



National Conference Performing Choirs

2015 ACDA Festival Choir

Thursday 8:00 pm - 9:45 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Friday 8:00 pm - 9:45 pm Abravanel Hall (Gold Track)

The 2015 ACDA Festival Choir includes the Utah Symphony Chorus, Utah Chamber Artists, the University of Utah Chamber Choir, and the University of Utah A Cappella Choir conducted by Barlow Bradford. The Utah Symphony is conducted by Thierry Fischer.

Utah Chamber Artists



Utah Chamber Artists was established in 1991 by Barlow Bradford and James Lee Sorenson. The ensemble comprises forty singers and forty players who create a balance and sonority rarely found in a combined choir and orchestra. Besides presenting the traditional and revered repertoire of the past, the group provides audiences with the finest contemporary works and regularly commissions new music. The choir has been heard on the NPR program "First Art," appeared on the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's weekly broadcast, performed with Keith Lockhart and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, and sung on various occasions with the Utah Symphony. In 1996 the choir was invited to perform with the Israel Chamber Orchestra. The choir has also toured in England and France. Recent awards include the Best of State in 2010 and the Chorus America Dale Warland Singers Commission Award. The ensemble has recorded several CDs and recently completed a second Christmas CD, *Joyous Day*, which includes Barlow Bradford's innovative arrangements of familiar carols. The choir and orchestra offer a concert season in Salt Lake City in addition to touring and recording.

University of Utah A Cappella Choir



Founded in 1962, the A Cappella Choir offers singers the opportunity to perform works for larger choirs and to fine-tune the art of choral singing through exposure to music from the Renaissance through the twenty-first century. Choir members hone musicianship skills such as rhythm, sight-reading, and the understanding of complex scores. They develop an understanding of the intricacies of vocal production, including pitch, and how to blend individual voices together into a unified, beautiful sound. In recent years, the A Cappella Choir has become a standard of excellence in student singing in the State of Utah. Last fall, they sang Mozart's *Trinity Mass* with the Utah Symphony and the Utah Symphony Chorus under the direction of Thierry Fischer. This renewed a tradition of collaboration between the choirs of the University of Utah and the Utah Symphony, and their outstanding performance resulted in invitations for return engagements in 2015.

University of Utah Chamber Choir



Representing the best of a long-standing tradition of choral excellence at the University of Utah, the Chamber Choir was formed in 2012 and named to honor the iconic conductor and arranger Bernell Hales. Hales directed choral studies and the Chamber Choir for over twenty years and was an important mentor to the university's current director of choral studies, Barlow Bradford. Under Bradford's direction, the Chamber Choir has become known for its exquisite sound, remarkable precision, and compelling presentation of works ranging from Renaissance to pop tunes. The Chamber Choir is supported through an ongoing endowment that provides annual scholar-

ships for each student performer. Over the last three years, the choir has toured and performed in the Hawaiian Islands, the Northwestern United States, and Canada. Last summer, the Chamber Choir competed in the International *Floriège Vocal de Tours* held in the Loire Valley in France, where they were awarded the Grand Prix of the competition and also received the Audience Favorite Award.

Utah Symphony Chorus



Shortly after Maurice Abravanel began his famed association with the Utah Symphony, he set about finding a group of singers that could undertake the great choral masterworks with the orchestra. Abravanel turned to the University of Utah's choirs, and six decades and a wealth

of the world's greatest choral music later, they embrace the future and our great associations with Symphony Music Director Thierry Fischer and the Utah Symphony. The chorus has sung under the baton of Utah Symphony music directors Maurice Abravanel, Varujan Kojian, Joseph Silverstein, Keith Lockhart, and Thierry Fischer; and numerous guest conductors, including Robert Shaw, Margaret Hillis, Roger Wagner, Peter Eros, Bernard Labadie, Andrew Litton, and Stanisław Skrowaczewski. The Utah Symphony Chorus comprises volunteers from the community who come from all walks of life. The chorus performs several concerts each season with the Utah Symphony, including choral masterworks, pops concerts, and the annual audience-participation *Messiah* Sing-In. They continue to provide outstanding music to the communities of Utah and beyond.



Barlow Bradford is a conductor, composer, arranger, pianist, and teacher. He founded the Utah Chamber Artists in 1991 and has since led the organization to international acclaim. His focused, energetic conducting style led to his appointment as the music director of the Orchestra at Temple

Square in Salt Lake City and associate director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir from 1999 to 2003. In 2012, Bradford was

named the Ellen Nielsen Barnes Presidential Chair of Choral Studies at the University of Utah, where he conducts the University's Chamber Choir, A Cappella Choir, and directs the graduate choral conducting program. Bradford's compositions and arrangements have garnered much attention for their innovation and dramatic scope. Many of his arrangements have been performed and recorded by the Cleveland Orchestra, Dallas Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Tucson Symphony, Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and Utah Chamber Artists. In addition, his music is performed throughout the world by prominent university, high school, and church choirs. Bradford was named chorus director of the Utah Symphony Chorus in 2013.

Utah Symphony



Founded in 1940, the Utah Symphony is dedicated to offering orchestral performances that span the traditions of the past and challenge possibilities for our present and future audiences. Utah Symphony | Utah Opera, the orchestra's parent organization, reaches 450,000 residents in Utah and the Intermountain region, with educational outreach programs serving more than 155,000 students annually. The orchestra presents more than 70 performances each season in Abravanel Hall, participates in the Utah Opera's four annual productions at the Capitol Theatre, in addition to numerous community concerts throughout Utah and the annual outdoor summer series, the Deer Valley Music Festival in Park City, Utah. With its many subscription, education, and outreach concerts and tours, the Utah Symphony is one of the most engaged full-time orchestras in the nation.

Swiss conductor **Thierry Fischer** has been the music director of the Utah Symphony Orchestra since 2009. He has revitalised their music making and programming and brought a new energy to the orchestra and organization as a whole. From



2006 to 2012 he was principal conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and still returns every season. During the 2014-2015 season, he debuts with the Rotterdam Philharmonic, Residentie Orkest, and Salzburg Mozarteumorchester. In 2012, Fischer's recording for Hyperion of

Frank Martin's opera *Der Sturm* with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus was awarded the International Classical Music Award (opera category). Fischer started out as principal flute in Hamburg and at the Zurich Opera. He spent his apprentice years in Holland and became principal conductor and artistic advisor of the Ulster Orchestra (2001-2006). He was the chief conductor of the Nagoya Philharmonic (2008-2011), making his Suntory Hall debut in Tokyo in May 2010, and is now an honorary guest conductor. Thierry Fischer is represented by Intermusica worldwide and CAMI in North America.

Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts School of the Arts Singers

Saturday 11:00 am - 11:30 am Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Friday 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



The School of the Arts (SOTA) Singers is the advanced mixed choir from the Alexander W. Dreyfoos SOTA in West Palm Beach, Florida. The Dreyfoos School is Palm Beach County's public magnet high school for the performing, visual, and communication arts. Known also for its rigorous academic curriculum, Dreyfoos was recognized by *Newsweek* as one of the top high schools in the nation. The SOTA Singers have performed previously at ACDA state, divisional, and national conferences and were invited to perform at Florida MEA conventions. Throughout the school's twenty-five-year history, this choir has also performed or competed internationally in

Austria, Italy, and the British Isles. The SOTA Singers competed in July 2014 against singers representing six continents in the prestigious Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, placing first in the Senior Children's Choir, Classical Solo, and Musical Theater competitions.



Arlene Graham Sparks is in her twenty-fifth year as the founding director of the vocal department at the Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts. Originally from Iowa, Sparks is a graduate of Cottey College, the Florida State University, and the University of South Florida. She has also done

additional graduate work at Westminster Choir College and has studied under Robert Shaw, Joseph Flummerfelt, Weston Noble, and Sir David Willcocks. Sparks has been a clinician for elementary, middle, and high school all-state and ACDA honor choirs throughout the United States. She has presented workshops on choral rehearsal techniques, building choral tone, choosing literature, and developing group sight-singing skills.

American River College Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Night

Friday 9:00 pm - 9:30 pm Little Theater (Open to Both Tracks)



This marks the eighteenth year in which the American River College Vocal Jazz Ensemble has been in existence under the direction of Arthur Lapiere. The ensemble is the advanced-level vocal group in a two-year jazz degree comprising courses including jazz choir, jazz/pop styles, jazz history, jazz theory, jazz improvisation, jazz piano, and applied lessons. The ensemble performs regularly at school functions and at local high schools and community events. In 2005 the ensemble recorded their self-titled CD and won a DownBeat Award. Ensemble students regularly participate in festivals and have been featured performers for ACDA, IAJE, and JEN. American River College is located in Sacramento, California.



