



2018 ACDA Southwestern Region Conference

Headliners



Kevin Wilson is the director of vocal pedagogy and associate professor of voice at the Boston Conservatory of Music. He is the director of the annual Vocal Pedagogy Professional Workshop each summer in Boston. Wilson has presented lectures

and master classes on vocal health and musical theater and classical pedagogies throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Most recently he was an artist in resi-

dence with Arizona State University and a featured presenter for the Twentieth-First Century Genre Fluid Singer at the Pan-European Voice Conference in Ghent, Belgium. He earned a bachelor's in vocal performance from the University of Central Oklahoma and a master's in vocal pedagogy from New England Conservatory.



2018 ACDA Southwestern Region Conference

Special Events

Wednesday, March 7 (all day)

Church Immersion Day
Oklahoma City University -
Bishop Angie Smith Chapel

Thursday, March 8

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

College Student/New Teacher Immersion Day
(Location TBA)

6:00 pm

All Conference Dinner
The Skirvin Hotel

8:00 pm

Groove For Thought
Nationally known vocal jazz ensemble
and recording artists
Civic Center Music Hall

Thursday, March 8, and Friday, March 9

(Times and Locations TBA)
Undergraduate and Graduate
Conducting Competition

Each division winner receives \$500

Friday, March 9

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

College Fair in the Exhibit Hall

Invited Choirs

Canterbury Voices

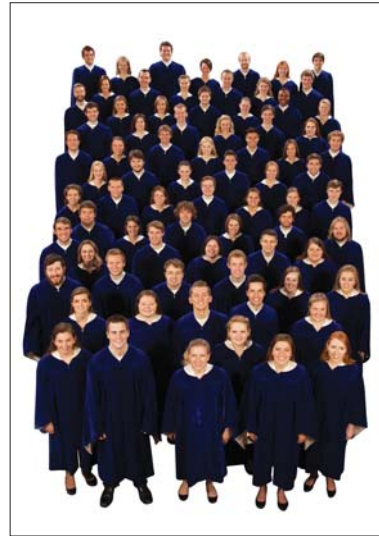


Canterbury Voices was founded in May 1969 as Canterbury Choral Society with sixty singers. They now perform in Oklahoma City's premier performance venue, Civic Center Music Hall. The 125-member Adult Chorus is the flagship program of the organization and the largest of its kind in the state of Oklahoma. All singers are auditioned volunteers, most with extensive musical and stage experience, and come from all over Oklahoma. The Adult Chorus collaborates with many sister arts agencies and talented singers and musicians from around the United States, including Kelli O'Hara, Sarah Coburn, and Ron Raines.



Randi Von Ellefson has served as professor of music and choral director at Oklahoma City University and artistic director of Canterbury Voices since 2004. At OCU he directs the Chamber Choir and Ad Astra Women's Chorus and teaches courses in the graduate choral curriculum. He holds degrees from Texas Lutheran University, University of Minnesota, and Arizona State University. He is a founding member and current president of NCCO. Ellefson has been president of the Northwestern and Central Regions of ACDA and served in leadership roles in MENC and NATS.

Concordia College Choir



The Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minnesota, continues to affirm its reputation as one of America's finest a cappella choirs. Since 1920, the seventy-two-voice choir has performed in nearly every major hall and numerous international tours. The Concordia Choir is featured in the Emmy-winning

Concordia Christmas Concerts, which are nationally broadcast on public television. The choir's recordings are distributed internationally and through iTunes, making it one of the top-selling choirs in the country.

René Clausen is the conductor of the Concordia College Choir. His photo and bio are on page 43.

Conspirare Youth Choirs



Founded in 2005 as an educational outreach program of the Grammy award-winning ensemble Conspirare,

the Conspirare Youth Choirs seek out and train young musicians who share a love for and commitment to creating music at a high level of excellence. Through thematic programming, high production values, and an intensive sight-singing/music theory curriculum, CYC follows in Conspirare's footsteps in crafting profound and meaningful performances in Austin, Texas, regionally, and internationally. The ensemble performed for the 2009 Texas MEA Conference and 2014 Southwestern ACDA Conference.



Nina Revering is the founding artistic director of Conspirare Youth Choirs and has performed throughout the country and internationally as both a soloist and chorister. Revering has performed with the Conspirare Chamber Choir since

1995, a 2014 Grammy winner and six-time nominee. Revering's training includes Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, The Youth Performing Arts School in Louisville, KY., Boston University, and the New England Conservatory of Music. In 2005 she was one of eight conductors selected to participate in the International Symposium for Children's Choir Directors in Toronto, Canada.

Crystal Children's Choir



Crystal Children's Choir was founded in Northern California in 1994 and has gained international acclaim for its distinction. More than 1,200 choristers from California and 650 from Taiwan and China participate in this reputable choral program. The choir

has performed internationally and at Kodály, CMEA, MENC, and ACDA conferences. Through offering a unique musical and life-enhancing education, Crystal hopes to nurture our younger generation using teamwork, love of music, and excellence in choral singing.



Karl Chang has been the co-founder and president of Crystal Children's Choir since 1994. Chang has presented at several ACDA national and regional conferences and was twice a guest conductor at Carnegie Hall. He is also active in the

choral field across Asia. In 1981, Chang founded the Ching Ching Chorus, a renowned 180-voice community choir, and he continues to conduct and inspire singers in their love for singing. He holds a doctorate in education leadership and also earned a master's in business administration and a master's in engineering.

Groove for Thought



Groove for Thought has been thrilling audiences for over fifteen years. Their jazz-influenced arrangements of standard and original tunes have earned them the reputation as one of the finest contemporary vocal ensembles in the world. In 2006 the group released their self-titled debut. Their 2011 album *Inspired* features contemporary jazz-influenced takes on songs from many of the pop and rock artists that have influenced the group. In 2013, Groove's first holiday album, *Songs of Good Cheer*, was released to rave reviews. *Unnecessary Dissonance* (2015) features a collection of jazz standards and original compositions by lead soprano Amanda Taylor.

Invited Choirs

Tulsa Oratorio Chorus



Tulsa Oratorio Chorus has been inspiring Tulsa audiences since 1992. Tulsa Oratorio Chorus is a nonprofit choral society comprising 100 talented and dedicated volunteer musicians. Each member shares a passion for great choral music and dedication to the art of classical music performance. The TOC elevates the human condition, bringing choral masterpieces to audiences in Tulsa and the surrounding region. They have also had the honor of participating in international choral festivals. The TOC seeks to raise the perception of choral music in the community and believes choral music deserves equal appreciation alongside symphonic and operatic arts.



Tim Sharp is in his ninth season as artistic director and conductor of the Tulsa Oratorio Chorus. Sharp is executive director of the American Choral Directors Association and represents choral activity in the United States to the International Federation for Choral Music. Sharp received his education at Belmont University, The School of Church Music, Louisville, KY, and studied further at the Aspen Music School, the NEH Medieval Studies program at Harvard University, throughout Belgium on a Rotary Scholarship, and at Cambridge University, where he is a Clare Hall Life Fellow.

