



ACDA NATIONAL
2025
 March 18-22 Dallas, TX

2025 ACDA National Conference

Concert Events and Performers (Purple Track, Orange Track, Both Tracks)

Tuesday Night

Welcome to Dallas Concert

Tuesday 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
 Winspear Opera House

Greater Dallas Choral Society for Children and Youth



The Greater Dallas Choral Society for Children and Youth (GDSC) proudly carries forward the legacy of its predecessor, the Children’s Chorus of Greater Dallas, which was established in 1997. GDSC remains committed to the twenty-five-year-old mission of providing children and youth with an experience in choral artistry in a group that reflects the diversity of Dallas. A nationally recognized organization, GDSC serves as the official children’s chorus of The Dallas Opera. GDSC’s seven choral ensembles serve nearly 350 children and teens in grades four through twelve, drawn from thirty-three communities within a thirty-five-mile radius of downtown Dallas.



Kimberley Ahrens is a nationally recognized choral conductor, educator, and clinician with more than twenty years of experience enriching children and youth through the study and performance of

the choral arts. Ahrens is currently founding artistic director of the Greater Dallas Choral Society, which was established in 2022 to continue the legacy of the prestigious Children’s Chorus of Greater Dallas. An expert in the adolescent voice, Ahrens is regularly engaged as a clinician and guest conductor for elementary and middle-school honor choirs throughout the nation. For eighteen years, Ahrens taught choir in the Texas public school system. She holds degrees from Texas Christian University and the University of North Texas.

Turtle Creek Chorale



As the most recorded male chorus in the world, Turtle Creek Chorale has provided musical journeys to audiences in Dallas, Texas, and beyond for over forty years and offers an annual mainstage concert series at Moody Performance Hall, Meyerson Symphony Center, and other venues around the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex. TCC also features smaller ensembles, and each group delivers a unique performance that highlights the members’ wealth of talent.



Sean Mikel Baugh is now in his tenth season as the artistic director of the Turtle Creek Chorale. Originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Baugh studied music at Oklahoma Baptist University and the University of Central Oklahoma and was awarded an MM from the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern

Methodist University. His choirs have enjoyed positive reviews and have been lauded for their musicality and emotional performances. An active advocate for TTBB choral music, he regularly commissions new works from established composers. Baugh also serves as conductor for Dallas-based Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, where he leads the choir and orchestra for worship services and concerts. He is in demand nationwide as a speaker and conductor.

St. John Church Music Ministry



The St. John Church Music Ministry is a component of the Music and Worship Arts ministry of the St. John Church, one church in two locations—Grand Prairie and Southlake, TX—pastored by Dr. Denny D. Davis. The St. John Church Music Ministry has recorded two projects and is the featured choir on Bishop Richard White's Live Recording, *I'm Glad*. Additionally, the St. John Church Music Ministry was the 2011 Dallas Regional Winner of the How Sweet The Sound Choir Competition. The choir presented *A Night of Gospel* at Carnegie Hall in 2023 and will be singing in the Eleventh Annual Choral Series in Florence, Italy, in June 2025. In 2021, the choir participated in the Welcome Concert for ACDA's Virtual National Conference.



Clark W. Joseph is minister of music at St. John Church in Grand Prairie/Southlake, TX. He earned a BM and MM (University of Louisiana @Lafayette), MS (Fordham University), and MTS (Perkins/SMU). He was awarded the honorary DMIN (Bell Grove Theological Seminary) and earned the DWS (Liberty University). Joseph has traveled the United States, Africa, and Europe teaching gospel music. He has conducted choirs for Dallas Symphony Gospel Goes Classical, Texas State Fair Night of Gospel, National Baptist Convention Musical, and TBAAL Black Music & Civil Rights Movement Concert. His awards include the Community Music Service Award from the African American Museum of Dallas.

The Vocal Majority



The Vocal Majority comprises more than 100 men volunteering from all walks of life with varying degrees of musical talent and experience, with hearts full of joy, excitement, and passion for singing. For more than fifty years, the chorus has created extraordinary musical experiences that have reached millions of listeners around the world. The Vocal Majority has twenty-five albums/CDs featuring their diverse musical repertoire that spans from time-honored barbershop, jazz, Broadway, pops, to sacred and patriotic. All recordings are available online for download and streaming. In 2023, Vocal Majority was streamed more than 7.1 million times.



Greg Clancy has served various leadership roles within the Vocal Majority and has been musical director since 2013. He has coached many award-winning ensembles and won the International Championship with his quartet, Max Q. Clancy won the Barbershop Harmony Society's Lifetime Achievement Award and was inducted into the Southwestern District Hall of Fame. He is celebrated as having the most gold medals of anyone in the Barbershop Harmony Society. Clancy has been in the North Texas music industry for thirty-five years, where he composes, produces, and sings jingles for radio and tv stations. He now co-owns TM Studios, a legendary audio branding house for media and advertisers.

Wednesday Night

Vocal Jazz Concert

Wednesday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Moody Performance Hall

11th-12th Grade National Vocal Jazz Honor Choir



Jennifer Barnes is a jazz vocalist, educator, clinician, and arranger throughout the U.S. and Canada. She has directed *DownBeat* Magazine award-winning vocal jazz ensembles at eight universities, including her current position as professor of music and director of vocal jazz at the University of North Texas. She has served as a guest conductor for district and all-state music festivals across the United States. Her vocal arrangements are published by Sheet Music Plus, Anchor Music Publications, UNC Jazz Press, and on JenniferBarnesMusic.com. Barnes is an active performing artist, including singing solo and group vocals for television shows, films, and video games such as *Enchanted*, *World of Warcraft*, and *Glee*.

Central Washington University Vocal Jazz 1



Vocal Jazz 1 is the premier jazz vocal ensemble at CWU consisting of fourteen to sixteen vocalists and three student rhythm section instrumentalists. Students are selected through a rigorous audition process judged on their technical skills, musicality, sight-reading/ear-training abilities, stylistic diversity, jazz sophistication, improvisation, and performance abilities. Vocal Jazz 1 has a strong tradition of consistent exceptional performances and emphasis on music education, and CWU has a history of producing exceptional educators, performers, composers, and arrangers. Professor Vijay Singh has directed Vocal Jazz 1 since 1999.



Vijay Singh is professor of music at Central Washington University, where he has garnered international attention for his eclectic compositions, arrangements, workshops, and performances. Singh's music is performed by groups in both choral and jazz idioms with over 190 published pieces. He has performed with the Robert Shaw Chorale, Male Ensemble Northwest, David Byrne (Talking Heads), Clark Terry, numerous orchestras, and the award-winning a cappella quartet Just 4 Kicks. His student ensembles have performed at regional and national conferences for ACDA, MENC/NAfME, IAJE, and JEN. Singh is a former ACDA National R&R Chair for Jazz.



