

Adán Alejandro Fernández

Employment

Holy Family Catholic Church - Director of Music and Liturgy/Organist Glendale, CA

10/2017 - Current

- Direct St. Cecilia Chorale, Cantus Handbell Ensemble, Cherubim Children's Choir, Seraphim Children's Choir, Archangels Youth Chorus, and oversee Filipino Chorale
- Coordinator of summer Vigil Concert Series
- Prepare two yearly choral concerts and one organ recital
- Prepare music for all church liturgies and Masses

California Lutheran University - Interim Director of Choral Activities Thousand Oaks, CA

08/2026 - Current

- Directed multiple choral ensembles, fostering musical excellence and artistic growth among diverse student populations.
- Developed and implemented innovative curricula aligned with institutional goals and music education standards.
- Collaborated with faculty to organize annual choral festivals, enhancing community engagement through music performances.
- Mentored emerging conductors and student leaders, promoting leadership skills within choral organizations.

GIA Publications - Columnist

Los Angeles, CA

08/2025 - Current

- Researched and analyzed trending music to produce engaging column content.
- Collaborated with composers to refine articles for clarity and impact.
- Developed unique perspectives on theological and musical issues, enhancing publication's voice.
- Promoted older and new music on musical, theological, and practical grounds
- Highlighted techniques for mass incorporation

The Hymn Society - Editor

01/2025 - Current

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☎ 626-512-9109

📍 Glendale, CA 91205

Education

2020

University of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA

Doctor of Musical Arts: Sacred Music, Choral Music, Organ Performance, Musicology

- Coursework in musicology, sacred music, organ performance, and choral music
- Appointed Choral Librarian
- Organ student of Dr. Ladd Thomas
- Conducting student of Dr. Tram Sparks

2014

Claremont Graduate University

Claremont, CA

Master of Arts: Organ Performance

- Organ student of Dr. Carey Robertson
- Training in harpsichord performance and early music ensembles

2017

Samford University

Birmingham, Alabama

Certificate : Worship Leadership

- Studies in Biblical understanding of Liturgy and worship service architecture
- Training in faith formation in choral and instrumental ensembles

- Enhanced publication quality by diligently proofreading and editing articles for grammar, spelling, and consistency.
- Managed multiple projects simultaneously, ensuring timely delivery of high-quality bilingual editorial work.
- Collaborated with writers to improve content structure and clarity, resulting in increased reader engagement.
- Prepared, rewrote, and edited pieces to improve readability and impact, particularly for the Spanish-speaking community

Seven Eight Artists - Organist

Los Angeles, CA

01/2025 - *Current*

- Artist management for organist concert engagements

Colburn School - Instructor

Los Angeles, CA

08/2024 - *Current*

- Taught undergraduate students in movable Do, fixed Do, and fixed Do syllabification
- Instructor for Ear Training 103 and 104
- Instructor for Dictation, ET 101 and 102
- Conductor/Accompanist for Solfege Ensemble

Kol Tikvah - Choir Director

Woodland Hills, CA

09/2023 - *Current*

- Choir Director for all High Holy Days services
- Pianist for all High Holidays services

California Lutheran University - University Organist And Adjunct Professor

Thousand Oaks, CA

08/2019 - *Current*

- Teach all levels of Keyboard Harmony
- Teach HNRS -109: Arts and Civilization II in the Honors Program
- Oversee Steiner-Reck pipe organ in Samuelson Chapel
- Coordinator of the Franzen Organ Recital Series
- Organist for monthly Bach Organ Recital Series
- Teach all student organists
- Organist for all major university functions

Glendale Youth Symphony - Founder and Director/Conductor

Glendale, CA

01/2019 - 01/2026

01/2011

Azusa Pacific University

Azusa, CA

Bachelors of Music: Piano Performance

- Conducting student of Dr. David Hughes
- Vocal studio accompanist under Dr. Patricia Edwards
- Piano student of Dr. Tao Chang

Certifications

Colleague of the American Guild of Organists

Choir Master of the American Guild of Organists

- Founded symphony for the community of Glendale and surrounding cities
- Initiated collaboration with Glendale College to perform and feed into college
- Initiated collaboration with LA Mission to serve wider community and raise volunteer hours for the kids
- Finalist for the American Prize

Bach Collegium - Artistic Fellow

San Diego, CA

08/2023 - 06/2024

- Conduct and perform as organist, harpsichordist, and tenor
- Write historical practice concert notes
- Present 15 min presentations before performances
- Play organ/harpsichord continuo when not conducting
- Admin work as needed

