

## Raymond W. Brock Memorial Commission



**Rosephanye Powell**, Pulitzer Prize and three-time Grammy winner, is one of America's most performed composers. She has an impressive catalogue of works published by some of the nation's leading

publishers, including the Hal Leonard Corporation, Gentry Publications, Oxford University Press, Alliance Music Publications, and Shawnee Press. She has had commissions from a wide range of performers, including the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony, and professional choral ensembles including Cantus and the Grammy Award-winning ensemble Chanticleer. She is commissioned yearly to compose for university choruses, professional ensembles, community and church choirs, as well as secondary school choruses. Her first opera, *Cold Mountain*, was commissioned by Santa Fe Opera and was the first American opera to win the International Opera Award. Powell serves as professor of voice at Auburn University. She holds degrees from The Florida State University (DM in vocal performance), Westminster Choir College (MM in vocal performance and pedagogy), and Alabama State University (BME).

cians, she has conducted hundreds of honor, festival, and all-state choirs in 46 U. S. states and six Canadian provinces. Known for her knowledge of the choral repertoire and performance practice of all styles, Dr. Archibeque has conducted and prepared over 150 major choral works with orchestras and performs music from all historical periods. She holds degrees from the University of Michigan, San Diego State, and the University of Colorado. She was named Outstanding Alumna at the University of Colorado and was given both of San Jose State's highest honors: Outstanding Professor and President's Scholar. She serves on the executive board of the American Beethoven Society, is a past president of the Silicon Valley League of the San Francisco Symphony, and is editor of the Charlene Archibeque Choral Series with Santa Barbara Music Publishing.

## Raymond W. Brock Prize for Professional Composers



**Saunder Choi**, a Filipino composer and choral artist in Los Angeles, has gained international recognition for his works performed by esteemed groups such as Conspire, Philippine Madrigal Singers, and the Los Angeles Master

Chorale. Choi 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 such as the 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*, and *Avatar 2: The Way of the Water*. 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 a teaching artist with the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

## Robert Shaw Choral Award Winner



**Charlene Archibeque** is considered one of America's foremost choral conductors and teachers. She was the first woman to earn the DMA in Choral Conducting (University of Colorado, 1969) and served for 35

years as director of choral activities at San Jose State University. The world-renowned SJSU Choraliers took sixteen tours abroad, winning seven international competitions, and performing in major music halls. Choirs under Dr. Archibeque's direction have performed at 25 state, regional, and national ACDA conferences. Her honors include receiving the 2008 Howard Swan Award presented by California ACDA and the 2013 Excellence in Choral Music Award presented by the University of Colorado. Known as one of America's top choral clini-

Past President's Award Winner



**André J. Thomas** is professor emeritus of music at The Florida State University. He was visiting professor of choral conducting at Yale University 2020-2022. He also served as a faculty member at the University of Texas, Austin. He is presently an associate artist with the London Symphony Orchestra. He is in demand as a choral adjudicator, clinician, and director of honor/all-state choirs throughout North America, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, Australia, and Africa. Dr. Thomas has conducted choirs at the state, division, and national conventions of NAFME and ACDA. He has led numerous prestigious orchestras and choirs around the world. Thomas is a distinguished composer/arranger/author and the immediate past national president of ACDA.

Julius Herford Dissertation Prize Winner



**Andrew Major** received his DMA in choral conducting from Northwestern University, where his dissertation advisors included Dr. Donald Nally, Dr. Danuta Mirka, and Dr. Alan Pierson. He received an MM in choral conducting from Northwestern University, and a BA in music, and a BS in cell biology and neuroscience from Montana State University. He currently serves as lecturer in choral studies at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; as artistic director and conductor of Roots in the Sky; and as director of music at Northminster Presbyterian Church of Evanston, IL. Dr. Major is also active as a professional singer with many Chicago area ensembles, including The Crossing.

