

Headliner

Back to the Future Choir

The Back to the Future Choir is an opportunity to celebrate our legacy—indeed, our story!—in song. Information regarding the nomination process was sent to college conductors in mid-November. These students will sing as the core of our ensemble. They will be joined by their current college conductor and will invite a mentor, someone who inspired them to pursue choral art as their profession, to sing. The choir will then represent past mentorship, current instruction, and the future of our profession—Back to the Future! Ken Fulton, Professor Emeritus at Louisiana State University, will conduct the choir and a chamber orchestra in the performance.



Kenneth Fulton retired in May 2012 and is currently alumni professor emeritus at LSU. Prior to his retirement, his professional teaching career spanned forty-eight years, thirty-seven of those in higher education. At LSU, he was the Sanders Alumni Professor of Choral Studies and Chair of the Division of Ensembles and Conducting in the College of Music and Dramatic Arts and conducted the LSU A Cappella Choir for twenty-six years. Fulton holds advanced degrees from Texas Tech University (MME - Ph.D.) and an undergraduate degree from the University of North Texas. He has held appointments at various universities and in public school choral music.

Auditioned Choirs

Cascade Middle School Treble Choir



The Cascade Middle School Treble Choir was founded during the 2016-2017 school year and rehearses three days a week before school from 7:05 to 7:50am. Participation in Treble Choir is by audition only and is open

to any seventh- or eighth-grade student who is enrolled in a music class at Cascade Middle School. Cascade's Treble Choir is quickly building a reputation of excellence within their school and local community, most notably having performed at the WMEA state conference in 2018.



Kim Claassen is in her seventh year of teaching and fifth year as director of choirs at Cascade Middle School. She received her bachelor's in music education from Central Washington University and is currently pursuing a master's through Central's Summer Master's Program. Claassen stays active as a clinician and performer and serves as the treasurer for the Lower Columbia River Music Educators Association.

Auditioned Choirs

Casper Children's Chorale Casper's Ambassadors of Song



The Casper Children's Chorale was founded in 1979 to provide a positive and challenging choral experience for young singers. They have performed for audiences across Wyoming and the United States sharing their love of music and their pride in Wyoming! These children, ages 9-13, from Casper have performed at regional and national MENC and ACDA conventions and received nothing less than Superior Ratings and Adjudicator Awards at over a dozen Heritage Music Festivals. Rehearsing once weekly for ninety minutes, their goal is to prepare thoughtful and caring world citizens who love to sing!



Marcia Patton founded the Casper Children's Chorale in 1979. Retired from Kelly Walsh High School, where multiple choirs performed for NW ACDA and MENC, she was honored as Wyoming Teacher of the Year, UW Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumna, WMEA Service Award, NAfME "Chorus Expert," NCSD#1 Medallion(s) of Excellence, Casper Rotary Service Award, and "Woman of Distinction." Past president of WY ACDA, she served three terms as NW Women's Choir R&R chair and three terms as Children's Choir R&R chair. She founded the WY ACDA Children's Honor Choir in 1995 and has presented at regional and national ACDA.

Central Washington University's Chamber Choir



The CWU Chamber Choir's goal is to sing high-quality music at the highest level of musicality possible. "CWU Ch2" is known throughout the world largely due to its strong YouTube presence. In 2015, Ch2 received an invitation to take part in the prestigious Tolosa International Choir Competition. On that tour, the choir spent twelve days in Spain and presented five concerts, including one in the Cathedral in Léon. In 2016, Chamber sang Frank Martin's *Mass for double choir*



Gary A. Weidenaar is in his thirty-seventh year of teaching, the first fifteen years in schools in Michigan, Germany, Norway, and California. Since 2006 he has served as the director of choral studies at CWU, where over 200 singers populate four traditional choirs. Weidenaar has presented workshops to music educators throughout the United States and in Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, and Germany. He has adjudicated, served as clinician, or conducted over 2,000 choirs since 2002. A NWACDA past president, Weidenaar received Washington ACDA's Leadership Award in 2015.

Chronos Vocal Ensemble



Chronos Vocal Ensemble has built a reputation for innovation and excellence. Since its inception in 2013, the choir has delighted audiences in four provinces and performed at distinguished events, including Music Conference Alberta and Choral Canada’s 2016 and 2018 Podium conferences. The ensemble regularly commissions Canadian composers and also runs an annual composition competition. It has released three recordings featuring new Canadian repertoire and is regularly heard on CBC Radio’s Choral Concert. In 2015, Chronos Vocal Ensemble won Choral Canada’s biannual Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs and in 2016 was recognized by the City of Edmonton’s Salute to Excellence for bringing recognition to Edmonton.



