

Masterclass Participants

The ACDA Student Conducting Awards and Competition were initiated during the 1993 ACDA National Conference in San Antonio, Texas. In 2023, the event's thirty-year anniversary, this opportunity became a part of the Student Conductor's Institute, and was offered as a Student Conducting Masterclass at the National Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. The eight student conductors selected for the Masterclass were chosen for their excellence in conducting, rehearsal pedagogy, and expressive musicality. We congratulate each of the student conductors who were chosen for this opportunity. You can read their bios below.



Briya Alford is an undergraduate student in vocal music education at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Arkansas. In her time spent at ATU, she has received a proficiency in performance and piano. Her love for singing stemmed from growing up singing at church with her mother, to her now having dedicated aspirations of being a future choral music educator. She is from Conway, Arkansas.



Kevin Cornwell II is a senior education major at Oakland University, where he serves as assistant conductor of the Oakland Chorale and University Chorus. A graduate of Avondale High School in Rochester Hills, Kevin has played Hammond organ, piano, and drums in worship bands at numerous churches in the Detroit area. Kevin is the director of marching percussion at Avondale High School, where his students regularly receive first divisions at festivals. As a composer, his work has won several awards, most notably his score for the 2021 film *Pharmacosm*.

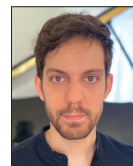


David Kime is a candidate for Brigham Young University's bachelor of music degree, with a combined emphasis in piano and organ performance. He conducts choral ensembles for A Voice for Good, which performed at the 2020 ACDA Utah Conference. David is the founding director of the Ensign Singers, a summer chamber ensemble based in Utah Valley. At the WACDA 2022 Conference, he performed in the

conducting masterclass taught by Dr. Charlene Archibeque. Whether as a keyboard soloist, accompanist, singer, conductor, or composer, David endeavors to make music that uplifts individuals, builds community, and reflects the teachings and love of Jesus Christ. David currently sings with BYU Singers.



J. Christine Le is a student at the University of North Texas. She currently serves as conductor of UNT Camerata and Teaching Assistant for UNT University Singers. Prior to her DMA studies, Christine earned her BME at Centenary College of Louisiana and her MM at Michigan State University. She has enjoyed a robust career as a public-school choir teacher in Louisiana and Florida. Choirs under her direction have performed at state, regional, and national ACDA conferences. Christine is a founding member and past associate conductor of the Orlando Sings Symphonic Chorus.



Caio Guimarães F. Lopes is pursuing his doctor of music degree in choral conducting at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. He is currently working as assistant conductor for University Singers. Caio is also serving as interim Chorus Master for the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic 2022-2023 season, as music director at First United Methodist Church in Columbus IN, and as assistant conductor for the Bloomington Chamber Singers. Caio holds a MM in choral conducting from the Jacobs School of Music IU, and a BM in conducting from São Paulo State University (UNESP), Brazil.



Kara Iwanowski is a musician and educator with roots in piano performance. She graduated from the Baltimore School for the Arts as valedictorian of her class, experiencing a wide variety of performance opportunities as a member of the school's chorus, chamber chorus, wind symphony, and solo pianist. Currently, Kara is a senior music education major at the University of Miami on a presidential scholarship. She is a member of the Frost Chorale under the direc-

tion of Dr. Amanda Quist and has served as an adjunct in numerous choral programs across Miami-Dade County. While participating in Chorale, Kara served as Secretary to UM’s NAFME chapter for two years.



Andrew Voth is completing the final year of a DMA program in choral conducting with a minor in curriculum and instruction at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, having completed his master’s degree there in 2020. During his time at UW, Voth has served as a TA for the choral and music education departments and received the Warzyn Thorpe award for outstanding graduate student work and the Lorna Wendt Distinguished Graduate Fellowship for Choral Conducting. A Kansas native, Andrew earned his undergraduate degree at Bethel College before teach-

ing choir in grades 6-12 at Goessel Junior/Senior High School in Goessel, Kansas, for five years.



Kimberly Waigwa is a master’s student in choral conducting at Temple University with a focus on community building and dialogue practice. They received their bachelor of arts in creative writing and a bachelor of music in music education, from the University of Arizona. Prior to coming to Temple, they served as artistic director of the Phoenix Women’s Chorus and Desert Voices, as well as music director of Mountain Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Kimberly was previously interim director of the St. Nicholas and After School Music Program Choirs, private vocal and piano instructor, and guest conductor in southern Arizona.

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