



ACDA NATIONAL
2025
 March 18-22 Dallas, TX

2025 ACDA National Conference

R&R Forums and Deep Dives (Open to Both Tracks)

Children and Community Youth Choirs

Forum

Wednesday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 First United Methodist Church
 Crossroads

Relationships and Repair: Building Robust Choral Communities across Socioeconomic Diversity

Who are we missing in our ensembles? How might we prepare new teachers for success when their first assignment is in a low-income school? This forum will discuss research, practice, and practical aspects of working with individual students living in low SEC households and more broadly engaging with low SEC communities. Presenters will address research on the effects of poverty and share teaching strategies aimed at addressing the cognitive impact and social and emotional challenges associated with living in poverty. The goal is to establish a supportive, learner-focused environment that fosters a holistic music education for all. Presenters will also outline Tucson Girls Chorus' Community Engagement Program, which aims to expand choral access in Title I schools. This example will consider unexpected challenges, lessons learned, and relationship-driven successes as a potential model for public school teachers, community organizations, and teacher preparation programs.

Presenters: Joy Hirokawa, Katy Green, and Nicky Manlove

Deep Dive

Friday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 First United Methodist Church
 Crossroads

Something for Everyone!

The children and youth deep dive features great repertoire that is available in multiple voicings, unison to SATB! You will be introduced to pieces that are versatile, fun, meaningful, and poignant!

Presenters: Joy Hirokawa, Darren Dailey, Chaequan Anderson, and Michael Bussewitz-Quarm

Community Choirs

Forum

Wednesday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 National Shrine Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Salon

Community Choir Best Practices Discussion

This forum discussion will be a time to ask and answer questions about issues that impact all of us, including: singer recruitment/retention, marketing/promotion, audience building, grant writing, fundraising, and general operational practices. Come share your expertise and learn from others in the field to improve the work we all do with our community choirs.

Presenter: Matt Hill



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program of your own. Topics will include pop vocal pedagogy, teaching vocal percussion/beatboxing, bass singing, mic technique, where to find arrangements, and more!

Presenter: Rob Dietz

Community Choir Deep Dive

Join us for a repertoire exploration session that will focus on rehearsal tips for a handful of specific pieces, accompanied by a larger list of titles for your consideration.

Presenter: Matt Hill

Deep Dive

Saturday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
First United Methodist Church
Upper Room (3rd Floor)

Building Expressive, Versatile Singers through Contemporary A Cappella

Come explore contemporary a cappella repertoire as a foundational tool to help teach healthy and stylistically appropriate pop singing! In this session we will analyze and sing several pop a cappella arrangements, as well as discuss best practices for teaching in this style. Participants will gain a better understanding of the construction of popular arrangements, the technique necessary to sing pop genres with authenticity and ease, and where to find arrangements for both large and select ensembles.

Presenter: Rob Dietz

Contemporary A Cappella

Forum

Thursday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
First United Methodist Church
Crossroads

A Cappella 101

Over the past decade, contemporary a cappella has exploded in popularity to become one of the fastest-growing forms of group singing in the country. Artists like Pentatonix and cultural hits like Pitch Perfect have energized a generation of singers at high schools and universities across America. In order to harness this energy, you may be wondering: How can I start a contemporary a cappella group as part of my program? A Cappella 101 is the session for you! Led by Rob Dietz (*The Sing-Off*, *Glee*), this class will cover everything you need to know in order to start or grow an a cappella

Four-Year College and University Choirs

Forum

Wednesday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
First United Methodist Church
Sanctuary

Musician Health and Wellness
in the Collegiate Choral Setting

This interactive forum will explore applications of performing arts medicine to the collegiate choral setting. The four areas of musician health—vocal, hearing, musculoskeletal, and psychological health—will provide a framework for the discussion. Participants will review the unique risk factors associated with choral singing and investigate pertinent resources and research. Attendees will have an opportunity to reflect on their current pedagogical practices and to develop health and wellness strategies for their unique choral settings.

