



ACDA NATIONAL  
2025  
March 18-22 Dallas, TX

## 2025 ACDA National Conference

### Immersion Choir Experiences (Open to Both Tracks)

Immersion Choirs are returning in a new format! Each Immersion Choir experience is offered as a ninety-minute session, no pre-registration required. There is no performance, and you do not have to make an ongoing commitment to experience these sessions. Sessions are repeated on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, allowing you to choose a different Immersion Choir experience each day!

The Black Diaspora, Southeast Asia, and Latin America Immersion Choir sessions are each offered three times:

Wednesday 4:45 pm-6:15 pm

Thursday 4:45 pm-6:15 pm

Friday 4:45 pm-6:15 pm

#### Music of the Black Diaspora

Wed., Thur., and Fri. 4:45 pm - 6:15 pm  
Sheraton Dallas Hotel  
Austin Ballrooms 1, 2, and 3

Anton Armstrong and Brandon Boyd will lead the Black Diaspora Immersion Choir, which will explore the performance practice in the genres of the Black Spiritual and Gospel Music. Drawing on settings by historic and contemporary composer/arrangers, Armstrong and Boyd will explore issues of tempo, use of dialect and appropriate vocal timbre for the interpretation of these genres with musical integrity.



**Anton Armstrong** is in his thirty-fifth year as conductor of the St. Olaf Choir, marking him as the longest tenured conductor in the ensemble's storied 112-year history. He is the Harry R. and Thora H. Tosdal Professor of Music at St. Olaf College, becoming the fourth conductor of the St. Olaf Choir in 1990. He is a graduate of St. Olaf College and earned advanced degrees at the University of Illinois (MM) and Michi-

gan State University (DMA). He is editor of a multicultural choral series for earthsongs, co-editor of the revised St. Olaf Choral Series for Augsburg Fortress Publishers, and has initiated the Anton Armstrong Signature Choral Series with Gentry Publications. Armstrong currently serves as chair of the National Board of Chorus America and has returned to serve on the National Board of The Choristers Guild.



**Brandon A Boyd** is the Marie M. and Harry L. Smith Endowed Professor and the director of choral activities at the University of Missouri, where he conducts the MU University Singers, Sankofa Chorale, and Choral Union Symphonic Chorus. He also leads the graduate choral conducting program. He is a conductor, composer, collaborative pianist, and frequent presenter. His compositions are performed across the U. S. and abroad, and he curates the "Brandon A. Boyd Choral Series" with Hinshaw Music Publications. He is also the executive choral editor for Gentry Publications. He holds degrees from The Florida State University (PhD and MM) and Tennessee State University (BME).

#### Music of Latin America

Wed., Thur., and Fri. 4:45 pm - 6:15 pm  
Sheraton Dallas Hotel  
Dallas Rooms A1, A2, and A3

During this session, participants will explore different aspects of the Latin American choral tradition, including works from the colonial period and other traditional repertoire, as well as music that was inspired by or based on Latin American folk music. While rehearsing and singing, participants will get insight into performance practices, rehearsal techniques and cultural understanding of the repertoire, and the context in which the pieces were created.



**Daniel Afonso Jr.** is the coordinator of vocal and choral studies at California State University, Stanislaus, and conductor and founding director of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra Chorus. Originally from Rio de Janeiro, Afonso has been recognized for his research and performance of Brazilian choral music and continues to present workshops and lectures about the Latin American choral repertoire in the U. S. and abroad. He is the recipient of the 2020 California MEA's John Swain College-University Educator Award. Afonso is also an arranger, composer, and editor. His choral music is heavily influenced by Brazilian folk music and has been performed throughout the Americas, Asia, and Europe.



**Diana V. Sáez** is the director of choral activities at Towson University in Towson, Maryland, directing the University Chorale, Treble Voices, and Choral Society. Prior to this appointment, Sáez served as visiting choir director at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and visiting choir conductor at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. As a leading specialist in the field of Latin American music, Sáez is a frequent guest conductor, adjudicator, and lecturer. She began her musical education at the Escuela Libre de Música in San Juan, Puerto Rico. She earned an MM from Temple University and a DMA at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her compositions for choir are published by Hal Leonard, Boosey and Hawkes, the Roger Dean, and La Voz Publishing.

## Music of Southeast Asia

Wed., Thur., and Fri. 4:45 pm - 6:15 pm  
 Sheraton Dallas Hotel  
 Dallas Rooms D1, D2, and D3

Be ready to sing in four languages! Explore East and Southeast Asian choral music through pieces that not only convey a message of hope but also a deep sense of gratitude and pride in cultural heritage. Through evocative melodies, lush harmonies, and historical context, we reflect on the strength of the human spirit and celebrate shared cultural threads that connect people across borders, creating a rich tapestry of sound that reflects the beauty of the Asian diaspora. Ultimately, this session is a celebration of heritage through singing and a tribute to the folk songs and cultures that inspires new choral music.

**John Byun** will be a clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 28.



**Tracy Wong** is a Malaysian Canadian choral conductor, music educator, composer, vocalist, and pianist. She strives to provide unique experiences for singers through collaborative commissions, customized workshops, festivals, and artist residencies. At Western University, Canada, she is the assistant professor of choral studies and conducts Chorale and Les Choristes ensembles and teaches choral conducting. She holds a DMA (choral conducting) from the University of Toronto. She collaborates regularly with choral organizations in North America and internationally on conducting events, workshops/clinics, commissioned projects, and residences. Her compositions are widely published and performed internationally.