

### Wednesday Night - President's Concert

Dan Forrest's *Jubilate Deo*  
Welborn E. Young, conductor



**Welborn E. Young** is director of choral activities and professor of music at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro School of Music, where he was the recipient of the 2007 Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award. Since 2005 he has directed Bel Canto Company, an ensemble of professional singers profiled on the National Public Radio program "Performance Today." He has been a featured festival conductor at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Netherlands; at the York Minster International Choral Festival in Great Britain; and at Carnegie Hall. He has served as a guest conductor and clinician in seven states. Young holds a DMA from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

### ACDA COVID-19 Conference Guidance

ACDA is providing the following guidance for all in-person conference activities coming this spring. Decisions regarding protocols will be based on the following three-tiered approach, in this priority:

**A) CDC guidance:** All people, vaccinated and unvaccinated, should wear masks while in group settings and practice social distancing where possible. Conference attendees are advised that masks will be required in all public conference spaces.

**B) State and city mandates:** ACDA will honor the COVID-19 mandates of our host states and host cities. Conference attendees and performers are advised that there may be additional mandates in place in the localities where conferences are being held. Attendees and performers will be required to abide by these mandates.

**C) Venue mandates:** ACDA will honor the COVID-19 policies of our host venues. Conference attendees and performers are advised that there may be additional mandates in place for specific conference venues. These mandates could include required masking, proof of vaccination, and/or proof of negative COVID-19 tests prior to being admitted to the venue.

The full policy is on page 6.

### University of North Carolina - Greensboro Chamber Singers



Chamber Singers at the UNC Greensboro School of Music is a highly select ensemble of approximately 22-35 gifted and talented pre-professional singers, music educators, and very dedicated amateurs chosen from the UNCG student body. They are committed to performing works from the Western choral canon, works from diverse musical cultures, and underappreciated composers in concerts throughout the semester including major works with orchestra.

### Bel Canto Company



Bel Canto Company is a choral ensemble of professional and advanced amateur singers dedicated to presenting exceptional, innovative, and engaging choral performances for all. Bel Canto Company presents an

## Special Events

annual subscription concert series in Greensboro, and has performed regularly at concert venues, music festivals, and conferences throughout the region. They have released 14 albums, most recently *Bel Canto Live! Joyful Noise* (2019) and *the breath of life* (2019) featuring the world premiere of Dan Forrest's four-movement work of the same name.

### Participating Area High School Choirs

**Durham School of the Arts Chamber Ensemble**  
Lucas Cecil, Amy Davis, and Jeremy Nabors, directors

**Rockingham County High School**  
Concert Choir and Women's Ensemble,  
Marlo T. Nall, director

**Penn Griffin School for the Arts**  
Vocal Music Ensemble,  
Wesley McCleary-Small, director

**Wheatmore High School - Voices of Valor,**  
LJ Marin, director

### Southern Region Children's Festival Chorus



Southern Region Children's Festival Chorus comprises five organizations from across ACDA's Southern

Region: Cantate Children's & Youth Choir (VA, Peggy Howell, director); Chattanooga Boys Choir (TN, Vic Oakes, director); Durham Children's Chorus (NC, Dena Byers, director); RISE Chorales (GA, Emmy Williams Burch, director); Young Singers of the Palm Beaches (FL, D. Shawn Berry, director). The assembled choirs will present repertoire by Southern Region choral composers and conductors including James Green, Rosephanye Powell, Tom Shelton, and André Thomas. The Children's Festival Chorus will also participate in the performance of Dan Forrest's "Jubilate Deo."

### Thursday Night Concert

#### Exigence



Inspired by the mission of Sphinx, the mission of Exigence is to promote excellence and diversity through choral music within Black and Latinx communities by creating a platform for soloists and composers of color while inspiring and challenging audiences around the country and world. Exigence gives vocal artists a first-rate professional vocal experience within a context that champions the sounds of Black and Latinx composers. Selected through audition, 32 vocalists have the opportunity to use their voices as vehicles for change within the cultural landscape of concert choral and vocal music.

**Eugene Rogers** is the director of this choir. His photo and bio are on page 33.



## Signature Quartet



Signature Quartet is an ensemble that enjoys creating barbershop harmonies and singing with their unique “Barber Soul” sound. This South Florida quartet performs a variety of musical genres including Soul, R&B, Pop, and Jazz. Each member had an introduction to four-part harmony through youth outreach programs sponsored by the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS). Signature Quartet has been together since September of 2013. They are the 2015 Sunshine District Champions as well as the current BHS International Quartet Champions. Members are Paul Phillip Saca, Tenor; Daniel P. Cochran, Lead; Dan Walz, Bass; and Will Rodriguez, Baritone.

professional singers from around the United States have thriving national and international solo careers and a love for vocal chamber music, and focus primarily on presenting early and new music. In addition to performances and artistic residencies, the ensemble engages in creative educational outreach to audiences and students, particularly in communities of color, and promotes the study, research, performance, and recording of music from various eras with special attention to the intersection of arts and social justice.



**Arianne Abela** is director of the choral program at Amherst College. Abela recently served on conducting faculty at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI, and is founder and director of the Detroit

Women’s Chorus and Detroit Justice Choir, ensembles dedicated to social justice and community empowerment. Abela received her doctorate in conducting from the University of Michigan, an MM from Yale University, and BA from Smith College. She sings professionally in ensembles across the United States and Canada.

Oakwood University  
The Aeolians

The Aeolians of Oakwood University was originally organized in 1946. Since its inception, the choir has toured extensively, performing at venues throughout the United States and internationally. Aeolian performances present a repertoire of choral music that ranges from the Baroque era to the twenty-first century. They have become an authoritative exponent of Negro spirituals

## Friday Night Concert

## Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble



The Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble presents vocal music with the highest artistic excellence while celebrating racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. Each of the nine

## Special Events

and Work songs that express the yearnings of their forefathers to be free. The Aeolians were named in 2014 as the four-peat national HBCU choral champions.



**Jason Max Ferdinand** is an associate professor and director of choral activities at Oakwood University, where he conducts the Aeolians of Oakwood University and the University Chorale, Voices. A native of Trinidad & Tobago, Ferdinand received his BM in piano from the Oakwood College (now Oakwood University), MM from Morgan State University, and DMA from the University of Maryland. Ferdinand maintains an active schedule as a presenter, adjudicator, and guest conductor throughout North America, Europe, and the Caribbean. He is a former board member of Alabama ACDA.

Jazz Education Network's 2014 Conference in Dallas, TX.