Presenter: Caron Daley and Christopher Clark

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National Shrine Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe Sanctuary

True North: Exploring Canadian Repertoire for Collegiate Choirs

This interactive session will provide an in-depth look at select works for collegiate choirs by Matthew Emery, Shireen Abu-Khader, Sarah Quartel, Katerina Gimón, and Tracy Wong. Together, we will explore pedagogical and performance opportunities in these works, experiencing the music and hearing directly from the composers.

Presenters: Caron Daley, Tracy Wong, and Shireen Abu-Khader

place where we need to recruit more students. If that’s you, don’t worry. Just “shake it off” and get “ready for it.” Join Clinton (Hardy) Ferrie as he shares a variety of instructional games and materials for the middle school/junior high classroom that will have your students feeling like they are the masterminds of choir. Your students will be telling their friends “look what they made me do. I had to sing back up for choir.” We want everyone to have a choir era, so come out to this session and experience what you can do to make it true.

Presenter: Clinton (Hardy) Ferrie

Deep Dive

Saturday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
First United Methodist Church
Crossroads

Dive in the Middle: Deep Dive into MS/JH Repertoire

Have you ever been at a point where you’re just not sure where to begin with teaching a piece of music? Maybe you think a piece is too difficult for your choir, or you’re not sure if you, can handle the challenge. Join Clinton (Hardy) Ferrie, ACDA JH/MS National R&R Chair, as he presents several selections to use in your middle-level choral classroom. He will break down these pieces to provide instructional ways to teach each piece, including a description of what type and level of choir can handle each piece. There will be pieces for treble, tenor-bass, and mixed choirs. He will also present on different styles of teaching so you can see a diverse approach in how success can happen in the middle school/junior high choir room.

Presenter: Clinton (Hardy) Ferrie

Junior High/Middle School Choirs

Forum

Thursday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
First United Methodist Church
Atrium

In Our Choir Era

We all want students to fill one of their schedule’s blank spaces with choir/chorus! Perhaps you’re stuck on how to retain students from year to year and you want to “bejewel” them back? We’ve definitely all been in a

Music in Worship

Forum

Thursday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
National Shrine Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Salon

Relevance and Refuge
in Music and Worship

Choral music draws much of its lineage from the rich history of music in worship, but the post-global pandemic world has dramatically impacted many areas of church life. Changing social patterns have made it challenging for houses of worship, and music directors are seeing significant changes in the social, emotional, and spiritual needs of participants and parishioners. Join panelists Jennaya Robison, Mark A. Miller, Kyle Pederson, Zanaida Robles, and Tom Trenney (all of whom currently serve in music in worship positions), where we will focus on the ways music can bring about positive change and provide refuge for those who participate and serve centers of worship. The panel will explore innovative, collaborative approaches to music across generations while finding ways to provide meaningful discourse and a sense of belonging in our worship spaces. Additionally, the panel will address how church musicians are challenged to think creatively in a rapidly changing church landscape.

Presenters: Kyle Pederson, Jennaya Robison, Zanaida Robles, and Tom Trenney

Deep Dive

Saturday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
First United Methodist Church
Sanctuary

Everyone Has a Place in the Choir!
Music for Diverse Worship Styles

Today’s worshipping communities often find several ways to make participatory music making possible. The panel of composers and music directors will explore music from traditional anthems with choir and organ to reimagined settings of Latin texts and anthems for soloists, guitar, and congregational response. Each panel member will introduce anthems appropriate for various worship settings with multiple possibilities, including intergenerational/multi-generational choirs, small groups, and different instrumentations.