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Outstanding Student Chapter Award



The **ACDA Student Chapter at The Florida State University (FSU)** provides all interested students with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of choral music. The chapter's members come from a variety of backgrounds, including undergraduate and graduate students, both music and non-music majors. Each year, the chapter provides a wide range of professional development opportunities, community engagement, and innovative programming. Recently, the chapter has focused on preparing members for careers in music education through sessions such as

“Teacher Talk: Elements Straight Out of the Classroom” and conducting masterclasses for undergraduate pre-service teachers. Additionally, the annual FSU Choral Ed Symposium serves as a platform for current music education interns and first-year teachers to share their teaching experiences with undergraduates, providing practical insights and advice for those about to enter the field. Advisors: McKenna Stenson, Michael Hanawalt, and Kevin Fenton

He also served as adjunct professor at UMKC, William Jewell College, and also held choral positions at First Methodist Church (Wichita, KS) and Valley View UMC (Overland-Park). Prolific as a composer of octavos for all ages, he had over 1,000 published compositions with 46 publishing houses. Butler’s music has been performed throughout the world, and he was the recipient of the ASCAP Standard Music Award in 1972. Predeceased by his beloved wife, Mary Ann, he is survived by his daughter and son, Lydia and Grant, and several grandchildren.

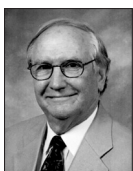
## Wall of Honor Inductees



**Peter Bagley** (1936-2024) was a pathfinder for African American choral conductors. He was professor emeritus of music at the University of Connecticut. He received a BME from the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, and master’s and doctoral degrees in choral music from Indiana University. Bagley began teaching music in 1957 in Greenwich, Connecticut, where he was the first African American teacher in the public schools. While teaching in Greenwich, he sang with the Collegiate Chorale, led by Robert Shaw. He served for 16 years as professor of music at SUNY New Paltz before being appointed director of choral activities at UConn (1984). He was in high demand as a choral clinician/adjudicator, nationally and internationally. In 1990 he was named Connecticut Choral Educator of the Year and was recipient of the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award from Choral Arts New England. Peter Bagley died on January 20, 2024, at the age of eighty-eight.



**Maurice Casey** (1932-2022) was born in Washington, DC, and earned a BME from the University of Kansas and a masters in choral conducting from Columbia University. Casey taught at Montana State University, Baldwin-Wallace College, and was on the faculty at The Ohio State University from 1967 to 1992. From 1983 to 1985, Casey was national president of ACDA; he was Central Region president (1977–1981), and Ohio state president (1975–1977). Casey had a lifetime association and friendship with Robert Shaw and assisted him in preparing the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus for performances under George Szell, Pablo Casals, and Shaw himself. After



**Eugene Butler** (1935-2024) was born on January 13, 1935, in Durant, Oklahoma, to C.O. and Ruth Butler. He received the BME from the University of Oklahoma, the Master of Sacred Music from Union Theological Seminary (NYC), and the DMA in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. From 1973 to 1998 he served as the DCA at Johnson County Community College in Overland-Park, KS.



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retirement, he became director of the Robert Shaw Choral Institute. He was predeceased by his wife, Jane, in 2007 and survived by his daughter, Colleen.



**William D. Hall** (1934-2023) passed away at the age of 89, having served as a professor and dean at Chapman University for almost 60 years. His Chapman Choirs and William Hall Chorale sang at regional and national conferences, sharing their hallmark vibrant choral tone and vocalism. He was the recipient of the Howard Swan Award, which is the highest honor bestowed on a conductor by the California Choral Directors Association. In addition to his conducting, Dr. Hall founded National Music and published hundreds of arrangements and original octavos. Through his extraordinarily resonant bass voice, he offered several rules that his alums share with their students, namely:

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- #1: Never subdivide unless you need to.
  - #2: Make it vocal. Let them sing.
  - #3: The Prep Beat is always the most important beat.
  - #4: Don't look down, know what you want to hear, breathe, and GO. The rest will take care of itself.
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**James Elwin McCray** (1938-2024) was an influential choral music professor, college administrator, and a prolific composer. He received degrees from Illinois Wesleyan and Southern Illinois University and

earned a PhD in music from the University of Iowa. Before teaching at Colorado State University, where he was department head for a decade, he held positions in Florida, Virginia, and Indiana. As a professor, he received teaching awards from two universities, and he served in several church music positions for decades. He published more than one hundred compositions. He authored three books, numerous professional articles, and for forty-one years wrote a monthly column in the international organ journal, *The Diapason*. He was known for inviting distinguished musicians, scholars, and composers from around the country to interact with his students; and he frequently and graciously entertained the Fort Worth Collins choral community at his home.

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**Albert John Joseph McNeil** (1920-2022), esteemed choral conductor, ethnomusicologist, and founder of the world-renowned Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers, passed away at 102. A native of Los Angeles, McNeil

dedicated his life to preserving Negro Spirituals and concert music by African American composers. Under his leadership, the Jubilee Singers performed in 77 countries and across 46 U. S. states, sharing a legacy of rich cultural heritage through choral music. McNeil earned degrees from UCLA and his doctorate from the University of Southern California, later receiving honorary doctorates from CSU Northridge and Westminster Choir College. A dedicated music educator, he taught in the Los Angeles Unified School District and served as professor emeritus at UC Davis, also directing the Sacramento Chorale. Additionally, he was a minister of music at several prominent Los Angeles churches and held leadership roles with the Los Angeles Master Chorale and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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**Alice Parker** (1925-2023), beloved composer, conductor, and teacher, passed away peacefully on December 24, 2023, at the age of 98. Born in Boston in 1925, she began her musical journey at Smith

College and earned a master's in choral conducting from Juilliard. Her early collaboration with Robert Shaw led to treasured folk-song arrangements that still resonate with choirs around the world. Parker's impressive catalog of over 600 compositions is celebrated for its heartfelt simplicity and emotional warmth. In 1985 she founded Melodious Accord, a nonprofit dedicated to the joy of choral singing, mentoring generations of musicians who cherished her wisdom and generous spirit. Parker always believed music lived beyond the notes on the page, urging performers to connect deeply with their own hearts. Her legacy continues to shine through her timeless music and the countless lives she touched. She is lovingly remembered by her five children, eleven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



**Robert Ray** (1946-2022) was a distinguished composer, educator, and musician who impacted the St. Louis music community and beyond. As the founding director of the IN UNISON

Chorus from 1994 to 2010, Ray developed the ensemble's unique sound and established it as a vital part of the region's cultural identity. His compositions, blending elements of the African diaspora with classical traditions, have been performed in venues ranging from local churches to Carnegie Hall. His *Gospel Mass*, notably performed at the 2019 ACDA National Conference, became a signature piece in the American choral repertoire. A passionate educator, Ray mentored numerous students at the University of Illinois and the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where he served as a professor and directed the University Community Chorus. A gifted pianist, Ray performed solos worldwide.



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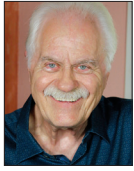


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**Paris M. Rutherford** (1934-2022) was born in Dallas, Texas, to Ruth and Paris M. Rutherford Jr. on September 23, 1934. Primarily an instrumentalist and arranger, he earned both the bachelor's and master's degree from Southern Methodist University. Rutherford was a Regents Professor Emeritus at the University of North Texas, where he served for 30 years on the jazz studies faculty, directing the award-winning UNT Jazz Singers, the North Texas Summer Vocal Jazz Workshops, and the Jazz Arranging/Composition program. While at UNT, he mentored countless students. Widely considered one of the greatest vocal jazz arrangers of his time, Rutherford made immeasurable contributions to the jazz community; he was pivotal in elevating jazz education and assuring the future of vocal jazz. He is survived by his beloved wife of 37 years, Lynne, 6 children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