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Concert Events (Purple Track, Orange Track, Both Tracks)

Keynote Address

Wednesday 8:15 pm - 8:30 pm
Winspear Opera House

Headliner Concert

Wednesday 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Winspear Opera House



Craig Hella Johnson is the founding artistic director and conductor of Conspirare. Beloved for crafting thought-provoking musical journeys that create deep connections between performers and listeners,

Hella Johnson is also artistic partner at the Oregon Bach Festival. Hella Johnson is a celebrated guest conductor of choral and orchestral works, and a published composer, arranger, and educator. Hella Johnson is an artist in residence at Texas State University, earning the 2022 Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarly/Creative Activities. His concert-length composition *Considering Matthew Shepard* was premiered and recorded by Conspirare and has been performed by more than sixty choirs worldwide. He and Conspirare won a 2015 Grammy for Best Choral Performance.

Thomanerchor of Leipzig, Germany



The Thomanerchor was founded in 1212. It is the oldest cultural institution in Leipzig and one of the city's most successful cultural ambassadors. The works of Johann Sebastian Bach, who held the office of Thomas cantor from 1723 to 1750, forms the choir's musical center. The choir's mission is the cultivation of religious choral music. Regular performances in the "motets" of the Thomas church Leipzig as well as musical support during the Sunday services form the focus of intensive rehearsal. The Thomas choir belongs among the elite ensembles of German and European musical life and is sought after in concert and media productions around the world.



Andreas Reize was raised in Solothurn, Switzerland, and sang with the boys choir of St. Ursen Cathedral. He studied church music, organ, piano, harpsichord, choral singing, and orchestra conducting

at the music colleges of Bern, Zurich, Lucerne, Basel, and Graz. He is the founder of Cantus Firmus vocal



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ensemble and consort with historic instruments as well as the Cantus Firmus chamber choir. Since 2006 he has served as the musical director at the “Waldegg Castle Opera.” Reize was inducted as the musical leader of the Thomaner Choir Leipzig in 2021. Reize teaches choral conducting at the College for Music and Theater “Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy” Leipzig and will make his debut as conductor of the Leipzig Opera in the 2024-2025 season.

organization in the Southwest, the DSO is committed to inspiring the broadest possible audience with distinctive classical programs, inventive pops concerts, and innovative multi-media presentations. As part of its commitment to the community, the orchestra reaches more than 243,000 adults and children annually through performances, educational programs, and community outreach initiatives.

Thursday and Friday Nights

Headliner Concert

Thursday 7:45 pm - 10:00 pm
Meyerson Symphony Center

Friday 7:45 pm - 10:00 pm
Meyerson Symphony Center

Dallas Symphony Orchestra



The Dallas Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of Music Director Fabio Luisi, presents more than 150 orchestra concerts each year at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, one of the world’s top-rated concert halls. As the largest performing arts



JoAnn Falletta has been music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic for twenty-five years, in addition to holding the titles of music director laureate of the Virginia Symphony, principal guest conductor of the Brevard Music Center, and conductor laureate of the Hawaii Symphony. Over the course of her career, Falletta has worked with over one hundred orchestras across North and South America, Europe, and Asia. She has conducted over 1,600 orchestral works by more than 600 composers, including 135 works by women composers and 150 premieres. She is a leading recording artist for Naxos, having won two individual Grammy Awards—for Richard Danielpour’s *The Passion of Yeshua* with the BPO and *Spiritualist* by Kenneth Fuchs with the London Symphony.

Dallas Symphony Chorus



The Dallas Symphony Chorus is the official vocal ensemble of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. This all-volunteer organization consists of members who

devote their time and considerable talent to rehearsals and performances with the Dallas Symphony, as well as appearances across the United States and with orchestras in venues around the world. The chorus traces its origin to an early 1977 meeting between DSO Music Director Eduardo Mata, Managing Director Lloyd Halderman, and University of Texas at Dallas Chancellor Bryce Jordan. Mata asked that a large-scale permanent vocal ensemble be created to make possible regular performances of major choral works with the orchestra. The DSC's first performance took place under Mata's direction at the Music Hall at Fair Park on September 23, 1977, with a performance of the Mozart *Mass in C minor*.



Anthony Blake Clark is director of the Dallas Symphony Chorus. He is in demand by both amateur and professional choral artists and serves as chorus director for the Dallas Symphony and is music director of Baltimore Choral Arts. He has worked with prestigious orchestras such as the Berliner Philharmoniker, Baltimore Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Vienna Radio Orchestra, and the Richmond Symphony Orchestra for esteemed conductors such as Marin Alsop, Fabio Luisi, and Sir John Eliot Gardiner. He and his choirs have performed at the Berlin Philharmonie, Vienna Konzerthaus, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, The Kennedy Center, and the Washington National Cathedral. Clark completed a master's degree at the United Kingdom's University of Birmingham.

Dallas Symphony Children's Chorus



The Dallas Symphony Children's Chorus, led by artistic director Ellie Lin, builds upon the rich history and practice of choral singing established in the Greater Dallas region, including the Dallas Symphony Chorus through its over forty years of service. The DSCC provides a multi-tiered choral curriculum for children and youth in grades four to twelve, with a continued emphasis on artistic excellence and representation of Dallas's diverse communities.



Ellie Lin is artistic director of the Dallas Symphony Children's Chorus. She also serves as artistic director/conductor of the Great Land Choral Society and a faculty member at Texas Music Conservatory. At the DSCC, Lin oversees the artistic and administrative staff, and leads choruses for performances in stand-alone concerts, community appearances, concert tours and participations in Dallas Symphony Orchestra concerts. Lin's choirs have performed in Austria, Germany, China, Taiwan, Argentina, Canada, and in almost every state in the United States. She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music.

Soloists



Felicia Moore, soprano, is recognized as a powerful and innovative artist, having made music in partnership with Alan Gilbert, Susanna Mälkki, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Rafael Payare, Sir Donald Runnicles, Speranza Scappucci, and Alexander Shelley, among others. An array of leading roles this season at Deutsche Oper Berlin include Lady Macbeth in a new production of *Macbeth*; Ghita in *Der Zwerg*; and Die Kaiserin (cover) in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. North America concert appearances include Verdi's *Requiem* with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* both with Xian Zhang and the New Jersey Symphony and with Tito Muñoz and the Phoenix Symphony.



Michelle DeYoung, mezzo-soprano, appears regularly with the world's most prestigious orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, and the Vienna Philharmonic. She has also performed at the festivals of Ravinia, Tanglewood, Saito Kinen, Edinburgh, and Lucerne. DeYoung has appeared with the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Teatro alla Scala, Bayreuth Festival, Berliner Staatsoper, and the Paris Opera. A multi-Grammy Award-winning recording artist, her most recent recording, the Met Opera's *Verdi's Requiem: The Met Remembers 9/11*, was nominated for a 2023 Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance.

