

SAMANTHA CONNOUR

Musician & Songwriter

I'm a seasoned worship leader with a long and diverse experience serving the church. I grew up memorizing hymns and harmonies in a Pentecostal church in rural North Dakota and taking piano lessons from my Grandma Mavis's best friend, Mavis. I learned to trust my hands and voice in concert with the Spirit during my teenage years at a large suburban congregation in Des Moines, IA. The leap into full-time ministry, marriage, and motherhood made for eight years of both struggle and growth at a small church in Chicagoland that I still consider home. And then joyful new life, new hopes, and new songs were birthed during the last ten years of church planting in Chicago. Some of those hopes were laid to rest as I buried my best friend, creative partner, and husband in 2015 and came to walk the way of widowhood and solo-parenting and reluctantly became acquainted with many of the ways grief and suffering shape a person and their faith. I'm still walking that road with the Lord, alongside my kids and new husband as we discover the beauty and complexities of the modern blended family. Somehow - in every varied fellowship and season of life - I keep finding myself behind a piano, content to hold a space for the church family in front of me to reckon with our God in whatever state of belief or unbelief they may find themselves in.



SKILLS & ABILITIES

MUSICAL

Vocal Performance, Songwriting, Song Arrangement, Piano, Keyboard, Accordion

TECHNICAL

ProPresenter, MediaShout, PlanningCenter, SquareSpace, Quickbooks, Asana

EXPERIENCE

THE PAINTED DOOR CHURCH

Band Leader | November 2009 - present

Music & Arts Director | April 2015 - June 2018

- Developed a guiding Philosophy of Arts & Music and ministry structure.
- Recruited and managed multiple stylistically distinct bands while maintaining a common songbook.
- Launched a series of "TPD Art Colloquium" gatherings, interviewing and showcasing local artists.
- Produced multiple art projects including: "Hymns for Little Shoulders" children's hymnal, several liturgical group artwork pieces, and a Holy Week audio production.
- Incorporated into worship gatherings: adult and children's choirs with original arrangements, Eastern Orthodox choral works, and over 20 original songs from myself and other writers. Helped facilitate in an "all acapella" Lenten season in 2019 in the style of Sacred Harp and Taize prayer songs.
- Oversaw all aspects of management and communication for bands, sound, and media teams.

Operations Director | April 2015 - June 2018

- Managed the church office (facility, equipment, janitorial services), media and communications (web, print, email, social media, calendar), events (meetings, classes, rentals), and volunteers (scheduling and recruitment of 100+ volunteers).
- Created new processes for bookkeeping, communications, facility rentals and volunteer management.
- Helped orchestrate the search, design, build-out, and move to a permanent church home in West Town

I stepped down from these roles in the summer of 2018 to take a needed break and focus energies on home and family, as well as to devote more intentional time to songwriting.

THE CHICAGO PARTNERSHIP FOR CHURCH PLANTING

Admin Assistant & Communications Manager | July 2016 - present

- Provide admin support for the church planter pipeline.
- Manage website and social media accounts. Currently working on a rebrand which includes a new website, social media plan, and redefined communication goals.

CALVARY CHURCH - LEMONT, IL

Band Leader | January 2010 - March 2013

- Worked to gently reshape the worship experience to be more accessible to visitors from the local community, while still serving the church family well.
- Restructured volunteer base into two distinct bands to encourage familiarity between musicians, leading to higher quality musicianship.
- Weekly tasks included: selecting music, leading rehearsals, scheduling volunteers, designing and formatting slides in MediaShout, working with pastoral team to plan for sermon series and events.

CONTACT

2501 W Superior St, Apt 1
Chicago, IL 60612 | 630-991-3504
samanthaconnour@gmail.com
soundcloud.com/samanthaconnour

PERSONALITY ASSESSMENTS

Meyers-Briggs: ENTP

Enneagram: 3w4

Strengths Finder: Input, Ideation, Intellection, Learner, Achiever

CONTINUING ED

Bifrost Arts Conference | March 2011
"Liturgy, Music & Space"

Led by Isaac Wardell of Bifrost Arts & Porters Gate

Trinity School for Ministry | Jan 2017
"Song Writing for Today's Church"
Songwriting workshop led by Andy Piercey, Bruce Benedict (Cardiphonia) & Latifah Alattas (Page CXVI & Moda Spira)

OTHER MUSICAL PROJECTS

Lo Sy Lo

www.losylo.com

Artist Bio: Sam is known for getting her kids to school on time seven out of every ten days. On some of those days she also writes songs about widowhood (and what grief looks like when you smash it into the mundane experiences of everyday life) as Lo Sy Lo. Attuned listeners may pick up on her North Dakotan roots and 20 years of sitting behind a church piano trying to help other people sing. Gracious listeners will ignore the fact that she keeps writing songs on a guitar that she still needs to learn how to play. Hopeful listeners may hear of beauty and brokenness in the same breath and feel a little less alone in the world. Also, melanoma sucks. Mind your moles.

DPCD

www.dpcd.work

*DPCD is the work of Chicago musician Alec Watson. The music embraces the American song tradition with quiet intensity, offering warm repetitions on daily routine, memory, family history, and grey areas of belief and doubt. *Samantha sings backup vocals for DPCD*