Arthur Lapierre is a professor of music and the director of the Vocal Jazz Ensemble at American River College, where he also teaches studio voice, jazz history, and voice. Lapierre's ensembles have performed for IAJE, JEN, ACDA, California MEA, New York State MTA, and at other

regional and international conferences. *DownBeat Magazine* has honored Lapierre's ensembles and students with fourteen Student Achievement Awards. Lapierre is active as an adjudicator, guest conductor, and clinician. Previously, he directed vocal jazz ensembles at the Berklee College of Music; California State University, Long Beach; California State University, Los Angeles; Rancho Santiago Community College; and Long Beach Polytechnic High School. He also served as the Eastern ACDA Division R&S Chair for Jazz and Show Choirs. Lapierre is a student of Frank Pooler and a graduate of California State University, Long Beach, and the University of Northern Colorado.

at the Tenth World Symposium on Choral Music in Seoul, Korea, in 2014.



Shin-Hwa Park is the director of the Ansan City Choir; professor at Ewha Womans University, past president of the Korean Choral Directors Association, vice president of Korean Federation of Choral Music, director of the Ewha Chamber Choir; and broadcasting host for FEBC-FM Christian radio. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in church music and vocal music from Yonsei University in Seoul and his doctorate in choral literature and conducting from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Park is one of the most invited choral conductors and clinicians in Korea. In 2007 he was awarded the Korean music prize. He is often invited to serve as a juror for choral competitions both at home and abroad. Between 1996 and 2014, his choirs have produced eighty CDs. He also directs the 150-member Calvary Choir of Young-Nak Presbyterian Church.

He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in church music and vocal music from Yonsei University in Seoul and his doctorate in choral literature and conducting from the University of Colorado at Boulder. Park is one of the most invited choral conductors and clinicians in Korea. In 2007 he was awarded the Korean music prize. He is often invited to serve as a juror for choral competitions both at home and abroad. Between 1996 and 2014, his choirs have produced eighty CDs. He also directs the 150-member Calvary Choir of Young-Nak Presbyterian Church.

Ansan City Choir

Friday 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Thursday 4:45 pm - 5:15 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



Founded in 1995, the Ansan City Choir is a professional group that is frequently called upon to represent the Republic of Korea on the international stage. Under the direction of Shin-Hwa Park, the choir has maintained its distinct reputation by performing fifty major regular concerts, making numerous local appearances, and participating in the Korea Choral Festival and other international choral festivals of distinction. In 2002, Ansan City Choir was selected by the International Federation of Choral Music as one of twenty-two best choral groups worldwide and was showcased in performance as part of the prestigious sixth World Choral Symposium in Minneapolis. In 2011, the choir sang in St. Peter's Basilica upon invitation by the Papal court; the choir also performed at the 2012 Northwestern ACDA Division Conference and sang

Anúna

Wednesday 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm TBA (Blue Track)

Wednesday 9:00 pm - 10:15 pm TBA (Gold Track)

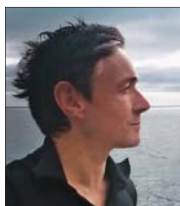
Thursday 9:30 pm - 10:45 pm TBA (Open to Both Tracks)



Anúna was founded in 1987 by Dublin composer Michael McGlynn with the aim of defining and developing a choral expression for his ancient and richly cultural homeland. Much of the group's repertoire explores the relationship between traditional choral ideas

and McGlynn's particular compositional voice. Anúna's name, originally An Uaithne, derives from the term for the three ancient types of Irish music: Suantraí (lullaby), Geantraí (happy song), and Goltraí (lament). Repertoire includes original works set to early texts, traditional arrangements, and works that explore aspects of ritual dating back to the earliest emergence

of the Christian church. Anúna can slip easily between musical genres from the classical ethos of the BBC Proms to creating the hugely successful, unmannered vocal sound of the original Riverdance. They have appeared on two Grammy Award-winning albums and been featured on multiple Billboard Charts, including the Hot 100.



Michael McGlynn's compositional language uses elements of Ireland's traditional music, medieval structures and colors, jazz-tinged chordal clusters, and contemporary and extended compositional techniques. Many of these elements can be heard in his "Agnus Dei" (2007) and "Song of the Wind"

(2012) both commissioned by Chanticleer. Much of his work is choral and includes the hugely-successful "Dúlamán" (1995). Commissions, recordings, and performances have come from Rajaton, the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, Conspirare, the BBC Singers, the Phoenix and Kansas City Chorales, and most recently New York Polyphony, who premiered and recorded his "O pia virgo" in 2014. He has lectured and workshopped all over the world and was an eminent scholar at Florida Atlantic University from 2011 to 2013. Always flexible, he has written songs with country music legends Rodney Crowell and Delbert McClinton; sung a duet on a number-one single in Ireland; and is a successful record producer, solo tenor vocalist, filmmaker, and ardent sea swimmer.

**Baylor University
A Cappella Choir**

Saturday 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)

Saturday 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm Abravanel Hall (Gold Track)



For over 150 years, the rich tradition of choral singing at Baylor has been under the leadership of some of the country's leading conductors—Robert Young, Euell Porter, Hugh Sanders, and Donald Bailey. The A Cappella Choir has performed in most major concert venues throughout the nation and in twelve foreign countries. It has been selected to perform at multiple state conventions and at regional and national conventions of ACDA and MENC. This concert marks the culmination of a year-long schedule of performing and recording projects. The choir sang for TMEA in February 2014, toured throughout the southeast in March, and returned from Paris in May 2014, where the ensemble recorded Duruflé's *Requiem* in St. Etienne du Mont.



Alan Raines is the Mary Gibbs Jones Professor of Music and director of choral activities at Baylor University. He has guest conducted all-state and honor choirs, professional and collegiate choruses, and presented in thirty-six states. Raines's choirs have received invitations to perform for

regional and national conventions of ACDA, NCCO, MENC, and TMEA. Raines conducts the sixty-four-voice, select A Cappella Choir at Baylor and administrates the varied program of seven choirs, comprising over 440 singers. He is the editor of the Baylor University Collegiate Choral Series with Morningstar Press and the Alan Raines Choral Series with Alliance Music Publications. Raines is a graduate of UCLA and a student of Donald Neuen. He resides in Waco with his wife, Frances, and their three sons, Lawson, Sanders, and Carter.

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ChorTeach is available to ACDA members online at
<<http://acda.org/page.asp?page=chorteach>>.



National Conference Performing Choirs

Brigham Young University Women's Chorus

Wednesday 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Wednesday 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



The Brigham Young University (BYU) Women's Chorus was founded over fifty years ago as one of four auditioned ensembles. The choir numbers between 150-180 singers, typically comprising half freshmen and half upper-class women. They come from many fields of study, but all share a passion for choral singing. Sensitive musicianship and consistent improvement are goals for each rehearsal and performance. Recent commissions include works by Lindsay Goodson, David Zabriskie, and Lane Johnson. With its diverse repertoire, the BYU Women's Chorus is well known for its extraordinary beauty of sound, creative programming, and an ability to connect with their audience. Their mission is to give voice to beauty and compassion through choral artistry.



Jean S. Applonie received her bachelor's in choral music education and master's in choral music performance from Brigham Young University. Upon completion of her degree, Applonie was granted a one-year appointment to serve on the full-time faculty for the BYU School of Music. She

taught choral music for Davis and Murray School Districts and has served on the music faculty at the Waterford School. She also operated a private voice studio for ten years in Salt Lake City. Currently a faculty member at BYU, Applonie directs the BYU Women's Chorus and has taught courses in music education and conducting. She is well known as a presenter at state conventions and is often invited to impart her extensive choral knowledge at professional seminars and workshops. Applonie was also cofounder, artistic director, and conductor of Viva Voce! Women's Choir in Salt Lake City from 1994 to 2008.

Cal State University Long Beach Pacific Standard Time

Jazz Night

Friday 8:30 pm - 9:00 pm Little Theater (Open to Both Tracks)



Pacific StandardTime is the top vocal jazz ensemble at the California State University Long Beach, Bob Cole Conservatory of Music. They have had the honor of performing at the JEN Conference, the IAJE Conference, national and divisional ACDA conferences, and multiple California State conferences. They have also performed at the New YorkVoices Jazz Festival, Los Angeles Jazz Festival, the Newport Beach Jazz Party, and the West Coast Jazz Party. Pacific StandardTime has won the CollegiateVocal Jazz Ensemble category at the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival all three times they have competed. They have also received numerous *DownBeat Magazine* Student Music Awards: Outstanding Performance in 2010 and winners of the Collegiate Graduate Vocal Jazz Ensemble category 2011 through 2014.



Christine Helferich Guter is a jazz vocalist and studio singer in the Los Angeles area. She has worked with many legendary musicians, including Joe Williams, Rosemary Clooney, Diane Schuur, Maynard Ferguson, and Mercer Ellington. Guter has sung on numerous Hollywood soundtracks and is

a member of SAG-AFTRA. She is also the lead singer in the nationally acclaimed vocal jazz ensemble Vocalogy. She is active nationally as a guest conductor, lecturer, adjudicator, and clinician. Guter is on the board for the California Alliance for Jazz and is a member of JEN, California MEA, MENC, and ACDA. She serves California ACDA as the Vocal Jazz R&S Chair and is currently the director of vocal jazz at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach. She teaches private jazz and classical voice lessons, a solo jazz vocal techniques course, class jazz piano, jazz

theory, and directs the university's award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, Pacific Standard Time.

