

Tactus

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
WESTERN CONFERENCE PROGRAM
WINTER 2024



Many Voices One Song

ACDA Western

MARCH 6-9

2024

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February 17, 2024

January 27, 2024

March 2, 2024

DEGREE PROGRAMS:

Bachelor of Music in Music Education (Pre-Certification)

Bachelor of Music in Performance

Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies

Bachelor of Music in Composition

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Minor in Music Liberal Arts

Minor in Music Jazz Studies

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The Cal Poly Choral Program has four choirs: PolyPhonics, University Singers, Chamber Choir and Cantabile. The choirs tour nationally and internationally and have a choral exchange program with Kenya. There are opportunities in classical, jazz, opera and more!

Scott Glysson / sglysson@calpoly.edu
Director of Choral Activities and Vocal Studies

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- Music Education
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- Ethnomusicology
- Music Technology
- Jazz
- Performance

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Cal Poly is located in San Luis Obispo, on California's beautiful Central Coast. Cal Poly is accredited by the National Association of Music (NASM).

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CAL POLY

Music

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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ADVOCACY RESOLUTION

Whereas the Human spirit is elevated to a broader understanding of itself through the study and performance in the aesthetic arts; and

Whereas serious cutbacks in funding and support have steadily eroded state institutions and their programs throughout our country;

Be it resolved that all citizens of the United States actively voice their affirmative and collective support for necessary funding at the local, state, and national levels of education and government, to ensure the survival of arts programs.

ACDA IN THE BEGINNING

On February 4, 1959, thirty-five choral directors met in Kansas City, MO, for the purpose of establishing a national organization of choral music directors. The meeting, held in conjunction with the National Conference of the Music Teachers National Association, produced ACDA's first constitution and bylaws as well as the structural framework that would allow the monumental growth of our organization. While it was originally designated the American Choirmasters Association, Elwood Keister proposed that the organization be named the American Choral Directors Association.

The eighty-one officially designated charter members launched what was to become a significant and internationally recognized choral organization.

The following year, President Archie Jones guided the activities that focused on preparation for the first national conference, which was held on March 16-17, 1960 in Atlantic City, NJ. This meeting was held in conjunction with the National Conference of the Music Educators National Conference. The late Harry R. Wilson and R. Wayne Hugoboom were responsible for the conference program, which proved to be very informative and successful. This early success and that of subsequent conferences proved to be major factors in the early growth of ACDA.

The initial activities of ACDA included the structuring of geographic divisions paralleling MENC's regional designations. The first Western Region ACDA meeting was a one-day conference at Rio Hondo College in Whittier, CA in October 1968. Gene Simmonds was president and Howard Swan, Jester Hairston, Charles Hirt, and Maurice Allard were guest speakers. Since that time, the Western Region has contributed to the growth and influence of ACDA in the choral art.

IN MEMORIAM

Donald Baggett
Glenn Bennett
Alvin Brightbill
Harry Carter
Judith Cloud
Jenise Coon

Harold Daugherty
William Hall
Dan Hoggatt
Art Huff
William Iveson
John Lindsay

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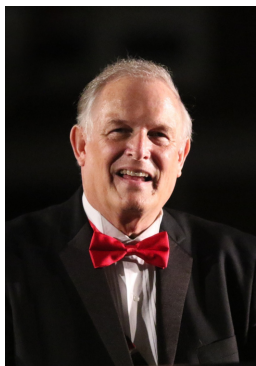
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, Michael Short



The WACDA 2024 Conference “Many Voices, One Song” is ready to go! Many thanks to Lou DeLa Rosa for leading an amazing conference in 2022. This year will continue to create music that stirs the heart and mind; as many people with different beliefs and lifestyles, uniting through a shared love of music!

For our seasoned teachers and conductors, this is a time to recharge. Revisit the excitement of hearing new choirs. Discover new music and techniques that make us more informed musicians and teachers. Reconnect with colleagues and recenter our collective choral world. For our teachers and conductors beginning a journey in the choral profession, this conference will be eye opening! You may ask yourself - *How did they get to be so good? Can my choir sound like their choir?*

We all grow and can be inspired through the many concerts, “Advancing the Arts” Sessions, Master Classes, Tool Box Sessions, Reading Sessions, and opportunities to meet composers attending the conference. I know you will find new and exciting repertoire for your ensembles.

It has taken village to create this amazing conference! Led by Conference Chair Cari Earnhart and Conference Vice Chair Scot Hanna-Weir, over 30 committee leaders planned this conference! I encourage you to thank the volunteers at this event. With their leadership and commitment, this conference is made possible!

We are so fortunate to work in a field with loving and magnanimous people who help us grow our craft. I have always felt that our job is to grow kind and thoughtful people who can feel, think, express and have compassion for others. We give our students and singers beautiful ways to express themselves through all types of music. There will always be many voices in this world, yet we have one song of love, kindness and respect for all the people of the world. Enjoy and celebrate every moment of the conference! I look forward to seeing you in Pasadena.

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Robyn Hilger



With a jubilant heart, I extend to you a resounding welcome to the 2024 Western Region Conference, where voices unite in an extraordinary celebration of choral artistry. Whether you’re a seasoned conductor, a passionate singer, a curious educator, or a student just diving into this world, this conference is your playground—a place to soak up knowledge, get inspired, and delve deeply into the wonders of choral artistry. The workshops, masterclasses, performances, and discussions are led by some of the brightest minds and most passionate voices in our field. Expect to explore everything from classical masterpieces to cutting-edge innovations and everything in between. It’s not just about the notes; it’s about the stories and emotions woven into each melody.

Our collective journey will traverse classical opuses, modern innovations, folk traditions, and experimental realms, creating dialogue that fosters growth, innovation, and profound connections. This conference isn’t just about learning; it’s about forging friendships and collaborations that’ll resonate long after the final note.

Get ready for a musical journey that’ll stir your soul and inspire your creativity. And, don’t forget to say THANK YOU to the wonderful team of conference organizers who have worked tirelessly for two years to create this amazing experience for all of us. We truly couldn’t do it without their incredible commitment. May this gathering ignite a symphony of creativity within us, fostering collaborations and friendships that resonate long after the final chord fades.



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Dr. Arian Khaefi, Director of Choral Studies
akhaefi@sdsu.edu

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CONFERENCE HONOREE, Joseph Huszti

Joseph Huszti, Professor Emeritus, retired from UC Irvine in 2014 after a 54-year teaching career, 37 at UCI. Joining ACDA in 1960 as the 214th member, he continues to be active as a singer and conductor of the Men in Blaque. His first position was in 1959 at Bakersfield College and he subsequently headed choral programs at the University of Delaware and Boston University. His mentors included Howard Swan, William Vennard, Todd Duncan, Robert Fountain and Otto Werner-Mueller.



Pope Paul VI and President Lyndon B. Johnson.

During his tenure at UC Irvine, twenty-seven international concert tours included prize-winning performances at the International Musical Eisteddfod, the Bela Bartok International Choral Competition, the Koorfest and the World Choir Games. Huszti headed the Young Vocalists Program at the Tanglewood Festival from 1972-1977 where he collaborated with Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland and Norman Dello Joio,

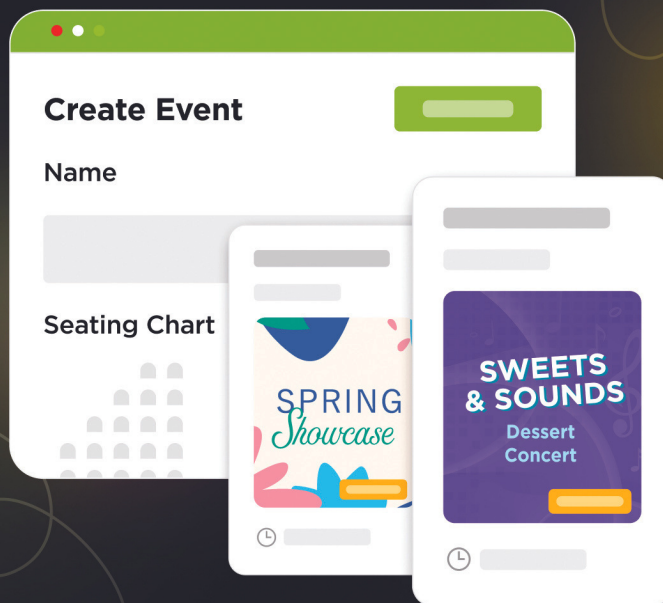
In 1965, the Bakersfield College Choir became the first American choir to win the International Musical Eisteddfod, Llangollen, Wales. The BC Choir held command performances for

among others. Huszti has held leadership positions in ACDA in Delaware and Boston. He served as Western Division President from 1980-82. Huszti was honored by CCDA with the Howard Swan Award in 2020.



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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1971 Kansas City, MO | 1999 Chicago, IL |
| 1973 Kansas City, MO | 2001 San Antonio, TX |
| 1975 St. Louis, MO | 2003 New York, NY |
| 1977 Dallas, TX | 2005 Los Angeles, CA |
| 1979 Kansas City, MO | 2007 Miami, FL |
| 1981 New Orleans, LA | 2009 Oklahoma City, OK |
| 1983 Nashville, TN | 2011 Chicago, IL |
| 1985 Salt Lake City, UT | 2013 Dallas, TX |
| 1987 San Antonio, TX | 2015 Salt Lake City, UT |
| 1989 Louisville, KY | 2017 Minneapolis, MN |
| 1991 Phoenix, AZ | 2019 Kansas City, Missouri |
| 1993 San Antonio, TX | 2021 Virtual Conference |
| 1995 Washington, D.C. | 2023 Cincinnati, OH |
| 1997 San Diego, CA | 2025 Dallas, TX |

ACDA WESTERN REGION CONFERENCES

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1973 Coronado, CA | 1998 Reno, NV |
| 1976 Palo Alto, CA | 2000 Los Angeles, CA |
| 1978 Tempe, AZ | 2002 Honolulu, HI |
| 1980 San Diego, CA | 2004 Las Vegas, NV |
| 1982 Pasadena, CA | 2006 Salt Lake City, UT |
| 1984 Los Angeles, CA | 2008 Anaheim, CA |
| 1986 San José, CA | 2010 Tucson, AZ |
| 1988 Los Angeles, CA | 2012 Reno, NV |
| 1990 Fresno, CA | 2014 Santa Barbara, CA |
| 1992 Honolulu, HI | 2016 Pasadena, CA |
| 1994 Sacramento, CA | 2018 Pasadena, CA |
| 1996 Pasadena, CA | 2020 Salt Lake City, UT |
| | 2022 Long Beach, CA |

WESTERN REGION CONFERENCE HONOREES

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1990 Roger Wagner | 2008 Sr. Sharon Breden, CSJ |
| 1992 Ralph Woodward, Sr. | 2010 William Hatcher |
| 1994 David Thorsen | 2012 Dean Semple |
| 1996 Charles Hirt | 2014 Morten Lauridsen |
| 1998 Rodney Eichenberger | 2016 John Alexander |
| 2000 Paul Salamunovich | 2018 Polly Vasché |
| 2002 Jane Hardester | 2020 Donald Brinegar |
| 2004 Albert McNeil | 2022 Charlene Archibeque |
| 2006 Frank Pooler | 2024 Joseph Huszti |

WESTERN REGION PAST PRESIDENTS

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1964-67 Howard Swan * † | 1999-2001 Thomas Davies |
| 1971-73 Gene Simmonds * † | 2001-03 Ron Kean |
| 1973-75 Jane Hardester * † | 2003-05 Steve Hodson |
| 1975-77 Ginger Covert Colla † | 2005-07 Edith A. Copley |
| 1977-79 David Thorsen † | 2005-07 Elizabeth Kamerin |
| 1979-81 Douglas McEwen † | 2007-09 Dean Semple † |
| 1981-83 Joseph Huszti | 2009-11 Cheryl Anderson |
| 1983-85 Linda Allen Anderson | 2011-13 Kathryn Smith |
| 1985-87 Sharon Breden, CSJ † | 2013-15 Steve Hodson |
| 1987-89 William Hatcher | 2015-17 Anna Hamre |
| 1989-91 Sharon Breden, CSJ † | 2017-19 Travis Rogers |
| 1991-93 Gary Unruh | 2019-20 Kim Ritzer |
| 1993-95 Jo-Michael Scheibe | 2020-22 Lou De La Rosa |
| 1995-97 Mary Breden | |
| 1997-99 James O. Foxx † | |

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† Deceased Member

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|---|---|--|
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| Claudine Robinson <i>Middle School</i> | Steph Council <i>Treble Choirs</i> | Kimberly Li & Brandon Pierce <i>Nevada ACDA Newsletter</i> |
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MUSIC CELEBRATIONS INTERNATIONAL
2025 Choral Festival Season



National Memorial Day Choral Festival
Kennedy Center | Washington, DC

May 23 - 26, 2025
 Craig Jessop, Artistic Director

Dublin Choral Festival
St. Patrick's Cathedral | Dublin

June 18 - 22, 2025
 Jake Runestad, Artistic Director

Rome Choral Festival
Santa Maria degli Angeli e dei Martiri | Rome

June 21 - 26, 2025
 Z. Randall Stroope, Artistic Director

Salzburg Choral Festival
Salzburger Dom | Salzburg

July 2 - 6, 2025
 Jo-Michael Scheibe & János Czifra, Artistic Directors

Summa Cum Laude Youth Music Festival
Musikverein & Konzerhaus | Vienna

July 4 - 9, 2025



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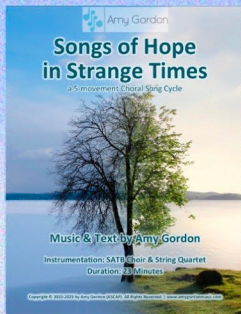
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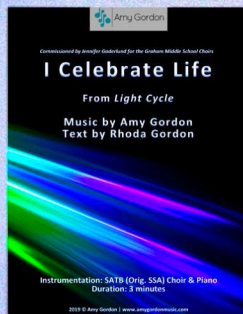
Amy Gordon is available for commissions & visits - reach out to amygordonmusic@gmail.com to connect!