**Kate Paradise** is a jazz and commercial music educator, vocal musician, ensemble director and arranger, specializing in singing. Paradise earned both her BM and MM in Studio Music and Jazz Vocal Performance from the University of Miami. Since her teaching appointment at Belmont University in 2007, Paradise has received certification in Somatic Voice-work™ and has completed training in Vocology from the National Center for Voice and Speech. Paradise is currently completing a DMA in Jazz Performance at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

## Contemporary Music Concert

### Belmont University Jazzmin



Jazzmin is Belmont University's *Downbeat* Award-winning jazz vocal ensemble. The ensemble performs diverse jazz literature, ranging from traditional to contemporary, and aims to promote jazz appreciation and education within the Commercial Music Major at Belmont. The ensemble performs regularly on Belmont's campus, including television appearances as part of Christmas at Belmont; Jazzmin also performs and records within and around the Nashville community. Jazzmin performed at

## InToneNation



InToneNation, under the direction of Mr. Trey Giddens, is the nationally recognized award winning A cappella group from New Manchester High School in Douglasville Georgia. They were named national champions of the International Championship of High School A cappella. This 13 member a cappella group has been blessed to sing on some of the nation's largest stages including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and the Fabulous Fox theatre. Their debut album entitled *The Beginning* is available on all streaming platforms and their second album entitled *The Show Must Go On* will be out later this year.





**Trey Giddens**, a graduate of Mercer University, has been teaching for 17 years. Currently at New Manchester High School Fine Arts Magnet, Giddens serves as the Fine Arts Magnet director and directs the Fame Mastery Choir and InToneNation. He is a sought after show choir choreographer and choral clinician who works with choirs of all ages around the state. He is also the musical director for Tinsel Tones Atlanta and Co-founder and Musical Director for the A Cappella group Dressed To Trill. In his spare time Trey can be seen singing around the Atlanta area and performing with the Atlanta Freedom Bands Color Guard.

### Pearl River Community College "The Voices"



"The Voices" is an elite performing group at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville, MS. They serve as representatives of PRCC, singing at campus, community, and recruiting events throughout the year. In recent years the group has performed at the Louisiana ACDA Conference (2019) and the Briarcrest Invitational (2021). The Voices perform an average of 25 concerts each year. The mission of The Voices is to demonstrate the Wildcat Way (Pride, Respect, Class, and Character) through meaningful performance and student leadership.



**LaDonna Tyson** is the choral director at Pearl River Community College, where she directs the PRCC Singers, RiverRoad, and The Voices. PRCC ensembles under her direction have been selected to per-

form at both the Mississippi ACDA/MMEA Conference and the Louisiana ACDA Fall Vocal Conference. LaDonna received a BME from William Carey College. She also holds an MM and a PhD in Music Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. Tyson currently serves as president-elect of Mississippi ACDA and served as the Two-Year College R&R Chair for Southern ACDA Region.

### Ecumenical Service



**Rodger Nishioka** is an American preacher, seminary professor, and Christian educator. He serves as director of Adult Educational Ministries at Village Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. He was previously the Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary. Nishioka is noted for his work with young people and as a popular speaker at inter-denominational Christian youth conferences.

### North Carolina Master Chorale



Founded in 1942 as the Raleigh Oratorio Society, the North Carolina Master Chorale is committed to bringing the very finest in choral music performance to Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill audiences. The Chorale boasts a 170-voice Symphonic Chorus and a smaller, professional Chamber Choir whose size varies by project. Hailed by critics as Raleigh's premier choral ensemble.

ble, the Symphonic Choir primarily performs choral masterworks with orchestra. The Chamber Choir had its debut during the 1996-97 season and performs works ranging in style from the Renaissance to contemporary.



**Alfred E. Sturgis** currently serves as music director of the North Carolina Master Chorale, the Carolina Ballet, and the Tar River Orchestra. Sturgis has served as guest conductor for the New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center, North Carolina Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony, Carolina Chamber Orchestra, Raleigh Civic Symphony, National Opera Company, Capital Opera, Long Leaf Opera, and North Carolina Theatre. He has conducted orchestral and opera performances in France, Bulgaria, and China.

Florida ACDA, and Florida MEA.



**Timothy Peter** is a professor of music at Stetson University and director of choral activities. He received his undergraduate degree from Luther College and completed his MM and DMA at the University of Arizona. Peter has held positions as an ACDA region R&R Chair for college and universities and the state and region chair for men's choirs. His choirs were selected to perform at National ACDA in 2011 and 2017, four NC-ACDA conferences, Florida MEA, and Florida ACDA.

### Meet the Composer: Dan Forrest

In this featured 90-minute session, Dan Forrest will discuss the creative process and behind-the-scenes details for his major work, *Jubilate Deo* (performed the previous night during the President's Concert). The second half of the session will include Forrest presenting some of his newest works and accompanying read-throughs (free perusal copies of all music will be provided to attendees), as well as open Q&A with the audience.



**Dan Forrest** (b. 1978) has been described as having "an undoubted gift for writing beautiful music....that is truly magical" (NY Concert Review), with works hailed as "magnificent, very cleverly constructed sound sculpture" (Classical Voice) and "superb writing... full of spine-tingling moments" (Salt Lake Tribune). In the last decade, Forrest's music has become well established in the repertoire of choirs in the United States and abroad, through both smaller works and his major works *Requiem for the Living* (2013), *Jubilate Deo* (2016), and *Lux: The Dawn From On High* (2018). He holds graduate degrees in composition and piano performance.

### Stetson University Concert Choir



The Stetson University Concert Choir is one of four choral ensembles in the Stetson School of Music, the oldest School of Music in Florida. The choir is a highly selective touring ensemble comprising 56 vocalists. The Concert Choir has appeared in performances and workshops for NCCO, Southern ACDA Region, and the MEA National Conference. The group has appeared at numerous conventions of the Florida Vocal Association,



## Performing Choirs

### Coral Reef High School

#### Rose Singers



The Rose Singers, named in memory of the first director John Rose, is the top vocal ensemble at Coral Reef Senior High. Shanpatrick Davis took over the program in 2015, continuing the rich choral tradition. The choir has excelled, earning superior ratings on the District and State levels since 1997 and performed at Southern ACDA (2004). The Rose Singers performs various styles of music ranging from Classical to African American spirituals. The chorus program at Coral Reef High is unique, having performed full productions of operas, musical, and large classical works.



**Shanpatrick Davis** is the director of the choral activities at Coral Reef Senior High School. He has taught for 20 years, gaining credibility as a choral director, clinician, and adjudicator. His choirs have consistently received Superior ratings on both the District and State level; they have been highly requested to sing in the community, performing with Gloria Estefan, John Secada, King Singers, and Seraphic Fire. Davis's choirs have won National awards and have been featured performances at the FMEA Conference (2007, 2015) and FLACDA Conference (2016). He holds degrees from Palm Beach Atlantic University (BA) and the Florida State University (MME).

### Cordova High School

#### Concert Singers



The award-winning Concert Singers is the advanced auditioned ensemble of the choral program at Cordova High School. Each student must maintain a C average in all classes in order to perform with this ensemble. The singers continuously receive excellent and superior ratings at local and national festivals. The singers reached national acclaim with over 7 million views for their Facebook tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., performing Nathan Carter's arrangement of "If I Can Help Somebody." The singers are continuously in demand for performance; they made their Carnegie Hall debut in 2018.