Central Washington University Vocal Jazz 1

Jazz Night

Friday 8:00 pm - 8:30 pm Little Theater (Open to Both Tracks)



Vocal Jazz I is the premiere jazz vocal ensemble at Central Washington University. CWU has two vocal jazz ensembles involving over forty-five student instrumentalists and vocalists. The CWU jazz program has a strong tradition of producing exceptional jazz educators and emphasizes pedagogy, performance, composition, and arranging. Vijay Singh, director of Vocal Jazz I since arriving at CWU in 1999, has established a national presence as a jazz educator/composer/arranger and has consistently featured this group at regional and national IAJE, ACDA, and MENC/NAME conferences. Vocal Jazz I recently performed at the 2011 ACDA National Conference in Chicago and the 2013 JEN Conference in Atlanta. CWU is recognized as one of the first vocal jazz programs in the nation dating back to 1947. Alumni include such jazz education luminaries as John "Coach" Moawad, Hal Malcolm, Dave Barduhn, Frank DeMiero, Gary Hobbs, Chris Bruya, Michelle Weir, Dave Cazier, and Bruce Babad.



Vijay Singh, professor of music at Central Washington University, has garnered international attention for his eclectic compositions, arrangements, workshops, and performances. His music is performed by groups in both choral and jazz idioms with over 170 published pieces. He frequently

composes on commission for some of America's finest choirs and jazz vocal ensembles. An active bass-baritone soloist, he

has performed with the Robert Shaw Chorale, Male Ensemble Northwest, Choral Cross Ties, David Byrne (Talking Heads), Clark Terry, numerous orchestras, and the award-winning un-accompanied jazz quartet Just 4 Kicks. Singh's CWU student ensembles have performed at national conferences for ACDA, MENC, IAJE, and JEN. A former National ACDA R&S Chair for Jazz, Singh is a thirteen-time ASCAP Composer Awards recipient, a strong advocate for music education, and a guest conductor of all-state honors choirs in over twenty-six states. His "Mass with Orchestra" received its world premiere at Avery Fischer Hall/Lincoln Center in New York City in 2011.

Choral Arts (Seattle)

Friday 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Saturday 11:45 am - 12:15 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



Seattle-based Choral Arts presents a challenging repertoire of mixed styles, periods, and languages. Performances include new American choral music and a faithful representation of many different choral music genres. In drawing singers exclusively from the Seattle region, Choral Arts has maintained its community-based roots while reaching a level of excellence in musicianship that has earned them national recognition and critical acclaim. Choral Arts was awarded the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence in 2010; they also won and placed second for the American Prize for choral performance (community division) in 2010 and 2013, respectively. The group has also performed at the 2010 Northwest ACDA Division Conference and the 2013 Chorus America National Conference. In the past seven years, Choral Arts has commissioned seventeen new choral works by American composers



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and currently has seven commercially released recordings under the Gothic record label.



Robert Bode has been the artistic director for Choral Arts since 2007. He is on the faculty at the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he is the Raymond R.

Neevel/Missouri Professor of Choral Music and director of choral activities. Before his position at UMKC, Bode was the director of choral/vocal studies at Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington. Bode received his doctorate in choral conducting from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He made his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in 1990, conducting the Walla Walla Symphony Chorale in the New York premiere of *The Waking* by John David Earnest. In March 1995, Bode conducted the Walla Walla Mastersingers in performances for the ACDA National Conference at the Kennedy Center and Constitution Hall in Washington DC. His choirs have sung at six ACDA division conferences.

Cypress Falls High School Varsity Women

Thursday 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Friday 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold track)



The Cypress Falls Varsity Women's Choir comprises women from the Varsity Mixed Choir who are hard workers, eager to learn, and quick to share their passion and love of music. Members from the choir are often selected to the Texas All-State Choir; medal winners in music competitions, and participants in award-winning choral performances. By following in the footsteps of former members of the choir, the Varsity Women continue to dedicate themselves to the pursuit of musical excellence in performance.



Deidre Douglas is in her twenty-sixth year of teaching in the Cypress Fairbanks School District in Houston, Texas, and is currently the head choral director at Cypress Falls High School. Douglas received her bachelor's and master's from Stephen F. Austin State University, where she was named the Presser Scholar and the Lenvill Martin Outstanding Music Graduate. Douglas's choirs have received numerous sweepstakes ratings in UIL Contest and Sightreading, Best in Class, and Outstanding Performance at festivals, and performed at the annual TMEA Convention. Her students have consistently earned memberships in district, region, and all-state choirs. Douglas is a frequent adjudicator; clinician, and soloist throughout Texas and the surrounding states. She and her husband, BJ, have two daughters, Rebekah and Leah.

Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir with the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra

Thursday 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)

Thursday 10:30 am - 11:30 pm Abravanel Hall (Gold Track)



Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (EPCC) is one of the best-known Estonian music groups in the world. EPCC was founded by Tõnu Kaljuste in 1981, who was the artistic director and chief conductor for twenty years. The repertoire of the choir extends from Gregorian chant and Baroque music to the music of the twenty-first century, with special focus on the work of Estonian composers. Each season, the choir gives over sixty concerts in Estonia and abroad. EPCC has been a guest at numerous music festivals and outstanding venues all over the world. Another important aspect in the choir's life is recording music (for ECM, Virgin Classics, Carus, Harmonia

Mundi, and Ondine), resulting in Grammy Awards for Best Choral Performance in 2007 and 2014. The choir has fourteen Grammy nominations for recordings of works by Arvo Pärt, Erkki-Sven Tüür, and the music of Nordic countries.



The Tallinn Chamber Orchestra was founded in 1993 by conductor Tõnu Kaljuste. The predecessor of the orchestra was a string orchestra founded by Jüri Gerretz in 1989 from students of the Tallinn Conservatoire. From the core of this student orchestra, Kaljuste formed a professional chamber orchestra. Particularly in the early years, the activity of the orchestra was tightly connected with the work of the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, and mutual concerts brought international recognition to both groups. The orchestra participated in a recording of Arvo Pärt's "Adam's Lament," which won a Grammy Award in 2014. The Tallinn Chamber orchestra has performed at many prestigious music festivals around the world, including the Festival of Bach Cantatas in Milan (1996 and 1997), Bremen Music Festival (1998), Settembre Musica in Turin (2004), Budapest Autumn Festival (2005), Kaustinen Chamber Music Week (2005), Bergamo and Brescia Festival Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli (2007), Festival Musiikkia Rouvesi! (2012), Festival Cervantino (Mexico 2012), Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival (2013), and the International Festival of Carthage (2014).



Tõnu Kaljuste founded the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (EPCC) in 1981, the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra (TCO) in 1993, the Nargen Opera project theatre in 2004, and the Nargen Festival in 2006. He is the winner of several prizes for recordings, including Diapason d'Or de l'Annee (2000), Cannes Classical Award, Edison Prize, Brit Award (2003), and a Grammy Award for Choral Performance (2014). Since 2010, Kaljuste has worked as a professor at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre and as the head of its conducting department. Since 2001 he has worked as a

freelance conductor with orchestras and choirs all over the world. He has been appointed as a member of the Royal Music Academy of Sweden and has been awarded the Japanese ABC Music Fund Award, the International Robert Edler Prize for Choral Music, First Prize at the 2004 Estonian Cultural Fund, and the 2010 Performance Prize of the Estonian Music Council. In May and June 2014, Kaljuste gave concerts with Arvo Pärt's music together with the EPCC and TCO in the United States at the Kennedy Center in Washington, Carnegie Hall, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts Singing Girls of Texas Training Choir

Thursday 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm Abravanel Hall ([Blue Track](#))
Friday 2:15 pm - 2:45 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle ([Gold track](#))



The Singing Girls of Texas (SGT) was founded in 2001 by the Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts, which has a legacy of providing excellent arts experience and education to its students. SGT quickly became renowned in Texas and across the nation for its outstanding vocal blend, variety of repertoire, passion for music, and exceptional performances. The choir has performed across the United States and internationally in Austria, Italy, and Greece. SGT comprises three distinguished choirs. The resident Training Choir performing for ACDA is a select group of auditioned seventh- and eighth-grade singers who strive, and routinely succeed, to gain the vocal skills necessary to earn a place on the prestigious SGT Tour Choir for ninth through twelfth graders. Training Choir singers are consistent UIL Sweepstake winners and repeatedly receive invitations to perform in local, regional, and charity events.



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Ian Yeung received a master's and doctorate in choral conducting from the University of North Texas (UNT) and studied worship at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Yeung has held teaching positions at the University of Texas at Dallas, UNT, North Lake College, and Vernon

College. He also served as the artistic director of the Dallas Chinese Choral Society, director of the Dallas Asian American Youth Orchestra and UNT Men's Chorus, and founder of the Vernon Choral Society. An active participant of the national choral workshops, Yeung was selected as a conducting fellow in the Dennis Keene Festival and the Oregon Bach Festival. A longtime conductor, adjudicator, accompanist, and church musician, Yeung has been a member of the faculty of the Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts since 2011 and is the artistic director of Singing Girls of Texas.