Turtle Creek Chorale



Turtle Creek Chorale enriches lives through the common language of song. Our exhilarating talent captivates audiences with unforgettable moments. Every performance cultivates a shared experience of emotions, nourishing the soul with healing and energizing effects of choral music. We help unify communities by increasing support for the cultural arts. The Chorale educates our communities to increase awareness by teaching and sharing music with our members, patrons, and students, and provides a creative outlet for like-minded individuals who desire and promote musical excellence.



Sean Baugh is in his fourth season as the artistic director of the Turtle Creek Chorale. Baugh studied music at Oklahoma Baptist University and the University of Central Oklahoma. He earned his master's from Southern Methodist University, where he was named outstanding graduate conductor. An active advocate for male choral music, he regularly commissions new works from established composers. Baugh is in demand nationwide as speaker, guest-conductor, and clinician. He has served on the music faculty of the University of Dallas.

University of North Texas
Mariachi Aguilas

UNT's Mariachi Aguilas performs traditional and contemporary mariachi music. The ensemble consists of students from across disciplines who share a passion for this vibrant music of Mexico. In addition to playing, they share information about the history of mariachi, the origins of the repertoire, and the structure of the pieces. The group began in 2004 and is offered as a course for credit along with several UNT ensemble classes focusing on diverse cultures. About half in the group are music majors and the rest come from a variety of disciplines. Mariachi Aguilas has performed for regional

and national conferences and community organizations. This is their first appearance at SWACDA.

Donna Emmanuel is associate professor of music education at the University of North Texas and came to the school via public school teaching, sales, marketing, and public relations. Emmanuel's rich and varied background has helped to form her philosophy, impact her teaching and scholarship, and drives her passion for service. Her graduate degrees in music education are from the University of Michigan and Michigan State. In 2003 she founded the first mariachi program at UNT, Mariachi Águilas. This has expanded into the only mariachi summer camp of its kind in the country. In 2015 she received the UNT Foundation Award for Community Service.



2018 ACDA Southwestern Region Conference

Auditioned Choirs

Baylor University
Bella Voce



Bella Voce is the select women's ensemble at Baylor University. Organized in 2011 by Lynne Gackle, members of Bella Voce are music majors (church music, performance, and music education) and non-majors representing various disciplines from nursing to business. The ensemble performs a wide and interesting variety of choral selections, reflecting various style periods and genres

from the vast choral repertoire featuring women's voices. Nominated for a Grammy Award for their recording, *BELLA!*, Baylor Bella Voce has been featured on A Baylor Christmas, the Armstrong Browning Christmas concerts, the International Horn Symposium (2013), throughout the state of Texas, and nationally.



Lynne Gackle is the director of choral activities and the Mary Jane Gibbs Chair of Choral Music at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She conducts Baylor Bella Voce, the Baylor Concert Choir, teaches choral conducting, and choral literature, and serves as the director of the ensemble division. She received her education from Louisiana State University (BME) and the University of Miami (MM and PhD). She has held various positions within ACDA, including president of the Southern Region and ACDA Florida, vice president of Collegiate/Community Choirs for TCDA, and is currently, the National President-Elect of ACDA.

Auditioned Choirs

Baylor University Men's Chorus



The Baylor University Men's Choir (BUMC) has brought joy and musical excellence to Baylor's campus since 1895. The 100+-member choir represents diverse majors, states, and countries. On campus, the choir performs for Family Weekend, University Chapel, A Baylor Christmas, and concerts in the fall and spring. Serving the local community is paramount to the choir's mission. The BUMC sings at an elementary school every Christmas, performs in a nearby prison, and hosts events for high school men from around Texas. The group maintains a strong commitment to international service through global tours and their support of education for girls in Kenya.



Randall Bradley serves as the Ben H. Williams Professor of Music, Director of the Church Music Program, and the Center for Christian Music Studies. Bradley is a frequent conference leader and has served in various leadership capacities with ACDA, including the Oklahoma Choral Directors president-elect and Southwest Region R&R Chair for Male Choirs. Groups under his direction have sung for Southwestern ACDA, Oklahoma MEA, and numerous denominational gatherings. His books *Worship: Its Theology and Practice*, *From Prelude to Postlude*, and *From Memory to Imagination* are used as texts in many universities and seminaries.

Bentonville High School Chamber Choir



With a student body of over 3,100 in grades nine through twelve, Bentonville High School is committed to fine arts. The choir program includes nine choirs instructed by two full-time directors. The current school year has seen a choral program enrollment of over 400 students. The jewel of the BHS choral department is the Chamber Choir, comprising the foremost junior and senior members. Chamber Choir performs primarily a cappella music, with selections that span the early Renaissance through contemporary periods. This choir is dedicated to mastering superior choral styles and techniques.



Terry Hicks is in his twenty-seventh year as director of choirs for the Bentonville Public Schools; his tenth year directing the church choir at First Christian Church, Bentonville; and his seventh year as the director of the SoNA Singers. Hicks holds a bachelor's from Ithaca College and a master's from the University of Arkansas. His choirs have been invited to sing for the Arkansas State Music Convention five times, SWACDA three times, and the ACDA national conference twice. Hicks is a past region chairperson for the Northwest Region of ArkCDA and past president of Arkansas.

Central Standard



Central Standard is a diverse men's a cappella ensemble dedicated to enriching lives through performing with musical excellence and encouraging music appreciation in schools and the community. This Kansas City-based award-winning ensemble currently holds the distinction of Barbershop Harmony Society's third-place bronze medalist chorus and second-place silver medalist. Central Standard has competed at the contest in Philadelphia, Kansas City, Portland, Las Vegas (twice), Pittsburgh, and Nashville. Central Standard was formed by a small number of performers, and today the group includes nearly sixty active members across diverse personal and professional backgrounds.



Robert Mance is in his eighth year as artistic director of Central Standard. He is also the founding director of the women's a cappella ensemble Vocal Standard. He currently serves as director of music at Shawnee Presbyterian Church in Shawnee, Kansas, where he maintains a voice studio and recording studio. Mance holds a busy travel schedule as a clinician that will take him to Canada, England, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, Australia, and throughout the United States in 2018. Mance has studied at McGill University, Westminster Choir College, and the University of Kansas.