**Adrian L. Maclin** earned his BM at Philander Smith College. Maclin began his teaching career in 2007, and for the last eight years has served the students at Cordova High in the Shelby County School district. He serves on the district's music leadership team, is the president-elect for the West Tennessee Vocal MEA, and is the Youth R&R Coordinator for the Tennessee Chapter of ACDA. For the last 20 years, Maclin has served as the minister of music for the Mount Moriah-East Baptist Church. Maclin was recognized by the Country Music Association Foundation as one of their 2020 Music Teachers of Excellence.

## Performing Choirs

### Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School Davidson Chorale



The Davidson Chorale is the elite, auditioned choral ensemble from Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School in Augusta, Georgia. Throughout its rich history, the group has been invited to perform at numerous conferences and events, including ACDA and GMEA Conferences and global venues such as Christ Church, Dublin, Ebenezer Baptist Church, St. Thomaskirche, La Sagrada Familia, and Lincoln Center. Most recently, they were the featured choral ensemble on NPR's nationally syndicated show *From the Top*.



**Phillip R. Streetman** is the director of choral studies at John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School in Augusta, Georgia. He has an undergraduate degree from Georgia Southwestern State University and holds a MM from the University of Georgia. He maintains memberships in Georgia MEA, NAFME, and ACDA. In addition to his work with Davidson, Streetman serves as choirmaster at Woodlawn United Methodist Church in Augusta, Georgia, and is a frequent clinician, adjudicator, and accompanist.

### Georgia State University University Singers



The internationally award-winning Georgia State University Singers is the School of Music's premier vocal ensemble. Selected by competitive audition, the choir represents the diverse population of Georgia State University. In May of 2017, the University Singers won first place in the renowned Marktoberdorf International Chamber Choir Competition during a tour of Austria and Germany. The choir's professional recordings on the Gothic Records label, *Evening Hymn* (2016) and *Heavenly Display* (2020), have been featured on National Public Radio's, *With Heart and Voice*. The ensemble regularly appears at professional choral conferences.



**Deanna Joseph** is professor of music and director of choral activities at the Georgia State University School of Music, where she conducts the University Singers and leads the master's program in choral conducting. A recent review of her work states, "The choir sings with great musicality, excellent intonation, clear diction, and a healthy and beautiful pallet of tone colors" (*The Choral Scholar*). Joseph holds conducting degrees from the Eastman School of Music. She is the founder and co-artistic director of the Atlanta Summer Conducting Institute, a conducting master class that draws conductors from across the country.



## Louisville Chamber Choir



The Louisville Chamber Choir was founded in 2013 by Artistic Director Kent Hatteberg. While they perform primarily a cappella music, the singers regularly collaborate with the Louisville Orchestra, including performances of Bernstein's *Mass* and *Chichester Psalms*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Monteverdi's *Vespers*, and the annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah* conducted by Hatteberg. They released a recording of holiday music in 2017; a recording of sacred works by Brahms, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, and others was released in 2021.



**Kent Hatteberg**, artistic director and director of choral activities at the University of Louisville, earned his bachelor's degree in piano and voice from the University of Dubuque (Iowa) and the master's and doctoral degrees in choral conducting from the University of Iowa. Named a Fulbright Scholar in 1990, he studied conducting with Uwe Gronostay and pursued research on Felix Mendelssohn in Berlin. He is a frequent guest conductor, adjudicator, and lecturer, most recently in Korea, Thailand, Poland, China, the Philippines, Hungary, and Austria. He has taught at Sam Houston State University (Huntsville, TX), Washington High School (Cedar Rapids, IA), and Solon Jr.-Sr. High (Solon, IA).

Nashville School of the Arts  
Cantabile

Cantabile is a treble ensemble for students in grades 10-12 at Nashville School of the Arts, a Metro Nashville Public School, in Nashville, Tennessee. While most of the students in Cantabile are part of the Choral Conservatory, there are also students in the band, theater, piano, and visual arts conservatories. Cantabile has consistently received superior ratings at both regional and state choral festivals. Cantabile students have earned seats in ACDA National Honor Choirs, Tennessee All-State Choirs, MTVA Mid-State Honor Choirs, and MNPS Honor Choirs. Cantabile was selected to perform at the 2019 Tennessee Music Educators Conference.



**Trey Jacobs** is in his fifth year as director of choral studies at Nashville School of the Arts. Choruses under his direction have received superior ratings at the MTVA Choral Festivals and ACDA State Choral Festivals. He has conducted all-state choruses in three states and honor choirs in eight states. Jacobs is a four-time CMA Music Teacher of Excellence recipient. Jacobs has completed his coursework toward a DMA in choral conducting from Michigan State University, and holds an MM from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a BME from East Carolina University. Jacobs is a four-time CMA Music Teacher of Excellence recipient.

### Orpheus Men's Ensemble



Founded in 2015, the Orpheus Men's Ensemble is a male chorus composed primarily of music educators and church musicians from the Atlanta metro area. Unique in its shared leadership approach and structure, the ensemble utilizes the wealth of knowledge from its members, as there is no one single artistic director or conductor. Orpheus focuses on building a diverse community of singers to demonstrate a rich and varied repertoire composed for male voices.



**Jeffrey Bauman** is a founding member of Orpheus. He is the director of choral and vocal activities at Young Harris College, where he serves as professor of music, conducts the Concert Choir and Chamber

Choir, teaches applied voice and conducting, and serves as chair of the music department. A former chair of the NAfME choral council, Bauman has also served both ACDA and GMEA at the state level. He is the minister of music at the First United Methodist Church in Blairsville, Georgia.



**Paul Neal** is proud to be one of the many conductors who perform with the Orpheus Men's Ensemble. Neal is the director of choral activities at Berry College, where he oversees the vocal program and serves as

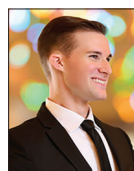
associate professor of music. Choirs under his direction have received invitations to sing for Georgia MEA and the Southern ACDA Region. Conducting opportunities include the Washington National Cathedral and at Alice Tully Hall. He serves as past-president of Georgia ACDA.

### Pinellas County Center for the Arts

#### Women's Chorale



The Pinellas County Center for the Arts Women's Chorale is an outstanding SSAA ensemble that performs the highest levels of treble choral repertoire. In 2019 and 2020, the Women's Chorale was selected as Critic's Choice for the Florida Vocal Association District 9 Music Performance Assessment. The PCCA Women's Chorale regularly performs for a variety of community and state events supporting music education and arts advocacy. Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Jonathan C. Gibbs High School provides a comprehensive educational program with preparation to compete for scholarships toward advanced study in institutions of higher learning.



**Matthew David Clear** is the director of choral activities at Pinellas County Center for the Arts, where he directs the school's choral ensembles, sponsors the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and teaches classes in

vocal techniques. He also serves as director of traditional worship music and the arts at First Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, where he directs the choir program and coordinates the annual concert series. He earned his BME from Malone University and completed his MME at the Florida State University. Clear was the 2020 Secondary Pinellas County MEA Teacher of the Year and 2021 Pinellas All-County Mixed Chorus Clinician.