Iowa State University Iowa State Singers

Thursday 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Friday 3:15 pm - 3:45 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold track)



The Iowa State Singers is Iowa State University's most select choral ensemble. Comprising freshmen through seniors, approximately one half of them music majors, the choir's membership is drawn from a campus of over thirty-four thousand students. The group annually presents a five-concert season, which includes a full-scale Madrigal Dinner and choral-orchestral masterwork. Recent performances include *Carmina Burana*; *Messiah*; and Requiem settings of Brahms, Mozart, and Duruflé. Concert tours have taken them to Australia, Western Europe, Russia, China, and most recently Korea, highlighted by a performance with the Incheon City Chorale. The choir has been honored in recent years to perform at four ACDA divisional and national conferences; and NCCO in 2008 and

2011. In 2013, the Singers were the national winners of the American Prize, College/University Chorus Division.



James Rodde, endowed chair and director of choral activities at Iowa State University, Ames, conducts the Iowa State Singers, the 150-voice Iowa Statesmen, teaches choral conducting and literature, and oversees a program of 400 undergraduate choristers. His choirs have toured internationally and

have been honored with performances at ACDA national conferences in 1993, 1997, 2005, and 2009 and NCCO in 2008 and 2011. An active clinician, he has led numerous festival ensembles, including several all-state and divisional ACDA honor choirs. As a conducting mentor, one of his students won the 2005 ACDA undergraduate conducting competition. Beyond his university duties, Rodde is the artistic director of two community ensembles: the Ames Chamber Artists and the Des Moines Choral Society. For more than a decade he served ACDA as the North Central R&S Chair for Men's Choirs, and he continues to edit and arrange choral music.

Kettering Fairmont High School Eleventh Hour

Jazz and A Cappella Night

Thursday 8:30 pm - 9:00 pm Little Theater (Open to Both Tracks)



Eleventh Hour is a select group of eight vocalists from the music department at Kettering Fairmont High School. They have appeared on several educational conferences, including Ohio MEA state conferences in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, and 2013; the 2010 Central ACDA Division Conference; and the 2011 ACDA National Conference. In 2010, Eleventh Hour became the first high school group ever selected to compete on the NBC unaccompanied reality series *The Sing-Off*. The

next year found Eleventh Hour back on national television, this time as carolers in *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Christmas Special*. In 2012, Eleventh Hour performed at the World Choir Games, earning a gold medal in the Champions category of Pop Choral Music. Eleventh Hour can also be heard on promotional recordings for Alfred Publishing.



Brody McDonald is the director of choirs at Kettering Fairmont High School. Under his leadership, Kettering's curricular choirs have consistently earned the highest ratings at state-level contests and have been featured at numerous conventions. He is at the forefront of the unaccompanied movement, serving as a founding member and the vice president of the A Cappella Education Association. He is also the author of *A Cappella Pop: A Complete Guide to Contemporary A Cappella Singing*. McDonald recently joined the faculty at Wright State University as director of a cappella studies. He has partnered with Deke Sharon to launch Camp A Cappella—a summer camp designed to immerse singers of all ages in the contemporary a cappella style that will take place at Wright State University June 23–28, 2015.

McDonald recently joined the faculty at Wright State University as director of a cappella studies. He has partnered with Deke Sharon to launch Camp A Cappella—a summer camp designed to immerse singers of all ages in the contemporary a cappella style that will take place at Wright State University June 23–28, 2015.

The King's Singers

Wednesday 9:00 pm - 9:40 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)

Wednesday 7:00 pm - 7:40 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



Acclaimed worldwide for their life-affirming virtuosity and irresistible charisma, the King's Singers are in global demand. Their work—synonymous with the very best in vocal ensemble performance—appeals to a vast international audience. They perform over 120 concerts each year, touring regularly

to Europe, the United States, Asia, and Australia. Famed for their musical excellence, the King's Singers are also consummate entertainers—a class act with a delightfully British sense of humor. Their generosity of spirit and magical ability to move audiences have remained constant since the group's foundation in 1968. The King's Singers have premiered over 200 works and have also commissioned thrilling arrangements of everything from jazz standards to pop chart hits and encouraged young composers to write new scores.

Maryland State Boychoir The Tour Choir

Friday 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Thursday 3:45 pm - 4:15 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



Now celebrating its twenty-eighth season, the Maryland State Boychoir serves the State of Maryland as "Official Goodwill Ambassadors." The Boychoir performs over eighty times annually throughout Maryland and on national and international tours that have taken them to thirty states and twelve countries. The choristers have sung at many distinguished venues, including the White House, National Cathedral, St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, and the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia. Recent Boychoir musical programs include Bernstein's *Kaddish* at both the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall and Strathmore Center with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Bach Choir of Baltimore, Mahler's *Third Symphony* with the National Orchestral Institute, the debut of John Rutter's *Mass of the Children*, Howard Shore's *Fellowship of the Rings Symphony* with the BSO and Andrew Earle Simpson's *A Crown of Stars* with the Cantate Chamber Singers.



Stephen Holmes began his formal musical training with the Maryland State Boychoir (MSB) at the age of nine. His strong ties and commitment continue today, where he oversees five ensembles. He is the music director/organist at the Church of the Resurrection and serves on the board of directors for the Canticle Singers of Baltimore, MSB, and Choral MEA of Maryland. He has conducted in thirty-five states, at ACDA and Maryland MEA conferences, and served as guest conductor of county and state honor choirs and festivals. Holmes has performed as a soloist and chorister with regional ensembles and has been recognized with voice, organ, and conducting awards. He received his bachelor's in voice and organ performance from Towson University; his master's in choral conducting from the University of Maryland, College Park; and is currently working on his doctorate.



Ko Matsushita is a composer and conductor born and raised in Tokyo. He graduated at the top of his class from the Kunitachi College of Music, Department of Composition, and studied chorus conducting under the late Reményi János and Erdei Péter in Budapest and Kecskemét (Kodály institute), Hungary. He is currently the conductor and artistic director of fourteen choirs, which have achieved excellent showings in the choral circuit and won awards in international competitions. A prolific composer and arranger, Matsushita's works are performed around the world. His compositions vary widely, ranging from works based on traditional Japanese music, masses, motets, to etudes for choirs. In 2005 he became the first Asian to receive the Robert Edler Prize for Choral Music in recognition of his outstanding achievements worldwide in conducting, composing, performance, and education.

The Metropolitan Chorus of Tokyo

Wednesday 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm Abravanel Hall ([Blue Track](#))

Wednesday 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle ([Gold Track](#))



The Metropolitan Chorus of Tokyo (MET) is a joint mixed choir comprising members from "Koyukai"—a group of choirs with Ko Matsushita as their artistic director. MET contributes to the accession, retention, and progression of chorus culture by participating in festivals and events, making concerts at schools and welfare facilities, being a model choir in choir master classes, recording CDs, and performing abroad. MET was invited to the world premiere of *Ah Nagasaki: Ashes into Light* (Robert Kyr, 2008), which takes its motif from the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. In 2011, MET was invited to Shenzhen, China, to perform in an exhibition together with the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra.

Miller Middle School Advanced Choir

Wednesday 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm Abravanel Hall ([Blue Track](#))

Wednesday 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle ([Gold track](#))



Established in 2002 under the direction of Anthony E. Arnold, the Miller Choral Music Department is a group of young men and women dedicated to the principle of excellence, striving to do the right thing all the time. Since 2005, the Advanced Choir of the Miller Choral Music Department has not scored any less than unanimous superior ratings at any choral festival they have attended. Highlights include a June 2014 Spotlight Performance at Carnegie Hall for the Choirs of America Invitational Choral Festival; 2013 First Place, Highest Scoring, and Best Overall Middle School Choral Group at the Heritage Presidential Inauguration Festival in Washington DC; 2012 Gold Award and second-place finish in the Open Division Mixed Choir Category at the 7th World Choir Games in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Anthony E. Arnold has been teaching instrumental and choral music for twenty years, the last thirteen years at Joaquin Miller Middle School in San Jose, where he teaches beginning choir, advanced choir, and beginning band. Because of his lifelong goal of doing everything he can to pursue excellence, Arnold was recognized by California MEA in 2009 as Outstanding Choral Music Educator and in 2011 by the Santa Clara Office of Education as the Cupertino Union School District Teacher of the Year. Arnold received his bachelor's from Azusa Pacific University.

tion All-Star Vocal Jazz Ensemble, the YoungArts scholarship competition, and the NAACP ACT-SO competition.