Jordan Van Biert (MM, University of Alberta) has emerged as a respected choral leader and organization builder over the past decade, uniting singers in the goal of creating rich musical experiences for themselves and for audiences. He

is an experienced conductor of many ensemble types, a passionate educator, and an accomplished singer. He founded Chronos Vocal Ensemble in 2013 to pursue excellence in choral performance in the context of a nonprofessional ensemble. His work with the choir has gained significant recognition: Van Biert was shortlisted in 2016 as Emerging Artist in Edmonton’s Mayor’s Celebration of the Arts and recently received the Con Spirito award from Choir Alberta.

**C. M. Russell High School
Chanteur Choir**



The Chanteur Choir is one of six curricular choirs at C. M. Russell High School. The choir frequently performs throughout the Great Falls community and collaborates with other choirs in Montana. Two of their most recent collaborations with Great Falls High School include premieres of *Moments in Film* by Timothy Takach and *Consolation: A Requiem for Newtown* by John Muehleisen. Chanteur earned the honor of being named semi-finalists in the American Prize, high school division, in 2015 and 2016. Their most recent regional performances were at the 2016 Northwestern ACDA Conference and the 2017 Northwestern NAFME Conference.



Lynn R. Ryan is in her eighth year as director of choir at Charles M. Russell High School in Great Falls, Montana. Ryan earned her bachelor’s from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. She earned her master’s in choral conducting from Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff). She serves as the Youth Coordinator on the Northwestern ACDA board, department leader at Charles M. Russell High School, and is an accompanist in her church. Her husband, Patrick, is the choir director at Great Falls High School and past-president of both the Montana Choral Directors Association and Northwestern ACDA.

Auditioned Choirs

CS Porter Middle School Varsity Porterliers



The Varsity Porterliers were founded in 2012 and have since become CS Porter's premiere vocal ensemble. In addition to performing with several Western Montana high schools, the Varsity Porterliers have also performed with Le Donne Choir under the direction of Barbara Tappa, and Dolce Canto under the direction of Peter Park. The Varsity Porterliers recently earned a "Gold" rating at the Seattle Heritage festival in 2019 and a rating of "Superior" in 2018 at the Music in the Parks festival in North Idaho. The Varsity Porterliers are proud to announce that they will be premiering a commissioned piece for the ensemble by Jim Papoulis at the ACDA NW Conference.



Christopher Whiteman is the director of choirs at CS Porter Middle School in Missoula, MT. Previous to his eight years at CS Porter, Whiteman taught band, choir, orchestra, and general music for seven years in grades 6-12 in California and Western Montana. He holds a bachelor's in music education from California State University, Fresno, and a master's in educational leadership from the University of Montana. This past school year he was honored to be named Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Missoula Education Foundation.

Eagle High School Sonous



Sonous is the premier vocal ensemble at Eagle High School in Eagle, Idaho. This fifty-member auditioned touring ensemble consists of Juniors and Seniors and focuses on a high standard of choral literature spanning from the Renaissance to Vocal Jazz. Consistently recognized for choral excellence throughout Idaho and the Northwest, since 2003 Sonous has accepted nine invitations to perform at state and regional conferences. Students in Sonous represent a cross-section of the Eagle High School student body; every club, sport, and activity has had members in Sonous.



Seth McMullen has served as director of choirs at Eagle High School in Eagle, Idaho, since 2003. Under his award-winning direction, the choral program at Eagle has established a reputation for musical excellence throughout the state of Idaho and the Northwestern United States. McMullen received a master's from Northern Arizona University and a bachelor's from Whitworth University. He has served in state and regional leadership positions for ACDA and IMEA. He was selected as the 2018 NWACDA representative for the International Conductor Exchange Program. He is the choir director at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Boise.

**Hellgate High School
Chevaliers**



Established in 1965, the Chevaliers is an extra-curricular auditioned ensemble at Hellgate High School in Missoula, Montana. Students who participate in “Chevies” are in grades 10-12 and must be enrolled in a curricular choir to be eligible to audition. Many members of the Chevaliers are high-achieving singers who are chosen for Montana All-State Choir and All-Northwest Choirs (NAfME and ACDA), along with other performing opportunities. The Chevaliers maintain a busy performing schedule, representing Hellgate Choir at school concerts and in many community performances.



Ellen McKenzie is a native Montanan. She earned her degrees from the University of Montana. She is currently in her eighteenth year of teaching music and her sixth year at Hellgate High School, where she conducts four curricular

choirs, two extra-curricular choirs, and also directs the school musical. Previous teaching experience includes choir in Manteca, CA; K-8 music and choir in Frenchtown, MT; and choir at Flathead High School in Kalispell, MT. She enjoys performing, running with her two dogs, going to Orangetheory, and spending time with her husband, Peter, and sons, Ben and Jack.

