

## Jacob B. Weber Named 2021 Raabe Prize Winner



The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians is pleased to announce that Jacob B. Weber is the recipient of the **2021 Raabe Prize for Excellence in Sacred Composition** for his choral submission *Festival Gloria*.

Jacob B. Weber is the associate editor of music/worship at Concordia Publishing House. At CPH, he assists with the editing and development of all handbell, keyboard, and choral publications, as well as other worship resources, including CPH's children's hymnal, *One and All Rejoice* (2020), of which he was the editor. Prior to this, he was the kantor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School (LCMS) in Dearborn, Michigan, where he oversaw and directed the church and school music programs and served as organist.

He has earned degrees in church music and organ from Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota, and Concordia University Wisconsin, having had the privilege of studying with John Behnke and Michael Burkhardt during his graduate work. With dozens of keyboard and choral settings in print, he particularly enjoys manifesting his creativity through contributions to his *Mosaics* series (CPH), which features seasonal collections of hymn-based organ settings for the church organist. A passionate church musician, Jacob thrives at the opportunity to create resources and publications for organists, choirs, and instrumentalists.

Jacob and his wife, Rachael, reside in St. Louis with their children. Together, they authored and composed a resource entitled, "Songs of the Church Year," a songbook and CD (CPH) that is designed to teach children the concepts of the Church Year through music.

Aside from editing and composing, Jacob remains active as a substitute organist for local LCMS congregations, as a hymn festival presenter, and recitalist. His music has been published by

Augsburg, Choristers Guild, SJMP, Northwestern, GIA, and Concordia Publishing House.

The selection committee, once again headed by Dr. Zebulon Highben of Duke University, included the following comments regarding *Festival Gloria* in their report to the ALCM board:

- the composer's apparent knowledge of historic compositional techniques for concerted settings of the mass ordinary, specifically the *Gloria in excelsis*, including text painting and antiphonal and textural alternation;
- the overall quality of the voice leading;
- the use of speech rhythm in the choral writing, contributing to a "natural" sense of text declamation;
- the idiomatic brass writing—effective and exciting, yet able to be played by strong high school or collegiate brass players;
- the tessituras of the vocal parts and extremely limited divisi, which make this an achievable selection for many church choirs;
- the brief length of this work that makes it eminently useable in the context of a Sunday liturgy, on a feast day or in a celebratory liturgical season.

The committee notes that this is the first time in the history of the Raabe Prize that the prize has been awarded to a setting of the ordinary of the liturgy.



The Raabe Prize for Excellence in Sacred Composition is awarded every two years for a single musical work, published or unpublished and written within the last five years, that reflects a larger history of excellence on the part of the composer. Dr. William and Rev. Nancy Raabe of Madison, WI, endowed this prize to recognize and encourage significant accomplishments in composition contributing to the body of sacred music for the church in the Lutheran heritage. Visit [www.alcm.org](http://www.alcm.org) for more information about the Raabe Prize.