LOTUS FLOWER
 SA & Piano | 3:00



**SONGS OF HOPE
 IN STRANGE TIMES**
 SATB & String Quartet | 23:00



I CELEBRATE LIFE
 SATB & Piano | 3:00
 Also available in SA & Piano



**RUMINATIONS &
 AFFIRMATIONS**
 SATB & Piano | 3:30-5:00





THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA CHORAL STUDIES

CHORAL CONDUCTING FACULTY

Dr. Elizabeth Schauer

Director of Choral Activities

Dr. M. Nicole Davis

Associate Director of Choral Activities

Dr. Jeff Vanderlee

Choral Conducting Faculty

For more information, please go to
choral.music.arizona.edu
or contact Dr. Elizabeth Schauer
at erschaeu@arizona.edu

GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN CHORAL CONDUCTING

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
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School of Music

Featured Ensembles

Choral Arts Initiative

Widely recognized as a champion of new music, Choral Arts Initiative has been praised as "gracefully lyrical" (Tim Mangan, Voice of OC), hailed as one of Orange County's "Best Choirs" (CBS News, Los Angeles), and noted for its "sublime" and "triumphant" performances (Ron Schepper, Textura). Winner of the American Prize in Choral Performance, recipient of the ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming, and Winner of the San Francisco Classical Voice Audience Choice Awards for Best New Music Performance, Choral Arts Initiative continues its commitment to musical innovation. Their passion for new music has led to the commission of twenty-five compositions, the premiere of over one hundred works, and the release of two Billboard-charting albums.



Dr. Brandon Elliott enjoys an expansive career as a conductor-educator, musician, arts leader, and consultant. He is the Founder & Artistic Director of Choral Arts Initiative and the Choral and Vocal Studies Director at Saddleback College. He has received the Louis Botto Award for Innovative Action and Entrepreneurial Zeal from Chorus

America and was recognized by the Recording Academy as a 2022 GRAMMY® Music Educator Award Semifinalist. He currently serves as the ACDA National Repertoire & Resources Co-Chair for Two-Year Colleges. He earned degrees and certificates from California State University, Fullerton, the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Berklee College of Music, and the University of Southern California. Learn more at brandon-elliott.com.

sāje

When a jazz ensemble earns a GRAMMY Award® nomination with its very first song, something unusual is in the works. An unprecedented collaboration that brings together four women creators who are all composer/arrangers, vocalists, and entrepreneurs with impressive individual careers, sāje has emerged as a singular communion unlike any other group on the scene.



Erin Bentlage has been featured on albums by Jacob Collier, Kiefer, Kate McGarry, and Amber Navran. On faculty at California State University, Northridge, she teaches classes on voice, musicianship, jazz, improvisation, and composition. As a studio vocalist she has contributed to a wide variety of projects, from film scores to singing (and often writing) background vocals for artists such as Pomplamoose and Moonchild.

A Grammy-nominated arranger known for her work with leading vocal ensembles, including Groove for Thought, The Manhattan Transfer, Chanticleer, and Kings Return, **Amanda Taylor** is an in-demand teacher and clinician at schools around the country. Known for writing accessible and inventive arrangements for young jazz ensembles via her vocal arranging company Wicked Pigeon, she is an active composer/arranger and studio singer.

A graduate of the elite Thelonious Monk Institute, **Johnaye Kendrick** has honed a deep repertoire of originals and inventively arranged standards, jazz tunes and contemporary pop songs. Kendrick is a music professor at Seattle's Cornish College of the Arts. She is a certified Sound Therapy practitioner and Energy Healer with a blossoming practice, johnygirl sound therapy & healing arts studio.

A two-time Grammy nominee for her solo albums, **Sara Gazarek** She has collaborated with heavyweights such as Kurt Elling, Fred Hersch, Billy Childs, and Larry Goldings. Recently appointed Associate Professor in the Eastman School of Music's developing Vocal Jazz Program, Gazarek is widely considered one of her generation's definitive jazz vocalists.



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- *Music & Worship*
- *Music Education*
- *Commercial Music Composition*
- *and Performance*

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Dr. Jeong Eun Joo
Dr. Bryan Bolzenta

Choral Directors:

Dr. Dan Jackson
Dr. Keith Pedersen

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JOIN US!

2024 U-M CHORAL CONDUCTING SYMPOSIUM

July 8-12, 2024

featuring
Eugene Rogers, Mark Stover, and Julie Skadsem



The SMTD 2024 Choral Conducting Symposium is an exciting program devoted to the enhancement of beautiful and communicative choral singing. Sessions on rehearsal techniques, Dalcroze, vocal technique, African and African-American music, social justice repertoire, score study, and movement will take place during the program on the beautiful University of Michigan Campus in Ann Arbor, Michigan.





SAVE THE DATES

2025

NEW YORK MARCH 15 | APRIL 1 | APRIL 12 | JUNE 8 | JUNE 14

ORLANDO APRIL 14

Honor Choir Schedule

Wednesday

2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

**Honor Choir
Registration /
Part-checks**

[CC Lower Level]

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Honor Choir Rehearsal

[CC Lower Level]

Thursday

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Honor Choir Rehearsal

[CC Lower Level]

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Honor Choir Rehearsal

[CC Lower Level]

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Honor Choir Rehearsal

[CC Lower Level]

Friday

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Honor Choir Rehearsal

[CC Lower Level]

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

College Fair

[CC Lower Level]

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Honor Choir Rehearsal

[CC Lower Level]

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Honor Choir Rehearsal

[CC Lower Level]

Saturday

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Honor Choir Concert

[Exhibit Hall C]

Marc McGhee, presiding
WACDA Honor Choir Co-Chair
Vivian Santos, presiding
WACDA Honor Choir Co-Chair
Polly Vasché, presiding
2018 WACDA Conference Honoree
Christopher Serrano, presiding
Hawai'i ACDA President

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MUSIC
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Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Conference Registration Open

2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Full Registration Options

Attendee

\$320

Student

\$125

Retired

\$225

One-Day

\$175

Non-ACDA Member
Composer Track

\$99

Conference Kick-off Concert Session #1

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

The Sterling Ensemble LA
Mater Dei High School Chamber Singers
CSU Fullerton University Singers

First United Methodist Church Pasadena
Michael Short, presiding
Western Region ACDA President

**The Sterling
Ensemble LA**

Michelle Jensen
(bio on p. 52)

Fyer, fyer
Brian Sidders
Nos autem gloriari
Manuel Cardoso

Abendfeier in Venedig
Clara Schumann

*Entflieht auf
leichten Kähnen*
Anton Webern

*Like as the Culver on
the Bared Bough*
Halsey Stevens

Nonsense
II. C'era un vecchio
musicale
Goffredo Petrassi

When the Violin
Reena Esmail

Na Trí Captaení Loinge
Aloys Fleischmann

**Mater Dei
High School
Chamber Singers**

Jodi Reed
(bio on p. 49)

Through Love to Light
Elaine Hagenberg
Elaine Hagenberg Music
G-EH1002

Regina Caeli Laetare a 8
Tomás Luis de Victoria
CPDL

Modimo (Traditional)
arr. by Soweto
Gospel Choir
unpublished

*Hope Is the Thing with
Feathers*
Christopher Tin
Boosey & Hawkes
00304146

Soon I Will Be Done
Stacey V. Gibbs
Gentry Publications
JG2439

Only Light
Darita Seth
Commission piece,
unpublished

Lean On Me
Words and Music by
Bill Withers
Original arrangement by
Adam Anders and Tim Davis
Adapted for publication
Roger Emerson
Hal Leonard
08202514

**CSU Fullerton
University Singers**

Robert Istad
(bio on p. 54)

Premiere of the Western
Region ACDA Emerging
Composer Competition and
piece commissioned for the
2024 WACDA Regional
Conference "Many Voices,
One Song"

I am the World
Lauren Biggs
Self-Published

Calling
Paul Fowler

Verum Corpus
Saunder Choi
Self-Published

Love
Michael Engelhardt
GIA/Walton Music
WW1829

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Concert Session #2

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Crystal Children's Choir

Karl Chang, bio on p. 48

Tesoro High School Vocal Ensemble

The Sunday Night Singers

First United Methodist Church Pasadena

Travis Rogers, presiding

Western Region ACDA Past President

Tesoro High School Vocal Ensemble

Keith Hancock
(bio on p. 53)

The Sunday Night Singers

Michael McCullough
(bio on p. 53)

Samba-lelê

arr. Daniel R. Afonso, Jr.

Earthsongs

S-184

Come esser puote Amore

Maddalena Casulana

Musica Secreta

The Sun Never Says

Dan Forrest

Beckenhorst

DF1005

Tshela Moya/Ke nna yo

Morena

arr. Michael Barrett

Walton

WW1875

Stabat Mater

Daniel Brinsmead

manuscript

Kruhay

Benny Castillon

manuscript

Ayudame!

Carlos Cordero

MusicSpoke

11516542

Adiós bien amado

Julio César Morales

Pineda

La Voz Music Publishing

11535665

Border

Rich Campbell

Pay the Band Music

11175702

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#UnitedWeDream

Melissa Dunphy

Mormolyke Press

11377603

Sin Una Despedida

Brian Quan

Manuscript

from Privilege:

We Cannot Leave

Ted Hearne

Unsettlement Music

10748376

Hope Lingers Here

Lissa Schneckenburger

arr. Andrea Ramsey

MusicSpoke

11174126

Advancing the Arts #1

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Conducting Masterclass

Iris Levine, Clinician

The Sterling Ensemble LA, Clinic Ensemble

Ballroom C

Conference Attendees, including graduate students.

Composer Masterclass

CC 211

Exhibitor Session:

Secrets to Successful Auditions

Schmidt Vocal Arts

CC 207

Reading Session: Advanced Choirs:

HS, College, Community

Ballroom F

Repertoire with SSAA, TTBB, and SATB with divisi voicings.



WILLIAM HALL

A *Celebration* OF *Life*

1934 - 2023

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 3 PM

Please join the family and Chapman community to celebrate the life of William Hall, whose legacy as a musician, professor, dean of CoPA, dean of the Musco Center, his former William Hall Master Chorale, and dean of the Hall-Musco Conservatory will live on for generations to come.

In a mix of tributes interspersed with vocal and instrumental performances, the late maestro will be celebrated for his love of music and life he so abundantly shared. Featured at the event will be the "William Hall Alumni Celebration Choir," assembled for the day from among the legion of alumni who once sang in a choir led by William Hall during his nearly sixty years with Chapman University.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

To reserve tickets, and to express interest in singing in the Alumni Choir, please visit:

bit.ly/CELEBRATEWILLIAMHALL



Thursday, March 7, 2024

Advancing the Arts #1

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Many Voices, Many Centers: 6 Steps for Multicentric Choral Programming

Jennifer Hansen Heder (p. 43)
Ballroom A

When we label our concert programs as “multicultural,” we begin with good intentions; however, celebrating diversity sometimes tokenizes the historically excluded cultures we are attempting to recognize and honor. Using multicentrism, which argues for “the marginalized moving from the margins to the centre, and not simply being grafted into the existing order,” this session will outline a culturally conscious six-step process for choral programming: acknowledge privilege, decide what you value, choosing repertoire, do your due diligence, identify who holds the power, and contextualize. Attendees will receive multicentric programming suggestions and ways to respectfully study less-familiar repertoire with your ensembles.