In Mulieribus



Based in Portland, In Mulieribus (IM; Latin for “amongst women”) presents an annual concert series and appears frequently as featured guest artist around the region with past performances at the Portland Art Museum, University of San Diego, and Mount Angel Abbey Bach Festival. The ensemble is regularly broadcast on nationally syndicated radio shows such as Performance Today. IM has recently reached beyond its early music focus to highlight works by women. IM also sponsors free workshops, performs benefit concerts, and offers free concert tickets as part of their commitment to make concerts accessible to all.



Anna Song is associate professor of music at Linfield College, where she also serves as the director of choral activities. In 2004 she co-founded In Mulieribus. Under her direction, the ensemble has

continued to present a highly acclaimed annual concert series in Portland since 2007. A frequent choral clinician and adjudicator in the Portland area, she also coordinates the Young Musicians and Artists Choral Program in Salem, OR, every summer. Song holds degrees in music composition and conducting from UCLA and Yale University, and a doctorate from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Auditioned Choirs

Joel E. Ferris High School Canterbury Belles



The Canterbury Belles is the premier women's choral ensemble at Joel E. Ferris High School in Spokane, Washington. They perform a wide variety of literature, and their selections may include music that is humorous, cultural, heartfelt, or address current social issues. The Canterbury Belles have been recognized throughout the Northwest as a choir dedicated to passion and excellence through their musical performances. These young women are also members of the Symphonic Choir, and several participate in the Ferris instrumental music program.



Barbara Tappa is in her twentieth year of teaching and thirteenth year as the director of choral music at Joel E. Ferris High School in Spokane, Washington. She also directs Le Donne, a community women's choir. Tappa has been a cantor and choir

director at Catholic churches in the United States, Japan, and Norway. She enjoys guest conducting and adjudicating choral festivals. In 2016 she was the Washington State High School Music Educator of the Year. Tappa has served as choral curriculum officer for Washington MEA and is currently the president elect for Washington ACDA.

Male Ensemble Northwest



Male Ensemble Northwest was formed in Longview, Washington, in 1982, the brainchild of Howard Meharg, Larry Marsh, and Bruce Browne, who wanted to form a singing group and encourage young singers in public schools to sing in choirs of all kinds. Male Ensemble Northwest was formed to demonstrate a high level of music making by choral conductors from the Pacific Northwest region and also to promote the art of choral singing. While a high level of artistry is always an important goal, the members of M.E.N. value the professional and personal associations they have with each other.

**Montana State University
Montanans**



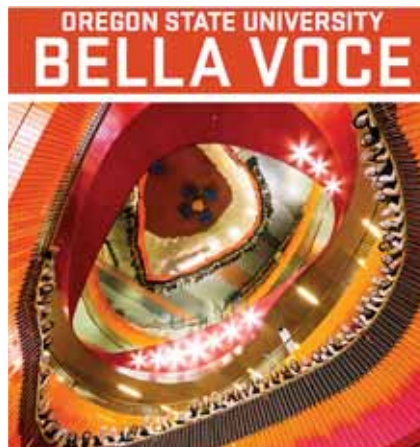
The Montanans, a select vocal ensemble based in the School of Music and the College of Arts & Architecture at Montana State University, is dedicated to the artistic performance of new and established choral literature representative of all genres and stylistic periods. Touring opportunities led the ensemble to perform at Notre Dame in Paris and the Church of Pi in Barcelona in May of 2018. In December of that year, the Montanans were honored to accept an invitation from Archbishop Juan García Rodríguez to perform at the Havana Cathedral. In February 2019 the choir sang at the Northwest Conference for Music Education in Portland, Oregon.



Kirk Aamot is director of choral activities at Montana State University, where he teaches choral conducting and choral methods while conducting the MSU Chorale and Montanans. His editions of choral music are published by Hal

Leonard, Kjos Music, Santa Barbara, and Alliance Music Press. His reviews of choral music performance and teaching philosophy have been published in state, regional, and national publications of ACDA. His conducting teachers include Anton Armstrong, Kathy Romey, Joan Catoni Conlon, and Larry Kaptein.

**Oregon State University
Bella Voce**



Bella Voce, the premier treble choir at Oregon State University, consists of sixty undergraduate and graduate students studying a variety of degree programs. Primary goals of Bella Voce include

providing for treble singers to engage with a wide range of choral repertoire, generating opportunities for choral music education majors to lead and conduct, and championing composers from diverse backgrounds, including female composers and composers of color. Bella Voce has performed for conferences of the Oregon MEA, the Northwest Division of NAfME, and the International Society for Music Education. Most recently, Oregon State University Bella Voce was featured with OSU performances of Paulus's *To Be Certain of the Dawn*, Maslanka's *Mass*, and Mahler's *Symphony No. 3*.