National Children's Chorus - Associate Conductor

Los Angeles, CA

08/2021 - 08/2023

- Conduct the Debut Ensemble in two-part works
- Coach voice weekly for students ages 10-13

California Lutheran University - Interim Director of Choral Activities

Thousand Oaks, CA

01/2021 - 06/2021

- Utilized innovative methods of instruction, including video, interactive class activities and discussions to present course material.
- Directed the University Chorus and Women's Chorale
- Collaborated with Visual Media Department for virtual choir projects
- Temporary position while previous instructor was on sabbatical

Chaffey College - Interim Concert Choir Director

Rancho Cucamonga, CA

06/2021 - 01/2022

- Conducted, rehearsed, and recruited for the concert choir

Claremont Chorale - Assistant Conductor/Collaborative Pianist

08/2018 - 08/2019

- Assistant conduct on various choral repertoire
- Collaborative pianist for all rehearsals and performances
- Rehearse choir in various rehearsals and sectionals
- Oversee recruitment and community engagement

Publications and Presentations

2026 "Nueva Canción: Devotional Music as Holy Witness," Princeton, New Jersey, Hymn Society

2026 Podcast Interview, "El Director Musical Como Estratega Pastoral," GIA

2026 Presentation, "St. Oscar Romero: Music of the Martyrs," North American Academy of Liturgy, Emory University

2025 Presentation, "Pipe Organ for Pianists," "Improv at the Organ: Adapting Various Latin American Styles," "Creating a Children's Choir Ministry," GIA, Summer Music Institute, North Central College

2025 Published, "The Precedent for Vernacular and Multilingual Liturgies in the Catholic Church in Latin America," *Religions Journal*

2025 Presenter, "Villancicos", California School of the Arts San Gabriel

2024 Presenter, "Retrieving Identity: The Music of South and Central American Masses after Vatican II", The Center for Congregational Song, Barranquilla, Colombia (Presentation in Spanish)

2024 Poster Session, "Syncretism in Latin American Choral Music", ACDA Western Region

2024 Webinar Presenter, "Retrieving Identity: The Music of South and Central American Masses after Vatican II", The Center for Congregational Song

2024 Presenter, "Misas de Latinamerica despues de Vatican II", Red Create/Hymn Society, Barranquilla, Colombia

2023 Presenter, "The Sacred Choral Music of Latin America after Vatican II", The Hymn Society, Montreal

2023 Published "The Music of the Great Religions: The Philosophy of a New Course at Cal Lutheran University" in *CrossAccent Journal*

2023 Presenter, "Pipe Organ for Pianists", Association of Lutheran Church Musicians

2023 Published Tres Corales de Bach, GIA

2023 (in progress) Director for early music album, Villancicos and Bach Chorales, Acis Productions

2022 Published "Liberationist Perspectives on the Misa Criolla by Ariél Ramírez" in *Religions Journal*

2019 Presenter, "Kodaly for Spanish Speaking Choirs" at CASMEC, Fresno

2019 Published "Review of the Christian Congregational Music Conference" in *CrossAccent*

2019 Presenter, "Sacred Counterpoint: The Balance Between Emotion and Reason in the 16th Century Motet" at the Christian Congregational Music Conference, Ripon College Cuddesdon, United Kingdom

2019 Presenter, "Using Kodaly with Spanish-Speaking Choral Ensembles" at California All-State Music Education Conference, San Jose

2018 Presenter, "Transformational Leadership in Church Music Programs" at Concordia University, Irvine

2018 Published "The Role Music Plays in Racial Identity" in Spring Issue *ChorTeach*

2018 Presenter, "Music and the prosperity gospel" at the American Academy of Religion, Berkeley

2017 Presenter, "Lutheran funeral hymnody" at Eureka: Musical Minds Conference, Cal State Fullerton

2017 Presenter, "The Deutsch Messe", Claremont School of Theology

2017 Presenter, "Lutheran funeral hymnody" at Hymn Society, Canada

2017 Published "Culture of Singing" in Fall issue of *Reformed Worship Magazine*

Professional Activities

2026 Conducting Fellow with the Kansas City Chorale, Charles Bruffy

2025 Panelist for LA Commission of Arts

2025 Fellow at Yale Sacred Music Academy

2024 UCLA Grant Award to record the works of Carlos Colón

2024 Recipient of CCDA Grant for Diversity in Music

2024 Recipient of Bach Diversity Grant from American Bach Society

2023 Editorial board for Spanish hymnal, GIA

2023-2026 Executive Board Member of Border CrosSing, an award-winning Minnesota-based arts non-profit dedicated to the music of BIPOC composers