Raymond Roberts is the music department chair and director of vocal music at the Milwaukee High School of the Arts, where he has taught since 1991. Roberts is a graduate of the Booker T. Washington High School of the Arts in Dallas, Texas, and holds a bachelor's from Northwest-

ern University and a master's in educational leadership from Cardinal Stritch University. His choirs from Milwaukee High School of the Arts have performed at numerous state and regional music conferences, including a Wisconsin CDA conference and a North Central ACDA Division conference. Roberts was featured in a 2008 cover story in *Choral Director Magazine*, received the Civic Music Association Excellence in Choral Music Award in 2009, and was named a Director of Note in the 2011 *Choral Director Magazine*.

Milwaukee High School of the Arts Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Jazz and A Cappella Night

Thursday 8:00 pm - 8:30 pm Little Theater ([Open to Both Tracks](#))



The Milwaukee High School of the Arts (MHSA) Vocal Jazz Ensemble is an award-winning group comprising the most advanced singers from the vocal music program at MHSA. Dedicated to the study and perpetuation of America's music—jazz—the curricular focus is centered on improvisation, utilizing both solo and ensemble repertoire as the vehicle for spontaneous musical creation. This ensemble has performed at numerous conferences and festivals, including the WSMA State Conference and the WCDA State Convention. The group has also performed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and has been featured prominently in ABC's WISN holiday prime-time feature, "Season to Celebrate." Individual students from this ensemble have received recognition from several national competitions, including the Grammy Founda-

Mira Costa High School Vocal Ensemble

Wednesday 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Abravanel Hall ([Blue Track](#))

Wednesday 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle ([Gold Track](#))



Vocal Ensemble, from Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, California, prepares students for life by inspiring individual excellence and fostering daily artistic collaboration. In 2012, Vocal Ensemble performed at the Western ACDA Division Conference in Reno, Nevada, and also performed as the featured choir at Carnegie Hall. In the summer of 2010, Vocal Ensemble became the first high school choir selected for



National Conference Performing Choirs

the two-week International Festival of the Aegean in Greece, where they performed as the opera chorus in *Carmen*. They were also the only American choir chosen to perform in the Festival's Sacred A Cappella Sunset Series. The Los Angeles Master Chorale chose Vocal Ensemble to solo in the 2009 High School Choral Festival at Walt Disney Concert Hall. Their recording of Eric Whitacre's *Sleep* was selected for the 2009 *Best of High School A Cappella* National Compilation CD.



Michael Hayden, a 2014 California Teacher of the Year, is the first choral director ever to receive this distinction and was chosen from among 280,000 public school teachers. Hayden received his bachelor's from Butler University, master's in choral conducting from the Eastman School of Music, and doctorate from Michigan State University. After a career at two universities and conducting four community choirs in the Midwest, in 2007 Hayden became the director of choirs at Mira Costa High School. He has received the CMEA Pearson-Silver Burdett Award, honoring excellence in choral education. Vox Femina LA presented him with an Aria Award for his service to music education in the Greater LA area. Because of the excellence of its music department and faculty, the Grammy Foundation named Mira Costa High School a 2014 Grammy Gold Signature School—one of only three in the nation.



Conductor, choir, and interest session clinician photos and bios will be available in the February issue program book via a QR code reader. Download this free app today!

To scan a QR code, simply open the app, point your smart phone or other device at the code, and you're done! The QR code reader will automatically recognize any QR code your camera is pointing at and show you the relevant information links to that barcode.

Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Friday 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (**Blue Track**)
Thursday 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (**Gold Track**)



The Mormon Tabernacle Choir is one of the most venerable musical institutions in the nation. Comprising 360 volunteer voices, the choir is heard by millions worldwide through television, radio, satellite broadcasts, Internet streaming, concert tours, and recordings. They have received a Grammy award, two Grammy nominations, two Emmy awards, and five gold and two platinum records with *Billboard Magazine* naming them the #1 Traditional Classical Albums Artist for 2012. Among recent releases, *Homeward Bound*, featuring Bryn Terfel, is on the Deutsche Grammophon label. The choir also has its own recording label with more than thirty CDs and twenty videos produced since 2003. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir is the only choral ensemble to receive the National Medal of Arts. Renowned guest artists who have recently appeared with the choir include Renée Fleming, Bryn Terfel, Deborah Voigt, Frederica von Stade, James Taylor, and Audra McDonald. An important companion of the choir, the Orchestra at Temple Square, was organized in 1999. Members are selected from a roster of 150 volunteer instrumentalists.



Mack Wilberg was appointed as the music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in 2008, having served as associate music director since 1999. Wilberg is responsible for all musical and creative aspects of the Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square in rehearsals, concerts, tours, and recordings, and the weekly broadcast of *Music and the Spoken Word*. He is a former professor of music at Brigham Young University and is active as a composer, arranger, guest conductor, and clinician.

throughout the United States and abroad. His compositions and arrangements are performed and recorded by artists and musical ensembles throughout the world. Wilberg received his bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and his master's and doctorate from the University of Southern California.



Ryan Murphy was appointed as the associate music director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in 2009. In addition to assisting with the weekly broadcast of *Music and the Spoken Word*, he conducts of the Temple Square Chorale. Murphy holds degrees in piano and organ performance

and choral conducting from Brigham Young University and a doctorate in choral conducting from Boston University, where he was associated with the Tanglewood Institute. He has directed choirs at the New England Conservatory of Music Preparatory School and the Walnut Hill School for the Arts. He was also the music director for the Sundance Institute and the Tuacahn Center for the Arts. Murphy is an active clinician, guest conductor, composer, and arranger.

internationally in Australia, France, the United States, Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, and Israel. The Muungano National Choir has been a breeding ground for budding choirmasters and training and is used to measure standards for choral music in Kenya. Currently, the choir has a steady membership of seventy members from different Christian denominations, educational institutions, and from all walks of life who sing for the love of singing.



Joseph Ayimba is a career public servant who took over as the director of the Muungano National Choir following the passing of the previous director, Risper Oduor, in August 2014. Ayimba holds a bachelor's in political science and communication, a master's in communication, and an ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate in music performance.

Ayimba joined Muungano in the 1990s, traveling with the choir to the United States in 1996 and 2001; to Italy, Germany, and Austria in 1996; and to the Netherlands and Israel in 1999. He is also the director of Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church Choir, Nairobi, and a previous secretary general of the Catholic Choirs Association of Kenya, which organizes music training and festivals for Catholic Choirs in Kenya.

Muungano National Choir of Kenya

Wednesday 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Wednesday 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



The Muungano National Choir was founded in 1979 by Boniface Mganga, who directed the choir until his death in July 2012. The name Muungano is a Kiswahili word meaning unity. The choir was originally a conglomeration of 1,500 singers drawn from several church choirs based in Nairobi. Shortly after inception, the choir got into the musical limelight through singing patriotic and religious songs. The choir achieved international acclaim with its recording of *Missa Luba a Congolese* mass in Latin, sponsored by Phillips International. This recording appeared on the US Billboard charts. The choir has toured

National Youth Chamber Choir of Great Britain

Friday 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Saturday 11:15 am - 11:45 am Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



The National Youth Chamber Choir of Great Britain (NYCC) is the elite performing ensemble of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain. It provides its members with a variety of experiences in different areas to help create the



National Conference Performing Choirs

most highly skilled and multitalented choral singers in the UK, including performing, recording, and educational projects. Established in 1983, the NYCGB is renowned for its standards in the education and training of young singers. The main choir—the National Youth Choir—is firmly recognized as one of the world’s finest vocal ensembles. Originally established as a single choir of 100 of the best singers in the nation, NYCGB now provides the widest musical experiences for over 750 young people aged 9-25. The educational structure comprises four Junior Choirs that provide opportunities for girls to audition from the age of 11 and boys from the age of 9, two training choirs for singers aged 13-18, the National Youth Choir itself for singers aged 16-22, and the world-renowned Chamber Choir.



Ben Parry has a busy career as a composer, conductor, arranger, singer, and producer in both classical and light music fields. He has made over seventy recordings, and his music is published by Peters Edition and Faber Music. His choral music has been heard at the BBC Proms concerts and on the hit TV series *Glee*. Parry is the director of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain; assistant director of music at King’s College, Cambridge; and codirector of London Voices, with whom he has worked on the soundtracks of major films such as *The Hobbit*, *Hunger Games*, and *Harry Potter*. He studied at Cambridge University and was a member of King’s College Choir. Later he was musical director and singer with the Swingle Singers. For eight years he lived in Scotland, where he cofounded the distinguished ensemble Dunedin Consort. He has worked with the London Philharmonic and Symphony Orchestras, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Royal Symphony Orchestra of Seville, National Youth Orchestra of Wales, and Vancouver Youth Symphony. Parry has sung with the Gabrieli Consort, Schütz Choir, Taverner Consort, and Tenebrae.