Sandra Babb is assistant professor of music education at Oregon State University. Babb received her BME, MME, and Ph.D. from the Florida State University. She is also a National Center for Voice & Speech Certified Vocologist. Babb has

conducted honor choirs throughout the United States and has presented for state, regional, and national conferences of NAfME and ACDA. Ensembles under her direction have performed for Florida, New York, and Southern Division ACDA as well as the Oregon MEA and Northwest NAfME. She has served on the ACDA National Steering Committee and currently serves as the R&R Chair for Women's Choirs for OR-ACDA and the Youth and Student Activities Chair for NW-ACDA.

Auditioned Choirs

Portland Phoenix Chamber Choir



The internationally award-winning Portland Phoenix Chamber Choir was founded as the Marylhurst Chamber Choir, the premiere choral ensemble at Marylhurst University in Portland, Oregon. Upon the sudden closure of Marylhurst, the choir was reborn as Portland Phoenix. The Chamber Choir has twice performed at OMEA and at Carnegie Hall. In 2016 they participated in the Cork International Choral Festival in Ireland. They were the only choir to take home two trophies, winning both Third Prize and the Peace Award for best embodying the spirit of the festival. They followed this with successful appearances at festivals in Latvia, Italy, and Wales.



Justin Smith is the director of choral activities at Queens University in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he directs three choirs and teaches courses in history and conducting. Smith is in demand as a judge and clinician regionally and internationally. He has conducted at Carnegie Hall twice and has adjudicated choral festivals in Greece, Turkey, and Finland. He holds a doctorate from the Moores School of Music, University of Houston, with additional degrees in music from Wesleyan University and the University of Oregon.

St. Mary's International School Varsity Ensemble



The Varsity Ensemble seeks to nurture a love for and global awareness through music from many cultures and their spiritual heritage. The group realizes music through expressive movement. Internationally, they've received top honors and awards at competitions and

festivals on four continents, most recently, the third choir in thirty years winning the Oswald Stocker Prize at the 2019 Verona Choir Competition. Selected performances include three ACDA national and five regional conferences, the ANCA National Convention in Brisbane, and EARCOS in Bangkok. They are extensively active in charity work, especially Refugees International Japan and Save the Children.



Randy Stenson conducts the acclaimed Varsity Ensemble, International Show Choir, and 120 voice Men's Choir at St. Mary's International School. Stenson has directed honor and all-state choirs, led workshops, lectured at universities and international conferences, and adjudicated competitions globally. Co-author of *Creating Artistry: Movement and the Maturing Male Voice*, he edits the Stenson Male Choral Series and International Choral Series for Pavane Publishing, and the Randy and Rachel Stenson Choral Series for SBMP. He earned degrees from Concordia College Moorhead and VanderCook College of Music.

**South Kitsap High School
Highlighters**



The Highlighters began in 1963 and gained notoriety throughout the region as an outstanding vocal jazz ensemble under the direction of Jeff Mitchell (1966-1998). The ensemble draws students from all grades and requires members to be part of Chamber Choir or another performing ensemble. Under the direction of Mike Allen (1998–present), the Highlighters have received numerous awards and have traveled to Europe three times, NYC and Carnegie Hall, Florida, and California. In the summer of 2020, the Highlighters and Chamber Choir will compete at The 2020 World Choir Games in Flanders, Belgium.



Mike Allen is the director of vocal music at South Kitsap High School and previously taught in the La Center School District. His classes include The Highlighters, Chamber Choir, Treble Choir, two non-audition Concert groups, Music

Technology, and AP Music Theory. His choirs have received numerous awards and travel extensively, including performances in Europe, Carnegie Hall, Florida, and California. Allen has served on the Washington ACDA Board and as president of Olympic MEA. He earned his bachelor's in K-12 Music at Oregon State University after two years at Mt. Hood Community College.

**The University of Wyoming
Collegiate Chorale**



The University of Wyoming Collegiate Chorale is the flagship university choral ensemble in Wyoming, comprising primarily undergraduate students, including non-music majors. The Collegiate Chorale presents creative programming with deep connections to text and music while providing an intimate atmosphere for a meaningful and exciting choral experience. The ensemble carries a tradition of excellence in choral performances. The UW Collegiate Chorale was invited to perform at the 2017 and 2011 NW NAFME Conferences and at the 2012 NCCO conference. The ensemble has earned a reputation for exciting premieres of works by Pulitzer Prize and Grammy-winning composers.



