



ACDA NATIONAL
2025
 March 18-22 Dallas, TX

2025 ACDA National Conference

Insight Choir Sessions (Open to Both Tracks)

Exploring the Negro Spirituals and Anthems by Lela Anderson

Friday 9:00 am - 9:50 am
 First United Methodist Church
 Sanctuary

Many composers today have drawn inspiration from early Negro spirituals by using call-and-response techniques, syncopated rhythms, and embellishments. The purpose of this session is to explore the spiritual arrangements and anthems of Lela Anderson, a Texas native and celebrated composer/arranger of negro spirituals and anthems. Lela Anderson and Demetrius Robinson will guide the insight choir through the interpretation and performance practice of various spiritual arrangements and anthems. Attendees will leave the session with a greater awareness of Anderson's choral works and her inspiration for writing, a resource guide including a set of octavos to incorporate in their choral library, and practical strategies to assist in performing Anderson's works with authenticity and respect.

The **Prairie View A&M University Concert Chorale** will be the insight choir for this session. Their photo and bio are on page 36.

Demetrius Robinson will be the clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 37.

Shelter Me: Sharing Stories of Our Unhoused Neighbors through Music

Saturday 9:00 am - 9:50 am
 Moody Performance Hall
 Auditorium

This session will feature singers from the Dallas Street Choir, the University of Texas at Dallas, the Credo Community Choir, conductor-teacher Jonathan Palant, and composer-lyricist Jacob Ryan Smith. Together, we will explore the transformative power of communal singing and how every choral rehearsal serves as a beacon of connection for those too often isolated. Hear selections from *Shelter Me: An Original Rock Oratorio*, commissioned by the Dallas Street Choir, which chronicles one man's sudden journey through homelessness. His steadfast companion is an older man who is well versed in the trials of homelessness. *Shelter Me* is based on the real-life experiences of Dallas Street Choir members and offers hope and resilience in the face of adversity.

Singers from the **Dallas Street Choir, UT Dallas**, and the **Credo Community Choir** will be featured in this session, led by conductor Jonathan Palant with composer Jacob Ryan Smith. Together, we will explore how the transformative power of communal singing fosters connection for our unhoused neighbors. (Re)discover how

acda.org



1. REGISTER
2. BOOK HOTEL RESERVATION

Conference hotel information is provided *after* registration. Book NOW to ensure the low-rate ACDA room block!

ROOM BLOCK DISCOUNTS END FEBRUARY 24



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Jonathan Palant is associate dean of the arts and director of choral activities at the University of Texas at Dallas and is founder of both the Credo Community Choir and the Dallas Street Choir. Palant serves as president emeritus of the National Alliance for Music in Vulnerable Communities, SWACDA R&R chair of community choirs, and sits on the board of directors of the Intercollegiate Men's Choruses. In 2017 the *Dallas Morning News* named Palant one of nine "Texan of the Year" finalists; in 2016, Musical America named him an "Innovator of the Year" for establishing the Dallas Street Choir.

music cultivates empathy, understanding, and drives social change. Hear selections from *Shelter Me: An Original Rock Oratorio* commissioned by the Dallas Street Choir. Rooted in real-life experiences, *Shelter Me* offers hope and resilience amid adversity, highlighting the strength found in community and the healing power of music.

CCM SUMMER CHORAL INTENSIVE

Declared "one of this country's leading conservatories" by the *New York Times*, UC's College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) offers an exceptional summer choral intensive program.

CHORAL CONDUCTING WORKSHOP

July 6-12, 2025

Early bird registration due May 1

Registration deadline June 15

Offers a focused immersion in new pedagogies, literature and performance practice.

- Receive coaching on body mapping, voice and choral pedagogy
- Explore a wide range of historic and modern repertoire
- Gain exposure to the CCM International Conducting program and performances
- No audition required

INTERNATIONAL CONDUCTING TRAINING PROGRAM

July 5-12, 2025

Application deadline April 4

Offers advanced training for conductors who seek to elevate their professional experience with guidance from CCM's renowned faculty.

- Refine your gesture, approach and score analysis
- Rehearse and conduct a professional chorus and orchestra
- Prepare masterworks for performances
- Audition required

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