Nittany Valley Children's Choir The Concordia Singers

Saturday 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (**Blue Track**)

Saturday 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm Abravanel Hall (**Gold Track**)



The Nittany Valley Children’s Choir (NVCC) is a community arts organization based in State College, Pennsylvania. Founded in 1997 to fill a need in the Centre County region and to enrich the artistic life of the community, the choir currently serves over 120 children, ages 4–18, in three levels of choirs. Choristers learn and perform appropriate, challenging, and musically excellent repertoire with a focus on healthy vocal development. The Concordia Singers, NVCC’s only auditioned choir, comprises advanced singers who have demonstrated outstanding singing abilities, positive attitudes, and commitments to artistry in performance. The Concordia Singers have performed at the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts; PMEA State Conference; MENC Eastern Division; ACDA state, division, and national conferences; and in concert with the American Boychoir; the Kronos Quartet, the Penn State Men’s Glee Club, the State College Choral Society, and the Nittany Valley Symphony.



Registration for the
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is open at www.acda.org

Attendee \$299 Retired \$269 Student \$199

Preregistration and reading packet
selection ends January 21, 2015

NO REFUNDS



Lou Ann Shafer founder and artistic director of the Nittany Valley Children’s Choir; holds a bachelor’s and master’s from Oberlin College Conservatory in Ohio. With experience teaching preschool through college, she currently maintains a private studio in voice and piano. Shafer is active as a guest conductor for children’s and women’s choir festivals. A composer of choral music for the church, with works published by Shawnee Press, Lorenz, and the United Methodist Publishing House, she also serves as editor for the new Psalter Hymnal of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

The Real Group

Wednesday 9:45 pm - 10:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)
Wednesday 7:45 pm - 8:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



The Real Group is a groundbreaking vocal group based in Sweden made up of the following members: Emma Nilsson, Katarina Henryson, Anders Edenroth, Morten Vinther, and Anders Jalkéus. With the voice as their sole instrument, they have created a unique musical expression in the field between jazz, pop, and Nordic European choir music and have been touring the world for almost three decades. They have often been asked to perform at prestigious official events along with their regular concerts, such as the Swedish queen's birthday and at the opening of the 2002 FIFA World Cup. The Real Group has made seventeen CDs and produced their own concert tours, TV programs, and been artistic directors for an A Cappella Festival in Seoul, South Korea. The Real Group initiated and hosted "The Real A Cappella Festival" (2008) and "The Real Group Festival" (2012) with visitors from more than twenty countries. They are in the process of developing the online educational site "The Real Group Academy." In 2012 and 2013 they toured as ambassadors for the charity program Star For Life in Sweden and South Africa. Their Christmas album, *A World for Christmas*, was released in 2012 on Universal Music.

Roanoke Valley Children's Choir

Saturday 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)
Saturday 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Abravanel Hall (Gold Track)



Founded in 1987 by Kimberly Ruse Davidson, the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir (RVCC) has grown to include over 280 children, ages 7–18, from throughout the Roanoke Valley and surrounding communities. The three Training Choirs and Concert Choir rehearse weekly at Hollins University. RVCC is committed to providing a choral experience designed to give children personal and musical growth. Twenty-nine volunteer committees work side by side with Davidson to ensure that the organization runs smoothly and is able to provide a program of excellence in all areas. RVCC performs locally at annual Christmas and spring concerts to sold-out audiences and with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and Opera Roanoke. The choir has enjoyed many festival performances, including Carnegie Hall, Canterbury Cathedral, Pacific Rim in Hawaii, Orchestra Hall in Chicago, and has been a featured choir at the 2008 and 2014 Southern ACDA Division Conferences.



Kimberly Ruse Davidson is in her twenty-eighth year as artistic and administrative director of the Roanoke Valley Children's Choir. A graduate of Valparaiso University, Davidson started her career in public schools and church choirs before switching to focus full time on the development of the choir. She has also served as an adjudicator, guest director, festival director, and all-district director on numerous occasions. Davidson's goal for the RVCC is not only to bring out the beauty in the music but also the beauty in the child,

nurturing his or her capacity to find beauty and joy even during the most difficult of times. Known for her warm smile, serious work ethic, and sincere love for the children in the choir, the title of director is not only her life's work but her passion.

Saint Mary's International School Varsity Male Ensemble

Thursday 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)

Thursday 10:00 am - 10:30 am Abravanel Hall (Gold Track)



This select ensemble is made up of students grades 9–12 representing a dozen nationalities. They rehearse for twenty minutes each day during lunch, where they are encouraged to realize their music through expressive movement and gesture. They have won top honors and awards at numerous festivals and competitions in Japan and abroad. They

have performed on Japanese national radio and television, with world-renown musicians, for members of the Japanese Imperial Family, and have been invited as musical ambassadors and are involved in charity work with Refugees International Japan. The VME has toured on four continents, performed at two previous ACDA national and four divisional conferences, assisted in music education workshops at American universities, and were featured in the Hal Leonard publication *Creating Artistry through Movement and the Maturing Male Voice*. The choir seeks to nurture a love for and global awareness of music from many cultures and the spiritual heritage that embodies St. Mary's International School.



Randy Stenson is in his thirty-second year of teaching at St. Mary's International School in Tokyo, Japan, where he is the fine arts coordinator and directs the middle and high school choirs. His groups have earned international recognition for their

musicianship and expressiveness in performance. He edits the *Randy Stenson Male Choral Series* for Pavane Publishing, co-edits the *Randy and Rachel Stenson Choral Series* for Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and is the coauthor of *Creating Artistry: Movement and the Maturing Male Voice* (Hal Leonard). In demand as a choral adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor, he has been invited to work with honor choirs and choral organizations throughout the Asia-Pacific Region, Australia, North America, and Europe. He is on the summer faculty of the International Choral Education Workshops at California State University Fullerton. Stenson holds his bachelor's from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and master's from VanderCook College of Music.

Salt Lake Vocal Artists

Special Concert (Open to Both Tracks)

Thursday 6:15 pm - 6:45 pm Assembly Hall



Organized in 2010, the Salt Lake Vocal Artists are the international ambassadors for the Salt Lake Choral Artists, an organization of seven choral ensembles and over 300 singers. They have won four first prizes in Tolosa (Spain) and five first prizes in Arezzo (Italy) and represented the United States at the World Choral Symposium in Argentina. Recent concert tours have included Bulgaria, Turkey, and Japan for the Karuizawa Festival with Ko Matsushita. In 2015 they will be the featured performers at the Chorbienale in Aachen, Germany. They have commissioned over twenty works and collaborated with composers such as Ola Gjeilo, Ēriks Ešņvalds, Ko Matsushita, György Orbán, Josep Vila, Ivo Antognini, John Høybye, Sergey Khvoshinsky, Dan Forrest, and Jake Runestad. Their well-established presence on YouTube has captivated millions of viewers, and their CD recordings are available on iTunes.



Brady R. Allred is the artistic director and conductor of the Salt Lake Choral Artists. He has recently guest conducted, adjudicated, and taught master classes in sixteen countries throughout Europe, Asia, and South America. He is a winner of the European Grand Prix, two first prizes, and the Conductors Prize at the Marktoberdorf International Chamber Choir Competition. Allred holds advanced degrees in conducting from the Eastman School of Music. Prior to his full-time appointment as the artistic director of SLCA, Allred was the director of choral studies at the University of Utah, director of choral activities at Duquesne University, conductor of the Butler Symphony Orchestra, artistic director and conductor of the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh, and performer with the Robert Shaw Festival Singers and the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus.

present "Dancing the Mystery," a program combining choral music with the sacred poetry of Sufi masters Rumi and Hafiz.



The 2014–2015 season marks **Joshua Habermann's** fourth year with the Dallas Symphony Chorus, where recent projects include Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* and Britten's *War Requiem*, which was reprised for the 2013 ACDA National Conference in Dallas. Prior to his DSO appointment,

Habermann was assistant conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus. Other performance credits as a singer include the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus and three recordings with *Conspirare* under Craig Hella Johnson. Habermann is in his sixth year with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale. Under his tenure, the ensemble has been recognized for outstanding performances of repertoire ranging from choral-orchestral masterworks to innovative unaccompanied programs. A passionate advocate for music education, Habermann has served on the faculties of San Francisco State University and the University of Miami. He is currently an adjunct faculty member at the University of North Texas.

Sante Fe Desert Chorale

Music in Worship Concert (Open to Both Tracks)

Friday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm Cathedral of the Madeline

Friday 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Cathedral of the Madeline



For over thirty years, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale has been a leader among American chamber choirs. Each year twenty-four professional singers from across the country assemble in New Mexico for summer and winter concert seasons totaling more than thirty annual performances in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Equally at home with choral-orchestral masterworks, new commissions, and creative, cutting-edge, unaccompanied programming, the Desert Chorale is a mainstay of Santa Fe's vibrant visual and performing arts scene and has earned a reputation for creating intimate and innovative concert experiences. In Salt Lake City, the Desert Chorale will

Sine Nomine

Thursday 10:30 am - 11:00 am Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)

Thursday 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Abravanel Hall (Gold Track)



Founded in 2003 by its first director, Enrique Fililú O'Reilly, and directed since 2008 by Leonor Suárez Dulzaides, *Camerala Vocale Sine Nomine* is a unique ensemble within the rich choral movement in Cuba—a male choir employing countertenor voices (soprano and alto), tenor, and bass. It



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has a repertoire that spans from the beginning of polyphony to the present, including works of early music, spirituals, and contemporary Cuban music. Camerata Vocale Sine Nomine has produced two CDs in collaboration with Ars Longa de la Havane; both were CUBADISCO prizewinners. Sine Nomine was awarded first prize for Best Vocal Ensemble and Best Choral Arrangement in the 2012 international competition "Jalisco Canta" in Mexico and can be heard on the soundtracks of the documentary "En el cuerpo equivocado" and the movie *Vestido de novia* (Wedding Dress) directed by Marilyn Solaya. Camerata Vocale Sine Nomine has recently finished recording two CDs, both for the Colibrí label: one dedicated to the work of composers Cayetano Pagueras and Juan París, and another of Hispanic unaccompanied music.