2023 Grant recipient from the Colburn Foundation

2023 Grant recipient from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

2022 Panelist for LA Commission of Arts

2022 Recipient of community grant from UCLA to record unpublished villancicos

2020-2023 Editorial Board for CrossAccent Journal

2021-2023 Dean of the American Guild of Organists, Ventura Chapter

2021 Director of Education, Glendale College Orchestra Board

2018-2021 Director of Organ and Chant for advisory board in San Pedro Region of the Los Angeles Archdiocese

2018-2020 Member-at-large for Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Significant Performances

2026 Harpsichordist for Kaleidoscope, Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Santa Monica Presbyterian Church

2026 Organist/Harpsichordist, "Songs of Love and Lament," Dr. Franco Basili Director, California Lutheran University, CA

2026 Director, "Echoes of Light: Children's Choral Academy Showcase," Cherubim, Seraphim and Archangels Youth Chorus, Holy Family Catholic Church, CA

2026 Harpsichordist, "Music for Two Harpsichords," Collaboration with Ian Pritchard, Colburn School, CA
2026 Organist/Director, "Miserere: Musical Meditations on the Passion of Christ," Music of Bach, Handel, Forrester, and Padilla, Holy Family Catholic Church, CA
2026 Organist/Director, "Vespers of Victoria," Holy Family Catholic Church, CA
2026 Organist, "Sounds About Town," Music of Moussa, Bruch, and Strauss, Colburn Orchestra, Disney Hall, CA
2025 Director, All Souls Memorial Mass, Requiem by Palestrina, Holy Family Catholic Church, Glendale, CA
2025 Director, "Music Animated: Peter and the Wolf," Brand Library, Glendale, CA
2025 Director, "Requiem de los Campesinos: Music in Honor of St. Oscar Romero," Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles California
2025 Director, "Seven Last Words by Michael John Trotta," Choirs of Holy Family, Holy Family Catholic Church, Glendale, CA
2025 Pianist, Closing Mass at LA Congress, Anaheim Convention Center, LA Congress
2025 Organ soloist, "Bachathon: the Complete Organ Works of Bach," Orange County Chapter AGO, Christ Cathedral, Garden Grove
2025 Director, "Rheinberger Vespers," Schola Cantorum, Holy Family Catholic Church, Glendale
2025 Director, "Music of Passover with Guest Dr. Nick Strimple," St. Cecilia Chorale, Holy Family Catholic Church, Glendale
2025 Organist and Choral Preparation, "Sounds of Summer," St. Cecilia Chorale, Filipino Chorale, Archangels Youth Chorus, Orchestra Guadalupana, Disney Hall, Los Angeles
2025 Organ Soloist, "Bach and Franck," Home of the Little Landers Historical Society, Tujunga United Methodist Church
2025 Harpsichordist and Director, "Padilla Villancicos," Church of the Good Shepherd, CSArts San Gabriel Valley, First Performance in 300 years
2025 Organ soloist, Music for Paws, Fundraiser for Victims of Wildfires, Pasadena Humane Society and Entertainment Community Fund
2024 World Premiere of "Concert of Silences", Choral Arts Initiative, Concordia University, Irvine, CA
2024 Guest organ soloist and tenor, GIA Publications, St. Edmunds Catholic Church, Chicago, Illinois
2024 Guest pianist and vocalist for ecumenical conference, Colegio Americano de Barranquilla, Colombia
2024 Organ soloist, Music from Ages Past: Baroque and Before, Madrigali Singers, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ojai, CA
2023 Organist with Synesthesia Orchestra, First Congregational Church of Los Angeles
2023 Organ Soloist with Westlake Village Orchestra, "Concertino for Organ" by Eric Ewazen, Samuelson Chapel, California Lutheran University

2023 Prepared Glendale Youth Symphony for LA Opera Connects
Community performance of Moses by Henry Mollicone
2023 Organist for Duruflé Requiem, Donald Brinegar Singers and Holy
Family Choirs, Holy Family Catholic Church, Glendale, CA
2023 Guest harpsichordist and soloist with Kontrapunktus early music
ensemble
2022 Guest harpsichordist with Glendale College Orchestra on Seasons by
Vivaldi, Glendale College
2022 Prepared Glendale Youth Symphony for LA Opera Connects
Community world premiere of Tres Mujeres by Carla Lucero
2022 Organ Recital at Occidental College, Eagle Rock, CA
2022 Recital for the dedication of the new organ at St. Anthony Catholic
Church, La Puente, CA
2022 Guest tenor for performance of Beethoven 9th with the Los Angeles
Chamber Orchestra
2022 Guest organist with Street Symphony and Vijay Gupta, Los Angeles
2022 Conductor of the Holy Family Choirs and Donald Brinegar Singers
for Mozart's Requiem
2020 Prepared children's chorus for world premiere of True Witness, a
cantata by Jodi Goble, Claremont Colleges
2018 Los Angeles Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels recitalist
2018 Guest performance of sacred music of Spain with Los Angeles
Camerata, Occidental College
2015 Featured recitalist, AGO of Orange County Chapter