Nicole C. Lamartine strives in every musical experience to illuminate meaning and impact of the commonalities of being human. As director of choral activities at the University of Wyoming, she conducts the Collegiate Chorale, The UW Singing

Statesmen and the Happy Jacks, and teaches conducting and studio voice. “Dr. La” is in demand as a conductor and clinician across the US, China, and Europe. Recent conducting engagements include All-State Choirs in seven states, and honor choirs in Germany, United Arab Emirates, and Oman. Lamartine is past-president of NW ACDA.

Auditioned Choirs

Vocal Affinity



Vocal Affinity brings advanced contemporary repertoire to the stage together with the Gregorian Chant and Renaissance music of the past. Its mission is to touch the hearts and souls of audiences and performers through the artistic, nuanced blending of poetic text, and beau-

tiful harmonies. Performing under the baton of Conductor David Torres, this elite vocal ensemble, based in Rexburg, Idaho, melds the voices of accomplished auditioned singers from around the nation.



David Torres brings eleven years of experience to the podium. His vocal and instrumental ensembles have appeared in California, Idaho, and Utah and been heard worldwide. Torres currently conducts the elite Vocal Affinity in Rexburg, Idaho, and the Los Angeles-based Echo Luminos. He also serves as assistant conductor to the APU Choral Scholars and conducting associate to Southern California's Angeles Chorale. Torres has a bachelor's in music from BYU, where he also served as adjunct faculty and is currently pursuing his master's at Azusa Pacific University.

Interest Sessions

The Acoustics of Choir

Recent research has shed light on how sound functions within the acoustic of a choir. An understanding of how sound-to-other ratio, damping, masking, and the Lombard and Choir Effects can influence how choristers hear and perform. By knowing some basic acoustic principles, choir directors can maximize the choir's acoustic to improve balance, blend, intonation, and sound. This session will include live demonstrations of these concepts to help with practical application with choirs.



Steven Zopfi serves as director of choral activities at the University of Puget Sound and was the artistic director of

the Portland Symphonic Choir, the official chorus of the Oregon Symphony, from 2003 to 2018. Choirs under his direction have appeared at state and regional conferences of ACDA, NAFME, and other professional organizations. His recordings have been featured on NPR and American Public Radio, and his arrangements and editions are published by Colla Voce publishing.

In 2015 he was named Outstanding Choral Conductor of the Year by the Washington Choral Director's Association.

Beyond the Dreidl: A Worldwide Exploration of Choral Repertoire for Chanukah

This session will offer a multifaceted immersion into diverse Chanukah literature. The session embraces conductors who program at least one Jewish-music selection with their ensembles every holiday sea-

son. Identifying quality choral repertoire suitable for Chanukah presents a hurdle. “Beyond the Dreidl” will combine lecture blasts with reading opportunities of repertoire reflecting the diversity of Jewish culture, including music in Hebrew, English, Yiddish, and Ladino, from the seventeenth to twenty-first centuries. Participants will receive a reading packet. The session will contextualize the music, discussing genre, historical relevance, composer, connection to Chanukah, and performance practice.



Coreen Duffy is director of choral activities at the University of Montana School of Music, where she conducts Chamber Chorale and University Choir, teaches conducting, choral methods, and supervises student teachers. Duffy is an active clinician and composer; her works are published by Walton Music, ECS, and Pavane and featured in ACDA sessions. A specialist in Jewish choral music, Duffy has designed performance/interest sessions dedicated to Jewish repertoire at two National ACDA conferences. She founded the Second Avenue Jewish Chorale of South Florida. Duffy served two terms as R&R Chair for Ethnic and Multicultural Perspectives for Florida ACDA.

Body Mapping: The Moving Choral Musician

This session will introduce concepts of Body Mapping, a somatic foundational training, for the choral musician. During the session, participants will experience body mapping practices based on six points of balance. Resources for incorporating Body Mapping foundations in the choral classroom will also be explored.



Max Mendez is a professor of music and director of choirs at North Idaho College in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. For the last fifteen years he has conducted the NIC Cardinal Chorale, Chamber Singers, and Vocal Jazz Ensemble. Choirs under his direction have performed concerts in Mexico, San Francisco, and Carnegie Hall. Mendez is a frequent guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator for festivals and workshops throughout Idaho and Washington. He was a founding member and artistic director of Spokane Choral Artists, a member of Male Ensemble Northwest (M.E.N.), and Tim Sharp’s Kentucky Harmony. Mendez serves as president of Idaho ACDA.

