

# LR Biography for Paul David Weber

Dr. Paul D. Weber is retired Director of Choral Activities and Professor Emeritus of Church Music at Lenoir-Rhyne University, where he conducted the Lenoir-Rhyne University A Cappella Choir, the College Singers, and Chapel Choir. From 1996 to 2016 he served as coordinator of the Sacred Music Program, developing it into a nationally recognized course of study whose graduates serve with distinction in churches and educational institutions. During his twenty-year tenure the A Cappella Choir released recordings featuring a diversity of repertoire and toured annually across the nation with trips abroad to Germany, the Baltic States, Poland, Russia, Finland, and Costa Rica.

Dr. Weber received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from The University of Iowa, a Master of Musical Arts degree in Composition from Yale University, and a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and Composition from Washington University, St. Louis. His composition teachers included Krzysztof Penderecki, Jacob Druckman, and Bruce MacCombie. He has studied conducting and repertoire with Tamara Brooks, Richard Bloesch, Jon Bailey, and Joseph Flummerfelt. Weber also held conducting positions at Thiel College, Greenville, Pennsylvania, and The College of Idaho, Caldwell, Idaho.

His compositions exemplify the continuation of the Lutheran choral tradition with a distinctive lyrical style and an exploration of modern compositional elements. He won the 1995 Chautauqua Chamber Singers Choral Composition Contest for the anthem, *Prayer for Unity*. In 1995 and again in 1997 Weber won the national composition contest sponsored by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, which organization awarded him the *Raabe Prize for Excellence in Sacred Composition* in 2003 for a career of outstanding contributions to the profession. His anthem, *Arise, Shine!*, published by Augsburg Fortress has received performances by the Luther College Nordic and Cathedral Choirs, the St. Olaf College Chapel Choir and Cantorei, and by the National Lutheran Choir at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

Weber's compositions run the gamut from a cappella works composed for advanced choirs to larger orchestrated compositions; from original hymns such as those found in Lutheran hymnals to the expanded hymn arrangement, *A Mighty Fortress*, sung by thousands of youth with concert band at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. Some of his accessible church anthems are found in the MorningStar Music choral series, *Sacred Music from Lenoir-Rhyne*. The Augsburg Fortress compact disc, **Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Hymns Audio Edition, Volume 2**, contains expanded hymn arrangements as recorded by the Lenoir-Rhyne A Cappella Choir with the Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus.

*Magnificat 1997* for soprano and treble soloists, chamber orchestra, mixed and treble choirs has received performances nationally and abroad in church and concert settings, most recently at the University of Minnesota. *Luthers letztes Gebet*—a setting of Martin Luther's last prayer—for mixed choir and solo trombone, was first performed at Luther's grave for Sunday worship at the Castle Church in Wittenberg. His dramatic setting of Psalm 99, *The Lord Reigns*, was sung by the Lenoir-Rhyne Youth Chorus for Evensong at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. In 2013 the National Lutheran Choir commissioned Weber to compose the three movement Distler-inspired a cappella motet, *With High Delight*, and presented its premier performance in the Chapel of the Resurrection of Valparaiso University for the national gathering of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. Weber's hymnary, *So Great A Cloud of Witnesses*, will be published by Augsburg Fortress. His handwritten and notated manuscripts, as well as a complete catalog of his works, may be found at the Center for Church Music of Concordia University Chicago, or may be requested from the composer.

Weber presently conducts the Chamber Choir for *Bach Around the Clock* of Staunton, Virginia, and continues to fill commissions. In retirement he also serves as supply clergy for Lutheran and Episcopal parishes. He may be contacted at [paul.weber49@gmail.com](mailto:paul.weber49@gmail.com).