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Jamez McCorkle, tenor, made headlines after his critically acclaimed appearance in the title role of the 2023 Pulitzer Prize-winning opera *Omar*, which premiered at the Spoleto Festival in 2022. This season, McCorkle makes two exciting role debuts as Florestan Fidelio at the Washington National Opera, which he also performs at Opéra national de Bordeaux; and as Siegmund Die Walküre at Santa Fe Opera. On the concert platform he makes a double appearance with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in Verdi's *Requiem* and Wagner's *Das Rheingold* as Froh and with St. Louis Symphony with Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, McCorkle is an alumnus of the Mannes College, The New School for Music, and Loyola University, New Orleans.



Lester Lynch has become recognized for his charismatic portrayals and commanding voice as some of opera's most important characters, including in pieces such as Dallapiccola's *Il Prigioniero*, Busoni's *Doktor Faust*, and Nico Muhly's *The Glitch*. Lynch has sung on the world's major stages, including Teatro alla Scala, the Royal Opera House, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Vienna Volksoper, and Houston Grand Opera. Recent performances include Zemlinsky's *Symphonische Gesänge* under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle in Munich, Frankfurt, and at Carnegie Hall with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. He made his film debut in 2021 as Merrivale in Gordon Getty's new opera, *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*.

Headliner Concert

Thursday 8:00 pm - 9:45 pm
Winspear Opera House

Friday 8:00 pm - 9:45 pm
Winspear Opera House

University of Pretoria (Tuks) Camerata



The University of Pretoria (Tuks) Camerata has received many national and international accolades. The choir's mission is to contribute toward the cultural development of the student body, enrich the lives of the students and the broader community through choral singing, and act as cultural ambassadors of the University of Pretoria. The Camerata falls under the auspices of the School of the Arts (Faculty of Humanities) and consists of seventy-six full-time students from a variety of study fields. In recent years, the choir has recorded five critically acclaimed albums and is regularly invited to conferences and symposia all over the world.



Michael Barrett is the conductor of the University of Pretoria (Tuks) Camerata and a senior lecturer in choral conducting in the department of music. In 2017 he was awarded a DM (Performing Arts)

in choral performance by the University of Pretoria. Barrett is an active composer and arranger whose music is published internationally by Santa Barbara Music Publishers and Walton Music. He is regularly invited to conduct honor choirs, present workshops and lectures, and adjudicate choral competitions both locally and abroad. He is the co-producer of Capital Singers, South Africa's largest community choir project.

Batavia Madrigal Singers-Indonesia



Batavia Madrigal Singers (BMS), Indonesia's renowned choir, has set a high standard both nationally and internationally since it was founded in 1996. Under the direction of Avip Priatna, BMS performs an impressive range of styles, from classical and folk to a cappella and vocal symphonies. In 2022 they won the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing. Collaborations with renowned orchestras, including Tübingen, Macau Orchestra, Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa, and Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie, reflect BMS's commitment to excellence and cultural exchange through music.



Avip Priatna, Indonesia's foremost conductor, studied orchestral and choral conducting at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (MDW), Austria. Priatna led both BMS and The

Resonanz Children's Choir to victory at the European Grand Prix for Choral Singing in 2022 and 2018, respectively. Regularly awarded Best Conductor and Best Song Interpreter at global choral stage, Priatna is also

a sought-after judge for high-profile national and international events. In recognition of his work in fostering cultural exchange between Indonesian and Austrian musicians, he was awarded Austria's Decoration of Honor in Gold for Services to the Republic of Austria.

Saturday Night Finale

Jake Runestad's Earth Symphony

Saturday 8:00 pm - 8:45 pm
Meyerson Symphony Center



Jake Runestad is an Emmy-winning and Grammy-nominated composer and conductor. He has received commissions and performances from leading ensembles and organizations such as VOCES8,

Washington National Opera, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, the Netherlands Radio Choir, the Munich Radio Orchestra, the National Chorus of Korea, the Dallas Symphony Chorus & Orchestra, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, and a Grammy-nominated all-Runestad album from Conspirare called *The Hope of Loving*. In 2019 he became one of the youngest composers awarded ACDA's Raymond C. Brock commission. Dubbed a "choral rockstar" by American Public Media, Runestad is one of the most frequently performed composers in the world and has traveled to work with ensembles on all but one continent.



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Baylor Symphony Orchestra



The Baylor Symphony Orchestra (BSO) is an ensemble of artistic excellence, where musicians will find an environment of camaraderie, motivation, and inspiration through a variety of repertoire from all periods, and where they can grow professionally and artistically. BSO has performed at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina; at the College Orchestra Directors Association; and eight times at the Texas MEA Convention. BSO has taken tours of Costa Rica and Belgium and has won the American Prize for Orchestra Performance four years in a row.



Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Emmy Award-winning and Grammy-nominated conductor, is director of orchestral studies at Baylor University. Previous positions include chief conductor of the Norwegian

Radio Orchestra, and music director of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra and the Auckland Philharmonia in New Zealand. Recent guest engagements include the Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, National Orchestra of Taiwan, Melbourne Symphony, and the Metropolitan Opera. He has established The Conducting Institute to teach the fundamentals of conducting to students ages high school and up. In the fall of 2025 he will join the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University as distinguished resident director of orchestras and professor of conducting.

Baylor University A Cappella Choir



Established in 1909, the Baylor University A Cappella Choir has enjoyed a vibrant history, performing at many major concert venues throughout the United States. Comprising the most advanced choral musicians at Baylor, its core priorities include fellowship, growth, excellence, and artistry. Performances abroad include the British Isles, Germany, Austria, Italy, France, and South Korea. Conferences invitations include National ACDA, Southwestern ACDA Region, and Texas MEA. In 2020, the Baylor A Cappella Choir was named winner of the American Prize Collegiate Division.



Kristina Caswell MacMullen serves as the Mary Gibbs Jones Chair of Music and director of choral activities at Baylor University. She conducts the Baylor A Cappella Choir, Chamber Singers, and leads

the graduate program in choral conducting. Prior to her appointment at BU, MacMullen served on the faculties of the University of North Texas and The Ohio State University. MacMullen has conducted all-state and honor choirs throughout the United States, and she has presented and co-presented interest sessions at state, regional, national, and international conferences. Her editions are published by Boosey & Hawkes and MusicSpoke. She earned degrees from Michigan State University and Texas Tech University. MacMullen sings with the professional ensemble mirabai.

University of Texas at Arlington
A Cappella Choir

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Chamber Singers



The A Cappella Choir is the premier choral ensemble of the University of Texas at Arlington. Comprising undergraduate and graduate vocal music majors, the choir’s diversity is representative of the UT Arlington student body, which is ranked the fifth most ethnically diverse university in the nation. The A Cappella Choir performed at Texas MEA (2014, 2019); NCCO (2019); Southwestern ACDA Region (2016, 2022); and served as ensemble-in-residence for the National Student Conducting Competition at the 2015 ACDA National Conference. The choir has twice been honored with the American Prize for Choral Performance: 2014 (finalist) and 2021 (third place).