Presenters: Kyle Pederson, Jennaya Robison, Zanaida Robles, and Tom Trenney

Senior High Choirs

Forum

Thursday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
National Shrine Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Sanctuary

Enhancing Your Pedagogical Tool Box

Are your rehearsal methods starting to feel stale for you? For your singers? This session will explore specific rehearsal challenges and offer a variety of kinesthetic,



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aural, and visual instructional strategies that can be utilized in rehearsals quickly and easily. Many strategies will be demonstrated and practiced during the session, with time to briefly address and dialogue any questions. This session is meant to be useful for teachers of all ages and experience levels!

Presenter: Philip Brown

Deep Dive

Friday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 First United Methodist Church
 Sanctuary

Senior High School Reading Session

Senior high school directors! Join together as we take a closer look at several new pieces of repertoire. There is a solid variety of music that will be included in this session. We will dialogue about how thoughtful repertoire selection can strengthen the choir community and further connections on many different levels. Music featured in this session will include composers Alex Gartner, Marie-Claire Saindon, Grace Becker, Ryan Main, Elaine Hagenberg, and Don MacDonald.

Presenter: Philip Brown

Show Choirs

Forum

Thursday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 First United Methodist Church
 Upper Room (3rd Floor)

Contemporary Voice Lessons:
 Empowering Your Singers to
 ARISE in Your Ensembles

Join Show Choir Chairs Kelsey Burkett and Contemporary Vocal Coach Cierra Jordan (A.R.I.S.E. with Cierra) as we take you through a voice lesson geared toward contemporary and pop singing. Use the tools with your show choirs, contemporary a cappella groups, and more as you help guide your singers toward accessing their best contemporary sound

Presenters: Kelsey Burkett and Cierra Jordan

Deep Dive

Saturday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 Moody Performance Hall
 Auditorium

Show Choir Deep Dive

Join us as we DIVE into some new and exciting contemporary pieces that are accessible to all levels of choirs! If you are wanting to change up your repertoire,

March 18-22, 2025

looking for a “showstopper” or closer, or even just want to try something new, join us as we take a look at some great offerings!

Presenters: Kelsey Burkett

Soprano-Alto Choirs

Forum

Thursday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
First United Methodist Church
Sanctuary

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

Do you struggle to find engaging historical literature for your treble ensemble? This forum will provide multiple resources for programming high-quality, diverse historical repertoire for treble voices of all ages. The presenter will provide an annotated list of suggested repertoire, and attendees will have the opportunity to sing selected works throughout the session. Works presented will range in ability level from middle and high school to more complex music appropriate for collegiate or professional ensembles.

Presenter: Erin Plisco

NORFOLK 2025

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JEFFREY DOUMA

Marshall Bartholomew Professor in the Practice of Choral Music
Yale School of Music

WITH

JEFFREY GROSSMAN

Keyboardist, Lecturer in Historical Performance Practice
Yale Institute of Sacred Music



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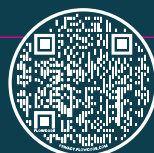
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Deep Dive

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 National Shrine Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Sanctuary

Changing the Narrative

Explore several pieces of repertoire for treble choir in depth—listen, sing, and discuss rehearsal strategies. All pieces included in this session will challenge or defy treble literature stereotypes in some form. We will look at pieces that utilize under-explored emotions and themes like rage, fear, violence, grief, loss, and power (among others). We will explore different approaches to sound production and movement in the context of diverse repertoire, along with strategies for approaching the rehearsal and performance of rare or dead languages.

Presenter: Erin Plisco

Student Activities

Forum

Thursday 7:30 am - 8:00 am
 Starbucks -2200 Ross Ave
 Thursday 8:30 am - 9:50 am
 Moody Performance Hall

Aspiring Conductor-Educators: Maximizing Your Undergraduate Years

Today's alarm will need to go off early, but every

minute that you spend not dozing in your conference hotel room will be worth its weight in gold! Aspiring educators and conductors will be granted coveted 1:1 access with some of today's most intrepid conductors and mentors during an informal pre-panel coffee hour. We will meet at 7:30am for coffee, pastries and conversations at Starbucks*. Starting at 8:00am, we will make our way to Moody Performance Hall for the 8:30am "Student Panel Session."