(she/her/ella) Unlocking the Music of Latina Choral Composers

Corie Brown (p. 41) and
Juan Manuel Hernández-Morales (p. 43)
Ballroom H

Dive into the music and backgrounds of female-identified composers from across Latin America through singing, moving, and unlocking the rhythms of works which rarely, if ever, have been performed in the States. Composers such as Modesta Bor of Venezuela, Eliza Schmelkes of Mexico, Diana Sáez of Puerto Rico, and María Olga Piñeros of Colombia are composers whose works our singers need to sing. Conductors will leave with deeper appreciation and confidence to teach this important repertoire from an informed and joyful place. Resources and scores to be shared are appropriate for all levels/voicings.

Advancing the Arts #2

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Flexible Fach: Gender-Affirming Vocal Pedagogy through Science-Informed Practices

Stevie J. Hirner (p. 43)
Ballroom H

In this interactive session, attendees will be invited to sing and discuss vocal exercises from a new protocol developed by the presenter that focuses on helping transgender and gender-expansive (TGE) singers produce an aural aesthetic that better aligns with their gender identity. Created through an understanding of the gendered associations and vocal characteristics of common Fach categories and voice classifications, this protocol synthesizes practices from gender-affirming speech-language pathology (SLP) with source-filter theory and science-informed vocal pedagogy to present a healthy gender-affirming practice routine for TGE singers who are seeking to masculinize or feminize their voices.

Real talk: Getting comfortable with being uncomfortable about race in choral music

Arreon A. Harley-Emerson (p. 42) and
Joshua Palkki (p. 44)
Ballroom A

Considering the current socio-political climate, the rise in violence against AAPI communities, and a reignited Black Lives Matter movement, we as choral conductor-teachers are faced with some uncomfortable truths about choral music. We as artist-citizens can, and must, leverage coalitions to dismantle systems of oppression. Utilizing Intercultural Dialogue and Whiteness as Property as frameworks, the presenters will equip attendees with tools and language needed to become comfortable engaging in uncomfortable conversations surrounding race and contemporary choral culture. This uncomfortability may be seen as growing pains for a choral community grappling with difficult and long-overdue conversations about equity, “inclusion,” and access.

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Advancing the Arts #2

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Advancing the Arts #3

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Unlocking the Power of the Vagus Nerve: The Key to Vocal Freedom

Natasha Valdes (p. 45)
Ballroom F

The presentation will explore the mind, body, and voice through neuroscience and pedagogical application. There will be discussion on the function of the vagus nerve, our body's neurological response to fight or flight, and how to recognize students triggered by various neurological reactions. Participants will learn how to align the four systems of the voice using Vocal Toning, a method used to release trauma in the mind, body, and voice. The presentation will take a collaborative approach, including participation from the audience to explore vagal toning exercises that can be used in the classroom to create the optimal learning experience.

Choirs for Change: Programming with Purpose

Elizabeth Schauer (p. 55)
Ballroom H

Choirs can be connectional and welcoming spaces for diverse groups of people who come together through their love of singing. The same sense of belonging and compassion that often exists in choral groups can be extended outward into both local and global communities to create bridges of understanding and positive change. In this session Dr. Schauer will discuss creative, moving and impactful programming approaches that can increase awareness, engagement and even philanthropy in choirs and their audiences. Recent effective concert programs related to homelessness, Syrian and Afghani war refugees, and domestic violence will serve as models for consideration and discussion.

Conducting Masterclass

Marcela Molina, Clinician
Mater Dei HS Chamber Singers, Clinic Ensemble
Ballroom C

New Teachers & Emerging Conductors

Toolbox Session: Junior High Innovative Concert Programs

Melanie Brown, Allie Fardelos, Taryn Tidwell
CC 211

Live Workshop with Composer & Choir

Saunder Choi & Jennifer Lucy Cook, composers
Tesoro HS Vocal Ensemble, Clinic Ensemble
Exhibit Hall C

Mosaics from the Middle East

Iris Levine (p. 43) and Cari Earnhart (p. 42)
Ballroom C

There is a wealth of beautiful and significant choral music from the Middle East in both the Arabic and Jewish traditions, yet many choral directors find it intimidating to approach this music. This interactive session will present treble music from both traditions, providing helpful guides in how to successfully approach this music, pronunciation, and stylistic considerations. We will present contemporary settings of traditional musical material, appropriate for various levels of treble ensembles. We will provide opportunities for experience in singing representative selections, as well as hearing selected pieces performed by VOX Femina Los Angeles.

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Advancing the Arts #3

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Reading Session - Young Choirs, grades 5-9

Ballroom F

Repertoire with 2-part, SA, TB and SAB voicings.

Toolbox Session: Choral Warm Ups

Haylee Otero
CC 211

Interactive, all attendees sing

Toolbox Session: Composer Idea Fest

Jennifer Lucy Cook
Exhibit Hall C

Brainstorming ideas for programming by connecting composers and conductors.

Understanding the Unique Voice of the Gospel Musician: Sound, Harmony, and Culture

Matt Falker (p. 42) and Jamond McCoy (p. 44)
Ballroom A

It can be quite a challenge understanding the perspective of a student that walks into your choral classroom armed with only experience in contemporary gospel, and little to no music reading exposure. Through recorded examples, demonstrations, and the experiences of the clinicians, we will explore the unique voice of the Black gospel musician, by seeking to understand the core of the gospel vocal sound, common gospel harmonic devices, and the cultural heartbeat that seeps through this special musical art. Participants will learn about how to better connect with, honor, and educate these students.

Concert Session #3

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Chandler Children's Choir Ad Astra Riverside Community College Chamber Singers

First United Methodist Church Pasadena
Edith Copley, presiding
WACDA Past President, National ACDA Vice President

Chandler Children's Choir Ad Astra

Aimee Stewart
(bio on p. 48)

Gloria Patri
Palestrina
arr. Ralph Woodward
Manuscript from the
arranger

Cantate Domino
Rupert Lang
Boosey & Hawkes
48004303

Hébé from Sept melodies,
op. 2 (no. 6)
Ernest Chausson
arr. Mari Esabel Valverde
Walton Music Corporation
WLG151

Herbstlied (Autumn Song)
Felix Mendelssohn
National Music Publishers
NMP145

Ma Navu (How Beautiful
Upon the Mountains)
J. Spivak
arr. Barbara Wolfman
Boosey & Hawkes
48004635

The Moon Bridge
Florence Price
Wise Music Classical
GSP61530OCT

JAM! (Jom-Ayuh-Mari!)
Tracy Wong
Graphite Publishing
TW001

I Live for Joy
Kira Zeeman Rugen
Premiere
www.kirarugen.com

Riverside Community College Chamber Singers

John Byun
(bio on p. 51)

Sei, lieber Tag, Willkommen
Johann Michael Bach
cpdl.org

when earth was made
Octavia McAloon
www.octaviamacaloon.com

Juppiter
Michael Ostrzyga
Helbling

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Concert Session #3

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Becoming the Ocean
Jake Runestad

Fire from Afro American
Fragments
William Averitt E.C.
Schirmer Music

All Seems Beautiful to Me
Eric Whitacre
Shadow Water Music
Hal Leonard

Concert Session #4

8:30 PM - 10:00PM

Recognition of 2024 Conference Honoree
Joseph Huszti

Recognition of 2024 WACDA Conference Team

Recognition of WACDA Past President
Lou De La Rosa

Choral Arts Initiative

Brandon Elliott (bio on p. 18)

First United Methodist Church Pasadena
Cari Earnhart, presiding
Western Region ACDA Conference Chair

All Conference Social Hour

Ballrooms D/E 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Poster Session

Ballrooms D/E 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

CCDA Reception

Ballroom G 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Student Speed Dating

Ballroom B 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Western ACDA Poster Session

Thursday, March 7, 2024

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Ballrooms D/E

Poster Session Mentors

Lynn Brinckmeyer

Corie Brown

Emily Mercado

Natasha Valdes

Affirming Trans & Gender Expansive Voices in the Choral Rehearsal

Fabián Rodríguez Castro

Catalyzing our Choral Communities: Queer Joy as the Liberatory Path Forward

Colin Cossi, Iese Wilson, and
Tiffany O'Neill

A Look Into The Syncretism Choral Music of Central and South America

Adan Fernandez

Building Peace Internationally through Song: the Ho'olōkahi Chamber Choir

Erica Glenn

Using Warm Ups to Teach Repertoire

Meghan Hatfield

Se Enkhbayar: Two Pieces by an Inner Mongolian Composer

Mengda Jiang

Keeping It Personal: The Power of Personal Contacting in Recruiting,
Teaching, and Advertising in Choir

CJ Madsen

Perceptions of School-University Partnerships in Music Education:
A Multiple Case Study

Emily Mercado

A Conductor's Analysis of Balintawak: Misang Pilipino by Bonifacio Abdon (1876-1944)

Sinamar Pascua Respicio

Optimizing the Musical Mind: A Philosophical Exploration of
Sports Psychology in Secondary Choral Music Classrooms

Jordan Shomper

Got Solfège? - Music Should Belong to Everyone

Niké St. Clair

Juntos: Embracing Mariachi for a Choir Collaboration

Aimee Stewart and
Issa Johnson

A Taste of Southeast Asian Choral Music

Yu Hang Tan and Emily Sung

Diversifying Repertoire: Choral Literature from Latin America

Patricia Terceros

The Art of Gathering (In Our Classrooms)

Allison Zema

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY FULLERTON

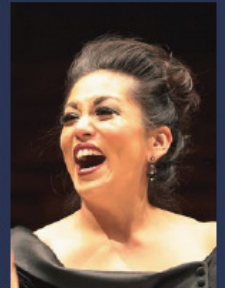
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and great Performing
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Director of Opera,
Vocal Area
Coordinator



Joni Prado -
Professor of
Voice



Christopher Peterson - Choral Music Education

Robert Istad - Director of Choral Studies

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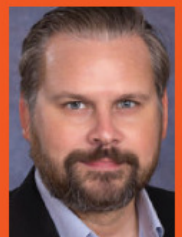
Krystle
Menendez



Robert
MacNeil



Kimberly
Nason



James Martin
Schaefer

Friday, March 8, 2024

Concert Session #5

8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Thurman White Academy Advanced Choir
Resounding Achord
Cal Poly SLO Cantabile

First United Methodist Church Pasadena
Kim Ritzer, presiding
WACDA Past President

**Thurman White
Academy
Advanced Choir**

Athena Mertes
(bio on p. 54)

Resounding Achord

Kristina Nakagawa
(bio on p. 50)

Nda Wana
arr. Michael Barrett
Santa Barbara

Dominus Vobiscum
Jacob Narverud
Carl Fischer LLC

Awake, My Soul
Elaine Hagenberg
Beckenhorst Press

Does the World Say?
Kyle Pederson
Walton Music

Ner Ner
Jake Runestad
JR Music

Shout Glory!
Byron Smith
Fred Bock Music

A este sol peregrino
Tomás de Torrejón y Velasco
Border CrossSing
distributed by Graphite

*O wüsst' ich doch den
Weg zurück*
Johannes Brahms

arr. James McCullough
Galaxy Music

*I Came to Your Shore as a
Wayfaring Stranger*
Saunder Choi
MusicSpoke

Journey Home
Abbie Betinis
Santa Barbara

Efe Mwe, Mwe Efe
Joan Szymko
Joan Szymko Music
distributed by Graphite

**Cal Poly SLO
Cantabile**

Scott Glysson
(bio on p. 47)

O Antiqui Sancti
Hildegard von Bingen
arr. Michael Engelhardt
Walton Music
WW1632

Its Motion Keeps
Caroline Shaw
Caroline Shaw Editions

She Weeps
David Childs
World Premiere

Les Sirens
Lili Boulanger
Treble Clef Music
80300115

Pure Imagination
arr. Matthew W. Nielsen
Santa Barbara
SBMP 1214

Charity Begins Today
Meredith Brammeier
World Premiere

All Conference Sing Rehearsals

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Iris Levine, Ballroom A
Joseph Huszti, Ballroom C
Marcela Molina, Ballroom F

WACDA Retiree Lunch Bunch

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Lyric Restaurant, Hotel Dena

Advancing the Arts #4

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Conducting Masterclass Undergraduate Students

Cal Poly SLO Cantabile, Masterclass Ensemble
Joesph Huszti
Ballroom C

Documentary Screening: Choral Singing In America with Q&A

Emily Ellsworth (p. 56) and Matthew Workman
CC 211

Friday, March 8, 2024

Advancing the Arts #4

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Building a Repertoire of Gestures: Laban Movement for Choral Conductors

Jenny Bent (p. 40)
Ballroom H

Receive a crash course in the fundamentals of Laban Movement Theory, a holistic and efficient gestural approach to choral conducting. Learn a variety of gestures, movements, and rehearsal strategies that are sure to enhance your ensemble's engagement, improve memory retention, develop a stronger conductor/ensemble connection, and provide musicians a deeper understanding of the music that will lead to a more impactful and inclusive performance experience.