Leonor Suárez Dulzaides studied music at the National School of Arts and choral conducting at the Instituto Superior de Artes with Digna Guerra. Since 1976 she has worked as a conductor and in music education, developing curricula for middle and elementary schools in Cuba

and teaching artist programs as a specialist with the National Choral Music Center. In 1989 and 1990 she received prizes for her own compositions for mixed and female choruses. Since 2000 she has directed the Coral Femenina of the Conservatorio Amadeo Roldán, and since 2008 she has led Camerata Vocale Sine Nomine. She visited San Francisco and the Western ACDA Division Conference in Reno, Nevada, where she worked with various choirs and led sessions and workshops devoted to Cuban music.

South Dakota Chorale

Saturday 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)

Saturday 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Abravanel Hall (Gold Track)



Based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the South Dakota Chorale (SDC) is a collaborative network of musicians combining the talents of singers locally, regionally, and across the nation. In their five-year history they have developed educational collaborations with high school choirs, led enriching master classes with pre-professional/collegiate singers, partnered with local arts series to build support and awareness for the arts, initiated a guest conductor residency, and released two commercial recordings in collaborations with Grammy award-winning producer Blanton Alspaugh. The SDC represents a wide range of professionals: from people with day jobs in other disciplines to collegiate voice teachers and choral conductors to others who make their daily living singing opera and oratorio around the country. While their backgrounds are diverse, one thing unites the chorale in its work—the magic and beauty of collaborative singing—something that cannot be achieved by oneself or without an audience.



Brian Schmidt is the founder and artistic director of the South Dakota Chorale. He is the assistant conductor and administrative coordinator of chapel music at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where he serves as conductor of the Duke Vespers Ensemble and Duke

Divinity School Choir. With the Duke Vespers Ensemble, Schmidt leads the highly auditioned chamber choir in a weekly candlelit choral vespers service. The ensemble also presents concerts specializing in early music both unaccompanied and in collaboration with Cappella Baroque, a professional period



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instrument orchestra that Schmidt founded at Duke Chapel. They made their Boston Early Music Festival Fringe Concert debut in 2013, performing Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostris*, and MSR Classics recently produced their live recording of the same work. Schmidt was the founder and artistic director of the Dakota Men's Ensemble; they have appeared at national, regional, and state ACDA conferences. He completed a bachelor's in choral conducting from South Dakota State University and received his master's and doctorate from the University of North Texas under Jerry McCoy and Richard Sparks.

**Spivey Hall Children's Choir
Clayton State University**

Wednesday 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Wednesday 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



Singing with unmistakable spirit, refinement, and remarkable beauty of tone and expression, the Spivey Hall Tour Choir is the most advanced group in the Spivey Hall Children's Choir Program. Representing Clayton State University and Spivey Hall as cultural ambassadors of the State of Georgia, they have performed to acclaim throughout the United

States and abroad in Canada, Sweden, Norway, England, Austria, the Czech Republic, and China. They embark on a performance tour through Spain in summer 2015.



Martha Shaw is the founding director of the Spivey Hall Children's Choir Program and director of choral activities at Reinhardt University in Waleska, Georgia. Under her direction, the Spivey Hall Children's Choir and Spivey Hall Tour Choir have been featured in performances for state, regional,

and national ACDA conferences, for the national conference of the Orff-Schulwerk Association, and for the 2010 Chorus America National Conference. For thirteen years, Shaw

served on the faculty of Shorter University. She also taught at the University of South Carolina. She earned a bachelor's from Shorter College, a master's from the University of Tennessee, and a doctorate in conducting with Larry Wyatt at the University of South Carolina. Prior to her collegiate teaching, she was a music specialist for Atlanta's Fulton County for fifteen years.

**United States Air Force
Singing Sergeants**

Friday 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm Assembly Hall (Open to Both Tracks)

LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE



The Singing Sergeants is the official chorus of the United States Air Force. Stationed at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington DC, the group is one of six musical ensembles that comprise the United States Air Force Band. Featuring twenty-three active-

duty airmen musicians, the Singing Sergeants presents more than 200 performances annually, performing a wide range of musical styles, from Americana, opera, and choral standards to modern Broadway and jazz. Originally formed as a men's chorus in 1945, the Singing Sergeants became the first premier military chorus to integrate women in 1973. Today, the group often performs for the Department of Defense and other high-level military and civilian functions, using music to bridge language and cultural differences and help advance positive diplomatic relations through song. The Singing Sergeants honor those who have served, inspire American citizens to heightened patriotism and service, and positively impact the global community. Each member is proud to represent all airmen, whose selfless service and sacrifices ensure the freedoms enjoyed by citizens of the United States of America.



National Conference Performing Choirs

University of Kentucky Men's Chorus

Thursday 11:00 am - 11:30 am Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)

Thursday 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm Abravanel Hall (Gold Track)



The University of Kentucky Men's Chorus is a ninety-voice ensemble comprising freshmen through graduate students, representing a variety of musical backgrounds and academic disciplines. Starting with forty voices in the fall of 2002, the ensemble has grown in size and popularity each semester. The UK Men's Chorus has performed at NCCO, MENC, and ACDA conferences, and in 2010 they were invited to perform at the Intercollegiate Men's Choruses' National Seminar. The chorus has recently commissioned and premiered new works by Richard Burchard, Michael Engelhardt, and Stacey Gibbs. Rehearsing twice weekly and touring frequently, the UK Men's Chorus is dedicated to promoting and celebrating male singing at all stages and for all ages.



Jefferson Johnson is the director of choral activities at the University of Kentucky, where he conducts the University Chorale and Men's Chorus. He also teaches advanced choral conducting, choral methods and literature, and directs the graduate program in choral conducting.

Johnson previously taught at Michigan State University. He has conducted honor choruses in thirty states and has editorial series with Hinshaw Music and National Music Publishers. University of Kentucky choirs under his direction have toured internationally and have performed at fifteen CME conventions. Johnson is the founder of the unaccompanied group *acoUstikats*, a subset of the UK Men's Chorus. In 2014 they were finalists in NBC's *The Sing Off*. Also in 2014, Johnson was named "Teacher Who Made a Difference" at the University

of Kentucky. He lives in Lexington with his wife, Karina, and sons, Kyler and Evan.

University of Michigan Men's Glee Club

Friday 2:30 pm - 3:00 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Thursday 4:15 pm - 4:45 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



Founded in 1859, the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club is the second-oldest collegiate choir in the country. Often recognized as one of the world's finest male choruses, the Men's Glee Club was honored as the first American male chorus to win the international Musical Eisteddfod in Llangollen, Wales, and has won three additional times. The Club's international tours include Australia (2000), the British Isles (2004), Spain (2008), Cuba (2011), China (2011), and South Africa (2016). The club has performed for ACDA divisional and national conferences, the Intercollegiate Men's Choruses' National Seminar, and at leading concert halls around the world. The scope of the Men's Glee Club reaches far beyond rehearsals and performances; it is also a vibrant social organization with a national outreach program to many diverse communities called "Brothers in Song."



Eugene Rogers is a leading conductor, pedagogue, and lecturer and has appeared throughout the United States and in eight countries worldwide. Recently, Rogers served as a panelist for the National Endowment of the Arts and as a featured conductor and lecturer for Singapore's

Ministry Branch of Education World Youth Choir Festival. Rogers is currently the associate director of choirs at the Univer-

city of Michigan, where he teaches undergraduate conducting, conducts the Men's Glee Club and the University Choir, and is the faculty director of the MPulse Vocal Arts Institute for high school students. In addition to his duties at the University, Rogers is coartistic director of the Lisbon Summer Choral Festival and serves on the boards of Michigan ACDA, NCCO, and ACF, where he functions as editor for the ChoralQuest series.

University of North Texas Jazz Singers

Jazz Night

Friday 9:30 pm - 10:00 pm Little Theater (Open to Both Tracks)



The University of North Texas Jazz Singers is the premier vocal jazz ensemble within the Division of Jazz Studies in the College of Music. The Jazz Singers perform a challenging and varied repertoire, featuring both historical and cutting-edge repertoire and improvisation. The ensemble was awarded "Outstanding Performance" in the 2012 and 2013 Down-Beat Student Music Awards and was named the Collegiate Jazz Choir winner numerous times under the leadership of founding director, Paris Rutherford. The Jazz Singers have performed at state, national, and international music conferences and festivals, including those for the JEN, IAJE, and TMEA. UNT Jazz Singers is one of four vocal jazz ensembles that comprise a comprehensive vocal jazz studies major at UNT, which includes a global student population of thirty to forty students who pursue bachelor-, master-, and doctoral-level degree programs.