Cherry Creek High School Meistersingers



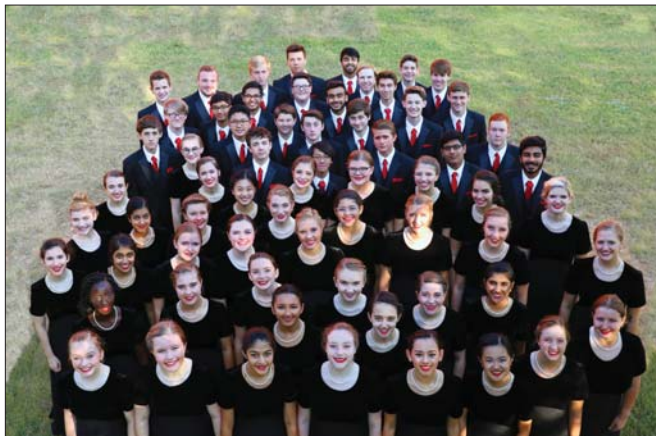
The Meistersingers is an auditioned mixed choral ensemble from Cherry Creek High School in Denver, Colorado. The ensemble strives for excellence in their art and finds fun in being serious about music. The choir has appeared at numerous state, regional, and national conventions, most recently at 2015 CMEA and the 2012 Southwestern ACDA Conference. They have appeared on *CBS This Morning* and with the St. Olaf Choir and Orchestra, Denver Brass, Kantorei, and the Colorado Symphony. Annual performance tours have included locations throughout the United States, Europe, Iceland, Australia, and Asia.



Sarah Harrison, director of the Cherry Creek High School Meistersingers, is in her seventeenth year of teaching. She directs several of the high school's choirs and teaches AP Music Theory. Under her direction, choirs have performed at state and regional conventions and have toured around the world. Harrison is also assistant director, section leader, and sings with Kantorei, an adult chorus in Denver. She serves on the Colorado All-State Choir board and has previously served on the Colorado ACDA board. Harrison holds music degrees from St. Olaf College and Colorado State University.

Auditioned Choirs

Colleyville Heritage High School Panther Chorale



The Colleyville Heritage Panther Chorale is the premier ensemble of a comprehensive choral program of eight ensembles and approximately 185 students that make up the CHHS Panther Choirs. The CHHS Panther Choir seeks to provide a rich music education for students with an emphasis on building strong character through music participation. These sixty-eight students represent the diversity of activities offered on our campus through involvement in fine arts, rigorous academics, athletics, and student leadership. The choir has established a reputation for consistent high-level choral performance.



Thomas Rinn is in his eighteenth year of teaching high school choir in Texas and fourth year at Colleyville Heritage High School. He holds a bachelor's from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a master's from the Florida State University. Rinn is a frequent choral clinician, adjudicator, and presenter of teacher training. He has served as high school vice president for the Texas Choral Director's Association, a TMEA region chair, and a section leader for the all-state choir on three occasions. Currently he is a nominee for president-elect of the Texas Choral Director's Association and chair of the UIL Choral Sight-Reading Committee.

Friends University Vocal Jazz Ensemble



Friends University Jazz Vocal Ensemble was founded in 2009. Membership in the ensemble is selected by audition from Friends University students. The ensemble forms one part of a comprehensive vocal program that includes musical theatre and opera productions, choral-orchestral masterworks, and national and international tours. Performing a wide range of vocal jazz literature, they have been invited to perform at conferences sponsored by KMEA (2017, 2015, 2012), SWACDA (2014), and JEN (2013). Highlights for the group include opening for Pentatonix and Take 6.



Craig Curry serves as composer-in-residence at Friends University and is the founding director of their Jazz Vocal Ensemble (JVE). Under his direction, JVE has blossomed into a leading collegiate jazz vocal ensemble. Curry teaches vocal jazz improvisation and senior seminar. His choral and piano music is regularly performed in schools, concert halls, and churches nationally and abroad. He holds degrees from Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and the University of Miami.

**Hardin-Simmons University
Concert Choir**



Concert Choir is the premier, auditioned, touring choral ensemble of Hardin-Simmons University and continues to represent the university through local, regional, and international tours and choral concerts. Concert Choir has performed regularly with the Abilene Philharmonic in productions of large-scale choral-orchestral works. They have toured throughout Europe and have sung Mass at St. Mark’s Cathedral in Venice and Evensong at Glasgow Cathedral in Scotland.



Clell E. Wright serves on the faculty of Hardin-Simmons University as director of choral activities and Logsdon Chair of Church Music. He directs Concert Choir and oversees the choral program of the university, consisting of three total ensembles. He teaches courses in conducting, literature, and in church music practice and history and has also presented clinics at TMEA, ACDA, and TCDA conventions. He holds degrees from Samford University, Southwestern Baptist Seminary, and the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Wright serves as conductor and artistic director for the Abilene Chamber Singers and as director of music at First Central Presbyterian Church in Abilene, Texas.

**Hebron High School
Varsity Treble**



Hebron High School is in the Lewisville Independent School District near Dallas, TX. The Hebron Choral Department consists of 240 students in five performing choirs. The Hebron Varsity Treble Choir has consistently earned Sweepstakes awards at Texas UIL Contests and superior ratings at competitions across the country. Many of these talented ladies are actively involved with other school activities, including Student Council, National Honor Society, Key Club, sports, band, theatre, and Academic Decathlon, while maintaining a high level of choir involvement.



Rachel Forester is the director of choral activities and department chair for fine arts at Hebron High School, where she has taught since its opening in 1999. Forester holds a bachelor’s from Oklahoma Baptist University and has completed

master’s courses at Oklahoma State University, the University of North Texas, and Texas Women’s University. A frequent judge for Texas UIL contests, Forester serves in leadership roles in various associations. Her peers have voted her Teacher of the Year three times.

Auditioned Choirs

The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Chorale



The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts Chorale comprises fifty-two eleventh- and twelfth-grade vocal music majors and one student accompanist from the Classical Piano Department. Members also perform in one of three upper-level small ensembles. Chorale's most recent appearances with the Houston Symphony include 12 Days of Christmas in 2016 and a live-to-picture performance of John Williams's score to the movie *Home Alone* in 2015. Members of the ensemble have been selected to the Texas All-State Choir and have been selected for the Houston Grand Opera Bauer Family High School Voice Studio.



Shannon Carter is the director of choral studies at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, Texas. At HSPVA, Carter conducts Chorale, Madrigal Singers, Mixed Chorus, and Tenor-Bass Choir. He also teaches

sight-singing and is the vocal coach for senior recitals. Ensembles under his direction have won the prestigious American Classic Madrigal and Chamber Choir Festival and have been named the Mark of Excellence National Choral Honors National Winner. Carter earned a bachelor's from Texas State University.

Kansas State University Concert Choir



The Kansas State University Concert Choir is an undergraduate chamber choir comprising both music and non-music majors. They have been invited to perform at the Kansas Music Educators Conference (2009), Southwestern ACDA conferences (2012, 2018), the Music Educators National Conference (2017), and the World Choir Games (South Africa, 2018). The choirs at Kansas State University perform regionally, nationally, and internationally, most recently in Ireland (2017) and Washington National Cathedral (2018).



Joshua Oppenheim is co-director of choral studies along with Julie Yu at Kansas State University. Together, they oversee a program of seven choral ensembles and the graduate program in choral conducting. He holds degrees from Western Michigan, University of Mississippi, and North Texas.