Reading Session - WACDA Composers

Ballroom F

You Are the Voice Teacher: Teaching Technique and Authenticity of Vocal Production in Choral Singing

Amy Johnston Blosser (p. 40) and C. Andrew Blosser (p. 40)
CC 207

"Blend. Drop your jaw. Straight tone. Darker." Most have likely heard one of these phrases before, but do they really help inexperienced singers? Choral Directors are the primary voice teachers for our singers - are we teaching them the pedagogy behind their instrument in terms that are clear and concrete? What terminology can we use to provide clarity? This session will provide practical applications of how to teach singers to find and use their authentic voices by sharing suggestions from various vocal pedagogy approaches, including Estill Voice. It is applicable to directors working with high school, college and older community singers.

We Are One - Songs of Unity and Service

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

First United Methodist Church Pasadena

Prelude

*We Are Marching in the
Light of God*
arr. Aaron Shows

Welcome Message

Scott Lehmkuhl

Congregation

Umoja Tunaimba
Victor C. Johnson
Hope Publishing - C6355

Invocation

First United Methodist
Church, Pasadena
Clergy

Dreams Offer Solace
Stephen Chatman
Galaxy Music
Corporation, 7.0605
Street Symphony
Chamber Singers

Congregation

Hiney Ma Tov
arr. Iris Levine
Mark Foster - MF3025

The Time In Between
composed by
participants in Women's
Voices at the Downtown
Women's Center
Street Symphony
Chamber Singers

Reflection

Zanaida Robles

Congregation

Still, Small Voice
Karen Marroli
Morning Star Music -
MSM-50-8124

When the Violin
Reena Esmail
Street Symphony
Chamber Singers
Vijay Gupta, violin

Keynote Address

Vijay Gupta, Founder,
Artistic Director and
CEO of Street Symphony

Take What You Need
Reena Esmail
Street Symphony
Chamber Singers

Congregation

We Are One
Brian Tate
Alliance Music - AMP-
0735

Benediction

First United Methodist
Church, Pasadena
Clergy

Postlude

Songs of Unity
Improvisation
Aaron Shows

Friday, March 8, 2024

Advancing the Arts #5

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Creating an Adaptive Choir Program

Brandi Dignum (p. 41)
Ballroom H

This session will describe the administrative and pedagogical tools required to start and run an adaptive needs choir at your school or in your community. Participants will learn the profound benefits of universally-designed rehearsals for all students, and the particular importance of providing meaningful artistic experiences for students with disabilities. Participants will leave this session equipped with concrete rehearsal strategies and activities to support an adaptive needs program.

Middle School Choral Students - How Do You Motivate Them?

Lynn Brinckmeyer (p. 41)
CC 211

When middle school students are motivated, they are unstoppable. How do you channel their energy so that you can guide them on a musical journey? Explore tips and ideas of various master choral music educators who teach young adolescents. Be ready to sing and move!

DEI Reading Session: All Ages, Voicings, and Levels

Ballroom F

Live Workshop with Composer & Choir
Matthew Lyon Hazzard & Ariel Quintana, composers
Resounding Achord, Clinic Ensemble
Ballroom C

Toolbox Session: Student Leadership

Greg Herbert
CC 207

Concert Session #6

4:15 PM - 6:00 PM

Ragazzi Boys Chorus
Biola University Chorale
All-Conference Sing

First United Methodist Church Pasadena
Lou De La Rosa, presiding, WACDA Past President

Ragazzi Boys Chorus

Kent Jue
(bio on p. 50)

Magnificent Horses (Fantasy
on a Mongolian Folk Tune)
arr. Yang Hong Nien,
adapted and arranged
Jing Ling Tam
Alliance Music
AMP 0324

A Jelly-Fish
Eric Tuan
Eric Tuan Music
Silicon Valley Commission

Laudamus Te from "Gloria"
Francis Poulenc
Salabert Editions
50600012

L'dor Vador
Meir Finkelstein
arr. Rebecca Thompson
Hal Leonard
08754103

My Light
Katerina Gimon
MusicSpoke

Sacred Stepping Stones
Lisa Young
Lisa Young Music
10-1975

Biola University Chorale

Shawna Stewart (bio
on p. 47)

Raymond W. Brock
Memorial Commission
In Time of Silver Rain
André Thomas
Gentry Publications JG2691

Ecce Vicit Leo
Peter Philips
CPDL #07196

Gloria Patri
Budi Susanto
Self-Published

Crucem Tuam Adoramus Domine
from Two Lenten Motets
Paweł Łukaszewski
Chester Music
CH75185

There is a Balm in Gilead
arr. Raymond Wise Hindon
Publications/Hinshaw
HPC7106

You Do Not Walk Alone
Dominic DiOrio
G Schirmer
50600396

Ma Bohème from
Chansons de la Vigne
Joshua Shank
B&F Music
Joshua Shank

Tuttarana
Reena Esmail
My Score #MSRE00-7

Friday, March 8, 2024

All Conference Sing

Marcela Molina, conductor

Amanda Ku, pianist

Holding the Light

B.E. Boykin

JWP:11409548

Lead With Love

Melanie DeMore JWP:11317834

Iris Levine, conductor

Heather Bishop, pianist

Sure on the Shining Night

Morten Lauridsen

JWP: 3303314

To Sit and Dream

Rosephanye Powell

JWP: 10091834

Joseph Huszti, conductor

Scot Hanna-Weir, pianist

Dona Nobis Pacem

(from *Mass in B Minor*)

J.S. Bach

JWP: 10052470

The Promise of Living

(from "*The Tender Land*")

Aaron Copland

(4 hand piano)

JWP: 982462

with Tim Westerhaus, pianist

Alleluia

Randall Thompson

JWP: 337147

Michael Short, conductor

Heather Bishop, pianist

I Am The World

Lauren Biggs*

*Winner of the Western Region ACDA Emerging Composer Competition and piece commissioned for the 2024 WACDA Regional Conference "Many Voices, One Song"

Concert Session #7

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Saugus High School Blue Notes

California State University, Long Beach Jazz & Tonic säje

Exhibit Hall C

Julie Dana, presiding

WACDA President-elect

**Saugus High School
Blue Notes**

**Kaitlin Holt
(bio on p. 52)**

CSULB Jazz & Tonic

**Jonny Arenas
(bio on p. 49)**

Twisted

Wardell Grey, Annie Ross

arr. Keith Power

Corcovado

Antônio Carlos Jobim

arr. Kerry Marsh

Casualty/Animal Spirits

Lawrence, Vulfpeck

arr. Steven James Schmidt

Commissioned

Arrangement

A Nightingale Sang in

Berkeley Square

Manning Sherwin

arr. Gene Puerling

ed. Phil Mattson

Hal Leonard

I'm With You

The Real Group

House That Never Falls

Kaytie Holt

arr. Jeremy Fox

Original composition and commissioned arrangement

On A Clear Day

arr. Darmon Meader

Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner

Music by Burton Lane

Evermore

arr. Rosana Eckert

Lyrics and music by

Rosana Eckert

Tell Him

arr. Gregory Fletcher

Originally performed by

Moonchild,

Lalah Hathaway

Painted On Canvas

arr. Kerry Marsh

Words and music by

Gregory Porter

Teach Me Tonight

arr. Kelly Kunz

Lyrics by Sammy Cahn

Music by Gene De Paul

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Concert Session #8

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM

San Juan Hills High School Chamber Singers
University of Arizona Symphonic Choir

First United Methodist Church Pasadena
Scot Hanna-Weir, presiding
WACDA Conference Vice Chair

**San Juan Hills High
School Chamber
Singers**

Michael Ushino
(bio on p. 51)

Gaur Akelarre
Music & Lyrics by
Josu Elberdin
Walton Music
WJMS1158

The Cooling Shadow
Music by Charlene
Archibeque
Text from the poem
“Contemplations” by
Anne Bradstreet
Santa Barbara
SBMP 27

O Schöne Nacht,
Op. 92, No. 1
Music by Johannes Brahms
Text by Georg
Friederich Daumer
CPDL

Senja di Pelabuhan Kecil
Music by Ken Steven
Text by Chairil Anwar
Self-Published

Sure On This Shining Night,
Op. 13, No. 3
Music by Samuel Barber
Text by James Agee
G. Schirmer, Inc.

*Leonardo Dreams of His
Flying Machine*
Music by Eric Whitacre
Text by Charles Silvestri
Walton Music
WJMS1032

**University of Arizona
Symphonic Choir**

Elizabeth Schauer
(bio on p. 55)

Odecha
Salamone Rossi
(ed. Joshua Jacobson)
E.C. Schirmer 5743

Silence My Soul
Francisco F. Feliciano
Self-published

Kyrie (from Messa a 4)
Chiara Margarita Cozzolani
Artemisia Editions
NLO 08/a

Take My Hand, Precious Lord
Thomas A. Dorsey
United Methodist
Publishing House

May It Be
Eithne Nii Bhraonáin
(Enya), Nicky Ryan and
Roma Ryan,
arr. Mark Brymer
Hal Leonard Corporation
08711359

*We Shall Walk
Through the Valley*
arr. Undine Smith Moore
Augsburg Publishing
9781506492506

Nina Cried Power
Andrew Hozier-Byrne
Arr. CJ Madsen
Manuscript

Advancing the Arts #6

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Tactus Call for Articles & Writer's Workshop

Olivia Arnold (bio on p. 40)
Ballroom H

Writing prose, like translating a musical idea into notes and rhythms, begins with an inspiration: an emotion, an experience, a memory. While we may not consider ourselves ‘writers,’ we carry valuable knowledge and stories that are worthy of being communicated. A goal of this session is to encourage writers to share their unique perspectives with a greater audience of readers. Participants of the workshop will be offered the opportunity to be paired with a mentor who will guide them through the writing and editing process. A writing mentor can help shape an idea into a piece that reflects the writer’s voice. These mentors are representative of the diverse communities of the region and offer guidance to writers of any experience. Once their piece is crafted, the writer may submit to *Tactus* and work with the editor towards publication. This initiative aims to publish new voices from the western region.

Toolbox Session: Choir Fun & Games!

Christina Hall & Jordan Rakita
CC 211

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Advancing the Arts #6

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Toolbox Session: Vocal Jazz

CC 207

Composer Masterclass

Ballroom C

Show Me the Rhythm!

Pamela McDermott (p. 44)

CC 211

säje Workshop "the sound of säje"

Ballroom F

This interactive session offers a kinesthetic system for building and assessing rhythmic literacy for all ages. Like hand signs, Rhythm Gestures are a physical manifestation of pulse, pulse division, and meter. The instructor can visually assess individual comprehension within a group setting. Students are able to self-correct within the context of group practice. Rhythm Gestures reinforce precision and make music literacy accessible to all. They work with any counting system, combined with solfege, or in multi-part score reading. Rhythm Gestures offer an alternative (kinesthetic) mode of learning while calling upon and strengthening our sense of underlying pulse and rhythmic flow.

Advancing the Arts #7

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Practice Your Pitch: Advocacy Is Everybody's Business

Alex Gartner (p. 42)

Ballroom H

The culture that music creates is magnetic, but how is it perceived outside the rehearsal space? How can we build bridges between our ensembles and the diverse values and expertise found in the larger community? While it's easy to talk about the importance of music among colleagues, translating that conversation to those outside our sphere can be challenging. Equipped with a new vocabulary, this session will help you step confidently into public spaces to communicate your program's value to attract new supporters. By reframing your "elevator pitch," you'll be able to build a network that empowers you to thrive.

Yes, You Can Compose & Arrange for Your Choir: Why & How Every Educator Should Try Writing for Their Own Ensemble

Dale Trumbore (p. 45) and Saunder Choi (p. 41)

Ballroom C

Composer/conductor Saunder Choi and composer Dale Trumbore lead this interest session for conductors who want to learn how to write and arrange for their own ensemble. Choi and Trumbore will highlight how you know your choir better than anyone; how writing for your singers can challenge their weaknesses, leading them to become stronger musicians; and how to fill gaps in the repertoire for your singers by creating that music yourself. Conductors will gain hands-on experience arranging an 8-bar melody and will leave this session empowered to continue composing, with resources on what to expect and where to begin.