Fellowships and Awards

2026 Fellow Conductor with the Grammy Award Winning Kansas City
Chorale
2025 Fellow at the Yale Sacred Music Academy
2024 Conducting Fellow with Anderson Conducting Academy
2023 Artistic Fellow with Bach Collegium
2023 Member of Cohort for the Essentials of Orchestral Management with
the League of American Orchestras
2023 Conducting Fellow with the International Conductors Guild, UCLA
2022 Fellow for Future of Music Educators for the Cleveland Conservatory
of Music
2021 Choirs at Holy Family were named National Finalist for the
American Prize
2019 USC Fellowship with Terri Knowles of the LA Master Chorale
2019 Fellow at the Los Angeles Conducting Institute
2019 Fellow at the Choral Conducting Institute at the University of Illinois
2018 Fellow of the Oregon Bach Festival, Organ Institute under Paul Jacobs
2018 Fellow of the San Diego Pro Arte Voices Conducting Institute
2017 USC Music Department Scholarship
2014 Prize winner of Rudolph Polk Memorial Performance

2014 2nd Place Winner of Organ Competition, International Liszt Competition
2012 CGU Music Department Scholarship
2008 APU Music Department Scholarship

Professional Affiliations

American Musicological Society
American Guild of Organists
American Choral Directors Association
American Early Music Society
North American Academy of Liturgy
Organization of American Kodaly Educators
American Academy of Religion
Music Teacher's Association of California

Courses Taught

Keyboard Harmony I (CLU)
Keyboard Harmony II (CLU)
Keyboard Harmony III (CLU)
Liturgy and Worship (CLU)
Musicianship IV (CLU)
University Chorus (CLU)
Women's Chorus (CLU)
Concert Chorus (Chaffey College)
Ear Training I (Colburn)
Ear Training II (Colburn)
Dictation I (Colburn)
Dictation II (Colburn)
Arts and Civilization II (Cal Lutheran)
Solfege Ensemble (Colburn)
Orchestra (Glendale College)

Guest Lectures

2024 Choral Music Syncretization in South America, ACDA Western Region Poster, July
2024 Sacred Music Of South and Central America, Center for Congregational Song, February
2023 Masses of Central and South America During the Time of Rebellion, Hymn Society, July

2022 Catholic Music in South/Central America Misa Criolla, Misa campesina nicaragüense, and Pilgrimage, Loyola University Maryland, November

2021 Music of the Holocaust: Terezín and Auschwitz, Cal Lutheran University, October

2020 The Organ Music of Bach, Occidental College, September

2020 Scholarship in Sacred Music, Claremont Graduate University

2019 Intro to Kodály in the Choral Classroom, Cal Lutheran University, October

2017 Lecture on the Music of the Deutsch Messe by Martin Luther featuring the Claremont Chorale and bishop of the ELCA, Claremont School of Theology

Community Outreach

2026 Guest choir collaboration with the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, First United Methodist Church of Pasadena, CA

2025 Guest Archangels Youth Chorus Performance at the historical Casa Adobe in Glendale, CA

2025 Pianist and collaborative pianist for Glendale Latino Association, Guest Speaker for the Glendale Youth Symphony

2025 Interview with Shout Out LA, "Meet Dr. Adan Fernandez | Executive Director and Artistic Director of the Glendale Youth Symphony," <https://shoutoutla.com/meet-dr-adan-fernandez-executive-director-and-artistic-director-of-the-glendale-youth-symphony/>

2025 Director, "Tres Mujeres de Jerusalem," with LA Opera Connects, Glendale Youth Symphony, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles

2024 Guest Judge, Reflections Student Composition Competition, Glendale Unified School District

2024 Guest performers with Glendale Youth Symphony, Habitat for Humanity, Pasadena, CA

2024 Chamber Music with Friends, Brand Library, Glendale, CA

2024 Harpsichordist with Hortus Musicus Early Music Ensemble, Holy Family Catholic Church, Glendale, CA

2024 Guest Organist, Requiem by Fauré, Pasadena City College Choirs, Holy Family Catholic Church, CA