

# Julia E. Atwood

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## Education

**The Catholic University of America**, Washington, District of Columbia  
Master of Music in Sacred Music, Choral Conducting, 2008

**University of Montevallo**, a liberal arts college in Montevallo, Alabama

- Bachelor of Arts in Music, Oboe, 2002 – *magna cum laude*
- Honors Seminars in Great Books

## Skills

### Choral Conducting

- Effective conductor of choral music from all time periods.
- Ability to motivate and inspire adults, youth, and children.
- Experience conducting choirs abroad in Vatican City, Italy, and the Czech Republic.

### Vocal Pedagogy and Choral Development

- Experience both as a college voice instructor and a private voice instructor for all ages.
- Capable of training voices and developing the musical talent of adults, youth, and children.
- Pursued additional post-graduate course work in vocal pedagogy with Prof. Debby Wenner, George Mason University

### Organ and Piano

- Competent organist and pianist.

### Voice

- Versatile soprano with warm, pleasant tone. Accessible rendering of hymns, Psalms, and Mass ordinary. Accomplished performance of classical repertoire for weddings and funerals.
- Cantor for Diocese of Arlington events, including four Diocesan Pilgrimages to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Portions of the 2011 pilgrimage were televised on EWTN.
- Performed with the elite *Choir of Seventeen* that welcomed Pope Benedict XVI to Catholic University in 2008. Sang in the first performance of the *Defiant Requiem* in Terezin, Czech Republic. Performance featured on the PBS documentary *Defiant Requiem: Voices of Resistance*.

### Advocate for Child-led, Respectful Learning Relationships

- Trained in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori-based faith formation program
- The Montessori method is
  - Child-led – based on the adult's observation of the child's individual needs
  - Respectful – develops intrinsic motivation in the child, rather than relying on the external motivation from the adult

### Administrative and Managerial Skills

- Fifteen years of experience organizing and running a successful and fruitful music program.
- Three years of event-planning experience.
- Able to form positive working relationships with administration, colleagues, and students. Particularly successful in developing professionalism in young people.

## Work Experience

### **Westover School** – Middlebury, Connecticut

*Choral Director, present*

- **Revitalized the choral program:** Increased membership and expanded repertoire of SSA **Glee Club** and re-established the SATB **Chamber Choir** after a COVID hiatus.

### **Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish** – Cheshire, Connecticut

*Director of Music, 2017-present*

- **Rebuilt the music program:** Developed an **Adult Choir** and established a **Youth Choir** as well as a **Combined Parish Choir** of all ages for special occasions
- **Organist**
- **Cantor**
- **Created Virtual Choir Videos** when choirs were unable to sing together during the pandemic
- **Director** of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a Montessori-based faith formation program

### **St. Joseph Catholic Church** – Shelton, Connecticut

*Director of Music, 2016-2017*

- **Rebuilt the music program**, including establishing an **Adult Choir** and **Children's Choir**.
- **Organist**

### **Christendom College** – Front Royal, Virginia

*Adjunct Instructor of Voice, 2013-2015*

- Taught private voice lessons to students enrolled in the College's sacred music minor.

### **St. Veronica Catholic Church** – Chantilly, Virginia

*Director of Music, 2008-2014*

- **Built a thriving music program** that enhanced the liturgical life of the parish and rewarded the time and talent invested by volunteers.
- **Led a choir pilgrimage to Italy** and conducted the pilgrimage choir during Mass at the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. John Lateran in Vatican City, St. Francis in Assisi, and St. Mark in Venice.
- **Adult Choir Director:** Tripled membership, developed a professional sound in a predominantly volunteer choir, and established a repertoire of Catholic choral classics.
- **Youth Choir Director:** Founded a youth choir and a youth cantor program for the Family Mass. Developed a standard of excellence, and established a repertoire of age-appropriate choral classics
- **Principal Organist**
- **Effective Manager** of eight employees and almost one hundred volunteers.

### **St. John the Baptist Catholic Church** – Front Royal, Virginia

*Director of Music, 2006-2008*

### **Intercollegiate Studies Institute** – Wilmington, Delaware

*Conference Coordinator and Event Planner, 2002-2005*

### **Montgomery Symphony Orchestra** – Montgomery, Alabama

*Oboist, 1998-2002*

## Awards

### **Dom Mocquereau Scholar and Centennial Scholar**

*The Catholic University of America, 2005-2008*

### **Rhodes Scholarship**

*Semi-Finalist, 2002*