Reading Session - Developing Choirs (Grades 7-12)

Ballroom F

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Concert Session #9

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Children's Honor Choir

Judy Bowers, conductor

Kevin Phan, pianist

Youth SATB Honor Choir

Emily Ellsworth, conductor

Twyla Meyer, pianist

High School SSAA Honor Choir

Julie Yu, conductor

Kevin Tison, pianist

Gospel Honor Choir

Rollo Dilworth, conductor

Jonté Moore, pianist

Marc McGhee, presiding, WACDA Honor Choir Co-Chair

Vivian Santos, presiding, WACDA Honor Choir Co-Chair

Polly Vasché, presiding, 2018 WACDA Conference Honoree

Christopher Serrano, presiding, Hawai'i ACDA President

Exhibit Hall C

Children's Honor Choir

Judy Bowers
(bio on p. 56)

Alleluia Round

William Boyce

arr. Richard Proulx

Simple Gifts

Traditional American tune

arr. John Leavitt

Dona Nobis Pacem

Giulio Caccini

arr. James Moore

O Sing Out With Pleasure

George F. Handel

arr. Patrick M.

Liebergen

Al Shlosha D'Varim

Allan E. Naplan

If I Knew You

Cynthia Gray

Sahayta

Ben Allaway

Youth SATB Honor Choir

Emily Ellsworth
(bio on p. 56)

In the Beginning

Imant Raminsh

Nevolia (Captivity)

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Sigue

Ivette Herryman

Dominus Vobiscum

Jacob Narverud

I Want to Die

While You Love Me

Rosephanye Powell

Courage, My Soul

Rollo Dilworth

High School SSAA Honor Choir

Julie Yu
(bio on p. 56)

I Am Possibility

David von Kampen

Justus ut Palma

(from Psalm 92)

Johann Michael Haydn

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

arr. Victor C. Johnson

Canticum Novum

Kenney Potter

We're Goin' Around (from Treemonisha)

arr. Nick Page

Opening Chorus to The Bartered Bride

arr. Emily Ellsworth

Gospel Honor Choir

Rollo Dilworth
(bio on p. 56)

Spirit

Rawn Harbo

adapted and arranged by
Barbara W. Baker

Invocation

Rollo Dilworth

Clap Praise

Diane White Clayton

Melodies from Heaven

Kirk Franklin

*Lord, Make Me
an Instrument*

M. Roger Holland II

Sign Me Up

arr. Brandon A. Boyd



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Choral Music Education
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Presenter Biographies

Olivia Arnold is a director of choirs at Junction City High School in Junction City, Kansas. She leads two treble ensembles, co-teaches the Chamber and Concert Choirs, and teaches piano classes. JCHS choirs regularly receive super ratings at solo and ensemble festivals and work with Kansas composers and clinicians. Olivia serves as the editor of Tactus, the Western Region ACDA newsletter. Tactus aims to amplify voices and highlight resources from the western states and include diverse perspectives from around the world. In Hawai'i, she served on the state boards for HI-ACDA and HMEA, coordinating the middle school choral festival, Nā Leo Pili Mai, and presenting at state conferences. Olivia holds a M.A. in Music Education from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a B.A. in Music Education from Washington and Lee University.



Dr. Jenny Bent is Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities, and Associate Dean of the School of Arts & Humanities at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, CA. She is also Choral Director of the Santa Rosa Symphony and manages Chanticleer's summer program, Chanticleer in Sonoma. Dr. Bent earned degrees from Boston University (BM & MM Voice Performance, MM Choral Conducting) and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (DMA Choral Conducting & Choral Literature). Recipient of the 2023 CMEA Pearson/Scott Foresman/Silver Burdett Choral Educator Award and the 2019 CMEA Bay Section Outstanding Choral Educator Award, Dr. Bent taught high school for ten years, most recently at Marin School of the Arts. Dr. Bent is an adjudicator, guest conductor, and clinician and currently serves as Treasurer for the California Choral Directors Association. From 2007-2014, Dr. Bent enjoyed hosting The Choir Loft on Sonoma County NPR affiliate, KRCB-FM.



Amy Johnston Blosser was the Auditioned Choirs Chair for the 2023 ACDA National conference and for nine years was on the National Board as the Repertoire and Resources Committee Chairperson. Since 2013 she has served on the National Conference Planning Committees. Under her direction, Bexley H.S. Vocal Ensemble has performed at NafME and ACDA state conferences, including Central region performances in 2012, 2016 and 2020. Her choirs tour extensively throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. Blosser is the Associate Director of Music at First Community Church and the Artistic Director of the Bexley Choral Society. She was named Educator of the Year for Bexley City Schools in 2011. Blosser was selected to serve as one of 14 Conducting Fellows for the 2015 ACDA International Conductors Exchange Program to Sweden. In Spring 2017, Blosser won second place in the Youth and High School Conducting category for The American Prize competition.



C. Andrew Blosser, DMA, currently serves on the voice faculty at The Ohio State University, and is the Director of Music at First Community Church in Columbus, Ohio. He has presented master classes, performed roles, and given recitals throughout the United States and Europe. Blosser has been a featured soloist with orchestras and ensembles throughout the Midwest. Highlights include Vaughan Williams' On Wenlock Edge (Carpe Diem String Quartet), Handel's Messiah (Columbus Symphony Orchestra), and Bach's St. Matthew Passion (Bach Society of Dayton). He served as cantor for services at the Berlin Cathedral, as well as soloist for Mozart's Missa Longa at the Salzburg Cathedral. A recent project includes a performance on the recital Singing Our History, the American story told through the works of American composers, at the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Blosser holds degrees from The Ohio State University (DMA & MM) and Capital University (BM).



Presenter Biographies

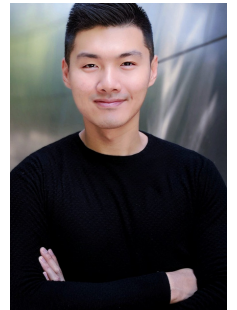
Dr. Lynn Brinckmeyer recently retired as Professor of Music, Associate Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication and Director of Choral Music Education at Texas State University. During 2006-2008 she served as President for The National Association for Music Education. She published *Wander the USA with Warm-Ups!*, *The Wonder of Music* with John Jacobson, *Rhythm Rescue!*, *Wander the World with Warm-ups* with Hal Leonard Publishing and *Advocate for Music* with Oxford University Press. Dr. Brinckmeyer's degrees include a Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Music Education from Eastern New Mexico University, and a Ph.D. in Music Education from The University of Kansas. Dr. Brinckmeyer taught graduate and undergraduate courses in choral music education, and directed *Aurora Voce* and the *Hill Country Youth Chorus*. Dr. Brinckmeyer has conducted all-state/honor choirs, lectured, presented master classes and performed in 49 states in the United States and more than twenty countries.



Corie Brown (she/her) serves as Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at San José State University. She leads two choirs, teaches music education courses, and is fueled by the integration of justice and music education. Prior to studies in choral conducting at the University of Colorado Boulder and University of Oregon, Dr. Brown taught in Colombia with the *Fundación Nacional Batuta* and in the midwest United States. She is active nationally and internationally as a clinician and guest conductor, most recently as guest conductor at the 2023 *Festival Coral de Santander* in Colombia. Dr. Brown also arranges, and serves as Artistic Director of the *Mission Peak Chamber Singers*, a joyful community chorus in Fremont, California. Alongside the arts, Dr. Brown is fed by time cuddling with her cat *Inu*, learning to dance, and exploring the outdoors.



Saunder Choi, a Filipino composer and choral artist in Los Angeles, has gained international recognition for his works performed by esteemed groups like *Conspirare*, *Philippine Madrigal Singers*, *Los Angeles Master Chorale*, etc. Saunder has arranged and orchestrated pieces for notable figures such as *Lea Salonga*, and organizations like the *San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus* and the *San Francisco Symphony*. As a choral artist, he actively performs in ensembles like *Pacific Chorale*, *L.A. Choral Lab*, and *HEX Vocal Ensemble*, as well as singing in film scores of Disney's *The Lion King*, *Mulan*, *Turning Red*, *Avatar 2: The Way of the Water*, etc. Saunder's compositions strongly advocate for DEI, focusing on themes such as immigration, racial justice, LGBTQ+ advocacy, climate justice, and his own Filipino-Chinese identity. He is the Director of Music at the UU Church of Santa Monica and teaches as an artist with the *Los Angeles Master Chorale*. www.saunderchoi.com



Brandi Dignum is a native Tucsonan who graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and is certified in Orff-Schulwerk levels I-III. She has taught children of every age over the past 25 years; she worked with infants through Kindergarten as the Music Director for *Gymboree Play and Music Programs*, taught general music and choir for kindergarten through 6th grade, taught middle school choir and musical, and high school grades 9-12. At *Canyon del Oro High School* she taught concert choir, two show choirs, an adaptive choir designed to work with the neurodiverse high school population, and preschool music helping high school students learn to teach music to the onsite pre-school children aged 2 – 5 years old. Brandi currently serves as the Director of Education at the *Tucson Girls Chorus*.



Presenter Biographies

Dr. Cari Earnhart serves as the Director of Choral Activities at California State University, Fresno, where she conducts the top choral ensembles and teaches undergraduate/graduate conducting. In demand as a conductor, clinician and adjudicator, Earnhart has worked with choirs throughout the US and abroad. She served as DCA at the American University of Sharjah in the UAE and as artistic director of Nassim al Saba, an Arabic choral music ensemble. She has been a guest conductor with the Budapesti Vándor Kórus, and the Istanbul International Chamber Choir; she served as Maestro of Ensemble Vocale Tempus Floridum and as Maestro Collaboratore of Coro dell' Accademia del Diletto and Coro Polofonico del Caricentro in Florence. She frequently presents workshops on Arabic choral music, vocal pedagogy and conducting. She holds BM and MM degrees in Vocal Performance/Pedagogy from Oklahoma State University and a DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of North Texas.



Matt Falker is a jazz and gospel pianist, vocalist, arranger and clinician. Matt distributes his vocal jazz arrangements through his publishing company, Anchor Music Publications (formerly Sound Music Publications founded by Frank DeMiero in 1988), as well as the music of dozens of other vocal jazz arrangers and composers. He is also the executive director of the Vocal Jazz Academy: a nonprofit organization dedicated to training and supporting vocal jazz educators through a series of one-day jazz workshops for teachers and students. As a full-time piano and vocal jazz professor at MiraCosta College, Matt directs the Downbeat award-winning Frequency vocal jazz program, and hosts the Oceanside Jazz Festival. Matt directed the Jazz Immersion Choir at the 2023 ACDA National Conference, and also presented a clinic with Cedric Dent (Take 6). He has directed numerous All State Jazz choirs, most recently in California and North Dakota.



Alex Gartner has been at the helm of the Pensacola Children's Chorus since 2016. As Artistic & Executive Director, he oversees 15 choral ensembles and multidisciplinary arts programs which reach 25,000 youth across Northwest Florida and Southwest Alabama. Over time, these programs have found support from a robust network of civic, governmental, and media partners who promote PCC's mission to a regional audience of over 50,000 individuals each year. He is the co-author of "The Business of Choir: A Choral Leader's Guide for Organizational Growth," published through GIA.



A conductor, composer, nonprofit strategist, and equity coach, **Arreon A. Harley-Emerson** (he/him) is the President and CEO of Equity Sings. Committed to the principles of equity and justice, Equity Sings assists organizations in remaining relevant in the 21st century. Harley-Emerson's work includes longitudinal studies, strategic planning, board governance, resource and asset development, and board diversification. Mr. Harley-Emerson is a philosophical inquirer with research interests in Black music aesthetics and the intersection of music education and inclusive policy-making and nonprofit governance. Additionally, Mr. Harley-Emerson is a University Fellow at the Boyer School of Music Dance at Temple University where he is pursuing a Ph.D. in music education with a cognate in choral conducting and has completed a graduate certificate in Diversity in Higher Education. Mr. Harley-Emerson is published in The Chronicle of Philanthropy, The Choral Journal, and The Oxford Handbook for Choral Pedagogy.