Building a Support System in Your First Year

This active session will help attendees learn strategies to enter their first job with support and continue

to maintain (and grow) that support. We will develop a plan for interviewing as a new teacher, practice communicating effectively with school administrators and colleagues, and begin building your framework for working within diverse cultures and social contexts.



Rachel Wulff is the director of choirs at LaVenture Middle School in Mount Vernon, Washington. Under her direction, the LaVenture Choir Program has tripled in size and now serves over 150 singers across three ensembles. In addition to providing private lessons to her students, Rachel is the music director for the annual school musical and teaches an AVID elective class. She has presented and adjudicated at numerous state and regional events and has performed with the Bellingham Chamber Chorale as a member and soloist. She is currently serving on the Washington ACDA Executive Board and pursuing a National Board Certification.

Choral Musicians: A Community of Storytellers

This session will explore the role of storytelling in our profession. We will investigate techniques to better connect our singers to the stories that they sing, with the goal of creating transcendent performances. We will examine how composers tell stories through musical gestures, some obvious and some requiring a

Interest Sessions

bit of decoding. And we will consider the powerful stories that teachers and students share with each other as they build a musical community together. Attendees will participate in hands-on activities in this highly interactive session.



Sharon J. Paul holds the Robert M. Trotter Chair of Music at the University of Oregon, where she serves as director of

choral activities and chair of vocal and choral studies. Her teaching includes graduate courses in choral conducting, repertoire, and pedagogy, along with conducting the internationally award-winning Chamber Choir. Paul has presented interest sessions at regional, state, division, national, and international conferences. She appears frequently as adjudicator, clinician, teacher, and honor choir director throughout the United States and abroad. In 2019 she received Oregon ACDA's Podium Award. Her upcoming book, *Art and Science in the Choral Rehearsal*, is scheduled for publication with Oxford University Press.

Estonian Choral Music: Repertoire and Resources

Estonia has an incredible choral tradition that is not often represented in programming outside its borders. This session provides publisher information, performance practices, diction resources, brief cultural con-

text, and a sampling of works by several Estonian choral composers.



Timothy Fitzpatrick

is professor of music and director of choral activities at Western Washington

University, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in choral conducting, repertoire, and pedagogy, and conducts the Concert Choir, Western Voices, and Chamber Vocal Jazz. A versatile musician with many areas of expertise, Fitzpatrick has studied private voice, and performed opera, classical, jazz, Broadway, and popular idioms on the concert stage. He appears frequently as adjudicator, clinician, and honor choir director throughout the Northwestern United States and Canada.



Heather MacLaughlin Garbes

is the founder and artistic director of the Mägi Ensemble, a professional women's vocal

ensemble that performs and records Baltic music. She currently serves as affiliate assistant professor at the University of Washington, where she helped develop and maintains the Baltic Choral Library, the first collection of its kind in the United States. MacLaughlin Garbes is an active conference presenter at state and divisional ACDA, College Music Society, the Library of Congress, and the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies events. She co-authored the chapter "Bal-

tic Languages: Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian" in the book *The Use of the International Phonetic Alphabet in the Choral Rehearsal* (Scarecrow Press). She has been a preparatory conductor for both the Latvian and Estonian National Song Festivals.

Fostering an All-Inclusive Choral Environment: A First-Year LGBTQ Choir's Perspective

In this session, Mitchell T. Davey will share his experience learning to foster a more inclusive choral environment during his one year conducting the Spectrum Singers, a GALA chorus based in Spokane, WA. The Spectrum Singers will share both song and individual experiences from our first year together during the session. This session will provide educational and community choral conductors perspective on what it means to be inclusive in a choral environment and offer practical ideas for ways to do so successfully in our own choral communities.



Mitchell T. Davey

is an active composer and conductor who has received commissions and performances from ensembles throughout the Northwest. He recently served as founding artistic director of the Spectrum Singers, an all-inclusive and intergenerational SATB chorus based in Spokane,

WA, committed to promoting diversity and positive social change through the power of song. He is currently director of choirs at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Eugene. Davey holds a bachelor's from Gonzaga University and is pursuing a master's in composition at the University of Oregon.

Giving Voice to an Alzheimer's Journey

The journey to commission a choral-orchestral work by nationally acclaimed composer Joan Szymko focused on the experiences of those with Alzheimer's dementia and their caregivers. *Shadow and Light* is an extraordinary masterwork that gives voice to the challenges, frustrations, despair, hopes, courage, and moments of light and tenderness. Audience members at the premiere performance by Eugene Vocal Arts in April of 2016 responded with deep emotion, asking, *How did you know to tell my story?* Attendees of the session will be introduced to this sensitive masterwork through excerpts of the award-winning documentary (*The Story of Shadow and Light*), video of the premiere performance, honest and heartfelt libretto, and suggestions on partnering with care organizations and programming this work to connect to your community.