### Samford University A Cappella Choir



The Samford University A Cappella Choir was founded in 1939 and serves as the flagship choral ensemble at Samford University. Under the direction of Philip L. Copeland, the choir has received invitations to perform most recently at the NCCO in 2013 and the 2018 Southern ACDA Region Conference. The choir travels internationally every two years and frequently participates in international choral competitions, sweeping all of the top awards at the 2018 Laurea Mundi competition in Budapest, Hungary, and the 2016 ŠIAULIAI CANTAT in Lithuania.



**Philip L. Copeland** is professor of music and is in his twelfth year as director of choral activities at Samford University. Choirs under his direction have distinguished themselves on the national and international stage, winning significant awards in eight international competitions and performing concerts in conferences of ACDA (2006, 2010, 2018), NCCO (2008, 2013), and on the stage of Carnegie Hall (2006, 2011). Copeland has over thirty years of experience in sacred music and serves at St. Luke's Episcopal in Birmingham. Copeland is married to Tracy and together they raise their six children.

### Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir



Now celebrating its 30th year, Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir includes more than 100 children in two music classes and three performing choirs under the leadership of artistic and executive director Janet M. Hostetter with assistant director Joy Anderson. SVCC continues to impress audiences worldwide with its high standards for musicianship training and artistic performances. SVCC choirs frequently collaborate with professional musicians, present at music conferences, and perform in elite venues such as Carnegie Hall and the National Basilica. The Concert Choir has performed for Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, President and Mrs. Clinton, and the former President Carter.



**Janet M. Hostetter**, artistic and executive director, received her doctorate and master's in choral conducting from James Madison University and her BME from Eastern Mennonite University. Her published research project, "Tone Production, Musicianship Training, Repertoire Development, Performance Practice: A Pedagogical Overview of Selected International Children's Choirs," provided her the joy of interacting with respected children's choirs in Australia, the Czech Republic, Canada, and the Philippines. A seasoned music educator, church musician, and choral conductor, Hostetter relishes opportunities to bring people together in song.

### Stillwell School of the Arts Singing Brothers of Stillwell



The Singing Brothers of Stilwell is an extra-curricular organization at Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts, Jonesboro, Georgia. They have consistently received superior ratings at the Georgia MEA Large Group Performance Evaluation; performed for the NAFME's National Conference (2018); the National School Board Association's Conference (2019); the Georgia School Board Association State Conference (2019); the Georgia ACDA's Conference (2019); and a collaborative performance with the Morehouse Glee Club and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (2020). The group is supported by Anthony Liggins, faculty advisor; Wendel Stephens, vocal coach; and Vicorie Brown, accompanist.



**Jimmy Cheek**, a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, earned a PhD from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG), an MME from the UNCG, and BM from North Carolina A&T State University. He is currently in his 28th year of teaching and serves as the choral director at Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts and the secondary lead chorus teacher for the Clayton County Public Schools, Jonesboro, Georgia. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, NAFME, Georgia MEA, and ACDA.

### University High School Cantoras



Cantoras of University High School is a union of three treble choirs encompassing intermediate through advanced levels. This ensemble has performed at the FLACDA Conference and has consistently earned Superior Ratings at District and State Music Performance Assessments. Members have been selected into All-County, ACDA, and All-State Honor Choirs. Cantoras represents the population at University High School, reflecting diverse ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. These musicians represent the life of the school as evidenced by their involvement in various sports, societies, and clubs.



**Yelitza Greene** is the director of choral activities at University High School-Orlando. She has conducted Cantoras at the FLACDA Conference (2014) and Concert Choir at the FMEA President's Concert (2017), Southern Region ACDA (2018), and National ACDA (2019), with co-conductor, Jay Dunn. The Department has consistently earned Superior Ratings at District and State MPAs. While teaching at Sias International University in China, she conducted the Women's Choir. She has also served as a Clinical Educator and as co-chair of the FLACDA High School Honor Choir. She earned a BM from Nyack College, NY, and an MME from UCF.



### University of Kentucky Men's Chorus



The University of Kentucky Men's Chorus, born in the fall of 2002, rehearses twice weekly and consists primarily of non-music majors. They were featured performers at ACDA National Conferences in 2011 and 2015 as well as Southern ACDA Region Conferences in 2008, 2012, and 2018. The group performed at the NCCO National Conventions in 2006 and 2013 and also appeared at the 2010 and 2016 Intercollegiate Male Choruses National Seminars. Most recently the men's chorus was featured in an interest session at the 2020 Southern ACDA Region Conference.



**Jefferson Johnson** is director of choral activities at the University of Kentucky, where he was recently named Endowed Professor of Choral Music. Johnson conducts the University Chorale and Men's Chorus and directs the graduate program (MM and DMA). In 2017 he was the third recipient of the Distinguished Choral Alumnus Award at the University of Colorado. Johnson was selected to conduct the TTBB Honor Choir at the 2019 ACDA National Conference in Kansas City, and in 2018 he conducted the SATB Honor Choir at the joint conference of the Central and North Central ACDA Region Conference.

### University of Kentucky Women's Chorus



The University of Kentucky Women's Choir is one of the university's largest ensembles, composed of approximately 100 of the school's most talented female voices. These singers, ranging from freshman to graduate students, represent a variety of musical backgrounds and academic disciplines. The choir's challenging and diverse repertoire includes literature spanning from Gregorian chant to eight-part music of the 21st century. With an emphasis on music by female artists, the ensemble strives to perform works that uplift and offer a voice to under-represented composers and poets.



**Lori R. Hetzel** is the associate director of the School of Music, associate director of choral activities and professor of undergraduate choral music education at the University of Kentucky, where she conducts the University of Kentucky Women's Choir and facilitates the popular a cappella group Paws and Listen. In addition to her conducting duties, Hetzel supervises student teachers and teaches undergraduate methods and choral conducting courses. Hetzel also serves as artistic director of the Lexington Singers Children's Choir (LSCC) and conducts the LSCC Chamber Choir.

### University of Mississippi Concert Singers



University of Mississippi Concert Singers is an auditioned ensemble with an established reputation for outstanding choral performance across the United States and in Europe. Under Donald Trott's direction, the Singers have previously performed at the 2006, 2010, and 2016 Southern ACDA Region Conferences, and the 2007 National Conference in Miami. The choir has toured many countries in Europe and throughout the United States, including to the White House. The University of Mississippi Concert Singers will perform the Raymond Brock Commission "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Ēriks Ešņvalds.



**Donald Trott** is the DCA at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in Oxford. He coordinates the graduate conducting program and conducts the Concert Singers, Men's Glee, and University Chorus. His choirs have performed at conferences of ACDA (1998, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2016), and MMEA (2005, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2018). Trott is a past president of the Southern ACDA Region. He received his BME from Westminster Choir College and both his MM and DMA in choral conducting from the University of Oklahoma. Trott is the author of several articles, an ACDA monograph, and a new book titled *Conducting Men's Choirs* (GIA).