**Magnolia High School
Chorale**



The Magnolia High School Chorale has been a consistent UIL Sweepstakes performing choir in Texas. They have also been the solo performing choir at Carnegie Hall, New York City, and at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The MHS Chorale has received several Performance of Distinction Awards at the American Classical Madrigal Festival in San Antonio, Texas, along with many Best in Class and Best Overall Choir Awards at choral festivals throughout Texas. The group is composed of sophomores, juniors, and seniors.



Jennifer Franz-Melady has been the head choir director at Magnolia High School for fourteen years. She has taught all grade levels from elementary music through supervising student teachers at Ohio State University. Franz-Melady holds a piano performance degree from the Eastman School of Music and a master's in secondary choral music education from Ohio State University. She has been the accompanist for all the Region 9 TMEA choirs and was the accompanist for the TMEA All-State Choir for 2016 and 2017.

**Missouri State University
Chorale**



The Missouri State University Chorale is the flagship choral ensemble at Missouri State University. This select ensemble comprises both music majors and non-music majors. The MSU Chorale has performed regularly at conferences of ACDA, Missouri MEA, NAFME, and has toured the United States, Europe, and South Africa. Highlights this year include performances for NCCO, Southwestern ACDA Region, and an eighteen-day concert tour of Iceland, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden.



Cameron F. LaBarr is director of choral studies at Missouri State University, where he leads a comprehensive choral program including over 200 singers in five choirs. He holds a bachelor's from Missouri State University and advanced degrees from the University of North Texas. He has completed further study with Simon Carrington and Alice Parker. Choirs under his direction have been selected for performance at MEA and ACDA conferences. LaBarr has worked as guest conductor and clinician across the United States, Europe, South Africa, and China.

Auditioned Choirs

Montgomery High School Chorale Women



The Chorale Women have a long history of success and have performed at TMEA (2005, 2010) and ACDA Chicago (2011). In 2018 the Chorale Women will perform at both the TMEA and SWACDA Conferences. SWACDA marks the fifth convention performance in twelve years.



Heather Orr is beginning her seventeenth year as the director of choral activities at Montgomery High School. She holds a master's from the Ohio State University and a bachelor's from Heidelberg University. Orr's choirs consistently earn Sweepstakes at UIL Competitions, and choirs under her direction have been recognized with First Divisions and Best in Class awards at several festivals in Texas, Florida, and New York. She has served as TMEA All-State Treble Choir Section Leader (2017, 2006, 2003), TCDA conductor and clinician, and host, clinician, presenter, and adjudicator for many TMEA and UIL events.

North Mesquite High School Varsity Men's Choir



The North Mesquite High School Varsity Men's Choir comprises fifty to sixty auditioned male singers. While NMHS has had several men's choirs during its forty-eight-year history, the current choir is a product of a male singing reclamation project that began thirteen years ago with an ensemble consisting of twelve male singers. Since that time, the North Mesquite Varsity Men have built a strong tradition of male singing, becoming consistent UIL Sweepstakes recipients and having several of its members earn chairs in all-region and all-state choirs.



Ryan Forkner earned his bachelor's and master's from Texas Christian University. He became the choir director at North Mesquite High School in 2005, where he has taught the past thirteen years. Under Forkner's leadership, the North Mesquite Choir Department has grown to include nearly 300 students performing in ten ensembles. His choirs consistently receive Sweepstakes and "Best in Class" ratings at contests and festivals.

North Richland Middle School Varsity Treble



North Richland Middle School is a 2C campus comprising approximately 900 diverse students with fourteen different languages spoken. NRMS

is the first nationally certified STEM campus and received 6 out of 7 distinctions on the 2017 STAAR accountability. The choir program has 220 sixth- through eighth-grade students who participate in one or more performing groups. The Varsity Treble choir has thirty-eight select singers who are involved in various school and community activities. They have received consecutive Texas UIL Sweepstakes ratings.



Lorelai Cole is currently in her sixth year as head director at NRMS. She received her bachelor's in vocal performance and pedagogy from UT Arlington. Cole had successful private voice studios and performed with the Fort Worth Opera before transitioning into the classroom as a choir director.

Her choirs have earned consistent Sweepstakes ratings at UIL and have won Best in Class and Grand Champion Awards in choral festivals. Her Varsity Treble choir has previously performed at the 2012 SWACDA Conference.



Leslie Detrick is in her sixteenth year of teaching, and her sixth year at NRMS. She attended Texas Christian University and graduated in 1991 with a bachelor's with a vocal emphasis. She continued her post-graduate studies at Texas Woman's

University in Denton. Detrick began her career as a mu-

sic therapist and private voice instructor while maintaining her performance career with the Fort Worth Opera and the Dallas-based Orpheus Chamber Singers. She previously taught elementary for ten years as a K-5 music specialist.

Reed Academy Reed Academy Singers



The Reed Academy Singers are in their sixth year under director Daniel Gutierrez. The Reed Academy Singers have performed for Missouri MEA and National ACDA. This year, in addition to the SWACDA conference, the choir will also perform at ACDA's National Conference for Junior High/Middle School Choral Music. Reed Academy Singers are very involved in their local community. In addition, the choir receives invitations to perform throughout the country and around the world.



Daniel Gutierrez is the vocal music director at Reed Academy. Gutierrez is an active conductor, clinician, and presenter throughout the country. He has been named a KSPR 10 Springfield "Hometown Hero," Springfield Public

Schools Teacher of the Year, and 2017 Southwest Missouri Teacher of the Year, a 2017 quarterfinalist for the Grammy National Music Educator Award, the 2017 Springfield Rotary Award for Outstanding Community Service, 2017 honoree for *Springfield Business Journal's* 40 Under 40, and the recipient of the 2017 MCDA Podium Award.

Auditioned Choirs

Seven Lakes High School Chorale Women



The Seven Lakes HS Chorale Women is home to forty of the most advanced treble singers in the Seven Lakes HS Choir Program. Established in 2005, the Seven Lakes HS Choir Program has created a strong tradition of musical excellence, dedication, innovation, and community. These incredible women also sing in the Seven Lakes HS Chorale, the Varsity Mixed Choir on campus. The Chorale Women perform both classic repertoire for women's voices and new compositions that highlight the versatility and strength of the female voice.



Emily Chandler is proud to serve as the director of choirs at Seven Lakes High School. Under her direction, the choirs at SLHS have consistent sweepstakes at UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, producing All-State Singers, and creating innovative choral programs for the entire Katy community. Chandler received her bachelor's from St. Olaf College and master's from Northern Arizona University, where she was the conductor of the University Singers and co-conductor of the Chamber Singers.