Diane Retallack is artistic director and conductor of the Eugene Concert Choir & Orchestra

and Eugene Vocal Arts, the premier classical choral organizations of the region and Resident Company of the Hult Center for the Performing Arts. Retallack holds a doctorate

from Indiana University. Retallack approached the commission of *Shadow and Light* from personal experiences, as both her mother and grandmother had Alzheimer's de-

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Interest Sessions

mentia. The premiere recorded performance won the American Prize, and the documentary of the project won Best Documentary at the Oregon Independent Film Festival.

High Expectations for Children's Choirs

How do I introduce part-singing at the elementary level? What can I expect from voices of certain ages, and how can I use this information to select music? What are excellent literature resources for children's choirs? This session will engage each question with conductors of all levels of experience, focusing on community youth singers aged 3 to 13. Techniques for rehearsing ensembles that meet weekly will be explored, and attendees will explore recommended

repertoire by singing excerpts.



Brenda Winkle began directing choirs in 1996 and teaching in the Boise Schools in 2007. She serves as an elementary music specialist and choir director and has directed choirs of all ages. Winkle earned a bachelor's from Chadron State College in Nebraska and a master's in Educational Leadership from BSU. Singers in OICC have performed as soloists for Boise Philharmonic, as company members in Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and more. When not directing choirs, she enjoys spending time with her teenage daughter and their two dogs, practicing yoga, hiking, and traveling.

I Hear America Singing: The History of When America Joined in Song

National interest in community singing continues to fascinate America. From beer choir to articles on how singing builds healthy communities, to Chorus America studies on singing participation, music professionals and the public alike seem interested and enamored with the idea that singing is foundational to a successful life. Nevertheless, the response from many when invited to participate is the common refrain, "I can't sing." Yet, there was actually a time when America joined in singing together to build national spirit, and informal community singing flourished in American society and music education. This session recounts this time period and what it might mean for a time where such national spirit is needed again.

Steven M. Zielke will be the clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 58.

Learning Chinese Diction and Choral Music from a Native

The idea of "Culturally Responsive Teaching" has developed within the last few decades. However, due to the difficulty of Chinese diction, choral conductors and educators hesitate to program Chinese choral music for their ensembles, as accessibility to practical assistance

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Word cloud includes: PASSION, CUSTOMIZED, MEMORABLE, CHORAL, INSTRUMENTAL, SPECIAL INTERESTS, INSPIRATIONAL, JOURNEY, SPIRITUAL, PASSION, CANADA, YOUR IDEA, DISCOVER, HISTORY, GROUPS, CENTER STAGE, DESTINATION, PERFORMANCE, CULTURE, JAZZ, GLOBAL, CHORAL, CAPE TOWN, LITERATURE, ART, ARCHITECTURAL, MUSIC, DISCOVER, BEAUTY, FORESTS, EUROPE and Beyond.

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is limited. Within the last decade, research on Chinese diction has presented general diction guidelines on how to pronounce Chinese lyrics. In this session, attendees will learn the background of Chinese choral repertoire, learn skills to teach Chinese choral music to their choirs, and sing a section of a selected Chinese choral piece. A repertoire resource handout will introduce attendees to selected Chinese choral music for high school and community choirs. Issues explored will include phonetic Yale Romanized Mandarin-Chinese and practical application through the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet.



Joseph To, a Hong Kong native, graduated from the University of Washington. He is currently pursuing a master's at Washington State University. To has sung with prolific choirs in the Pacific Northwest, including Chor Anno and Opus 7. A believer in music education, he has worked with all ages in many musical settings, from novice to professional. To is the choir director at Japanese Baptist Church.

The Lyricist's Guide to Performing Choral Music

Explore a unique perspective on the interpretation and performance of choral repertoire as lyric poet and author Charles Anthony Silvestri invites you to join him behind the poet's pen. He will discuss the collabo-

orative process, the deep connection between words and music he seeks to create, and the powerful roles of the conductor and choir in the interpretation and transmission of the poet's and composer's hearts and spirits.

Charles Anthony Silvestri will be the clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 54.

Medieval Song Repertoire: A Rich Resource for Two- and Three-Part Music

Finding suitable, interesting repertoire comprising two or three parts can be a challenge, especially for choirs consisting of singers beyond elementary or middle school ages. This session will focus on medieval song repertoire and how it can serve as a rich resource for this voicing, which is often suitable for T/B, S/A, or smaller ensembles. In addition to repertoire resources, attendees will explore basic techniques for arranging and adapting medieval songs for their choirs and gather new perspectives on repertoire from this period.

