

CREDO

Do you have a dream...?

That's how it all began—a question from STIM about creating music, still unexplored.

Yes, we had a dream—but rather, in our fragmented and fast-paced time, to lift up what has already been deeply explored and repeated over centuries, in country after country, in language after language:

The Church's Credo.

To bring its articles of faith to life as an ongoing event.

We sought—and we received a yes. A church musical dream can become reality.

In addition to the Swedish text the work will be given an English form, while incorporating its Latin formulations, so that it becomes even clearer how we share faith across national borders and traditions. Yes, even across time, since we do not alter the content—only add the possibilities of our own era in both musical expression and, for those who wish, the use of light and sound, as well as the option to record and share it digitally.

A JOINT WORLD PREMIERE – AUTUMN 2027

The goal is a joint premiere in autumn 2027, as far as possible during the same weekend or close in time, in multiple churches. These should be located in different countries and represent various denominations, with each church adapting the performance to its own conditions so that diversity is given space.

What does each church contribute?

Funding from STIM will cover costs related to the production of the work, including digital tools/visual presentations. The church that wishes to perform the work will cover the costs of the concert itself, such as venue, choir, soloists and instrumentalists, to a chosen extent.

Timeline

2026 – Work on the music, contacts and networking

Spring 2027 – Scores finalized for distribution, concerts confirmed

Autumn 2027 – Premiere in multiple locations simultaneously

Would your church like to be one of them?

Please feel free to contact us, and we will tell you more.

You will find our details on the following page, along with more information about how we work with music and text. You are, of course, also welcome to share this with other churches you think might want to be part of the project.

Stefan Klaverdal, musician

Åsa Hagberg, writer





ABOUT THE MUSIC

Stefan Klaverdal – Composer and musician with extensive experience in choral music, both as a singer and conductor. His compositions include the oratorio “At the Gate”, written for the 900th anniversary of Lund Cathedral, where all parish choirs also participated in the compositional process. Simpler music examples are included in the proposal for a new hymnal. In 2025, he was awarded the Church of Sweden Cultural Scholarship.



“My vision for the music is a level where the vocal performance corresponds to that of an oratorio or mixed choir, with the addition of soloists. The work features figures such as the Evangelist John and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Depending on available resources, the music can be performed by a smaller orchestra—such as wind instruments, organ, and strings—with the option of just a string quartet or organ, as well as optional speakers. Light design can also be integrated into the music to further enhance the drama unfolding throughout the work.”

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ABOUT THE TEXT

Åsa Hagberg – Author and hymn writer with many years of broad textual production, most of it within church music in collaboration with several composers. Her work ranges from oratorios—such as “If God Were to Walk the Earth” (music by Sofia Östling), included in the Church Music Symposium 2026—to simpler hymn texts. She has 11 texts in the Church of Sweden’s new hymnal proposal, as well as two texts in the Norwegian hymn renewal. She is a multiple recipient of the Anders Frostenson Scholarship.



“The aim of the text has been to illuminate the CREDO in a living present, so that what the confession expresses connects with God’s ‘I Am.’ Creation, the Word, the incarnation, crucifixion, descent and resurrection—all take place in the present moment, as does the wind of the Spirit and the birth of the Church, the hope of eternity. The text incorporates phrases from both the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds, as well as biblical passages, for our shared recognition.”

Read parts of the text at: www.asahagberg.se/sanger/credo/
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