Presenter Biographies

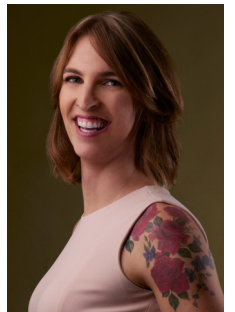
Juan Manuel Hernández-Morales (he/him) is currently the director of the Youth Choir of La Cuerda Foundation, the Universidad Industrial de Santander University Choir, and teaches choral and instrumental studies at the Universidad Industrial de Santander of Colombia. He is also an avid choral composer and arranger. His works for children's choirs, youth choirs, and mixed choirs have been performed in Ireland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Czech Republic, South Korea, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and the United States. He is an active clinician, and has held workshops on rehearsal pedagogy, arranging, conducting, literature, and interpretation throughout Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina and the United States. Since 2007, Mr. Hernández-Morales has been the coordinator and organizer of the Santander Choral Festival and the Santander Children's and Youth Choir Encounter. He is also the artistic director of the La Cuerda Metropolitan Choir Festival in Bucaramanga, Colombia.



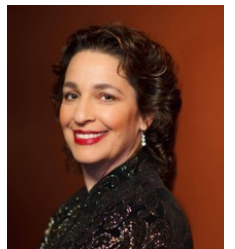
Jennifer Hansen Heder, DMA is the Director of Choral Activities at Fresno City College. Prior to her appointment at FCC, she received her DMA in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University. Her doctoral research, "Multicentrism in the Choral Classroom: A Framework and Guide for the Modern-Day Choral Educator," highlights the ways in which choral educators can decenter Eurocentric music in their classrooms. In March of 2022, Jennifer co-presented the session, "Empowered Leaders Empower Others," at the Western Region ACDA Conference. Previous to her studies, Dr. Heder was the director of choirs at Spanish Fork High School in Utah. Her choirs at Spanish Fork were invited to perform at the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Utah Conference in 2018 and the Utah Music Educators Association (UMEA) Utah Conference in 2019. She also holds Choral Conducting (MM) and Music Education (BM) degrees from Brigham Young University in Utah.



Primarily a choral conductor, **Stevie J. Hirner** (she/her/hers) is also an active vocalist, composer, and arranger of choral music. As a specialist in transgender inclusivity, she has presented her methodology "Line Recombination" at numerous conferences and universities including the 2023 National ACDA Conference, 2022 Western ACDA Regional Conference, 2022 NCCO National Conference, and 2023 World Symposium on Choral Music in Istanbul, Turkey. As a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Southern California (USC), she led the USC Thornton Apollo Chorus and the University Chorus in addition to teaching Choral Conducting I/II while also serving as the Artistic Director of the Long Beach Youth Chorus. Hirner is nearing completion of her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Music from USC, and she holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Auburn University (2012) and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Missouri (2014).



Nationally recognized for her excellence in choral conducting, **Iris S. Levine** is founder and artistic director of VOX Femina Los Angeles, L.A.'s premier women's chorus. Dr. Levine has charted VOX Femina on an impressive journey, building its prominence in the choral community by way of numerous concerts and appearances at ACDA conventions, Chorus America conferences, and more. Dr. Levine is faculty emerita at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona where she served as Director of Choral Activities, Dean, and Interim Provost. She is an active member of ACDA, with former leadership roles as state, regional, and national R&S chair for Women's Choruses. Dr. Levine authored the chapter on "Working with the Women's Community Choir" in *Conducting Women's Choirs: Strategies for Success* and she is a contributing author in *Choral Reflections: Insights from American Choral Conductor-Teachers*. Dr. Levine is highly sought as guest clinician and adjudicator for choral festivals throughout the country.



Presenter Biographies

Jamond McCoy is an improvisational jazz and gospel influenced vocalist, pianist, composer, arranger, session singer, and accompanist, creating music for various venues and other fellow musicians. He is the baritone for the famous a cappella group, m-pact and is also a passionate educator, teaching privately and at various institutions, including California Baptist University, Cerritos College, and Orange County High School of the Arts. He has worked as the Assistant Director at the Monterey Jazz Summer Camp, the famous A Cappella Academy (Ben Bram and Avi Kaplan form PTX) and loves giving back to the church communities that helped shape him as a musical director.



Dr. Pamela McDermott is Director of Choral Activities at Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia where she directs ensembles and teaches Conducting, Choral Methods, Show Choir Techniques, and Aural Skills. She is also a founding member and Associate Artistic Director of The Piedmont Singers of Central Virginia, a professional vocal octet. McDermott earned her DMA in Choral Conducting at UNC-Greensboro. Her dissertation offers an analysis of Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem* through the lens of semiotics in an examination of the work's relationship to the requiem genre. She earned a Masters in Theory/Composition at James Madison University and a Bachelors of Music Education at East Carolina University. Active as a clinician, conductor, and adjudicator, Dr. McDermott enjoys collaborative projects. She continues to seek out best practices for teaching about music, singing, and expressive artistry. She is past president of Virginia ACDA and is active in NAFME and NCCO.



Dr. Molina has been affiliated with the Tucson Girls Chorus since 2006, first serving as Artistic Director and taking the helm as Executive Director in 2011. Under Dr. Molina's guidance, the Tucson Girls Chorus has grown significantly in programming and community engagement. With her leadership, the TGC has transformed into a vibrant and collaborative organization that creates access to inclusive programming for youth, and provides resources to music educators and support to their classroom all year-round. In addition to her work with the TGC, Dr. Molina serves as Director of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra Chorus. Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Dr. Marcela Molina holds degrees from Westminster Choir College and the University of Arizona. She has contributed articles to *Antiphon*, and the books *Teaching through Performance in Choir, Volume 2* and *Choral Reflections: Insights from American Choral Conductor-Teachers*. She was named 2019 Choral Director of the Year by Arizona American Choral Directors Association (AzACDA), and she often serves as a clinician and guest conductor for choral festivals.



Joshua Palkki (he/him) is Assistant Professor of Music Learning and Teaching/Choral Conducting and Associate Director of Choral Activities at Arizona State University and co-author of *Honoring Trans and Gender-Expansive Students in Music Education* (Oxford University Press, 2021). He holds degrees from Michigan State University (Ph.D. music education), Northern Arizona University (M.M. choral conducting), and Ball State University (B.S. music education). Dr. Palkki has presented at national and international events including the National ACDA Conference, NAFME National Conference, and the Society for Music Teacher Education Symposium and is a sought-after guest conductor and scholar on equity and justice topics. Joshua's writing appears in several choral and music education publications including *Choral Journal*, *Journal of Music Teacher Education*, and *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *Engaging Musical Practices: A Sourcebook for Middle School General Music* (2nd edition), *Routledge Companion of Jazz and Gender*, and the *Handbook of Music and Art* (Bloomsbury).

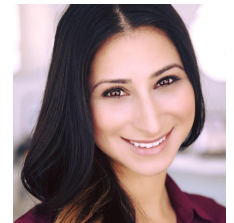


Presenter Biographies

Dale Trumbore is a Los Angeles-based composer and writer whose music has been called "devastatingly beautiful" (The Washington Post) and praised for its "soaring melodies and beguiling harmonies deployed with finesse" (The New York Times). Trumbore's compositions have been performed widely in the U.S. and internationally by the Aeolians of Oakwood University, Chicago Symphony's MusicNOW ensemble, Conspirare and the Miró Quartet, soprano Liv Redpath, Los Angeles Children's Chorus, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Modesto Symphony, Pasadena Symphony, Phoenix Chorale, Tonality, and VocalEssence. The recipient of ACDA's inaugural Raymond W. Brock Competition for Professional Composers, an ASCAP Morton Gould Award, and a Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant, Trumbore has also served as Composer in Residence for Choral Chameleon. She has written extensively about working through creative blocks and establishing a career in music in essays and in her first book, *Staying Composed*. Learn more about Trumbore's music and writing at daletrumbore.com.



Natasha Valdes is a certified trauma-informed voice professional through the Voice Study Center in England with an MM in vocal pedagogy from the Boston Conservatory and a BM in vocal performance from California State University Long Beach. Valdes became a trauma voice specialist after struggling to find healing solutions for her own issues with psychogenic dysphonia. Valdes is the founder and CEO of Complete Vocal Wellness, a neuro-centric coaching program for voice users to learn functional-based voice training, increase optimal performance, and heal core trauma wounds. Valdes is known for her therapeutic application of vocal toning and for sharing her research on "Rewiring trauma, anxiety, and depression in the Voice" at conferences like CCDA, ACDA, NATS, CASMEC, and BOCO Vocal Symposium.



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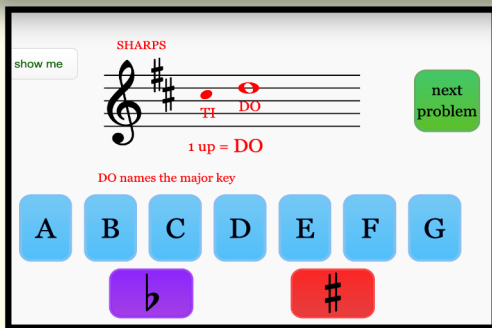
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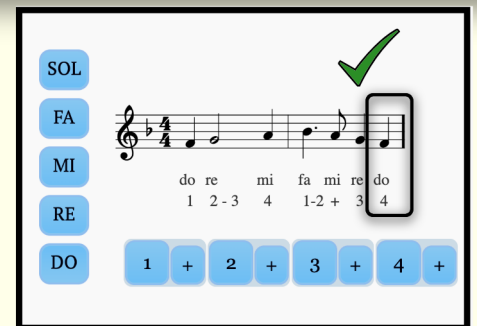
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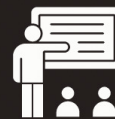
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Biola University Chorale

The Biola University Chorale is comprised of 37 undergraduate voices from various disciplines on campus. Nationally, the Chorale has enjoyed performances on the Tonight Show, at Disney's D23 Convention, in Carnegie Hall and with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra. Regularly touring domestically and internationally, the Chorale's most recent tours include South Korea, Ireland and Italy. Each spring they join forces with the Biola Symphony Orchestra for the performance of a major choral-orchestral work. Recent performances have included Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Verdi's *Requiem*, and J.S. Bach's *Magnificat*. The Chorale performed at the American Choral Directors Association Western Region Conventions in 2016 and 2020, and the National Collegiate Choral Organization's 7th Biennial National Conference in November 2017.



Dr. Shawna Stewart is the Director of Choral Studies at Biola University in La Mirada, CA where she conducts the Biola University Chorale and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. As associate professor, she teaches courses in conducting and choral methods. Dr. Stewart holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music (M.M. Conducting), the University of Southern California (D.M.A. Choral Music), and has served on the faculty at John Brown University and North Dakota State College of Science. She has also held the position of Music Director at several churches in CA and NY. Presently, with an additional interest in early childhood music education, she is the owner of and teacher at Children's Music Academy in Whittier, CA.

Cal Poly SLO Cantabile

Under the director of Scott Glysson, Cal Poly was Founded in 2018 and is an advanced ensemble specializing in the performance of repertoire for soprano and alto voices. With 60 singers representing nearly every major at Cal Poly, Cantabile is a more than 75% non-music major ensemble. Since its creation Cantabile has commissioned more than 4 new works by contemporary composers and has a mission of creating, celebrating, and performing music of female composers. Glysson holds a DMA and MM in Choral Conducting from The University of Arizona and a BM in Music Education from George Mason University. In 2013 Glysson was honored as a finalist in the ACDA National Choral Conducting Competition.



Scott Glysson is the Director of Choral Activities and Vocal Studies at Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo, California. Dr. Glysson has been recognized for his achievements in conducting in both the choral and orchestral genres.



He has led performances on five continents and over ten countries. In 2013 Glysson was honored as a finalist in the ACDA National Choral Conducting Competition. Glysson has previously held the position of Director of Choral Activities at West Liberty University in WV and Artistic Director of the Tucson Masterworks Chorale. Glysson has presented and published in the fields of music education and musicology. Glysson holds a DMA and MM in Choral Conducting from The University of Arizona and a BM in Music Education from George Mason University.

Chandler Children's Chorus Ad Astra

In its 15th season, the Chandler Children's Choir created an ensemble of top performers ages 16-18 who demonstrated a desire to excel, naming it Ad Astra (to the stars). Founding members had been singing with CCC since their earliest opportunities, many since ages 6 or 7. Now high school juniors and seniors, Ad Astra enables singers to launch into future musical opportunities after graduation, either as a hobby or academic pursuit. The conductor of Ad Astra, Aimee Stewart, conducts the Chamber Singers at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, the Tempe Community Messiah, has served as President of AzACDA and currently serves as Community & Children Youth R&R Chair for WACDA. In 2022, she was awarded AzACDA Choral Director of the Year.