Anna Song will be the clinician for this session. Her photo and bio are on page 131.

The Power of Community Sing-Alongs

Community Sing-alongs have the power to unite communities, provide a salve for loneliness and depression, empower people to use their voice, and increase their interest in developing voices. This interactive session will involve all attendees in singing as we demonstrate strategies for removing barriers for amateur singers and creating a playful environment for discovering one's voice in a group setting. This session will simulate a community sing-along as attendees sing and dance to contemporary and multicultural songs, accompanied by a three-piece band. Strategies and a variety of approaches to communal singing will be explored.



Erin Guinup is the founding executive and artistic director of the Tacoma Refugee Choir, an ensemble dedicated to building a more welcoming community through song. A passionate advocate of community singing and the power of music to heal and unite communities, she has spoken at TEDxSeattle and been featured on PBS with the Refugee Choir, led community singing events and spoken at national conferences for Chorus America, NATS, and ACDA. She is an author, speaker, and soprano soloist, and her internationally performed one-woman show has been praised as "an amazing tour-de-force."

Interest Sessions

Sight Singing: The Ultimate Team Sport

In this hands-on session, we will explore strategies for distributed leadership in ensemble sight singing. These techniques, which can be adapted to existing method books and materials at all levels, engender autonomy and confidence by placing problem solving squarely in the hands of the singers. By dividing tasks among the singers, we create opportunities for differentiated instruction and individualized assess-

ment, allowing students to succeed at their own challenge levels while contributing to the collective whole. The director becomes the coach, providing guidance and encouragement while the students rise to greater levels of independence and success.



Christopher G. McGinley is a dynamic conductor and music educator based in the Twin Cities, where he pursuing a

doctorate in conducting at the University of Minnesota. He holds faculty positions at Augsburg University (music education) and the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire (conducting and music education). A strong advocate for community music, McGinley has served intergenerational choirs in Philadelphia, Wisconsin, and Oregon. He holds degrees in conducting and music education from the University of Oregon and University of Delaware, and pursued further studies in conducting at the Frost School of Music.

Honor Choir Conductors

Intermediate

Laura Farnell will be the conductor of this choir. Her photo and bio are on page 58.

ranging company *Wicked Pigeon*, and in 2019 she is directing an all-new contemporary treble ensemble with the Seattle Girls' Choir, *Sorella*, and continues to work with *A Cappella Academy*, a teen summer intensive designed to train up-and-coming vocal talents.

Senior High Jazz



Amanda Taylor is an award-winning arranger specializing in music for vocal ensembles. At sixteen, she joined professional jazz ensemble *Groove for Thought* (NBC's "The Sing-Off") as their lead soprano, and quickly began learning to write for contemporary a cappella and vocal jazz. In 2015 she released her first self-produced EP, "Little Hearts, Big Words." Taylor has traveled the U.S. to teach and write. She has recently founded vocal ar-

Senior High SSAA

John Byun will be the conductor of this choir. His photo and bio are on page 47.

Senior High TTBB



Gary Packwood is recognized as an inspiring and motivational conductor, pedagogue, and lecturer. Now in his thirtieth year as a conductor and music educator, Packwood has conducted all-state and honor choirs throughout the United States. He is currently program administrator and director of choral studies at Mississippi State University, where he teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting, conducts the Mississippi State University State Singers, the Men of State, and serves as the coordinator of graduate music studies. Packwood earned a bachelor's from Southeastern Louisiana University, a master's from Florida Atlantic University, and a doctorate from Louisiana State University.

Youth



Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, internationally regarded choral conductor, clinician, and educator, is the artistic director of Los Angeles Children's Chorus. From 2004 to 2017, Malvar-Ruiz was the music director of The American Boychoir, leading some 150 performances and up to five national and international tours annually. He also conducted the choir on six recordings, led its performances at the Academy Awards and a 9/11 Memorial Service, broadcast globally on CNN, and was the music director on the film "Boychoir." Malvar-Ruiz previously served as The American Boychoir's associate music director from 2000 to 2004. He has a master's from the Ohio State University.



Northwestern Region Registration Information

Register at acda.org

Early Registration prior to midnight January 29, 2020

- Attendee \$235 • Retired \$185 • Student \$85

Registration after midnight January 29, 2020*

- Attendee \$285 • Retired \$235 • Student \$100

On-site registration begins March 11, 2020

- Attendee \$300 • Retired \$250 • Student \$100

*NO READING PACKET SELECTION AFTER MIDNIGHT JANUARY 29, 2020

You must be a current ACDA member to register. You will need your membership number to register.