### University of Southern Mississippi Southern Chorale



The Southern Chorale has a long history of excellence at Southern Miss, the most comprehensive School of Music in Mississippi. The ensemble has appeared at state, regional, and national conferences on fifteen occasions over the past eighteen years. In addition, the Chorale has been featured at festivals or concert series in South Korea, Norway, Sweden, Jamaica, Romania, Hungary, Mexico, Austria, The Czech Republic, France, England, and throughout the United States since 2003. The Chorale will present and record a new Stabat Mater this spring by American composer Richard Burchard.



**Gregory Fuller** is professor of music and the director of choral activities at the University of Southern Mississippi. Previously, Fuller held appointments at the University of Missouri and Briar Cliff University. Fuller remains active as a conductor in orchestral and wind settings and has become a champion of new oratorio and extended works. He has conducted twelve U.S. or world premieres, including performances of Moorland Elegies and St. Michael Songs by Estonian composer Tõnu Kõrvits. Other premieres have included works by John Cheetham, Ed Penhorwood, James Mulholland, Mack Wilberg, Benjamin Harlan, Arturs Maskats, and Richard Burchard.



### Voices of the Valley Children's Chorus Sola Voce Choir



Founded in 2007, the Voices of the Valley Children's Chorus serves over 70 children from multiple cities, counties, and schools in Georgia and Alabama. Our vision is to inspire young singers to become life-long learners of music through choral experience and community engagement. Voices of the Valley has collaborated with professional, collegiate, and local ensembles and is proud to be in residence at Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music. Voices of the Valley has participated in local, national, and international tours, and performed at the 2019 Georgia MEA Conference. Sola Voce is Voices of the Valley's advanced ensemble.



**Michelle Folta** is the artistic director for the Voices of the Valley Children's Chorus and associate professor of choral/general music education at Columbus State University. She earned her PhD and MME at the University of North Texas, and a BM from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to graduate study, Folta taught chorus in Austin, Texas, where she was instrumental in transforming her campus into a Fine Arts Academy. Under Folta's direction, Voices of the Valley has been selected to collaborate with professional, collegiate, and community ensembles. The choir has performed internationally and at the 2019 Georgia MEA Conference.

### Western Branch Middle School Concert Choir



The Western Branch Middle School Concert Choir is the premiere choral ensemble at WBMS and comprises 7th- and 8th-grade students. In addition to their annual performances, the Concert Choir hosts an annual benefit concert for Title I schools, collaborates with various community and school arts organizations, performs throughout the Hampton Roads community, and was named a 2019 Virginia MEA Conference Performance Choir. The choir has also been featured on television broadcasts and is regularly invited to perform for events across the region. Members regularly earn placement into local, state, and national honor choirs.



**Kyle Cook** is the director of the Western Branch Middle School Choirs and the Outer Banks Chorus. He holds a BME from West Liberty University (WV) and an MM from Ohio University (OH). Cook began teaching in Currituck County, NC, in 2013 before moving to Chesapeake, VA, in 2017. He has been named Teacher of the Year at Currituck County Middle School and Western Branch Middle School and is a quarter-finalist for the 2022 Grammy Music Educator Award. Cook has guest conducted all-city, district, and community choral events throughout Virginia and North Carolina and has also presented professional development seminars at local and state conferences.

## Interest Sessions

### Anyone Can Arrange Music! (And Everyone Should)

We need to stop viewing arranging as an advanced skill that can only be taught or engaged in after a student has learned sufficient music theory and notation skills. More than any other activity, arranging music for your choir will make you a better director, and teaching your students to arrange will make them better musicians. Come learn how, in this session with Garrett Breeze, one of a select few who has made a full-time career out of arranging and orchestrating.



**Garrett Breeze** is a Nashville-based composer and arranger whose credits include film and television, Broadway stars, Grammy-winning classical artists, and many of the top high school music programs in the United States. He has more than 1,000 choral arrangements currently in circulation. He holds a bachelor's in media music from Brigham Young University and a master's in commercial composition and arranging from Belmont University.

### Australian Choral Repertoire for All Age Levels

Through the vast and diverse Australian landscape, the traditions and sounds of the Indigenous Ab-

origines, and the music of neighboring countries such as Indonesia, and the Pacific Islands, Australian choral composers have found a rich and unique voice that is distinctively Australian. This interest session focuses on presenting Australian choral literature that is accessible to choirs of different ages and capabilities, including children's choruses, high school and university choirs, community choirs, and semi-professional ensembles.



**Kym Scott** is the director of choral activities at West Virginia University, where she conducts four choirs, teaches conducting, choral techniques, and choral literature, and oversees the choral conducting graduate program. She regularly presents at state, regional, national, and international conferences. Scott is currently the immediate past president and collegiate honor choir chair for ACDA West Virginia.

### Begin with the End in Mind— One Warm-Up at a Time!

How many times have you effectively taught your choral literature, only to realize your kids sound great but look bored? This session will provide multiple creative choral warm-ups that promote expressive singing, musicality, aural skills, and esprit des corps. Using solfege, canons, and commercial jingles, along with mod-

ern pop and rock songs, participants will be exposed to unique ways to insert technical instruction into their daily warm-up routine.



**Holly Grefe** is in her 23rd year as director of choirs at Lafayette High School in Lafayette, Louisiana. During her tenure, her students have accumulated over 180 district, state and national awards. Her choirs have been selected to perform at multiple Louisiana ACDA State Vocal Conferences, as well as the 2016 Southern ACDA Region Conference. Grefe earned her MME from the Florida State University. In 2013, she was named Lafayette Education Foundation's High School Teacher of the Year.



**Victoria Qualls Atkins** has recently begun a new path as executive director of Chorale des Amis in Lafayette, LA. For 13 years, Atkins served as director of choirs at LJ Alleman Fine Arts Magnet Academy. Under her direction, LJA choirs consistently earned superior ratings at district and state music assessments. LJA choral ensembles were selected as a featured choir at the Louisiana ACDA State Conference in 2012. In 2014, Atkins was named Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Lafayette Education Foundation.



**Breaking Barriers, Blurring Lines:  
Genre-Homogenous Choral  
Music of Resilience—  
Works by Ellington, Williams,  
Brubeck, and Bonds**

Throughout the Jim Crow era to the 1960's race riots, composers expressed deeply held views for equity, equality, and justice and reached for new ways to have their voices heard. This presentation explores the jazz-classical-gospel blends of four pioneering artists—Duke Ellington, Mary Lou Williams, Dave Brubeck, and Margaret Bonds—and provides resources for performing many of their works.



**Melodie Galloway** is an experienced conductor, educator, performer, and composer. She holds an MM from the Florida State University and a DMA from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. She has appeared as an invited conductor for national and international performances, including the Eastern European premiere of Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* with combined choirs and orchestra. Currently, Galloway is professor of music at the University of North Carolina-Asheville.

**A Choral Tune Up:  
Time Savers and Stress Relievers**

This session, full of “use-it-on-Monday” ideas, will provide time-saving strategies and stress-relieving activities for the choral rehearsal. Following the pandemic, many have re-evaluated rehearsal priorities and desire to keep some of our pandemic practices with our in-person experience. As we transfer the community-building activities of online and small-group teaching to our full ensembles, we aim to enrich the choral experience in a post-pandemic world.