The UTSA Chamber Singers, comprising approximately forty highly selective members, stand as the premier choral ensemble for the university. Under the direction of Yoojin Muhn, the ensemble delivers the highest caliber of choral repertoire, spanning across all musical eras. Noteworthy performances include appearances at the Caritas Concert Series at the Chapel of the Incarnate Word and the Symphony of the Hills’s Beethoven *Symphony 9* concert. They are prominently featured in the annual Winterlude event, various performances across San Antonio, as well as annual performance and recruiting tours.



Karen Kenaston-French is professor and director of choral activities at the University of Texas Arlington, where she conducts the A Cappella Choir, teaches conducting, and heads the Vocal Area.



Yoojin Muhn serves as the director of choral activities at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She also holds the position of music director for the San Antonio Mastersingers, a highly acclaimed

Under her direction, the UTA A Cappella Choir has performed at Texas MEA twice, regional and national ACDA, and the national conference of NCCO. Prior to UTA, Kenaston-French was director of choral activities at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee. She holds degrees from West Virginia Wesleyan College, SMU, and a doctorate from UNT. In 2019 she assumed the position of artistic director/conductor of the Fort Worth Chorale.

120-voice chorus of volunteers from the expansive San Antonio Area. She previously directed the Tucson Masterworks Chorale, co-directed the Oriana Women’s Chorus, and assisted in leading the Concert Choir at USC. Muhn received a DMA from the University of Southern California, MM degrees from the University of Cincinnati and Westminster Choir College, and a BA in composition from SookMyung Women’s University in Seoul, Korea.



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"American Immigrant Experience" Concert

Saturday 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm
 Meyerson Symphony Center

Santa Fe Desert Chorale



Founded in 1982 by Lawrence "Larry" Bandfield, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale is one of the longest-running professional music organizations in New Mexico, as well as one of the most distinguished American professional chamber choirs. "The Santa Fe Desert Chorale [is] a top-notch, 24-voice group... comprising the crème de la crème of professional choral singers from coast to coast" (*Dallas Morning News*). Their annual summer festival is one of the nation's largest choral events. Artistic Director Joshua Habermann has led the Chorale since 2008 in repertoire spanning seven centuries, from early polyphony to contemporary works.



Joshua Habermann is in his sixteenth season as artistic director of the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, one of America's leading professional choirs. From 2011 to 2022 he led the Dallas Symphony Chorus, and he continues to work regularly with symphonic and professional choruses. As a singer, Habermann performed with the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus under Helmuth Rilling and *Conspirare* under Craig

Hella Johnson. Recording credits include *Requiem* and *Threshold of Night*, both Grammy nominees for best choral recording. Recordings as a conductor include *The Road Home* and Rachmaninov's *All-Night Vigil* with the Desert Chorale. Habermann is a regular guest with all-state and university choirs and graduate conducting programs in the United States and abroad.

Morning/Afternoon Concerts

Concert Session A

Wednesday 9:30 am - 11:30 am
 Meyerson Symphony Center

Wednesday 1:15 pm - 3:15 pm
 Winspear Opera House

Nixa High School Chamber Singers



The Nixa Chamber Singers are a nationally recognized choral ensemble from Nixa High School, celebrated for their exceptional performances across prestigious venues. They showcased their talent at the Missouri MEA Conference (2023) and the Southwest ACDA Conference (2024). Additionally, they claimed the title of Grand Champions at the Worlds of Fun Festival of Choirs in 2022 and 2023. This ensemble

continues to set high standards in choral music, inspiring audiences with their musical excellence and passion.



Daniel Gutierrez, the head choir director at Nixa High School, is an acclaimed conductor, clinician, and speaker nationwide. He has earned several prestigious awards, including Teacher of the Year for Springfield Public Schools, a finalist for the state award, the Springfield Rotary Award for Community Service, and honors from the *Springfield Business Journal's* 40 Under 40. Gutierrez has received the Missouri Choral Directors Association Podium Award. His choirs frequently win at music festivals and have performed at regional and national ACDA events and the National Conference for MS/JH Choral Music.

McCullough Junior High School Chamber Choir



The McCullough Junior High Varsity Chamber Choir consists of around seventy auditioned students who are incredibly dynamic and hardworking. This choir includes a diverse group of students all in eighth grade, most of whom are involved in various other programs in and outside of school. These students are resilient representatives of the McCullough choir program values, and many of them hold student leadership roles on campus. This ensemble spends a lot of time outside of the school day striving to develop trust, comradery, community, and a sense of belonging.



Kelsie Quintana is a graduate of Sam Houston State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in music education and her MM in choral conducting. Under her direction, the McCullough Junior High Chamber Choir was selected to perform as an invited choir at the 2024 TMEA Convention. Before teaching at McCullough, Quintana was the director at Stewart Elementary, where she was named teacher of the year. Choirs under her direction have received consistent sweepstakes at UIL, as well as superior rating, best in class, and distinguished performance awards through various festivals.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Concert Choir



The UW-Madison Concert Choir is the premier choral ensemble in the Mead Witter School of Music. Comprising the most advanced upper-level undergraduate singers in the school of music, this flagship group performs works that span the entire breadth of the choral literary tradition. Concert Choir has had a distinguished history of conductors that include Donald Neuen, Robert Fountain, and Beverly Taylor. Under the leadership of Mariana Farah, Concert Choir is expanding its repertoire to include works by composers of various ethnic backgrounds, historical periods, and impact in shaping our common humanity.



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Mariana Farah is the director of choral activities at UW-Madison, where she conducts the Concert Choir, teaches courses in graduate choral conducting, and oversees a comprehensive choral program. Prior to her appointment at UW-Madison, Farah served as the associate director of choral activities at the University of Kansas. Choirs under her leadership have performed at the Missouri, Kansas, and Wisconsin MEA conventions and at Southwestern ACDA Region conferences. Farah maintains an active schedule as a clinician in Brazil and the United States, where she is often sought out for her expertise in Brazilian choral music.



Derrick Brookins serves as a devoted contributor of choral musical education. After completing his formal training in choral music education at the University of North Texas, Brookins earned a master's in secondary education/administration from Concordia University. His thirst for knowledge led him to pursue his EdD from North Central University in San Diego, California, cementing his commitment to continuous growth and development in his field. Brookins's formative years were marked by a transformative mentorship under the tutelage of Moses Hogan, with whom he studied and performed for thirteen years.

Concert Session B

Wednesday 9:30 am - 11:30 am
 Winspear Opera House

Wednesday 1:15 pm - 3:15 pm
 Meyerson Symphony Center

Brothers In Song



Brothers In Song, founded in 2020, is a distinguished choral ensemble composed of African American male choral music educators based in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Renowned for their unwavering commitment to the promotion and performance of excellent choral literature for the male voice, the ensemble places a special emphasis on the rich diversity of choral works by African American composers, both traditional and non-idiomatic. Through their outreach initiatives, they conduct choral clinics and workshops, particularly focusing on supporting young talents in economically disadvantaged educational environments.