Southern Nazarene University University Singers



The Southern Nazarene University Singers consists of twelve singers and a rhythm section who specialize in sacred vocal jazz and contemporary music styles. They have performed at regional and national conventions and at festivals on multiple continents. They have toured across the United States, Brazil, Japan, Korea, New Guinea, The Bahamas, Kenya, Central Europe, and Venezuela. The U. Singers also host the annual SNU Vocal Jazz Festival. The 2018 festival will feature the knowledge and talents of guest clinician and artist Rosana Eckert.



Jim Graves, a multifaceted vocal artist, arranger, and educator, serves as director of choral activities at Southern Nazarene University. He directs the University Singers, SNU Chorale, and Concert Choir. He also teaches courses in music theory, music education, and private and group voice. Graves has led groups at the National ACDA Conference, at JEN National Convention, and has presented interest sessions at the national and regional level of ACDA. He was formerly the Southwest ACDA R&R Chair for Jazz.

**Te Deum
Chamber Choir**



Since its inception in 2008, Te Deum has stayed committed to the performance of diverse sacred choral music, offering their audiences a musically inspiring and spiritually stirring experience. Some of the region's finest voices dedicate their gifts to Te Deum's vision of artistic excellence and courageous programming. Te Deum also reduces down to a sixteen-voice ensemble, Te Deum Antiqua, to offer historically informed performances of early music. Te Deum has headlined for KCDA and has been invited to perform for the 2018 AGO National Convention.



Matthew Christopher Shepard is founder and artistic and executive director of Te Deum. He also proudly serves as associate director of music at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village. Shepard is a frequent collegiate guest conductor, clinician, and lecturer. Beginning his musical studies in woodwinds and voice, Shepard holds an undergraduate degree from William Jewell College and two master's degrees in music from the UMKCS Conservatory.

**Texas State University
Chorale**



Texas State Chorale is the premiere choral ensemble at Texas State University. With a broad repertoire ranging from chant to commissions of twenty-first century leading composers, this ensemble of 28-36 voices offers pieces from the vast choral canon enriching the musical experience of both musicians and audience members. Texas State Chorale has performed for the TMEA state conference, Southwest ACDA Region, National ACDA, and the International Kodály Festival. This ensemble tours frequently and has performed in prestigious venues in Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Garden Route of South Africa, and China.



Joey M. Martin is professor of music at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX, where he serves as the associate dean for the College of Fine Arts and Communication and director of choral activities. He has served with Craig Hella Johnson as co-artistic director for the Victoria Bach Festival, artistic director of the Alamo City Men's Chorale, and is currently the director of music at historic First Protestant Church in New Braunfels, TX. He served as the National ACDA R&R Chair for College and University Choirs for eight years.

Auditioned Choirs

University of Kansas Women's Chorale



The KU Women's Chorale is a select ensemble of undergraduate singers who perform outstanding literature representing a broad range of styles and periods. The group comprises singers who are majoring in various areas, including music education, voice, piano, music therapy, and fields outside of the music realm. Under the direction of Mariana Farah since 2013, the KU Women's Chorale has expanded its literature to include new music from Latin American and living composers. The group has represented the KU School of Music in multiple venues, including at the 2014 and 2016 Kansas MEA Conventions.



Mariana Farah is the associate director of choral activities at the University of Kansas, where she teaches courses in graduate choral literature and conducting, directs the KU Concert Choir and Women's Chorale, and helps oversee all aspects of the choral program. Farah maintains an active schedule as a clinician for festivals in Brazil and the United States, where she is often sought out for her expertise in Brazilian choral music. She is the R&R Chair for Ethnic and Multicultural Perspectives for the Southwestern ACDA Region and a singer with the Kansas City Te Deum Chamber Choir.

Yukon High School Colla Voce



Colla Voce is the premier classical performance ensemble at Yukon High School. This forty-four-voice auditioned ensemble comprises sophomores through seniors. Colla Voce was formally established in the fall of 2012 when the YHS Chamber Choir simply outgrew its name. They maintain a rigorous performance schedule, which includes five major concerts a year and various community events. Under the direction of brothers Darin and Derek Chapin, Colla Voce has received the OSSAA Sweepstakes award six years in a row and has been invited three times to perform at the Oklahoma Music Educators Convention. This will be Colla Voce's first performance on a SWACDA stage.



Darin Chapin is currently in his sixteenth year of public school service in Oklahoma and his seventh year at Yukon High School, where he conducts Colla Voce, the YHS Chamber Singers, and teaches AP Music Theory. Chapin earned a bachelor's from Oklahoma Baptist University. Chapin's choirs have been featured with premier recordings of new choral works, been awarded State Sweepstakes Awards, and have won national festivals in six states. His choirs have also been featured at numerous state-level choral conventions.

Interest Sessions

All Roads Lead to Repertoire: Creating a Successful Program through Appropriate Literature

The responsibilities of choral directors in the classroom are numerous and can often seem overwhelming. The focus of this session will be how the selection of literature is the crux of the choral program and the basis for all other decisions that are made throughout the academic year. ACDA's National Chair for Repertoire and Resources will demonstrate the relationship between literature selection and vocal technique, music literacy, and creative opportunities for students. This session is intended for directors of younger singers middle school through high school, and the tools and ideas presented can be immediately applied to your programs.

Amy Johnston Blosser will be the clinician for this session. Her photo and bio are on page 91.

African American Spirituals and Gospel

Have you ever programmed a spiritual or gospel piece but were at a loss as to how to give it life beyond the printed page? African American spirituals are well known to have risen out of the hard labor context of American slavery. How did the rhythm of work songs influence the singing of these spirituals, and how can we use this knowledge to develop

a coherent performance practice of the spiritual? This session will also examine gospel music to similarly develop a historically informed performance practice for choir. Specific examples from the repertoire will be presented, and a few excerpts will be rehearsed.



Christopher Smith is director of choral activities and assistant professor of music at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, KS. He is also conductor of Allegro con Spirito, a junior high and high school men's choir, of Allegro Choirs of Kansas City. He serves as College/University Choirs R&R Chair for KCDA and the Men's Choirs R&R Chair for SWACDA. He holds degrees from East Carolina University and a doctorate from the University of Kansas.

Choral Techniques in the Digital Classroom

Participants will explore lessons in Voices in Concert that are designed to build specific choral techniques and skills. Digital tools such as the "iOctavo" will be used to demonstrate a new level of choral instruction in part learning, style acquisition, articulation, and melodic line treatment. Collaborative learning using an iPad/tablet or classroom laptops will be demonstrated to show how small group, student-led rehearsing can build musicianship.



Kari Gilbertson has been teaching choral music for the last twenty-four years. She has teaching experience at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels. In 2013, Gilbertson was named the director of choral activities at Lake Highlands High School in Richardson ISD. She has had the privilege of receiving such professional honors as PTA Lifetime Member, PTA Teacher of Excellence, and was Secondary Teacher of the Year for Richardson ISD in 2001.