The eighty-minute panel (8:30-9:50am) will offer advice for maximizing your short window of time as an undergraduate student, unpacking topics such as ideas for how to create conducting opportunities as an undergraduate student, advice on how to seek out a mentor and how to be a good mentee, pro tips for developing video footage for graduate school and/or conducting masterclass applications, advice for developing your own leadership skills and style, secrets to networking in this profession, and how to leverage opportunities through your institution's student ACDA chapter.

*The purchase of coffee/pastries is not mandatory; you may attend the 7:30am meeting simply for the opportunity to connect with other leaders in our profession.

Presenters:

Elizabeth Swanson and Ryan Beeken

Panelists:

Kevin Fenton

Professor of Choral Conducting and Ensembles
 Florida State University

Isiah Maxey

PhD Student, Choral Music Education
 Florida State University

Seaira Anderson

Undergraduate Student, Choral Music Education
 Florida State University

Sharon Paul

Department Head of Music Performance and
 Director of Choral Activities;

Robert M. Trotter, Chair of Music
University of Oregon

Derrick Fox
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Research
and Creative Endeavors and Professor of Choral
Conducting
Michigan State University

Jeffrey Douma
Marshall Bartholomew Professor in the Practice of
Choral Music
Yale School of Music

Julie Yu
Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies
Oklahoma City University

with tenor-bass voices of all ages.

Presenters: Dustin Cates, Tim Seelig, and Turtle
Creek Chorale Chamber Chorus (Sean Mikel Baugh,
Artistic Director)

Deep Dive

Friday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
First United Methodist Church
Upper Room (3rd Floor)

Tenor-Bass Deep Dive

Tenor-Bass Choirs

Forum

Wednesday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
First United Methodist Church
Upper Room (3rd Floor)

Programming Tenor-Bass Choirs with TLC:
Tears, Laughs, and Chill Bumps with Tim Seelig

Join conductor, teacher, singer, and author Dr. Tim Seelig in an interactive session exploring repertoire and rehearsal techniques specifically designed for tenor-bass choirs. Seelig, Conductor Laureate of the San Francisco Gay Men’s Chorus and Conductor Emeritus of the Turtle Creek Chorale, will be joined by a chamber ensemble from the Turtle Creek Chorale. Together they will demonstrate his signature “TLC” (tears, laughs, chill bumps) philosophy, developed throughout his successful trailblazing career working

Come take a “deeper dive” into selected titles featured in the tenor-bass reading packet. Join Tenor-Bass National R&R Chair, Dustin Cates (Temple University), Whitney Covalle (Montclair State University), Lorissa Mason (Univeristy of Arkansas-Little Rock), and Brandon Williams (Rutgers University) as we read these pieces and explore practical rehearsal strategies for working with tenor-bass voices at all levels.

Presenters: Dustin Cates, Whitney Covalle, Lorissa Mason, and Brandon Williams



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Two-Year College Choirs

Forum

Wednesday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 First United Methodist Church
 Atrium

Challenges and Opportunities: A National Perspective on Two-Year College Choirs

This moderated panel discussion brings together two-year college choir directors from across the country

to discuss the unique challenges and opportunities within their programs. Directors will share insights on issues including recruitment and retention, building a strong choral community, managing diverse student needs, transfer preparation, ensemble repeatability, and advocating for institutional support. Each panelist will offer a regional perspective, allowing for a robust conversation on how different contexts impact choral programs in two-year colleges. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies and a broadened understanding of how to support their own choirs, no matter their institution's size, resources, or location. This forum offers a rare chance to learn from colleagues facing similar hurdles.