Iowa State University Singers



The Iowa State Singers is Iowa State's premier choral ensemble. Drawn from a campus of over 30,000

students, it comprises freshmen through seniors, less than half of them music majors. The group annually presents a five-concert season, which has included full-scale Madrigal Dinners and choral-orchestral masterworks such as *Carmina Burana* and *Ein deutsches Requiem*. Commissioning new compositions and traveling internationally are integral parts of the group’s tradition. In 2013 the Singers were named the national winners of The American Prize, College/University Division.



James Rodde, the Moen-Hamilton Professor and director of choral activities at Iowa State University, Ames, conducts the Iowa State Singers, the Iowa Statesmen, and teaches choral conducting and literature. Choirs under his direction have toured internationally and have been honored with performances at six ACDA national conferences. He has been the artistic director of the Des Moines Choral Society since 2003 and has conducted regional ACDA honor choirs and numerous all-state choirs, most recently in Georgia. A former ACDA state president, he continues to edit and arrange choral music, with several published works.

lence in performance. The Cantanti Singers comprise singers grades 8-12, representing communities and schools across the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area. Led by Philip Brown, the Cantanti Singers has performed for state/regional/national conferences and for special events hosted in the twin cities. The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs organization was voted “Best Community Choir in Minnesota” by WCCO-TV in 2019.



Philip Brown is the high school choir conductor for the Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs. He holds degrees from Bethany College and Northern Arizona University. Choral groups under Brown’s direction have performed on state/regional/national conferences and festivals, receiving many awards and recognition. Brown has been a part of commissioning over thirty choral works in his tenure. His choral groups have also collaborated with many collegiate, adult, and professional choirs. Brown has received several awards recognizing his teaching and conducting from community and professional affiliations.

**Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs
Cantanti Singers**



Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs is one of the oldest children’s community choir programs in Minnesota. Founded in 1980, ACYC is dedicated to providing consistent, high-quality choral music education with excel-

**Trinity Springs Middle School
Varsity Treble Choir**



Located in Keller ISD, the Trinity Springs MS Varsity Treble Choir is a diverse ensemble consisting of students who are dedicated to making beautiful music while learning how to become incredible humans. Students are also involved in band, orchestra, art, theatre, sports, NJHS, student council, and yearbook, and indi-



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vidual choir members have been named to SWACDA and TCDA honor choirs. Varsity Treble performed as an invited choir at TMEA in 2023, SWACDA in 2022, and TMEA in 2019.



Clinton (Hardy) Ferrie is the head choral director at Trinity Springs MS and is in his sixteenth year of teaching. He received his bachelor's degree from TCU and his master's degree from UNT. The Varsity Treble Choir was invited to perform at the 2023 Texas MEA Convention, the 2022 Southwestern ACDA Region Conference, and at the 2019 TMEA Convention. He conducted the Varsity Tenor-Bass Choir at the 2021 National ACDA Conference.

performers, conductors, and educators from throughout the United States.



Robert Taylor is the founding director of the Taylor Festival Choir and professor emeritus at the College of Charleston, where he served as director of choral activities. Taylor served as director of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra Chorus for twenty-five years, with whom he conducted numerous choral/orchestral works. Taylor's ensembles have been featured in numerous festivals and conferences—including multiple ACDA and NCCO national conferences and the Spoleto USA Festival. The TFC has recorded for the Delos, Centaur, and MSR labels.

Taylor Festival Choir



The Taylor Festival Choir (TFC) is a professional chamber choir based in Charleston, SC. Founded and conducted by Robert Taylor, the choir is inspired by the lives and careers of his parents, Bob and Cornelia, music educators in their home state of Arkansas. TFC has toured and been heard in prestigious venues and festivals throughout the United States, Ireland, and the UK, and has garnered a reputation of excellence among critics and choral specialists alike. TFC has recorded with Delos Recordings, MSR Classics, and Centaur Records. Personnel in the ensemble represent

Concert Session C

Thursday 10:15 am - 12:15 pm
 Meyerson Symphony Center

Thursday 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
 Winspear Opera House

Montgomery High School Madrigals



The Montgomery Madrigals are from Montgom-

ery HS, a small rural town in Montgomery, TX. This choir consists of twenty-eight students and performs in a variety of concerts and community performances. The Madrigals have a long tradition of accolades. Many students are members of TFME and TriM Music Honor Society and are active in region and state solo and ensemble contests, NATS competitions, and region and all-state choirs. These young musicians are role models in the school and excel in all areas of academia.



Heather Orr is in her twenty-ninth year of teaching and twenty-third year as the Montgomery HS head choir director. Choirs under Orr’s direction have performed at the TMEA Convention in 2010, 2018, and 2024; National ACDA in 2011 and 2021; and the SWACDA Region in 2018 and 2022. Orr has been recognized with the TCDA Choral Excellence Award, UIL Sponsor Excellence Award, and Fine Arts Teacher of the Year Award. She is sought after as a presenter on developing tone and vertical alignment, a region clinician, and adjudicator.

**Luther College
Nordic Choir**



Nordic Choir, founded in 1946, enjoys national and international stature as one of the premier collegiate choral ensembles in the United States. Acclaimed for the way it honors the Lutheran choral tradition while

also featuring new and innovative choral works, the choir showcases versatility, artistry, and technical mastery across many genres of music. Nordic Choir is under the direction of Dr. Andrew Last. Last arrived at Luther in the fall of 2012 and became director of choral activities in 2017.



Andrew Last is the Weston Noble Endowed Professor and director of choral activities at Luther College, where he conducts the Nordic Choir, teaches conducting, and serves as the artistic director for Christmas at Luther. Last is part of an exciting choral program at Luther College that includes three choral faculty, nearly 400 singers, and five choral ensembles. The choir has numerous regional and national ACDA conference performances, and regularly presents choral/orchestra works. Last holds a BA from Luther College, an MM from Northern Arizona University, and a DMA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Ragazzi Boys Chorus, Silicon Valley
Concert Group and Choral Scholars**



Grammy Award-winning Ragazzi Boys Chorus, Silicon Valley, provides outstanding musical education and performance opportunities for boys and young men ages five to eighteen. The largest boys’ chorus in the San Francisco Bay Area, Ragazzi serves over 230 choristers in six tiered levels. Recent highlights in-



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clude performing Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* with the San Francisco Symphony and singing at the 2024 Western ACDA Region Conference. 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 is an experienced conductor, educator, and facilitator for lifelong learning in music. An energetic teacher, adjudicator, clinician, presenter, and mentor, he is known for building high-level musicianship skills through his engaging style and rapport with students. Recent highlights include conducting Ragazzi at the 2024 Western ACDA Region Conference and

in concert at the 2023 Chorus America Conference. Jue serves as the Children and Community Youth R&R Chair for the California Choral Directors Association and advocates for new music from underrepresented and local composers.