We will explore how mindfulness and community activities create a calm, safe, and inclusive experience for all singers.



**Erynn Millard** is the newly appointed director of choral activities at Florida International University in Miami.

Previously, she was the director of choral activities and associate professor of choral music education at Minnesota State University Moorhead. Prior to completing a doctorate at the Florida State University, she taught choral music for ten years

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## Interest Sessions

with Newport News Public Schools in Southeastern Virginia. She will conduct the European Music Educators Association Honor Choir in Frankfurt, Germany, in 2022.



### **Lesley Maxwell Mann**

is associate professor of music at Belmont University, where she serves as coordinator of music education, teaches coursework in choral methods, middle school methods, conducting, music theory, behavior modification, and conducts Women's Chorus. As a performer, she has sung with Vocal Arts Nashville, Collegium, the Festival Singers of Florida, and the Tallahassee Bach Parley. At Walt Disney World, she sang with the Voices of Liberty and swam with Finding Nemo, the Musical!



### **Amy Kotsonis** is associ-

ate professor of choral ensembles and music education at the University of Northern Iowa, where she conducts UNISingers and the Cecilians. She also teaches conducting, choral methods, and music education courses at UNI, and is the artistic director of the Metropolitan Chorale and UNI Children's Choir. Kotsonis completed a PhD in music education and choral conducting at the Florida State University, an MM at the University of New Hampshire, and a BME at New York University.

### **Conducting Outside the Box: Creative Approaches to Practicing Conducting**

In this interactive session, participants will engage in a series of unconventional conducting exercises aimed at enhancing the process of learning music and practicing conducting. What's it like to conduct with only your elbows? How can movement in the lower body during score study translate to expressiveness of conducting gesture? This session offers tools and strategies for adding layers of playfulness and exploration to a conductor's personal artistic practice.



### **Aaron Peisner** is direc-

tor of choral activities and assistant professor at University of North Carolina Wilmington, where he directs the Concert Choir and Chamber Choir and teaches courses in aural skills, conducting, class voice, and choral methods. He previously served as interim director of choirs at Goucher College in Towson, MD. He holds degrees from the University of Maryland, Yale University, and Wesleyan University.

### **Creative Classroom Management: Stop Disciplining and Start Teaching**

Managing a classroom is about communicating clear and consistent expectations. Through creative les-

son planning, student responsibility, and an insistence on excellence every day, the classroom will become a healthy and safe environment for musical exploration. Tools presented at this session can be tailored to each unique situation and individual instructor.



### **Lauren Whitham Ray-**

**naud** serves as associ-

ate director of choral activities at Western Kentucky University, where she directs the University Singers and Treble Chorus, and teaches music education and aural skills courses. Her choirs were invited to perform at NAFME conferences in Washington State in 2008, 2010, and 2014, and Kentucky in 2021. Raynaud earned her BM from Pacific Lutheran University, her MM from Western Washington University, and her DMA from the University of Georgia.

### **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: Navigating the Quest for Repertoire that Affirms All Our Singers**

Representation matters in our song selection. Finding authentic music to fulfill this mission, however, can sometimes seem like a mythical quest. In this interactive session, discover accessible resources where you can find repertoire honoring a variety of cultures, traditions, and



identities. From Sufi melodies to works by LGBTQ+ composers, participants will listen and sing excerpts from a variety of fantastic works and learn exactly where and how to find the powerful beasts that are shaping the future of choral music.



**Wes Stoner** is the director of choirs at Walton High School in the Cobb County School District in Georgia, where he conducts the T/B Ensemble, Camerata Singers, and Walton A Cappella. Stoner is also a candidate for a DMA from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami (FL). He is in his seventeenth year of teaching choral music at the high school level and has held several leadership positions in Georgia MEA and ACDA.

**Jami Lercher** is a clinician for this session. Her photo and bio are on page 47.

### Fixer Upper: Transforming Choral Communities Post-Pandemic

While the pandemic presented unprecedented challenges for choral singing, this time forced creativity, innovation, and collaboration. Reverting back to what we know can be comforting, but this is the time to remember the things from the pandemic that kept our programs alive while we move into the time to thrive. Whether you are entering

the teaching profession, moving to a new program, opening a school, or reviving a program, teachers will walk away from this session ready to restore, recruit, and restructure.



**McKenna Stenson** is an innovative conductor, teacher, and vocalist. She has built a career inspiring students to sing with confidence and motivating communities to create lasting change through song. Her energetic demeanor permeates positivity throughout the ensemble, creating a community of compassion, trust, and resilience. Stenson is currently a DMA student in choral conducting at the University of North Texas (UNT).

### Growth Mindset: Striving for Improvement in Your Choir and Yourself

This session centers on the growth mindset, which is a pedagogical approach fostering the belief that intelligence and skills can be developed instead of remaining static and unchangeable. The session will outline the growth mindset approach, present strategies and examples for implementing a growth mindset in an ensemble, and explore how the growth mindset can be used to address current societal issues like racism. Participants will learn about their own mindset tendencies, gain ideas for creating an environment of growth, and discover ways to combat

racism through professional growth.



**Trevor Tran** is head of performing arts and director of vocal arts at Fort Myers High School in Southwest Florida. At FMHS, he leads the choral ensembles, teaches AP Music Theory and IB Music, and advises the school's Tri-M Music Honor Society chapter. Tran sings with the Festival Singers of Florida and the Fort Myers Mastersingers, and actively composes. He holds concurrent master's degrees in choral conducting and music composition from Temple University and a BM from San Jose State University.

### Honoring Trans and Gender-Expansive Singers

Trans and gender-expansive (TGE) singers deserve safe and empowering spaces to engage in high-quality choral music experiences. Drawing from their new Oxford University Press book, *Honoring Trans and Gender-Expansive Students in Music Education*, the presenters will provide context and practical suggestions for working with students who inhabit a variety of spaces among gender-identity and gender expression continuums. Choral director-educators will have opportunities to reflect on their own choral settings, engage in a discussion of policies, consider instructional strategies, and practice healthy group vocal techniques (e.g. semi-occluded vocal tract exercises)

## Interest Sessions

that will honor singers from all age groups.

**Matthew Garrett** is a clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 46.

**Joshua Palkki** is a clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 47.

### Improving the Sectional Rehearsal: Steps to Productivity, Musicality, and Unity

Choir sectionals should be productive, musical, and unifying experiences for singers, and this session is designed to help student section leaders and their conductors. For

section leaders, the presenters will share strategies to maximize learning and musicality in sectionals, ways to address challenges like minimal preparation time and piano skills, and suggestions for inspiring peers and mitigating conflict. For conductors, the presenters will share ways to cultivate, encourage, and train their section leaders, help them pace rehearsals, and improve their teaching and listening techniques.