Aimee Stewart is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Chandler Children's Choir in Arizona. Since its inception in 2008, CCC has grown from a young choir of 27 singers to a comprehensive choral program with 5 choirs. She also conducts the Chamber Singers at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, the Tempe Community

Messiah, has served as President of AzACDA and currently serves as Community & Children Youth R&R Chair for WACDA. In 2022, she was awarded AzACDA Choral Director of the Year. Mrs. Stewart is in a Master's program for Choral Conducting with Dr. Jace Saplan at Arizona State University. She enjoys skiing with her husband, Adam, and their four children. She is incredibly honored to be performing for the Western Region conference.

Crystal Children's Choir

Crystal Children's Choir was founded with the mission: to pursue choral music excellence and to serve as a cultural ambassador harmonizing the finest facets of Eastern and Western cultures. Crystal singers from more than 120 schools, and their performances have graced the stages of numerous globally renowned venues. The choir is under the direction of Dr. Karl Chang. Dr. Chang is the visionary behind a 200 mixed-voice community chorus started at Stanford University in 1981. Over 43 years, he has served as the founding director, consistently igniting musical passion within singers from diverse backgrounds, nurturing their adoration for singing. He holds a Doctoral Degree in Education Leadership, an MBA, and an M.S. in Engineering.



Dr. Karl Chang has held the positions of co-founder, president, and conductor of Crystal Children's Choir since 1994. He has led performances and interest sessions at ACDA conferences



and is a frequently sought-after guest conductor for youth and collegiate choirs throughout Asia. Dr. Chang is the visionary behind a 200 mixed-voice community chorus started at Stanford University in 1981. Over these 43 years, he has served as the founding director, consistently igniting musical passion within singers from diverse backgrounds, nurturing their adoration for singing. He holds a Doctoral Degree in Education Leadership, an MBA, and an M.S. in Engineering. Despite these accomplishments, his unwavering dedication to choral music has driven him to pursue his lifelong aspiration in the realm of children's music education.

CSULB Jazz & Tonic

Jazz & Tonic is one of two premiere vocal jazz ensembles at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach. The group features a diverse educational background, having members who are jazz studies majors, music education majors, composition majors, and other non-music majors. The group is under the direction of Jonny Arenas, who is an educator, vocalist, and arranger based in Los Angeles and is currently a part of the jazz faculty at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach.



Jonny Arenas is an educator, vocalist, and arranger based in Los Angeles and is currently a part of the jazz faculty at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach. There, he majored in Jazz Studies, was mentored by renowned vocalist and educator, Christine Guter, and graduated with both his bachelor's and master's

degrees. As a member of the jazz faculty at CSULB, he directs Jazz & Tonic, one of the two premier vocal jazz ensembles there. Since being hired in Fall 2021, he has helped the group earn two Downbeat Magazine Student Music Awards, one of which for being the sole winner of the undergraduate college division.

Mater Dei High School Chamber Singers

Based in Santa Ana, California, the Mater Dei High School Choral and Vocal Program serves a diverse Southern California community. With 11 ensembles and nearly 300 singers participating in athletics, ASB, the arts, campus ministry, and more, the program consistently excels, earning superior ratings at competitions and festivals nationwide. Dr. Jodi Reed, their director, has conducted her choirs on NPR's From The Top, at Carnegie Hall and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, as well as iconic international venues like La Sagrada Familia and St. Peter's Basilica.



Dr. Jodi Reed, a conductor and pianist, began her musical journey with competitive piano studies at a young age. Introduced to choral music in high school, she has led university, school, church and community choirs. Notably, she was the first female conductor to win multiple first-place awards in Golden State choral competitions. She has



conducted her choirs on NPR's From The Top, at Carnegie Hall and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, as well as iconic international venues like La Sagrada Familia and St. Peter's Basilica. She is currently the Director of Choral and Vocal Music at Mater Dei High School and a Musical Director with Millennial@ Choirs & Orchestras. Jodi also cherishes family time and enjoys scuba diving and any time spent at the ocean.

Ragazzi Boys Chorus

Ragazzi serves over 200 choristers in six tiered levels. Under the leadership of Artistic and Executive Director Kent Jue, Ragazzi shapes the lives of boys from diverse backgrounds, developing tenacious and confident young musicians who pursue choral arts of the highest caliber together. Kent Jue serves as the Artistic Director, and previously conducted youth choruses at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and performed with the Golden Gate Men's Chorus and the Gay Men's Choruses of San Francisco and Boston.



Kent Jue leads the GRAMMY Award-winning Ragazzi Boys Chorus, Silicon Valley, as the Artistic and Executive Director. Known for building high-level musicianship skills through his engaging style and rapport with

youth, Kent is in demand as a guest conductor, adjudicator, educator, and mentor. A passionate advocate for collaboration, he has conducted Ragazzi with the San Francisco Symphony and prepared vocalists for Opera San Jose, Symphony Silicon Valley, and West Bay Opera. Kent previously conducted youth choruses at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and performed with the Golden Gate Men's Chorus and the Gay Men's Choruses of San Francisco and Boston. Kent currently serves as the California Choral Directors Association Children's and Community Youth Repertoire and Resources Chair.

Resounding Achord

Resounding Achord is the founding choir of Resounding Achord Productions (RAP), a nonprofit organization based in San José, California. From their beginnings in 2012, the choir has been faithful to creating a positive, family friendly member experience, while maintaining a high performance standard with accessible music for both singers and audiences. Besides being musicians, the choir's members are teachers, students, engineers, administrative professionals, scientists, lawyers, caretakers, and retirees. Repertoire is selected from all musical periods and a multitude of world cultures. Ms. Nakagawa is the founding artistic director of RA, and she has a degree in Vocal Performance from UC Irvine where she studied conducting with Joseph Huszti, and a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from San José State University. While at SJSU, she was honored to study with Dr. Charlene Archibeque and sang with the world-famous Choraliers.



Kristina Nakagawa is the founding Artistic Director of Resounding Achord Productions, and has been performing in Silicon Valley since 2001. She is also the Executive Artistic Director of Vivace Youth Chorus of San José, and previously directed choirs at San José State University, UC Irvine, Pinewood School, and St. Francis Episcopal Church.



Ms. Nakagawa has a degree in Vocal Performance from UC Irvine where she studied conducting with Joseph Huszti, and a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting from San José State University. While at SJSU, she was honored to study with Dr. Charlene Archibeque and sang with the world-famous Choraliers. Kristina is currently President-Elect for the California Choral Directors Association. She and her husband, Ryan, are the proud stage parents of their son, Russell.

Riverside City College Chamber Singers

RCC Chamber Singers are under the direction of John Byun, and often have opportunities to perform with special guest artists such as Don Shelton (member of the Hi-Lo's), Grammy Award Winner Jon Secada, the TED Talks and NAMM Show with Eric Whitacre, and as chorus for the Star Wars in Concert. John Byun received his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from University of California, Irvine and his Masters in Choral Conducting from California State University, Long Beach. He is the director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Riverside City College, where he directs the Chamber Singers and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble.



John Byun received his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from University of California, Irvine and his Masters in Choral Conducting from California State University, Long Beach. He is the director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Riverside City College, where he directs the Chamber Singers and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble. He has been the guest conductor for several

district honor choirs, SCVA Men's Honor Choir, Central California Women's Honor Choir, Texas Honor Choir Region 9, Clark County, NV Honor Choir and at the NWACDA Regional Conference. He has also conducted All State Honor Choirs in North Carolina, Tennessee, New Mexico, and Arizona. Mr. Byun maintains the John Byun Choral Series with Pavane Publishing, O vos omnes and Sitivit anima mea, and Love Song by Richard Burchard, O Nata Lux, Born of Light by Kevin Memley, Witness and Get Away Jordan by Stacey Gibbs, Saeya Saeya by Young-Ah Kim, and Magnus Dominus and Gaudium et Pacem by John Tebay.

San Juan Hills High School Chamber Singers

The San Juan Hills High School Chamber Singers have built a reputation of singing challenging works from a variety of historical periods of music and cultures from around the world. In February 2023, the Chamber Singers performed at the California All-State Music Educators Conference in Fresno, California. The choir has also been invited to perform at many functions around the Capistrano Unified School District and is proud to be a part of the SJHHS Stallion Family. Michael Ushino serves as the Director of the Choral/Vocal Arts Department and the Vocal Music Conservatory at San Juan Hills High School. He received his Masters in Music from the Bob Cole Conservatory at California State University, Long Beach and also studied at University of California, Irvine.



Michael Ushino serves as the Director of the Choral/Vocal Arts Department and the Vocal Music Conservatory at San Juan Hills High School. He received his Masters in Music from the Bob Cole Conservatory at California State University, Long Beach and also studied at University of California, Irvine. His conducting mentors have included Professor Emeritus Joseph



Huszti, Dr. Jonathan Talberg, and Keith Hancock. He currently serves as the President-Elect of the Southern California Vocal Association and previously served as the High School Honor Choir Vice President. Michael also currently serves as the Co-Artistic Director of the Men in Blaque, based in Irvine, California.

Saugus High School Blue Notes

Blue Notes from Saugus, CA is Saugus High School's top vocal jazz choir. Under the direction of Kaitlin Holt for the past five years, this award-winning ensemble has sung in various jazz festivals and competitions throughout Southern California. As head of the choral program at Saugus High School in Saugus, California, Kaitlin Holt directs five vocal ensembles and teaches the Music Industry Career Technology Pathway courses. She actively performs with various groups in the Los Angeles area, including her all-female acapella quartet "Angeles."



As head of the choral program at Saugus High School in Saugus, California, **Kaitlin Holt** directs five award-winning vocal ensembles and teaches the Music Industry Career Technology Pathway courses. She actively performs with various groups in the Los Angeles area, including her all-female acapella quartet "Angeles,"

and often taps into her wide network of music colleagues to bring Master Classes to her students. Kaitlin holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, Choral Studies from CSU Long Beach, an Associate's Degree in Jazz Studies from Cuesta College, and recently completed the coursework for her Masters in Choral Conducting from CSU Los Angeles. Currently serving as the Southern California Vocal Association Vocal Jazz Festival chair, Kaitlin works to mainstream jazz education and incorporate improvisation into choir curriculum.

Sterling Ensemble

Sterling Ensemble Los Angeles is a semi-professional choir, founded in 2018 by Artistic Director Michelle Jensen. This community of singers specializes in performing historic literature from diverse voices and workshopping new music with local artists. Teachers, military members, business leaders, and entrepreneurs join with professional musicians two hours a week to make excellent choral music. The Sterling Ensemble is under the direction of Michelle Jensen, a Los Angeles-based choral conductor, clinician, and teacher. In addition to directing Sterling Ensemble, she serves as the Director of Choral Activities at Azusa Pacific University, where she is also the Director of Graduate Choral Studies and the Conductor of the university's Chamber Singers.



Michelle Jensen is a Los Angeles-based choral conductor, clinician, and teacher. In addition to directing Sterling Ensemble, she serves as the Director of Choral Activities at Azusa Pacific University, where she is also the Director of Graduate Choral Studies and the Conductor of the university's Chamber Singers. She has studied conducting with Charlene Archibeque, Lucinda Carver,



William Dehning, Paul Salamunovich, and Jo-Michael Schiebe; and composition with Morten Lauridsen. Jensen has led choirs to place first in such prestigious international music competitions as Chorwettbewerb Spittal an der Drau and the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. She also serves as an adjudicator and honor choir conductor. In 2019, she was invited to conduct the Connecticut All-State Mixed Choir.

Tesoro High School Vocal Ensemble

The Tesoro High School Vocal Ensemble has performed and/or recorded with or opened for many performers, including Jason Mraz, Sara Bareilles, Colbie Caillat, Johnny Mathis, Five for Fighting, Quentin Tarantino, Mark Lindsay, Take 6, Eric Whitacre, Morten Lauridsen, Gordon Goodwin, and Ruben Studdard. They are multiple winners of the Golden State Choral Competition and they have performed in Carnegie Hall, the Grand Ole Opry, and Staples Center. Keith Hancock, their director, was recently named the Grammy Music Educator Award winner, a top 50 finalist for the Global Teacher Prize, one of the 10 CMA National Teachers of Excellence and one of the 100 Most Influential People of Orange County.



Keith Hancock is in his 22nd year teaching at Tesoro HS. He was recently named the Grammy Music Educator Award winner, a top 50 finalist for the Global Teacher Prize, one of the 10 CMA National Teachers of Excellence and one of the 100 Most Influential People of Orange County. Mr. Hancock

has frequently collaborated with Grammy-award-winning singer-songwriter Jason Mraz, arranging, conducting and recording for his album, *Know*, and performing with him on his tour. Mr. Hancock is also a contributor to *Careers Through Music*, a book/video presented by Alfred Music and the Grammy Museum Foundation. Mr. Hancock holds a M.A. in Education and a B.M. in Music Education and Choral Conducting (*Summa cum Laude*), and he previously served on the faculty at Chapman University.