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 2023 the choir performed at

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Dr. Christopher Peterson
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the World Symposium on Choral Music in Istanbul, Turkey. In 2017, the University Singers won first place in the renowned Marktoberdorf International Chamber Choir Competition. The choir's recordings, *Evening Hymn* (2016), *Heavenly Display* (2020), and *Requiem* (2023), have been featured on NPR's *With Heart and Voice*. The ensemble enjoys frequent collaborations with the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.



Deanna Joseph is professor of music and director of choral studies 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.

Concert Session D

Thursday 10:15 am - 12:15 pm
Winspear Opera House

Thursday 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Meyerson Symphony Center

**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 seventh- and eight-grade ensemble consistently receives superior ratings at choral festivals and competitions and regularly performs as a guest choir with the Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society. Their virtual choir performance was featured at the 2022 Western ACDA Region Conference, and they performed at the 2024 Western ACDA Region Conference.



Athena Mertes is the director of choirs at Thurman White Academy of the Performing Arts in Henderson, Nevada. She is a graduate of UNLV, where she received a master's in vocal performance



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and a bachelor's in music education. Her virtual choir performance was featured at the 2022 Western ACDA Region Conference, and her Advanced Choir performed at the 2024 Western ACDA Region Conference in Pasadena. In 2020 she received the Teacher of the Year Award from Magnet Schools of America; she is also a national board-certified teacher.

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.

Riverside City College Chamber Singers



The RCC Chamber Singers have performed at the Western ACDA Region Conference in 2010, 2014, 2020, and 2024. They have also performed at National ACDA (2011, 2017, 2021) and NCCO (2011, 2015). The Chamber Singers have competed nationally and internationally, taking first place at the California International Choral Competition (2011), The Eisteddfod Choral Competition in Wales (2009), the Yeosu International Choral Competition in Korea (2013), and the Choral Competition in Spittal, Austria (2015).



John Byun received his BM from University of California, Irvine, and his MA 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.

Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zeldia Glazer BellArmonia



BellArmonia is the premier treble ensemble at Miami Arts Studio, a performing arts magnet school located in Miami, Florida. All of its members are first- or second-generation immigrants from Cuba, and Central and South America. The school and the vocal program are predominantly Hispanic, which parallels the community in which the school is situated. While students are exposed to a wide array of musical styles and time periods in their choral literature, each time we travel to a new place we bring a piece of Miami with us by preparing repertoire in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.



Cindy Ellis is a Cuban American music educator and vocalist. After immigrating from Cuba in 2005, she studied music education and became a full-time choral director at Miami Arts Studio (MAS). Her ensembles frequently record backgrounds for television

and a bachelor's in music education. Her virtual choir performance was featured at the 2022 Western ACDA Region Conference, and her Advanced Choir performed at the 2024 Western ACDA Region Conference in Pasadena. In 2020 she received the Teacher of the Year Award from Magnet Schools of America; she is also a national board-certified teacher.

award shows, including the Latin Grammys, and have been featured at various conferences and halls around the country. Ellis travels as a soloist and alto with the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers. She also serves as the World Musics & Cultures Coordinator for Southern ACDA and is the MAS 2025 Teacher of the Year.

Music at Luther College, where he served as conductor of the renowned Nordic Choir. From 2000 to 2010 he was the director of choral activities at Sam Houston State University. Hightower serves at Stonebriar Community Church in Frisco, Texas.

**University of North Texas
A Cappella Choir**



The University of North Texas A Cappella Choir is the premier ensemble of the UNT Choral Studies program comprising nine choirs. The A Cappella Choir has had a distinguished history of conductors that include Wilfred Bain, Frank McKinley, Hal Gibbons, Mel Ivey, Jerry McCoy, and Allen Hightower. The A Cappella Choir frequently performs at regional, national, and international conferences. Engagements include Southwest ACDA (2022), TMEA (2020), and National ACDA (1999, 2005, 2013, and 2021). A Cappella Choir serves as the core of the UNT Grand Chorus, performing major choral-orchestral repertoire.



Allen Hightower is the director of choral studies at the University of North Texas, where he leads the master's and doctoral programs in choral conducting and conducts the A Cappella Choir, Vox Aquilae, and Grand Chorus. Prior to his appointment at UNT, Hightower held the Weston Noble Endowed Chair in

Concert Session E

Friday 10:15 am - 12:15 pm
Meyerson Symphony Center

Friday 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Winspear Opera House

**Linn-Mar High School
Chamber Singers**



Chamber Singers is the forty-two-voice advanced mixed choir from Linn-Mar High School in Marion, IA. This ensemble is one of seven total curricular choirs that serve the 400 students enrolled in choir at Linn-Mar. Over 750 students are enrolled in at least one of sixteen ensembles offered in the choir, band, and orchestra departments. Chamber Singers focuses on exposing audiences to a rich and diverse repertoire of styles, stories, and experiences. The choir enjoys experiencing new and emerging works from composers all over the globe in addition to classic repertoire from the renaissance to the twentieth century.



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Trent Buglewicz is a choir teacher at Linn-Mar High School, where he has spent the last ten years. In addition to directing the advanced mixed chorus, Chamber Singers, since the fall of 2020, he also conducts Fortis, Cantemus, and the extra-curricular show choir Tenth Street Edition. He received his BME from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in 2014 and now lives in Cedar Rapids with his wife, Lexi Robson-Buglewicz. Buglewicz avidly enjoys watching the Yankees play baseball, struggles to play golf, and loves his students and colleagues at Linn-Mar.



Robert Istad is a Grammy Award-winning conductor and 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 artistry can be heard on Mahler's *Eighth Symphony* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic conducted by Gustavo Dudamel on Deutsche Grammophon (2021), for which he was awarded the Grammy Award for Best Choral Performance, and other recordings. He serves on the executive board of Chorus America and dean of Chorus America's Conducting Academy.

California State University-Fullerton University Singers

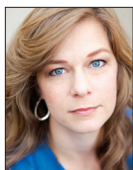


California State University-Fullerton's University Singers, led by Dr. Robert Istad, perform all over world and collaborate with Los Angeles Philharmonic and Pacific Symphony. They performed at the 2013 ACDA National Conference; 2013 NCCO Conference; and 2012, 2018, and 2023 Western ACDA Region Conferences. Recent tours include Rwanda, South Africa, Eastern Australia, Spain, Scandinavia, and Russia. They perform with conductors Gustavo Dudamel, Carl St. Clair, David Newman, and John Williams; and are heard on Sony Records' *John Williams and Steven Spielberg: The Ultimate Collection* and Yarlung Records' *Nostos: The Homecoming of Music*.

Texas Woman's University Concert Choir



The Concert Choir at Texas Woman's University in Denton, TX, is a forty-five-voice, select treble choir consisting of undergraduate and graduate students majoring in a variety of disciplines. It is the premier choral ensemble at TWU, which is a co-educational state institution primarily for women. In support of the university's female focus initiative, music by female composers is frequently featured on the Concert Choir's programs, as well as a wide span of literature from masterworks to modern innovations. Since the founding of the choral program in 1905, the choir has presented at regional and national conferences and at international events.