**Ryan Kelly** is associate professor and associate director of choral activities at West Chester University of Pennsylvania, where he directs four choirs and teaches courses in choral music. His degrees are from Michigan State University, the University of Oklahoma, and Houston Baptist Uni-

versity. He has numerous lecture appearances at national, regional, and state conferences of the AGO, ACDA, and NAFME. He is director of music and organist at Proclamation Presbyterian Church (Bryn Mawr, PA).



**Felicia Mulé** is the music teacher at Owen J. Roberts Middle School in Pottstown, PA, where she teaches choir and general music. She is also associate director for children's creative arts at Paoli Presbyterian Church in Paoli, PA. She has a BM and MM from West Chester University of PA.

### Looking for Treble in Old and New Places: Historical Repertoire for Treble Voices

Do you struggle to find engaging and high-quality historical repertoire for treble voices? You are not alone! This session will provide multiple resources for finding high-quality historical repertoire for treble voices of all ages. A diverse body of composers will be represented, including many not found in the traditional Western Canon. From 9th-century Byzantine church music to 20th-century Asia, this session will include historical repertoire from all corners of the globe.

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**Erin Plisco** is the associate director of choral studies at Missouri State University, where she helps lead a comprehensive choral program of over 300 singers, conducts multiple choirs, and teaches undergraduate/graduate choral conducting and literature. She is a frequent guest clinician across the United States and abroad, and currently serves as the SSAA R&R Chair for Southwestern ACDA. Plisco has a DMA from the University of Arizona.

### Meet Me in the Middle: Choral Music for Middle School Voices

Join clinician Andy Beck as we sing through the best and most appropriate repertoire selected specifically for middle school singers. Music in this session will address your big concerns, like finding music for changing voices, balancing fun selections with educational repertoire, motivating teen singers, easy movement ideas, and more. A complimentary music packet (including a variety of voicings, from 2-part treble through beginning SATB) will be given to each director in attendance.



**Andy Beck** received a BME from Ithaca College and an MME from Northwest Missouri State University. Beck currently is the director of choral publications at Alfred Music. A

prolific composer and arranger, he has over 450 popular choral works, vocal resources, and children's musicals currently in print, including the highly regarded method books *Sing at First Sight*, *Foundations in Choral Sight Singing*, and *Vocalize! 45 Vocal Warm Ups That Teach Technique*.

### More than a "Treat" — Making Broadway, Pop, and Jazz a Part of Your Curriculum

What if you could integrate pop, jazz, and musical theatre repertoire into your entire program instead of just one selection or concert? During this session, we will explore selections from these genres and show how proper vocal technique for these styles can be applied to our traditional concert repertoire. We will also discuss how to choose repertoire to best fit your choir's ability level and pedagogical needs while empowering the choir to assist in programming choices.



**CJ Redden-Liotta** (he/him/his) teaches at Falls Church High School and serves as music minister at Vienna Baptist Church. He has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra and NSO Pops as a professional chorister in the Washington, DC area, and musical theatre and cabaret performances as triple-threat performer, musical director, and audio engineer. Redden-Liotta is a graduate of the

University of North Texas (BA) and George Mason University (MM, DMA).

### A New Approach to Mandarin-Chinese Lyric Diction in Choral Music

This interest session presents a new approach to the Mandarin-Chinese lyric diction in Chinese choral literature, using a method in a combination of the International Phonetic Alphabet System and the Chinese Pin Yin System. It is designed specifically for non-native Chinese-speaking singers and choral directors who wish to perform and program choral repertoire in Mandarin Chinese and learn more about lyric diction beyond the traditional Western European lyric diction languages.

**Pingyi Song** is the clinician for this session. Her photo and bio are on page 24.

### Quarter Notes, Eighth Notes, and Dendrites! How Brain Research Can Make Your Rehearsals More Effective

Researchers have identified a number of principles that the brain uses in retention. By applying these principles, choral conductors can make their rehearsals more efficient and effective, and student singers

## Interest Sessions

will learn faster and remember better. This session will identify and describe practical techniques, supported by brain research, that the choral conductor can apply to any rehearsal situation from youth to university, middle school to life-long singer.



**Bradley Almquist** was appointed the director of choral activities at Murray State University in 1992. He received a BME and MME from the University of North Dakota and was awarded the first DMA in choral conducting by Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. Choirs conducted by Almquist have performed for the ACDA, MEA, and MENC. In addition, his choir was honored to perform the Raymond Brock Memorial Commission at the 2006 Southern ACDA Region Conference.

### Repairing the Racial Divide— Ways to Promote a More Inclusive Choral World

Gary Packwood, professor at Mississippi State University, and Paul Neal, associate professor at Berry College, speak to the need of open conversation about race in our choral world. In our choral profession, we must find new pathways of communication and personal accountability regarding the current racial climate in the United States.

**Paul Neal** is a clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 68.

**Gary Packwood** is a clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 54.

### Running an Efficient Rehearsal: Rehearsal Techniques to Improve Rhythm, Intonation, and Diction

This session will demonstrate strategies to lead efficient, engaging a cappella rehearsals. It will offer techniques to improve the rhythmic awareness of your singers. Methods to develop the aural skills of your singers and incorporate improved listening throughout the rehearsal will be demonstrated. Attendees will hear the amazing differences in intervals between equal temperament, mean tone, just scale, and Pythagorean tuning.

**Kent Hatteberg** is the clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 67.

The **Louisville Chamber Choir** is the demonstration choir for this session. Their photo and bio are on page 67.

### Shaping the Sound: Attaining Artistic Authenticity in Your Jazz and Pop Vocal Ensemble

This presentation will discuss the similarities and differences between traditional chamber choirs and Vocal Jazz ensembles, and will examine pedagogical approaches (adjustments) to achieving an authentic Vocal Jazz sound with your ensemble.



**Darden Purcell** is a featured soloist with symphony orchestras, big bands, and small ensembles. As a jazz vocal educator, her ensembles have performed at the Kansas City Jazz Summit, ACCENT Vocal Festival, and Jazz Education Network conference, and have shared the stage with the New York Voices, Manhattan Transfer and ACCENT. Purcell is the director of Jazz Studies, Jazz Voice instructor and director of the Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble at George Mason University. The Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble is a demonstration choir for this session.





The **Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble** is the award-winning vocal group of George Mason University. Founded in 2014, this group has performed at Jazz4Justice concerts, Mason Jazz Vocal Nights, the Kansas City Jazz Summit (where they were awarded “outstanding ensemble”), JENerations Jazz Festival, and were a featured collegiate group at the 2018 Jazz Education Network conference in Dallas, TX. The MJVE has had the distinct honor of opening for The New York Voices, The Manhattan Transfer, and ACCENT.

ference for four years. She is active as a conductor, adjudicator, and clinician. McDermott is continually searching for new ways to make advanced musical concepts accessible, and to prioritize artistry and expression for singers.

of teachers choose to leave the profession before their 5th year. This means that, for many, the longevity of one’s career is actually shorter than the time spent in school preparing for the profession. What are some steps we can take to manage burnout? Conductor survival strategies are an important part of every educator’s toolbox.

