



Presenting Justin Maxey

Justin Maxey is a native of Winder, GA, and holds an Artist Diploma in Organ Performance from Mercer University, a Master of Music in Organ Performance and Literature from The Eastman School of Music, and a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance with minors in voice and piano from Shorter College. In addition to specializing in organ, Justin is also a dramatic bass/baritone, choral & orchestral conductor, pianist, and a collaborative accompanist on both the piano and organ. His primary teachers in organ performance, improvisation, literature, and organ-building include Amelia Cotten, Dr. Peter DeWitt, Dr. William Porter, Mark Austin, David Higgs, and Dr. Jack Mitchener. Teachers in piano and voice include Sue Williams, Dr. David Oliver, Mary Ann Knight, Dr. Jerico Vasquez, Dr. Sherri Weiler, and Dr. Matthew Valverde. He has participated organ masterclasses with Hector Olivera, Stephen Tharp, and Ken Cowan and studied choral conducting with Dr. Martha Shaw.

During his undergraduate studies, Justin was the accompanist for the world-renowned Shorter College Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Martha Shaw. This prestigious appointment led to opportunities such as two European tours and being featured on a nationally released CD, *Beautiful River*, recorded in Spivey Hall. His skill as an organist has allowed him to play in some of the most famous cathedrals in the world, including St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, St. Alban's, Ely Cathedral, Christ Church (Dublin, Ireland), and St. Paul's (London). He has also had organist residencies at several prestigious American churches. Justin was awarded first place in both the Atlanta Chapter (2009) and Rochester Chapter (2011) Quimby Competitions of the American Guild of Organists. He received first place in the Atlanta Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon performance competition (2010) and the David Spicer Hymn Playing award at the Schweitzer Organ Competition in September 2011. Justin was selected as a finalist for the 2019 Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition.

Justin has over 15 years of experience serving churches and has been employed by every major Protestant denomination as well as Roman Catholic Churches as organist, pianist, director of music, choirmaster, artist-in-residence, and vocal soloist. He most recently served as music director and pianist for Vespers at Lenbrook in Buckhead (Atlanta) and is on the executive board of the Atlanta chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Justin has successfully completed two tours with the Atlanta opera performing *The Barber of Seville* as well as *Hansel and Gretel*. He frequently consults with churches on organ building projects.

Justin is excited to begin his fulltime ministry at Fayetteville First UMC on June 1, 2021. We welcome Justin to the FFUMC family!