Joni Jensen is the director of choral activities at Texas Woman’s University (TWU) in Denton, Texas. She received degrees from Brigham Young University and the University of Arizona. She is a sought-after festival and all-state conductor/clinician. The TWU Concert Choir, under her direction, has performed at many conferences, including the 2019 ACDA National Conference. Jensen is active as a composer, publishing with Walton and Hal Leonard. She is also the editor of a series at Hal Leonard for advanced women’s choral music and is a musical director with Millennial Choirs and Orchestras.



J. D. Burnett enjoys a varied career as a conductor, singer, and teacher. He is artistic director of Orpheus Chamber Singers and is also director of choral activities at the University of Texas Butler School of Music, where he conducts the UT Concert Chorale and guides the graduate program in choral conducting. Additionally, Burnett is the founding artistic director of Kinnara, Atlanta’s premier professional chamber choir. He did undergraduate study at Stanford University and Oklahoma State University and holds advanced degrees in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College and the University of North Texas.

Orpheus Chamber Singers



Orpheus Chamber Singers, the premier professional chamber choir in Dallas, was founded with the express purpose of providing exceptional performances of traditional and innovative chamber choral music from the past six centuries. Since its first concert in 1995, Orpheus has presented a multi-concert subscription series each year to great critical acclaim. Orpheus has performed throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth area at venues including the Dallas Museum of Art, the Kimbell Museum of Art, UT-Southwestern Medical Center, Children’s Medical Center-Dallas, numerous public schools, and acoustically rich churches. Orpheus’s roster comprises the area’s finest professional singing artists.




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Concert Events (Purple Track, Orange Track, Both Tracks)

Concert Session F

Friday 10:15 am - 12:15 pm
Winspear Opera House

Friday 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Meyerson Symphony Center

Parker Elementary School Chorus



Established in 1975, Parker Elementary School is the oldest magnet school for the arts in the Houston ISD. It offers instructions in strings, piano, guitar, band, and chorus. Its excellence was recognized by the National Grammy Foundation, which named it a Signature Elementary School of the Year in 2002. Under the direction of Marianna Parnas-Simpson, Parker Chorus has grown from 30 to 250 students (grades 1-5). It is the only single school elementary school chorus ever invited to perform at the National ACDA Conference. Parker Chorus has collaborated with the Grammy Award-winning Houston Chamber Choir on many occasions and was featured in the 2024 documentary “Choral Singing in America.”



Marianna Parnas-Simpson grew up in Ukraine and graduated with a master’s degree in choral conducting from the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Russia. Since 2000, Parnas-Simpson has taught at Parker Elementary School, Houston ISD. In 2006 she founded Treble Choir of Houston, a choral ensemble for young women, grades 6-12. Her choirs performed multiple times at the National ACDA, TMEA, OAKE. The ensemble is featured in Bob Chilcott’s cantata *CIRCLESONG*. Parnas-Simpson is in high demand as a clinician and conductor in the United States and internationally. She is a founding member of the Grammy Award-winning Houston Chamber Choir.

Tidwell Middle School Varsity Tenor Bass



The Varsity Tenor Bass Choir at Tidwell Middle School comprises fifty-five seventh- and eighth-grade students who represent every corner of our school and are some of the hardest working and dedicated kids Tidwell Choir has ever seen. From academic accolades to victories on the football field, these well-rounded singers put their heart into everything they do. These students embody the motto of Tidwell Choir, “Work Hard, Be Kind” while upholding the tradition of choral excellence from year to year.

Evan Lane serves as the head choir director at Tidwell Middle School. Lane received his BME from TCU in 2018. During his six years at Tidwell, Lane has grown the program to 450 students. His choirs receive consis-



tent sweepstakes awards at UIL, superior ratings at district contests, and hold two national titles from the Foundation for Music Education's Annual Mark of Excellence National Choral Honors Competition. As a native Texan, Lane is a product of the rich choral tradition that is present within the state.

**J. S. 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 the GMEA Conference and global venues such as Christ Church, Dublin, Ebenezer Baptist Church, St. Thomaskirche, La Sagrada Familia, Lincoln Center, and the Vatican. Under the direction of Phillip Streetman, the group continues to seek challenging and enriching performance opportunities while sharing their love of and appreciation for choral arrangements and composers.



Phillip R. Streetman is director of choral studies at the Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School. Streetman holds an undergraduate degree from Georgia Southwestern State University and an MM from the University of Georgia. In addition to his work with Davidson, Streetman serves as choir master at Wood-

lawn UMC in Augusta, GA. He was Davidson Fine Arts' teacher of the year 2020-2022, Richmond County Choral Director of the Year 2022-2023, and currently serves as the Georgia ACDA's R&R chair in Vocal Jazz/A cappella.

**Brigham Young University
Singers**



Members of the forty-voice Brigham Young University Singers pursue a wide variety of mostly undergraduate degrees at BYU. As one of the nation's largest private universities, its more than 30,000 students come from all parts of the United States and 120 foreign countries. Roughly 1,000 students at BYU sing in a choir. Since its founding in 1984 by Dr. Ronald Staheli, BYU Singers has performed in many of the world's most prestigious venues, recorded multiple full-length albums, and earned top prizes in international choral competitions. Dallas 2025 marks the choir's fifth invited performance at an ACDA national conference.



Andrew Crane joined the BYU faculty in 2015, where his main duties include conducting the Brigham Young University Singers and teaching courses in the graduate choral conducting program. Previous positions include director of choral activities at East Carolina University and California State University, San Bernardino. Crane has appeared as a guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and/or lecturer in twenty U. S. states and eight foreign countries. He continues to per-



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form actively as a professional solo and ensemble tenor, and also curates the Andrew Crane Choral Series through Walton Music. He holds a BM and MM from Brigham Young University and DMA from Michigan State University.

Vocal Jazz and Show Choirs Concert

Saturday 11:15 am - 1:15 pm
Winspear Opera House

California State University-Long Beach Pacific Standard Time



Pacific Standard Time is the top vocal jazz ensemble at California State University-Long Beach. The group has performed at the most prestigious educational events, including multiple JEN and IAJE conferences, and multiple regional and national ACDA conferences. Pacific Standard Time has also performed at the Playboy Jazz Festival (Hollywood Bowl) and the Monterey Jazz Festival, and with internationally renowned artists such as Kurt Elling, Peter Eldridge, and Dena DeRose. In the Graduate College Vocal Jazz Ensemble category, PST has been honored with DownBeat Student Music Awards for the past fifteen years in a row (2010-2024).



Christine Guter is the director of vocal jazz at Cal State Long Beach, where she directs the award-winning ensemble Pacific Standard Time. She is a professional vocalist in the LA area and has sung on dozens of Hollywood soundtracks, including Disney's *Wish*, *Hocus Pocus 2*, *Dr. Strange and the Multiverse of Madness*, *Mulan*, *Star Wars Rogue One*, *Sing!*, and *Star Trek Beyond*. Guter is active internationally as an adjudicator and clinician, and has conducted numerous all-state and honor choirs. In 2018 she received the Jazz Education Achievement Award from *DownBeat* Magazine.

