



Statement on Mr. David Haas
National Association of Pastoral Musicians
July 3, 2020

Every year since 1983, the National Association of Pastoral Musicians has presented the *Pastoral Musician of the Year* award to “a pastoral musician who exemplifies the best of NPM, one who has given substantial witness or promotion to the role of pastoral music in parish, diocesan, or institutional life.” In light of recent events and revelations, and in consultation with the NPM Council, the Board of Directors has made the decision to rescind the 2004 *Pastoral Musician of the Year* given to recipient David Haas.

To date, numerous women have come forward to tell their stories of harassment or assault by Mr. Haas, in a pattern of sexually predatory behavior over the course of more than thirty years. It has become clear that Mr. Haas took advantage of his stature within the pastoral music world and the access and opportunity that it provided him, and that this pattern of predatory behavior extended to numerous venues and events, including events sponsored by NPM.

NPM stands with these women. We are heartbroken that our gatherings, intended for prayer, music, and fellowship, became places of nightmare and abuse for his victims. We pledge to do whatever is within our power to assist these women in their healing process and work diligently to ensure that our events represent a safe space for all present, and that no predator, of whatever stature, will find in our gatherings an opportunity to harm another.

NPM’s Youth Protection policies, in place for more than a decade, will continue to govern the safe participation of minors and young people in our events. In addition, NPM is working to develop robust standards of ethical conduct for *all* our members and will expect all artists, speakers, and employees and representatives of our business partners to adhere to them.

Ultimately, we must all call on one another to walk in the footsteps of Christ—healing wounds, righting relationships, and speaking for those whose voices have been silenced for far too long.

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