The Choral Treasures of Catalonia

This session focuses on familiarizing listeners with an overview of choral music from the region of Spain known as Catalonia. Despite a history of successive and extensive periods of political oppression over the centuries, the Catalan people have managed to preserve their language, culture, and music. Today's robust choral scene in Barcelona and the surrounding region reflects the strong and unique choral history of the Catalan people, specifically fueled by the purpose of Catalan historical and cultural preservation. Musical examples will be presented by the University of Northern Colorado Chamber Choir as recorded excerpts.

Interest Sessions



Jill Burgett is director of choral music ed/associate director of choral activities at University of Northern Colorado, conducting the Women's Glee and the UNC Chamber Choir, teaching choral methods, and conducting courses. Her doctorate is from Ball State University. She has served on the Indiana and Colorado ACDA boards and Central Region board as College and University R&R Chair. She has served on the NCCO board and as president of Colorado ACDA. Burgett is an active festival clinician and all-state choir conductor.

The Engaged Singer

Getting real musicality/artistry out of middle schoolers can be challenging. Having a "full bodied" performance, physical engagement from head to toe, can bring a choir's singing to the next level and create an engaging performance for an audience member. This session discusses strategies to get your choirs moving and singing with organic movement that will impact students and audience members.

Daniel Gutierrez is the clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 113.

Engaging Choral Classroom: Choral Lesson Planning

This session will outline successful lesson plans that engage young singers. Many young conductors want help with how to teach a piece and how to plan a rehearsal. This session will give many ideas for the creative use of solfège, teaching strategies, pacing, kinesthetic involvement, and musicianship training based on repertoire. Participants will try some of these techniques, and the clinician will address ways to help young singers take ownership of their repertoire.



Sandy Knudson is the artistic director of the Norman Children's Chorus and has successfully taught K-5 classroom music for thirty years. She holds a master's degree and Kodály certification from the University of Oklahoma. Since 1990, Knudson has served on the faculty of the University of Oklahoma Kodály certification program, where she teaches solfège, conducting, and choir. She holds National Board certification in Early and Middle Childhood Music.

Fix it on the Fly: Improving Conducting for the Busy Choir Director

This session will outline a method for self-guided improvement in conducting while maintaining the busy life of a school choir director. Through lecture, discussion, and audience participation, Joshua Bronfman will demonstrate how this method can be utilized to facilitate ongoing growth in conducting technique and effectiveness.



Joshua Bronfman is director of choral activities at Sam Houston State University, where he directs the SHSU Chorale and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in choral conducting and choral literature. He is also creator and host of Choral History, a podcast dedicated to conversations with choral conductors from around the world. Bronfman received his bachelor's and doctorate from the Florida State University, and his master's from Oregon State University.

Healthy Vocal Technique for a Lifetime of Singing

This session will provide healthy vocal strategies for older singers. As we age vocally, we need to be reminded of good vocal technique. This workshop will include tips and suggestions for working with older

singers in a variety of settings and improving tone production, breath support, and inner hearing. Vocal care will also be addressed.



Dana Ihm received her bachelor's and master's from Pittsburg State University, and her doctorate from the University of South Carolina. Ihm has led choir tours extensively throughout the United States and Europe. She has served on the boards and planning committees of both the state and regional organizations. Ihm is currently the R&R Community

Choir Chair for Colorado ACDA and the Reading Session Chair for SWACDA.

Increasing Retention with Intergenerational Projects

Recruiting is only the first step! School and church music programs share a vested interest in young people: first engaging them in musical activities and then retaining them as they mature. We all hope that our musical programming will make lifelong musicians of our young people, but by performing works that are

consciously intergenerational, we can deepen connection between our younger and older musicians and therefore improve retention. Examples of the most important characteristics for such works will come from the gold standard, Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, an intergenerational opera suitable for church, school, or community programs.



Joshua Hawkins Nannestad, DMA, is assistant professor of choral music education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, where he conducts

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cheryl_dupont@hotmail.com



Interest Sessions

the Symphonic Chorus. His degrees are from Boston University, Gordon College, and Saint Olaf College. He has been published in *Choral Journal*, the *Boston Musical Intelligence*, and

MassSINGS. He has served on the Executive Boards of Massachusetts ACDA and Oklahoma ACDA, and presented for conferences of ACDA, NAFME, and CMS.

Maximizing Rehearsal Efficiency

An oft-repeated complaint is that there is never enough rehearsal time. On further analysis, however, a staggering amount of wasted time may be lost to a variety of pedagogically poor procedures. A minute here, two minutes there add up to significant amounts of lost rehearsal time. How do we maximize our rehearsal efficiency? It begins with knowing how to DIRECT: Deconstruct, Isolate, Rehearse, Elucidate, Construct, and Test. This session will explore each of these six rehearsal steps and demonstrate practical examples for how to implement them into daily rehearsal to help maximize rehearsal time, better engage singers, and manage the classroom.



Stephen Caldwell

is the director of choral activities at the University of Arkansas, where he conducts the Schola Cantorum and Women's Chorus, and teaches graduate and undergraduate classes in conducting, pedagogy, and literature. He often serves as a vocal and pedagogical consultant for music programs at public schools and has adjudicated choral festivals at all levels.

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Mentoring the New Choral Conductor: Creating a Meaningful, Lasting Relationship

The number of college students who will soon be new conductors and conductors with less than five years of experience is on the rise. Even with strong undergraduate programs preparing students through ensemble and studio work and methods classes, there is still much left to trial and error. What do you do when you are asked to conduct the pit orchestra and have never worked with instrumentalists before? How do you communicate appropriately? How does one program on little to no budget? This session is intended for newer conductors as a way to provide suggestions that are applicable for all age levels.

Amy Johnston Blosser will be the clinician for this session. Her photo and bio are on page 91.

On the Right Track: Conducting Exercises for Developing Listening, Gesture, and Creativity

This session includes a lecture and demonstration format with ENMU Chamber Singers and beginning conductors (along with audience participation). Examples of exercises for developing listening, gesture, creativity, and ownership will be implemented with all those

in attendance. The process recommended here is aimed at relieving all students of self-consciousness and putting them in a position of always being right in early lessons by enabling them to make musical decisions and take ownership of their performance.



Rodney Eichenberger

(Emeritus Professor of Music, the Florida State University) continues to maintain a busy professional schedule. He has conducted eighty all-state choirs in the United States and guest conducted or lectured at more than eighty-five universities in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. International appearances include guest conducting the Korean National Chorus in Seoul, the Pusan, Korea City Choir, and International High School Honor Choirs in Tokyo and Berlin.



Jason Paulk

is director of choral activities and professor of music at Eastern New Mexico University. His degrees include a bachelor's from Stetson University, two master's from Westminster Choir College, and a doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. Paulk was the winner of the 1997 ACDA Undergraduate Student Conducting Competition and was recently awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching at Eastern New Mexico University. Hal Leonard has just released a new textbook by Paulk and

colleague Ryan Kelly titled *Handel's Messiah: Warm-ups for Successful Performance*.

