



GIA Publications, Inc.

7404 South Mason Avenue
Chicago, IL 60638

P 800.GIA.1358
www.giamusic.com

– Press Release –

December 3, 2025, Chicago, Illinois–
For immediate release

Brandon Boyd to succeed James Abbington as editor of GIA's renamed *Abbington African American Sacred Music Series.*

GIA Publications, Inc. is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Brandon A. Boyd to their editorial staff. Dr. Boyd continues the work of the late Dr. W. James Abbington, Jr. as editor of the *African American Church Music Series*. Under Dr. Boyd's leadership, the series will be renamed the *Abbington African American Sacred Music Series* to honor Dr. Abbington's legacy.

Dr. Brandon A. Boyd is the Mary M. and Harry L. Smith Endowed Chair, Director of Choral Activities, and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Missouri. An advocate for choral music's power to build community, Dr. Boyd's primary research explores the music of the Black experience—particularly Gospel and Spirituals—as well as choirs for underserved populations, including those experiencing homelessness and incarceration. He is also interested in the therapeutic and social benefits of group singing. As a composer and editor, his music is widely performed and published by GIA as well as Gentry, Hinshaw, MorningStar, and Kjos. Internationally, he has collaborated with the London Symphony and the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra and has conducted at Carnegie Hall. He has also served as composer-in-residence with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale.



Dr. Boyd commented, “I am profoundly honored to join GIA Publications as the editor of the newly named *Abbington African American Sacred Music Series*, established in tribute to its founding editor and my mentor, Dr. W. James “Jimmie” Abbington, Jr. This appointment holds deep personal significance: it allows me both to honor Dr. Abbington's extraordinary legacy and to advance the preservation and dissemination of music from the Black sacred tradition. Through this series, I am committed to elevating composers whose work emerges from, and authentically represents, the rich choral practices of the Black sacred experience. I am truly grateful for GIA's continued support in sustaining and championing these traditions. Together, we will work to ensure that this body of music remains visible and accessible to choirs and communities around the world.”

“We are incredibly excited to welcome Brandon Boyd to our team,” said Kate Williams, Vice President of Sacred Music. “Dr. Abbington built an extraordinary foundation, decades of work ultimately shaping this series into a vital resource for churches nationwide. Brandon's passion, expertise, and innovative approach make him the ideal successor to honor this legacy while introducing new perspectives and expanding our reach. I can think of no better way to honor Jimmie's memory than by this dear friend and colleague taking up the mantle.”

Founded in 1941, GIA Publications, Inc. is a family-owned company with more than 10,000 choral and instrumental editions in print, as well as hymnals, recordings, a licensing division, and a wide variety of music education resources. The esteemed choral publisher Walton Music became part of GIA in 2013. Both World Library Publications (WLP) and Meredith Music joined the GIA family in 2020. Our website is www.giamusic.com.

###

Contact: Sarah Wolf, Director of Marketing • sarahw@giamusic.com