**H. Royce Saltzman** (1928-2023) co-founded the Grammy-winning Oregon Bach Festival with acclaimed conductor Helmuth Rilling in 1970. A graduate of Goshen College, Northwestern Univer-

sity, and University of Southern California, Saltzman began his tenure at the University of Oregon in 1964. Over five decades, he served as professor of choral music and associate dean of the School of Music, national president of ACDA (1979–1981), a founding member and president of IFCM (1985–1993), and executive director of the Oregon Bach Festival (1970–2007). In 1994 he received the German government's highest honor: the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit. He was also awarded Chorus America's Distinguished Service Award, ACDA's Robert Shaw Award, and lifetime achievement awards from IFCM and the 6th World Children's Choir Festival.



**Peter Tiboris** (1947-2024) founded MidAmerica Productions in 1983 and served as its general music director until his death. For over four decades his remarkable vision and passion shaped the organization and touched the lives of countless musicians and audiences alike. Hailed as “the most prolific presenter of choral concerts in the history of Carnegie Hall” by the director of the Rose Museum and Archives at Carnegie Hall, Maestro Tiboris was instrumental in the presentation of over 1,500 concerts worldwide. In 2004 he founded MidAm International, extending his vision to major cultural centers across Europe. Maestro Tiboris received his doctorate from the University of Illinois and conducted repertoire ranging from major choral works to symphonies, operas, and ballets. Among the distinguished orchestras he conducted were London's Royal Philharmonic, the Philharmonia Orchestra, Moscow Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra, and the National Opera Orchestra of Cairo.



**Virgil “Leon” Thurman** (1940-2024) was the author of the influential book *Body Mind & Voice: Foundations of Voice Education*, which has been a vital resource for voice educators and singers worldwide. His work emphasized the holistic integration of body and mind in the development of vocal technique and



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health and culminated in his co-founding of the Human Compatible Learning Center. Early in his career he sang with the Norman Luboff Choir. He established the Voice Center (1986-1995) in Minneapolis, which specialized in voice education. Dr. Thurman was the founder, board member, and principal faculty member of The VoiceCare Network, based in Minnesota, from 1982 to 2006. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the memberships of ACDA and NATS, and his memory and friendship will be cherished by the countless individuals he inspired and mentored throughout his career.

conducting from the University of Oklahoma. In 1999 he began teaching at Houston Christian University while continuing to work in a church position; after retirement, he served as an adjunct instructor in conducting at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. Admired widely by students and colleagues throughout the country, Yarrington was known for his delightful sense of humor and his ability to make music accessible to people. He published several books on church music leadership and conducting.



**Judith Willoughby** (1949-2024) was a stellar conductor, choral music specialist, educator, and arts administrator throughout the United States and internationally. Willoughby was the Wanda L. Bass

Professor of Conducting and Choral Music Education at Oklahoma City University and artistic director of the Canterbury Youth Choruses until her retirement in 2017. Prior to moving to Oklahoma, she was the founder and music director of the Temple University Children's Choir. Willoughby was one of the first African American women to have her choir selected to perform at the 1997 ACDA National Convention with the Temple University Children's Choir. She served as the president of Pennsylvania ACDA, was on the board of Chorus America for nine years, and was a grant writer for the Pew Foundation and Pennsylvania Council on the arts. She had a profound influence on generations of students, colleagues, and friends.



**John Charles Yarrington** (1941-2024), a Tulsa, OK, native, earned an undergraduate degree in music education from the University of Oklahoma, where he developed an interest in choral conducting.

He later earned a master's degree in Sacred Music from The Union Theological Seminar in New York, laying the groundwork for a lifetime of church music leadership in prominent congregations. While serving at First United Methodist Church in Dallas, he completed his DMA in

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