One Voice, One Sound, One Dream: Building a Meaningful Tenor/Bass Ensemble

For a male and a member of a Tenor/Bass choir, singing is built upon myriad emotions and experiences. Any current choral educator knows that it can be difficult for guys to be comfortable and open as singers and members of choirs. Tenor/Bass choirs need special attention regarding unique vocal pedagogy, distinct social dynamics, and often-neglected emotional needs; these choirs are also deserving of a much more wide-ranging repertoire than they are often handed. Drawing on their experiences with a successful tenor/bass choir, the clinicians address these issues from the perspective of a male and female director.



Mark Rohwer

is the director of choral activities at Flower Mound High School in Flower Mound, Texas. Rohwer has been at FMHS since its opening in the fall of 1999. Under Rohwer's direction, FMHS have received consistent and numerous awards and have performed at Texas MEA and Southwest ACDA Region conferences. The Men's Chamber Choir performed at the 2017 ACDA National Conference in Minneapolis, MN.

Interest Sessions



Lindsay Swartwood is the associate director of choral activities at Flower Mound High School, where she has worked since 2014. Swartwood previously directed choirs in Krum ISD and Mesquite ISD. Choirs under her direction have received awards at ensemble contests and have been successful at solo and ensemble, region, and state contests.

Practical Singing: The Four Things about Singing Every Choir Director Should Know

Kevin Wilson, Director of Vocal Pedagogy at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, will discuss the body systems at play for singing with current scientific research and vocal examples to help you communicate efficient voice use in the choral ensemble. Discussion will include the reality of lotion, potions, and myths in choral singing.

Kevin Wilson will be the clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 101.

R.E.C.H.A.R.G.E.: Ideas to Rejuvenate or Reimagine Your Teaching

It never fails that attendees say that they look forward to “recharging” at SWACDA. But what does that mean? Aside from spending time with colleagues and being inspired by wonderful clinics and performances, what can you do to take that inspiration and make a tangible difference in your school, church, or community? Robert Ward will share some of his own experiences and provide thoughts about how you can go about making positive changes to your mode of operation.



Robert Ward serves as the director of choral activities at Emporia State University, where he conducts the A Cappella Choir, Tallgrass Chamber Choir, the Emporia Chorale, and teaches courses in vocal music education. Ward holds degrees from Oklahoma State University, Southern Methodist University, and the University of North Texas. Ward has performed with the Orpheus Chamber Singers, Taylor Festival Choir, Texas Choral Artists, The Choral Pickup, Vox Humana, and the South Dakota Chorale.

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So You Want to Start a Vocal Jazz Ensemble?

What does it take to start and develop a vocal jazz ensemble? What skills and resources (musical and otherwise) does a director need, and how are they developed? In this session, we will take a look at repertoire, stylistic issues, vocal technique, improvisation challenges, and sound reinforcement options. The Friends University Jazz Vocal Ensemble will demonstrate repertoire excerpts and rehearsal and vocal techniques unique to jazz.

Craig Curry will be the clinician for this session. His photo and bio are on page 108.

Striking the Right Chord: Building a Sense of Harmony and Identity within the Non-Auditioned Choir

Choir directors face a myriad of challenges in building their choral programs, from recruiting and retaining singers to finding repertoire, to developing the desired choral sound in their choir. Directors of non-auditioned choirs, however, face a unique challenge: establishing a unified identity for their ensemble that makes students want to sign up for their choir. This session will provide proven strategies for developing a sense of identity for a non-auditioned choir by integrat-

ing elements of F.U.N. (Flexibility, Unique Games, and Necessary Skills) into every rehearsal. During this session, you will hear from student singers and conductors regarding their motivations for participating in this unique type of ensemble.



Sheri Cook-Cunningham is the assistant professor of choral music education at the University of Central Arkansas,

where she teaches courses in choral methods, graduate music research, conducts the University Chorus, and supervises music interns. Cook-Cunningham earned her bachelor's and master's from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and her doctorate at the University of Kansas. As an active researcher, Cook-Cunningham has presented her research locally, regionally, and nationally.

Teaching Transgender Students: What Every Music Educator Should Know

This session will give a general introduction of the special considerations for providing an inclusive environment for transgender or non-binary students in the choral music classroom. The goals will include developing a basic vocabulary of terminology specific to this population and to help create an awareness and sensitivity for successful work with these students. The session will end with a Q&A.



Loraine Sims is associate professor/vocal studies division chair at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Recent performances include the 2016 National NATS Conference and a repeat performance for the 2017 ICVT in Stockholm, Sweden. Professional activities include the 2017 NOA Conference, the 2017 ICVT, the 2016 National NOA/NATS conference, the 2016 National MTNA Conference, and the 2016 National NATS Convention. Sims is a past Southern Region Governor of NATS.

This is Us: Creating, Changing, and Inspiring Choir Culture

The students that make up our choral ensembles may hold their own cultural ideals, but their unique paths cross each time they enter our classroom, tasking us with the responsibility of creating, changing, and inspiring a culture of choral music. This session will take the audience through four seasons of comedy and drama over thirty episodes broadcasted through experience in rural, suburban, and urban markets and with new, exemplary, and rebuilding programs. Regardless of your situation, tune in to join the clinicians as our stories unfold in front of a live studio audience.

Interest Sessions



Ashley Dame is in her eighth year of teaching and serves as associate choral director at Wylie East High School. Choirs under her direction consistently earn superior ratings and best in class designations at regional and state contests and have been featured at the 2012 TMEA and 2014 Southwest ACDA Region Conferences.



Nathan Dame is in his eleventh year of teaching and serves as associate choral director at Lovejoy High School.

Through the Lens of the Learner: Selecting Quality Repertoire for the Emerging Choir

Veteran music educator Denise Eaton will share effective methods of selecting repertoire for the emerging choir by considering specific needs of young students. Eaton will share numerous sequential teaching strategies, score study techniques, and ideas for creating effective teaching materials. A complimentary music packet will be provided.

Denise Eaton will be the clinician for this session. Her photo and bio are on page 69.

Unraveling the Mystery of Choral Music Publication: Tips to Help Your Composition Get Published

Have you penned the next epic choral work and need to know how to get it published? Patti Drennan will share from her 30+ years experience in writing for school and church choirs and will offer advice regarding the music writing process, original vs. public domain music and texts, song formatting and organizational ideas, publisher protocol and contact information, and more. Handouts will be distributed and a Q&A segment will be available at the end of the session.



Patti Drennan earned a bachelor's at Oklahoma State University and a master's at the University of Oklahoma. She

taught choral music for grades 9-12 for twenty-eight years in Norman, OK. During her tenure she was named Director of Distinction given by the Oklahoma Choral Directors Association. An active composer and arranger, she has over 475 choral octavos and keyboard books published with ten major publishers. She served as a clinician for workshops in twenty-two states, three times in Canada, and has presented four sessions at TMEA.