### Time for a Tune-up: Efficient Strategies to Manage Symptoms of Artistic Burnout

Let’s talk about burnout as a process, not an event. Nearly half



**Peter Steenblik** is director of choral activities at the University of West Florida and artistic director of the Choral Society of Pensacola. Previous

### Show Me the Rhythm!

Show Me the Rhythm! offers a kinesthetic system for singers to use when reading rhythms. Like hand signs, rhythm gestures allow the director to visually assess individual comprehension within a group setting. Students can no longer “hide” by mumbling their counts or tapping their rhythms lightly—rhythm gestures show who is in the know. This system helps to build in a sense of rhythm and meter, strong vs. weak, and metric vs. syncopated rhythms in simple and compound meter.



**Pamela McDermott** is director of choral activities at Longwood University in Farmville, VA, where she directs auditioned and non auditioned choirs, teaches conducting, choral methods, and aural skills. She is past-president of Virginia ACDA and chaired the Voices United Con-



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## Interest Sessions

appointments include chorus master for the Pensacola Opera, director of the Women's Chorus and assistant to the director of choral Studies at the University of North Texas, and director of Choral Music at Jordan High School (Utah). He holds degrees in conducting, vocal pedagogy, and music education from the University of North Texas and the University of Utah.

### "What Would You Do?" An Interactive Panel Discussion on Real-World Classroom Scenarios

Join us for an interactive panel discussion that will utilize action-based

perspectives emphasized by diversity, social-emotional learning, and culturally-relevant pedagogy to apply to real-world classroom scenarios. Session attendees will have an opportunity to submit questions about how to actively approach classroom scenarios before the session, and the panel will then discuss practical ways to support both students and the director in selected scenarios.

### Moderator:



### Emily Williams Burch

is visiting professor of music and coordinator of music education at the University of South Carolina–Aiken, and founder and artistic director at RISE Chorales

### Panel:



**Maria A. Ellis**, "Girl Conductor," is a music education consultant, creator of diverse music education resources, and conductor.



**Jasmine Fripp**, "The Passionate Black Educator," is music curriculum specialist, and anti-racist education trainer.



**Kanisha Howard**, "The Connected Black Educator," is a music educator and musician.

## Southern Region Registration Information

Register at [acda.org/region-conferences](https://acda.org/region-conferences)

Early Registration ends 11:59 pm CST January 27, 2022

Attendee \$280 Retired \$160 Student \$75

Registration after 11:59 pm CST January 27, 2022

Attendee \$310 Retired \$175 Student \$100

### On-site Registration

Attendee \$330 Retired \$225 Student \$150





## 2022 ACDA Southern Region Conference



**Chantae D. Pittman** is a high school choral director, adjudicator, researcher, and music education equity advocate.



**Christina Vehar**, the “Full of HeART Educator,” is a middle school choral director, advocate, and arts educator.

### Will I Ever Be Good Enough? Finding Our Worth as Conductors

Conductors at every level often feel inadequate. In a recent survey, many struggled to see themselves as “good enough” when compared to others who had more public success. This session will explore the reasons our career focuses on external validation rather than the daily successes we experience. It will present research-backed methods to help us focus on the actions that we control, and look at ways to improve mental well-being when we begin to feel frustrated with the conducting career.



**Alan Stevens** is co-director of choral activities at East Tennessee State University. He is the Southern ACDA Region and Tennessee State R&R Chair for TTBB choirs. He is a frequent guest conductor, and he works to develop interpersonal connections and a greater understanding of our shared humanity through choral music. Stevens is also the artistic director of the Knoxville Gay Men’s Chorus and Renovam, a professional choir based in Knoxville.



## 2022 ACDA Southern Region Conference

### Honor Choir Conductors

#### Advanced SATB Grades 10-12



**Jeffery Redding**, the 2019 Grammy Music Educator Award Recipient, is the newly announced director of choral activities at the University of Central Florida (UCF). Redding has led his choirs in performances at national, regional, and state ACDA conferences. Redding has conducted the ACDA National High School Honor Choir, ACDA Central, North Central, and Eastern Region Honor Choirs, and all-state and honor choirs in approximately forty states. Redding was awarded the R. Wayne Hugoboom Distinguished Service Award for dedicated service, leadership, and excellence by Florida ACDA. Redding holds a PhD in choral conducting/music

education and a MME, both from the Florida State University, and a BME from Florida A&M University.

#### Advanced Treble Grades 7-9



**Andrew Minear** is an active conductor, music educator, choral clinician, adjudicator, and conference presenter. Recent or upcoming conducting engagements include the National Concert Chorus in Carnegie Hall, the Seoul Oratorio Festival in South Korea, the Southern ACDA Region SSAA Honor Choir, Music and Worship Arts weeks in Lake Junaluska and Montreat, and all-state choirs in seven states. Minear has re-

## Honor Choir Conductors

cently been appointed director of choirs at the new Lake Buena Vista High School and is artistic and executive director of Orlando Sings. He received his DMA from Michigan State University and his BME and MME from the Florida State University.

### Unchanged Cambiata Tenor Bass Grades 4-9



**Tucker Biddlecombe** is associate professor and director of choral activities at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, where he serves as conductor of the Vanderbilt Chorale and the Vanderbilt Glee Club. He also coordinates the Blair-to-Peabody teacher education program teaching courses in choral conducting and music education. In addition, Biddlecombe is entering his fifth season as director of the Nashville Symphony Chorus, the vocal arm of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Biddlecombe is a graduate of SUNY Potsdam and the Florida State University, where he completed doctoral studies in choral conducting and music education.



**Mary Biddlecombe** serves as artistic director of the Blair Children's Chorus at Vanderbilt University, overseeing the program's six choirs encompassing students in grades 1-12. She also teaches courses in music education and choral literature at Vanderbilt as part of the Blair-to-Peabody teacher education program. Before joining the faculty at the Blair School of Music, she spent ten years as a public school choral director in New York, Georgia, and Florida, encompassing every grade level. Biddlecombe has conducted all-state choruses for Alabama and Florida, and regional honor choirs in ten states. She holds an MM from the Florida State University and a BME from the Crane School Music at SUNY Potsdam.

### Youth Treble Grades 4-6



**Kelly A. Miller** is an associate professor of music and coordinator of music education at the University of Central Florida, where she conducts the SoAl Chorus, Ensemble, and TeBa Chorus. She teaches introduction to music education, secondary choral methods, conducting, and graduate classes in music education while coordinating and supervising student teachers through their junior and senior internships. Miller is the president-elect of Florida ACDA and serves as the chancel choir director at Grace Covenant Presbyterian in Orlando. Miller holds National Board Certification in secondary choral music and a DMA in choral conducting from Michigan State University.



ACDA has embarked on a national campaign to help our organization bridge the gap between pre-pandemic and post-pandemic times. ONE ACDA is our effort to honor the impact that ACDA makes at every level of its existence: state, region, national. Find a full list of individuals who have given generously to this fund at: <https://acda.org/one-acda>

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