Jennifer Barnes is the director of vocal jazz at the University of North Texas. She has served as a guest conductor for district and all-state music festivals across the United States and has taught vocal improvisation at the Jamey Aebersold Jazz Camps since 1998. Barnes is also an

active performing and studio vocalist, including her roles as alto vocalist, composer, and arranger for the vocal ensemble Vertical Voices, and singing solo and group vocals for television shows and films such as *Wall-E*, *Enchanted*, *Star Trek*, and *Glee*.

University of Southern California Thornton Chamber Singers

Wednesday 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm Abravanel Hall (Blue Track)

Wednesday 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Gold Track)



The USC Thornton Chamber Singers have been hailed as a model of excellence since their inception in 1939. In 2014 they performed in Beijing at the twelfth International Festival of Choral Music and were one of twenty-five choirs to perform at the tenth World Symposium on Choral Music in Seoul. They were also featured performers at the 2014 Western ACDA Division Conference in Santa Barbara, California. The USC Chamber Singers have recently performed Britten's *War Requiem* with conductor James Conlon at Walt Disney and Segerstrom Concert Halls, and Mozart's *Requiem* with conductor Helmuth Rilling and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. In addition to their extensive international performances, they have performed locally with artists such as Sir Elton John at the 2013 Emmy Awards, Barry Manilow at the LA Live Tree Lighting on NBC, and the Rolling Stones on the 50 & Counting Tour.



National Conference Performing Choirs



Jo-Michael Scheibe chairs the Thornton School of Music's Choral and Sacred Music Program at the University of Southern California, where he conducts the USC Chamber Singers, teaches choral conducting and choral methods, and supervises the graduate and undergraduate choral program. No stranger to ACDA, Scheibe previously served as National President (2011-2013), Western Division President (1991-1993), and National R&S Chairperson for Community Colleges (1980-1989). Ensembles under his leadership have performed at six ACDA national conferences (1985, 1991, 1993, 1997, 2003, 2007), two national conventions of CME (1996, 2000), the 2011 NCCO Conference, and various regional and state conventions. Scheibe is active internationally as a choral clinician and adjudicator.

Utah State University Chamber Singers

Saturday 6:00 pm - 6:40 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)
Saturday 3:00 pm - 3:40 pm Abravanel Hall (Gold Track)



The Utah State University Chamber Singers consists of versatile and dedicated undergraduate student musicians. The ensemble has garnered an international reputation of artistic integrity, exciting programming, and musical precision, performing to critical acclaim throughout the United States and around the world. Performances by the USU Chamber Singers have been featured on American Public Media's *Performance Today* and at national conferences of ACDA, UMEA, and NCCO. Recordings by the USU Chamber Singers have received critical acclaim. In 2010 the group released *Show*

Me Thy Ways, a second album of choral music by Daniel E. Gawthrop, which received 2010 Grammy nominations for Best Classical Album, Best Choral Performance, and Best Engineered Album. The choir has most recently released *Devotion*, a recording of contemporary sacred choral music, and will be a featured choir in the La Via dei Concerti Music Festival in Milan, Italy, in July 2015.



Cory Evans is the director of choral activities at Utah State University. He holds degrees from Utah State University, the University of Florida, and Arizona State University. He serves as the associate director of the American Festival Chorus and artistic director of Choral Rendezvous, a national summer choral festival in Challis, Idaho. Evans regularly conducts internationally and is highly acclaimed as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator. As a tenor soloist, Evans performs throughout the world and has been a featured soloist with several prominent orchestras and choral ensembles, including the Grammy-nominated American vocal ensemble *Conspirare* under Craig Hella Johnson. Evans lives in Nibley, Utah, with his wife, Jennie, and two daughters, Ellie and Jessie. . .

the *real* musicians in the family.

Voces8

Jazz and A Cappella Night

Thursday 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm Little Theater (Open to Both Tracks)



Voces8 is one of the most exciting and versatile vocal groups in the world. Performance venues include the Wigmore Hall and Royal Festival Hall in London, Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Tokyo Opera City, Tel Aviv Opera House,

National Concert Hall in Taipei, Cite de la Musique in Paris, Dijon Opera House, National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, and Shanghai Concert Hall. The group records for Decca Classics and publishes with Edition Peters. Their London home is the Gresham Centre, forming the hub of their celebrated education work.

Waukee High School A Cappella

Saturday 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)

Saturday 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm Abravanel Hall (Gold Track)



A Cappella is an auditioned ensemble open to all students in grades 10-12 who demonstrate advanced musical skill, thus providing an intensive and highly rewarding musical experience. They frequently perform at various festivals and events and have worked with the King Singers, Cantus, and international opera star Simon Estes. The group has earned division I ratings at the IHSMA Large Group Festival for the past twenty-five years. They perform an annual Festival of Peace Concert, frequently record CDs, and tour biennially. A Cappella appeared previously at the 2005 ACDA National Conference in Los Angeles and the 2007 and 2010 North Central ACDA Conferences in Omaha and Minneapolis, respectively. Their high performance standards and awards have earned them a reputation as one of the top high school ensembles in the United States.

Amy Hall is in her fifth year as the head of choral activities at Waukee High School. She holds a bachelor's in vocal performance from Simpson College with an emphasis in opera, has additional choral training from Iowa State University, and a master's with honors in educational leadership from Drake



University. At Waukee High School, Hall directs the premier auditioned ensemble, A Cappella, Cantate, Bella Voce, and leads the Vocal Jazz Program in which she directs two of the three vocal jazz ensembles, including the award-winning Avenue Jazz. Hall is also the organist/pianist for the Waukee United Methodist Church. She is in demand as a clinician, guest conductor, presenter, and vocal technician for surrounding school districts and collegiate institutions. She is a member of the Iowa Choral Directors Organization and has previously served on the Board of Directors.

West Ridge Middle School Varsity Treble Choir

Thursday 10:00 am - 10:30 am Salt Lake Tabernacle (Blue Track)

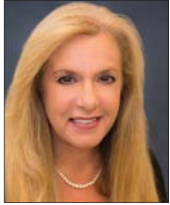
Thursday 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm Abravanel Hall (Gold Track)



West Ridge Varsity Treble Choir comprises forty young women in the seventh and eighth grades who demonstrate a love for singing, commitment to musicianship, and dedication to choir. From the Eanes Independent School District in Austin, Texas, the Varsity Treble Choir is one of six choirs at West Ridge, a program involving 350 students. In 2015, the choir will make its fourth appearance as a TMEA-invited performing choir. Yearly, the group earns UIL Sweepstakes honors in concert and sight-reading and has consistently been awarded Best in Class and Best Overall Choir at festivals across Texas. The choir has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Texas Governor's Mansion, the Texas State Capitol, and for school and community events. Choir members are leaders in all areas of campus life. Together they strive for excellence, proudly representing West Ridge as the school's premiere choral organization.



National Conference Performing Choirs



Andrea C. Snouffer was taught to love music by her father, leading her to a career in music education. In 2009 she was appointed head choir director at West Ridge Middle School. While at West Ridge, the choir program has more than doubled in size.

Her choirs are consistent winners at district, regional, and state competitions and festivals. Prior to her tenure at West Ridge, Snouffer served as the head choir director at Lake Travis Middle School. While there, she served as Fine

Arts Department Chair and received recognitions, including District Teacher of the Year, Lake Travis Education Foundation's Teaching Excellence Award, the Silver Apple Award from television station K-EYE, and a listing in *Who's Who of American Teachers*. Snouffer is the principal accompanist for Tapestry, an Austin women's chorus. Her professional affiliations include TMEA, TCDA, ACDA, TMAA, and Delta Kappa Gamma, a fraternity recognizing teaching excellence. Snouffer is active as a clinician and adjudicator throughout Texas.

The Purposes of ACDA

According to the ACDA Constitution and Bylaws

- To foster and promote choral singing, which will provide artistic, cultural, and spiritual experiences for the participants.
- To foster and promote the finest types of choral music to make these experiences possible.
- To foster and promote the organization and development of choral groups of all types in schools and colleges.
- To foster and promote the development of choral music in the church and synagogue.
- To foster and promote the organization and development of choral societies in cities and communities.
- To foster and promote the understanding of choral music as an important medium of contemporary artistic expression.
- To foster and promote significant research in the field of choral music.
- To foster and encourage choral composition of superior quality.
- To foster and promote international exchange programs involving performing groups, conductors, and composers.
- To foster and encourage rehearsal procedures conducive to attaining the highest possible level of musicianship and artistic performance.
- To cooperate with all organizations dedicated to the development of musical culture in America.
- To disseminate professional news and information about choral music.