Subscription to print newsletter
- Donor listing on website
- Discount on products in website store
- Framed certificate of thanks
- Free music CD and DVD
- Four free tickets to Festival or concert
- Special recognition in Festival program and newsletter

### President's Circle, Silver: \$5,000-9,999

- Subscription to print newsletter
- Donor listing on website
- Discount on products in website store
- Free music CD and DVD
- Eight free tickets to Festival or concert
- Special recognition in Festival program and newsletter
- Wall plaque of thanks

### President's Circle, Gold: \$10,000+

- Subscription to print newsletter
- Donor listing on website
- Discount on products in website store
- Free music CD and DVD
- Twelve free tickets to Festival or concert
- Special recognition in Festival program and newsletter
- Wall plaque of thanks
- Opportunity to sponsor a musician

## JOIN THE SOCIETY

Please join the Society for Universal Sacred Music with as generous a donation as you can. Contributions go toward providing support and resources for composers who create and perform universal sacred music, our concerts and festivals, as well as future educational programs—your support is crucial for our ongoing work and mission.

As a member you will receive our triannual newsletter, as well as discounts on musical performances, CDs, and other benefits. To join, please visit [www.universalsacredmusic.org](http://www.universalsacredmusic.org) or complete the information below and return by mail. Please make checks payable to Society for Universal Sacred Music. Thank you in advance for your support.

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