Moderator: Matthew Hazzard

Panelists: Kira Rugen, Raymund Ocampo, and Misty Bermudez

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Lynda Hasseler
 Adult Choir Director



Brandon Waddles
 Senior High Choir Director



Amy Kotsonis
 Middler Choir Director



Michael Burkhardt
 Children's Choir Director

Deep Dive

Friday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 First United Methodist Church
 Atrium

Two-Year Colleges: SATB Music for
 Established and Building Choirs

Explore five recent SATB works perfect for directors aiming to build and develop their two-year college choirs. These pieces are carefully selected for their accessibility, ensuring they engage ensembles with varying experience levels. At the same time, they offer opportunities for musical growth, making them ideal for established choirs ready for a challenge. This session will include a live read-through, allowing participants to experience the balance between approachability and complexity firsthand. Whether you're looking to strengthen your choir's core skills or seeking repertoire that pushes your ensemble to new musical heights, these selections offer something for everyone.

Presenter: Matthew Hazzard

Vocal Jazz

Forum

Wednesday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 Moody Performance Hall
 Auditorium

Creating the Optimal Sound:
 Voice Matching Methods for
 the Large Vocal Jazz Ensemble

The presentation will be about how to voice match a large vocal jazz ensemble (10+ students) using principles from the historically six schools of American Choral Tone. This voice matching method is designed to improve an ensemble's tone, blend, and intonation. The content from the presentation could apply to any type of vocal ensemble with multiple people on a part.

Presenter: John Stafford

Deep Dive

Friday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 Moody Performance Hall
 Auditorium

If I Don't Scat Sing, How Can I Teach It?
 Strategies to Help Choir Directors Who are New to
 the Jazz Idiom Demystify Vocal Improvisation

For many choir directors, the art of wordless vocal improvisation, better known as scat singing, is one of the scariest parts of teaching jazz. This is compounded



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by the fact that very few music education programs prepare choral educators in the area of jazz pedagogy, which includes improvisation. Our default instruction to students is often, “Well... just make something up.” Unfortunately, this doesn’t actually help our students, nor is it something jazz musicians do. In this session, we will use examples from jazz literature to explore scat singing concepts used by professional jazz singers, including variation on the melody, tools for building harmonic vocabulary, use of blues concepts, the importance of listening and transcription, and how rhythm and groove make even the most harmonically simple solos become more stylistically authentic.

Presenter: Justin Binek

unique vowel sounds create a vibrant and distinctive soundscape. This engaging forum will feature notable recorded performances by iconic choirs and showcase public domain treasures, providing a richly immersive sensory experience. Join us for an enlightening session and seize the opportunity to deepen your practical understanding of Dutch choral music.

Presenter: Madlen Batchvarova and Michel Hogenes

World Musics and Cultures

Forum

Wednesday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 National Shrine Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Sanctuary

**Voices of the Netherlands:
 Exploring the Rich Tapestry
 of Dutch Choral Music**

This World Musics and Cultures forum invites you on a captivating journey through the heart of Dutch choral traditions, from Renaissance masterpieces to the modern innovations of contemporary composers. Discover practical strategies for curating compelling and educational concert programs that blend the choral landscapes shaped by the Protestant Reformation and folk melodies and the lush harmonies of modern Dutch choral music. Delve into the linguistic intricacies of singing in Dutch, where guttural consonants and

Deep Dive

Saturday 8:00 am - 8:50 am
 National Shrine Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe
 Salon

**Northern Nocturnes:
 Exploring Night and Nature in
 Baltic and Scandinavian Choral Works**

Immerse yourself in the evocative themes of night and nature in the choral gems of Baltic and Scandinavian composers. This session will guide you through the works of Pärt Uusberg, Kęstutis Daugirdas, Anders Edenroth, and others as we explore the symbolic and lyrical elements that breathe life into these nocturnes. Discover how the delicate whispers of trees and the tranquility of the night are intricately woven into the music, while deepening your ensemble’s musical and cultural understanding.

Presenter: Madlen Batchvarova