Using Snapchat and Social Media for Choral Recruiting and Marketing

In today's world, a social media presence is imperative to the lifeblood of a choral program or organization. When targeted appropriately, the different social media platforms can help conductors and singers remain connected outside of the rehearsal room and even provide informal means of assessment. They can keep audiences and donors engaged and informed, providing a glimpse into the choral process beyond the concert hall. Social media also serves as a means to reach potential singers and retain singers by engaging in a familial community online. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat will be explored in terms of knowing the different uses for each platform and the targeted audience.



Jeffery Wall is chair of the department of music and director of choral activities at Northeastern State University in

Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He came to NSU in 2013 from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, where he was the Elmer F. Pierson Distinguished Professor of Music. He taught public school grades 7-12 in Lubbock, TX. Wall is co-artistic director and conductor of Vox Solaris, a professional-level chamber choir headquartered in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Well-Tempered Collaboration: Effective Conductor/ Pianist Collaborations

An effective working relationship between a conductor and pianist can greatly enhance productivity and musicality in the choral rehearsal. Discover what pianists and conductors should expect of each other as musical partners and learn strategies for making this collaboration as constructive as possible. This session, featuring members of both the choral and piano faculty of Wichita State University, looks at the pianist/conductor relationship from both sides and offers insights from experienced collaborators designed to enhance the effectiveness of the choral rehearsal by working to strengthen this essential working relationship.



Justine Sasanfar is assistant professor of piano pedagogy at Wichita State University, where she coordinates the piano pedagogy and class piano programs. Passionate about nurturing joy for music at the piano, she has taught students of all ages and abilities in private and group settings. In collaboration with her husband, Michael Hanawalt, she has published choral arrangements with Boosey & Hawkes and Colla Voce. She earned a bachelor's from St. Olaf College, master's degrees at Michigan State University, and a doctorate from the Florida State University.

Working with Adolescent Changing Voices

Adolescent voices are in an almost constant state of change throughout much of middle school, high school, and early college. While the boys' changing voice is the most commonly discussed and studied, girls' voices change as well. Singers who identify as LGBTQ, particularly transgender singers, may face an additional voice change that many conductors/teachers feel ill-equipped to help with. This session will present information, techniques, and effective exercises based in the latest vocal pedagogy science to help teachers who work with singers going through various voice changes that occur during adolescence.



Michael Hanawalt is director of choral activities at Wichita State University, where he conducts the Concert Chora-

le, the Women's Glee Club, and teaches courses in conducting and choral literature. Additionally, he serves as chorus director of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra Chorus and director of music at University Congregational Church. Hanawalt was a founding member of the professional male vocal ensemble Cantus, serving as both its executive director and singing as part of the touring ensemble.

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2018 ACDA Southwestern Region Conference

Interest Sessions



Ryan Olsen is assistant professor of choral music education at Colorado State University, where he conducts

the Concert Choir and teaches undergraduate and graduate music education and conducting courses. He received degrees from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a doctorate from Arizona State University. He is an active conduc-

tor, clinician, and presenter and is an advocate for the use of early music as audition, sight-reading, and performance tools.

Working with Transgender and Non-Binary Singers

This session will explore the specific considerations that music educators should know about teaching-

transgender singers. It will include a discussion of the effects of hormone therapies on voices and possible outcomes for those students who are in transition. Examples will be explored that represent the choices these individuals may need to make regarding the use of their singing voices. The session will end with a Q&A.

Loraine Sims will be the clinician for this session. Her photo and bio are on page 123.

2018 ACDA Southwestern Region Conference

Honor Choir Conductors

5-7 Treble



Christy Elsner is the founder and artistic director of the Allegro Choirs of Kansas City. They performed at the White House for the Obamas, St. Peter's Basilica, Notre Dame, Carnegie Hall, and Myerson Hall. They perform yearly with

the Kansas City Symphony. She has conducted regional, state, and national honor choirs. She is author of *Gadgets for Great Singing* and is the 2010 recipient of the Kindest-Kansas Citian, the 2008 MENC Outstanding Middle Level Educator, and the KCDA Outstanding Young Conductor Award. She was SWACDA Children's and Community Youth R&R Chair. She earned a bachelor's from KU and received the Hahn Award for Outstanding Senior in Music Education.

7-10 Men's



Derrick Fox is director of choral activities and assistant professor of music at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and most recently served as assistant professor of music education and choral conducting at Ithaca College. He earned a

bachelor's from Arkansas State University, a master's from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a doctorate from Michigan State University. Fox is an active adjudicator and clinician for regional, state, national, and international organizations. He has conducted ensembles in sixteen states. His articles have appeared in the *Choral Journal*, *Choral Cues*, *ChorTeach*, and *Teaching Music*. He is a contributing author for Hal Leonard, and his arrangements are published by Hal Leonard and G. Schirmer.

8-10 Women's



Sandra Snow enjoys a national reputation as conductor, pedagogue, and educator. Snow is associate professor of music at Michigan State University, where she conducts the Michigan State University Women's Chamber Ensemble and

interacts with undergraduate and graduate students in areas of conducting study, choral pedagogy, and teacher education. Snow is in demand as a guest conductor and clinician, engaging teachers in professional development and conducting all-state, honor choir, and choral festivals across the United States and Canada. Under her direction, the MSU Women's Chamber Ensemble performed at the 2008 Central ACDA Region Conference. Snow is a recipient of the MSU Teacher-Scholar award, a campus-wide, peer-reviewed honor.

11-12 Mixed



Julie Yu is co-director of choral studies at Kansas State University. She oversees eight ensembles, teaches conducting, and is co-director of the Summer Choral Institute. The KSU Choirs have performed for KMEA and SWACDA and

for the American Festival of Music in Austria, Czech Republic, Italy, and France. She has conducted Manhat-

tan Concert Productions at Carnegie Hall and has conducted regional and state festivals in eleven states. She is SWACDA president-elect and serves as an NCCO national board member. She is also vice-president of the Flint Hills Children's Choir and Conductor of the Flint Hills Masterworks Chorale. Yu holds degrees from the University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, and the University of North Texas.

Collegiate



María Guinand is a choral conductor, university professor, and leader of many worldwide choral projects who specializes in contemporary Latin-American choral music. She has obtained the 'Kulturpreis' of the InterNationes Founda-

tion, the Robert Edler Preis für Chormusik, and the Helmuth Rilling Preis. She graduated from Bristol University (England). She conducts the Schola Cantorum de Venezuela and founded the Cantoría Alberto Grau and the Orfeón Universitario Simón Bolívar. She has been associate conductor and Advisor El Sistema for three decades and has taught at the University Simón Bolívar twenty-eight years. She founded the Academia Bach de Venezuela and is conductor of the Polar Foundation Choir. Guinand serves as Latin American vice president of IFCM. Her editions are published by earthsongs.

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