John Burroughs High School Powerhouse



Powerhouse is the elite-level choir from John Burroughs High School in Burbank, CA. Singing both classical and contemporary genres, this ensemble has performed in every corner of the United States, winning numerous local and national show choir championships. Under the direction of Brendan Jennings, Powerhouse has appeared on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Dancing with the Stars*, and *The Voice* as well as on stage at the Hollywood Bowl, the Grand Ole Opry, and Lincoln Center. Powerhouse has taken two international tours and has shared the stage with artists such as Christina Aguilera and Stevie Wonder.



Brendan Jennings is the director of vocal music at John Burroughs High School, of which he is an alumnus. He heads a nationally acclaimed music program that features seven highly accomplished performing ensembles, a cutting-edge technical theater program, and nearly 300 students. His choirs have won numerous awards and made appearances on stages all over the world. Jennings is a sought-after musical director, clinician, and vocal teacher. He received two bachelor's degrees and a teaching credential from the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music and an MM at California State University, Los Angeles.



Chris Albanese serves as associate professor of choral conducting at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he conducts the Grammy-nominated Singing Hoosiers. He concurrently serves as director of the Akron Symphony Chorus. As director of The Singing Hoosiers, he has conducted and prepared collaborations with notable guests including Sylvia McNair and Sandi Patty, and has led the ensemble for performance at ACDA's national conference. An active performer, he was previously a tenor with Chanticleer and the Santa Fe Desert Chorale.

**Indiana University Bloomington
Singing Hoosiers**



For seventy-five years, the Grammy-nominated Indiana University Singing Hoosiers have entertained audiences across the United States and abroad with America's popular song, enjoying collaborations with Duke Ellington, Mel Torme, Sylvia McNair, and the Cincinnati Pops. Housed within IU's Jacobs School of Music, the ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Chris Albanese, comprises approximately 100 singers representing over twenty majors at Indiana University. Notable Singing Hoosiers alumni include Ryan Murphy (creator/producer, *Glee*), Elizabeth Stanley (Broadway), and a cappella sensation Straight No Chaser.

Music in Worship Event

Saturday 11:15 am - 12:30 pm
First United Methodist Church
Sanctuary

**Duke University
Duke Chapel Schola Cantorum**



The Duke Chapel Schola Cantorum is a flexible chamber ensemble auditioned from within the 100-voice Duke University Chapel Choir. Comprising section leaders, community members, and students, the Schola sings in Sunday morning worship services and festival services at Duke Chapel, including All Hallows



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Eve and Christmas Eve. Recent concert offerings have included a program of spirituals and chorales for the Society for Christian Scholarship in Music; a multi-faith concert commemorating September 11; and a presentation of Bach's *St. John Passion* in collaboration with the Chapel's Evensong Singers. The Schola's first professional recording will be released in summer 2025.



Zebulon M. Highben serves as director of chapel music at Duke University Chapel and associate professor of the practice of church music at Duke Divinity School. He conducts the Duke University Chapel Choir and Schola Cantorum, teaches courses in sacred music and worship, edits the Music from Duke Chapel choral series with MorningStar Music, and oversees the Chapel's extensive music program. More than seventy of Highben's compositions are published by eight domestic publishing houses and by Gehrman's Musikförlag in Sweden. He is a past recipient of The Dale Warland Award in Choral Conducting from The American Prize.

Sunday worship services, they perform major choral concerts and choral works with orchestra every year. They have made several sacred music recordings, and have been honored to sing at both the regional and national ACDA conferences and for the North Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The choir has toured extensively to countries throughout Europe, Canada, and the United Kingdom.



Dana Effler serves as director of music and arts ministries at First United Methodist Church of Dallas, where she oversees a graded choir and handbell program, the Rotunda Theatre program, and the Goodrich Gallery. She conducts the Chancel Choir, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, and Variations Youth Choir. Under her direction, the Chancel Choir has toured extensively throughout Europe, Canada, and the UK, and have sung for both regional and national ACDA conferences and for the United Methodist Annual Conference. Effler earned her BME from Furman University and MMs in choral conducting and vocal performance from Southern Methodist University.

First United Methodist Church of Dallas Chancel Choir



The Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church of Dallas is made up of volunteer singers from around the Dallas metroplex. In addition to singing for

Prairie View A&M University Concert Chorale



The Prairie View A&M University Concert Chorale is the flagship choral ensemble of the university's department of music. Our choir's repertoire spans sev-

eral centuries of choral art music, including works by African American composers, with a noted emphasis on the performance, presentation, and preservation of the Negro spiritual. As a historically black college/university that, since its inception in 1876, has opened its doors to any and every person seeking a first-class, four-year university experience, our ensemble has presented performances of the Negro spiritual with excellence, authenticity, and respect.



Demetrius Robinson serves as the director of choral activities and music education coordinator at Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas. Robinson received a BME in vocal and instrumental music and an MM in choral conducting from the University of Southern Mississippi. He also completed an educational specialist degree in educational leadership at William Carey University and a PhD in music education at the University of Memphis. Robinson received the Future Music Faculty Fellowship from the Cleveland Institute of Music in 2022.

Convention in February, under the baton of acclaimed conductor Richard Bjella. During the TMEA convention, the choir will engage in four days of intensive rehearsals. Presenting an encore of that performance for ACDA members, this marks the second time a TMEA all-state choir has been invited to perform at an ACDA national conference.



Richard Bjella has distinguished himself as a conductor, clinician, choral pedagogue, and choral arranger around the world. In 2014, Bjella was appointed artistic director of the San Antonio Chamber Choir. Their CD, *Unfrozen: A Baltic Christmas*, received Grammy attention in 2018. He retired from Texas Tech University in 2017, but previous to his work in Lubbock, Bjella served twenty-five years as director of choral studies at the Lawrence Conservatory of Music, leading the Concert Choir in an acclaimed performance at the 2009 National ACDA Conference. He is also active in the promotion of creative choral programming and has a chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of Choral Pedagogy* (2017) “The Art of Successful Programming: Study, Selection, and Synthesis.”

Featured Concert

Saturday 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Winspear Opera House

TMEA All-State Large School Mixed Choir



Selected through a highly competitive multi-level audition, the top high school choristers in Texas will be named to the 2025 TMEA All-State Large School Mixed Choir in January. The choir’s 224 voices will unite for the first time during the TMEA Clinic/

**Call for 2025 Choral Journal
Summer Festival/Workshop Listings!**

The March/April 2024 issue will feature our annual free Summer Festival and Workshop Listing. Email submissions to abumgarner@acda.org by January 15, 2025, in the following format:

- Event date
- Event name
- Event location
- One-sentence description of the event
- Contact information
(e.g., name, phone, email, website)