The Sunday Night Singers

The Sunday Night Singers (SNS) founded by Palmdale High alumni and Artistic Director Mike McCullough in 2005, is a 32-voice community ensemble in the Antelope Valley, CA. From inception, SNS celebrates and uplifts diverse communities, mirroring an authentic and organic representation of the diversity found in LA County. Michael McCullough assumed the role of Director of Choral Music at Palmdale High School in 1995. He holds a BM in Voice and an MM in Choral Conducting from California State University, Northridge, studying under the tutelage of John Alexander.



Michael McCullough assumed the role of Director of Choral Music at Palmdale High School in 1995. He holds a BM in Voice and an MM in Choral Conducting from California State University, Northridge, studying under the tutelage of John Alexander. He continued his professional certification at Chapman University. With a rich 32-year history as part of the Antelope Valley College



faculty, McCullough has conducted the AV Master Chorale and College Singers. He has also taught individual voice, music history, and music theory. McCullough is the Artistic Director of The Sunday Night Singers which was founded to allow former students to continue their pursuit of choral excellence. Notable recordings encompass works by Joshua Shank "The Seasons" and Stacey V. Gibbs "Didn't it Rain".

Thurman White Academy Advanced Choir

The Thurman White Academy Advanced Choir has been under the direction of Athena Mertes since 2015. Thurman White Academy is a Performing Arts Magnet Middle School program that accepts students through a random lottery system. This 7th/8th grade ensemble consistently receives superior ratings at choral festivals and competitions. This diverse ensemble regularly performs as a guest choir with the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society. Their recent virtual choir performance of "Don't Give Up On Me" was selected to be featured at the 2022 Western Region ACDA Conference "Stories of the Pandemic." In 2019, they received numerous awards at the Worldstrides Choral Festival in San Diego, California. These awards included: 1st place, Gold, Adjudicator's Award, Outstanding Choral Group, Outstanding Soloists and Overall Sweepstakes.



Athena Mertes is the director at the Thurman White Academy of the Performing Arts, where she has approximately 400 students. In 2020, she received the Teacher of the Year Award from Magnet Schools of America. Mrs. Mertes is the Chorus Master of the Opera Las Vegas Youth Chorus and is a regular performer of

concert and operatic repertoire. She has performed as a guest soloist with the Burbank Philharmonic, Las Vegas Philharmonic, Henderson Symphony, Opera Las Vegas, Vegas City Opera, Lexington Opera Outreach, Las Vegas Sinfonietta, and the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society. This season, she will perform as Marie in *The Daughter of the Regiment* with Vegas City Opera, and the world premiere of a new opera, *Behold the Man* with Opera Las Vegas.

CSU Fullerton University Singers

California State University, Fullerton's University Singers, led by Dr. Robert Istad, perform all over world and regularly collaborate with Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, Pacific Symphony, and Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. They perform with conductors Gustavo Dudamel, Carl St.Clair, David Newman and John Williams; artists Andrea Bocelli, Patti LuPone, Sutton Foster, Skylar Astin, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Juanes, Beck; and are heard on Sony Records' "John Williams and Steven Spielberg: The Ultimate Collection" and Yarlung Records' "Nostos: The Homecoming of Music." GRAMMY Award Winning conductor Dr. Robert Istad who "fashions fluent and sumptuous readings" (Voice of OC) with his "phenomenal" artistry (Los Angeles Times), is Director of Choral Studies at CSU Fullerton, where he was recognized as CSUF's 2016 Outstanding Professor. He is also Artistic Director of Pacific Chorale.



GRAMMY Award Winning conductor **Dr. Robert Istad** who "fashions fluent and sumptuous readings" (Voice of OC) with his "phenomenal" artistry (Los Angeles Times), is Director of Choral Studies at CSU Fullerton, where he was recognized as CSUF's 2016



Outstanding Professor. He is also Artistic Director of Pacific Chorale. His artistic impact can be heard on two recent recordings featuring Pacific Chorale: "Mahler's Eighth Symphony" with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Gustavo Dudamel on Deutsche Grammophon (2021), for which he prepared the chorus and was awarded the GRAMMY Award for Best Choral Performance, and "Ecstasies Above: The Music of Tarik O'Regan," which he conducted, on Yarlung Records (2020). He serves on the Executive Board of Chorus America and Dean of Chorus America's Conducting Academy.

University of Arizona Symphonic Choir

Symphonic Choir is the premier choral ensemble at the University of Arizona, carrying on a 72-year tradition of joyful excellence. Members hail from throughout the world and represent a variety of majors. The ensemble also partners with service organizations in the Greater Tucson area to bring awareness and support to vulnerable populations including refugees, asylum seekers, and unhoused people. The choir is under the direction of Dr. Elizabeth Schauer, Director of Choral Activities at U of A. An award-winning educator, Dr. Schauer conducts Symphonic Choir and teaches graduate conducting and choral literature courses with a student-centered focus to an international population of learners.



Elizabeth Schauer serves as Director of Choral Activities at the University of Arizona, where she is recognized for her innovative and inclusive curricular approach. An award-winning educator, Dr. Schauer conducts Symphonic Choir and teaches graduate conducting and choral literature courses with a student-centered focus to an international population of learners.

Former students are active as music educators at public and private schools, churches, colleges and universities throughout the world. Dr. Schauer is in demand nationally as a conductor and presenter, and choirs under her direction have performed on the professional conferences of ACDA, College Music Society, American Guild of Organists and Arizona Music Educators Association.

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After more than fifty years of teaching, **Judy Bowers** was named Professor Emerita in the College of Music at Florida State University upon retirement, and subsequently completed four years as Biedenharn Endowed Chair in Music at the University of Louisiana Monroe. Throughout a career dedicated to preparing music teachers, Bowers has taught undergraduate and graduate music education classes and choirs, and has provided honor choirs in Canada, Africa, and numerous American all-state/honor choirs, regional ACDA honor choirs and a national ACDA middle school honor choir in 2009. A unifying principle in all these settings has been the use of Developmental Teaching strategies. This pedagogical approach allows singers of varying skills to successfully rehearse and perform together. In 2014, Bowers was named a Lowell Mason National Music Education Fellow by NAFME, and in 2023, the Florida Music Educators Association inducted her into the Florida Music Hall of Fame.

Nationally recognized as a leader in the field of youth choral conductors, **Emily Ellsworth** enjoys an active schedule as guest conductor nationally and abroad. She has conducted all-

state choirs and festivals in over 30 states, honor choir for ACDA's 60th anniversary conference (2019) and the national honor choirs for the Organization of Kodaly Educators (2013 and 2023). She is on the conducting roster for Manhattan Concert Productions and will conduct a youth festival there once again in June of 2024. International appearances include festival choirs in Ireland, England, Hong Kong, Grand Cayman Island, Greece, and presentations for the national association of choral directors in Brazil. From 1996-2018, Ms. Ellsworth was Artistic Director of Anima-Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus outside of Chicago, earning several national awards for her work. More information can be found at www.emilyellsworth.net.

Dr. Julie Yu (She/Her/Hers) is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at the Wanda L. Bass School of Music at Oklahoma City University and the Artistic Director of Canterbury Voices, Oklahoma's premier symphony chorus. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from the University of Central Oklahoma, Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Oklahoma State University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from the University of North Texas. Before joining OCU and Canterbury Voices, she taught at Norman North High School in Oklahoma, San José State University, and Kansas State University. She has given presentations, conducted, and/or her choirs have performed for state and

regional conferences of the ACDA, NAFME, and the European MEA. She is the past president of the Southwestern Region and served as an International Conducting Exchange Fellow to Kenya in 2019. Her favorite area of research and performance is working as a guest clinician/conductor for various honor choirs and professional organizations.

Dr. Rollo Dilworth is currently Vice Dean and Professor of Choral Music Education in the Department of Music Education Therapy at

Temple University's Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts in Philadelphia, PA. He serves as Conductor for the Temple University Singing Owls Campus/Community Chorus, as Conductor for the School District of Philadelphia High School All-City Chorus, and as Artistic Director of Singing City Choir. Over 200 of Dilworth's choral compositions and arrangements have been published, and many are part of the Henry Leck Creating Artistry Choral Series with the Hal Leonard Corporation. He is an active clinician and frequent guest conductor of all-state, honors, festival, community, church and professional choirs. He has researched, lectured, and presented extensively on various topics including African American choral music, composing/arranging for choirs, social justice, social emotional learning, cultural appropriation, urban music education, community engagement, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

★ WACDA 2024 Honor Choir Conductors ★



Dr. Judy Bowers
Children's
(Grades 4-6)



Dr. Julie Yu
High School SSAA
(grades 9-12)



Ms. Emily Ellsworth
Youth SATB
(grades 7-9)



Dr. Rollo Dilworth
Gospel (High School,
College/University,
ACDA members)

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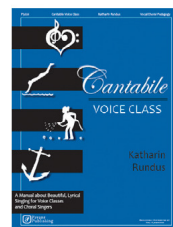
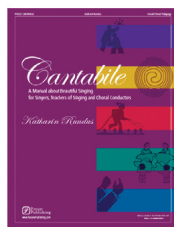
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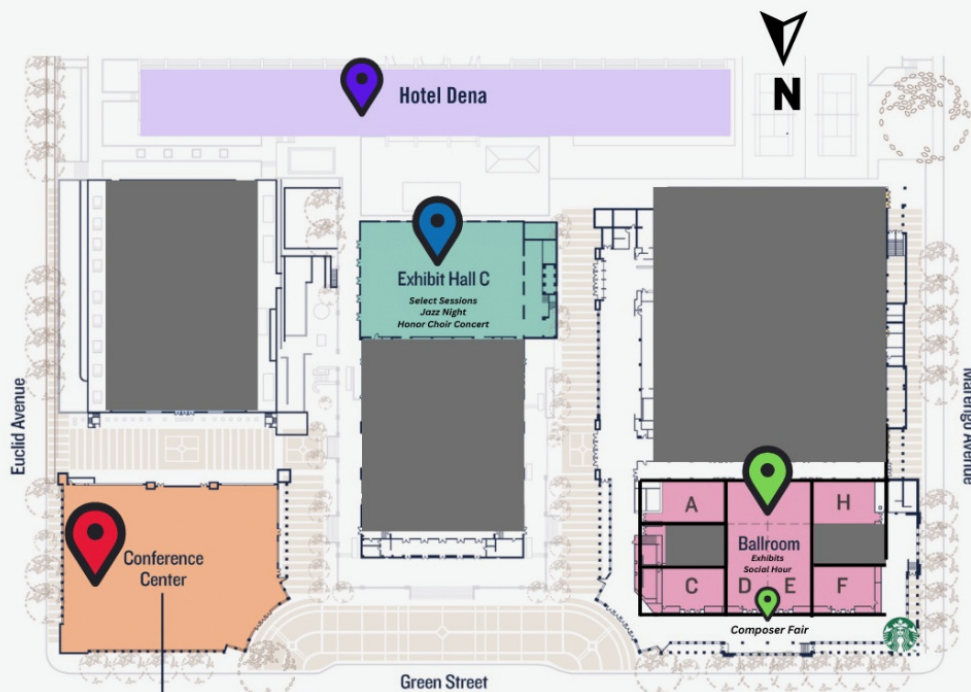
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- **LOWER LEVEL:** Honor Choir, College Fair
 - **207:** Exhibitor, Interest, & Toolbox Sessions
 - **211:** Composer Masterclass / Choral Singing in America Preview / Interest & Toolbox Sessions
 - **212 & 214:** Conference Registration

- FIRST UNITED METHODIST**
- **Concert Sessions #1-6**
 - **We Are One: Songs of Unity and Service**

- BALLROOMS**
- **A:** Interest Sessions / All-Conference Sing Rehearsals (Levine)
 - **B:** Student Activities Speed Dating / All Conference Sing Rehearsals (Husztli)
 - **C:** Interest Session / Conducting Masterclasses / Live Workshop with Composer & Choir (Resounding Achord) / Composer Masterclass
 - **D & E:** Exhibits & Social Hour/Poster Session
 - **F:** Interest Sessions / All Conference Sing Rehearsals (Molina) / Reading Sessions / sáje Workshop
 - **G:** CCDA Reception
 - **H:** Interest Sessions
 - **Hallway:** Composer Fair

- EXHIBIT HALL C**
- **Live Workshop w/Composer & Choir** (Tesoro HS)
 - **Toolbox Session:** Composer Idea Fest
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