

**STEFAN BRODD** (Musical Director) is the cantor for two downtown Washington churches: First Trinity Lutheran Church in Penn Quarter and St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Southwest. He is also the cantor for the Swedish Church of Washington, the Finnish Church of Washington, and the Norwegian Church of Washington. Music is his first language; he learned to read musical notation before he learned to read words. As a student, he won statewide competitions in piano and organ and performed in Northrup Auditorium in Minneapolis.

Stefan has been a church musician for more than forty years. He is grateful that faith communities continue to be the leading patrons of music and employers of musicians in the 21st century, as they have been throughout Western history. Stefan has been privileged to play in many Washington-area houses of worship in addition to First Trinity and St. Matthew, including Augustana Lutheran Church, Addas Israel Congregation, and the Memorial Chapel at the University of Maryland. He is also the musical director for Washington's annual pan-Nordic Christmas Eve service.

In the field of musical theater, Stefan has served as musical director and accompanist for more than one hundred productions presented by the Greenbelt performing arts programs. He also accompanies and arranges music for performers on Embassy Row and at gala events in Washington venues. He has accompanied six-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald, Tony and Emmy Award winner Christine Baranski, Helen Hayes Award winner Floyd King, and soprano Meri Siirala of the Helsinki Opera, among others. In the Washington area, he has played at the Mellon Auditorium, Lansburgh Theatre, Gunston Arts Center, Signature Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company Studios, the Swedish Embassy, and the Finnish Embassy.

Stefan earned his bachelor's degree in music and mathematics from St. Olaf College and his master's degree in computer science from the University of Maryland, College Park. At NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, he was particularly proud of his work on the Cosmic Background Explorer mission, which verified the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe and earned the principal investigating scientists the Nobel Prize for Physics.