

How Can I Keep From Singing?

I'm tired.

I'm tired of trying to connect with singers through a screen.

I'm tired of only hearing live voices filtered through masks in widely-spaced small groups.

I'm tired of 30-minute limits robbing us of teachable moments, flow, and the organic magic and easy humor of an everyday choir rehearsal.

I'm tired of muted singing, of empty faceless squares staring back at me as I hurl my "teaching" out into the silence of cyberspace.

I'm tired of virtual choirs.

I'm tired, and I miss so many things.

I miss the sweet faces and wise voices of my church choir.

I miss the anticipation in the first breath of a concert.

I miss the energizing reward of earnest faces and unmasked smiles.

I even miss fixing disorderly riser windows.

I feel like the best parts of my vocation have been stripped away.

I feel like a novice, ineffective and insufficient for the needs of my singers.

I vow never again to take an ordinary rehearsal for granted. How could the miracle of crafting music in community, of singing together without distance or impediment, ever be mundane?

And yet, amid all of this, I harbor great hope and pride for our choral world.

We sacrifice because we care deeply for the humans that sing with us. We care for their health and safety, and we care for their future.

While the pandemic may have forced distance between us, it did not silence us. Through everything, we have continued to sing – making music, joining voices, and building community in new and creative ways. Even though it may be tiring, even though we miss so many things, we persist. I'm confident that this reexamination of our teaching, our rehearsing, and our performing will reap great benefits for the choral art as we move forward.

I'm amazed by the creativity and persistence of my colleagues. Even those who feel like they are failing – their perseverance and adaptability are an inspiration to their students and peers. "Through all the tumult and the strife," the song says, "how can I keep from singing?" Somehow, in a world none of us could have imagined one year ago, we've managed to keep our song alive.

Like our choral experiences, our 2021 conference looks very different this year. Rather than limit us, though, this "virtual" format poses exciting new possibilities. The lack of travel costs and distance allow our entire membership to join us. Rollo Dilworth and André de Quadros deliver keynote addresses discussing choral pedagogy, building community, and creating welcoming choral spaces. Six interest sessions cover a wide variety of topics including successful teaching and community building in a post-COVID classroom, the musical theatre voice, cultural appropriation versus appreciation, rounds and partner songs, and social-emotional learning in the choral classroom. J.W. Pepper sponsors two reading sessions of music selected by our R&R chairs. We have roundtables and focused discussions alongside less-structured social events. We sing together, and we watch and applaud excerpts of post-COVID choral performances from around the state.

You need this conference. You need the connections, the laughs, the learning, and the rejuvenation that time with your WCDA colleagues can provide. And we need you. Your presence, your ideas, and your voice are what make WCDA great. Join us in January as we come together as a choral community to study and celebrate our art. Registration is now open at www.wischoral.org. Whatever our physical distance, when we're together in January, **how can we keep from singing?**

- * [How Can I Keep From Singing?](#)
- * [Registration Information](#)
- * [Conference Schedule](#)
- * [Keynote Presenters](#)
- * [Interest Session Presenters](#)
- * [All-State Choir Information](#)
- * [With Great Appreciation](#)
- * [NextDirection](#)

Registration Information

Registration opened December 7 – visit www.wischoral.org to register.

Registration rates:

- \$35 for ACDA members
- \$50 for non-members
- \$10 for student members

Conference Schedule

Friday, Jan. 15

- 4:00 Welcome and large group session
- 5:00 Break
- 5:15 Simultaneous interest sessions (choose one):
 - Building connections while keeping your distance – Joy Paffenroth
 - Ethical Cross-Cultural Engagement in the era of COVID and The Black Lives Matter Movement – Mollie Stone and Lonnie Norwood
 - Rounds and partner songs for choirs of all ages – Marcia Russell
- 6:15 Break
- 6:30 Dinner and conversation
- 7:30 Break
- 7:45 Keynote #1 – Rollo Dilworth
- 8:45 Sharing of post-pandemic Wisconsin choral recordings (audio/video)
- 9:15 End of day one

Saturday, Jan. 16

- 9:00 Coffee talk
- 9:30 Simultaneous interest sessions (choose one):
 - Music Theatre Vocal Quality: How to Belt and Mix – Corinne Ness
 - Social-Emotional Learning in the choral classroom – Randy Swiggum
 - Zooming In: Choral Learning in a Digital Landscape – Erica Breitbarth
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Simultaneous reading sessions (choose one):
 - SATB session, led by:
 - John Albrecht, Music in Worship R&R Chair
 - David Bowman, High School R&R Chair
 - Raymond Roberts, World Musics and Cultures R&R Chair
 - Kathy Schereck, Vocal Jazz R&R Chair
 - Multiple voicings session, led by:
 - Herb Berendsen, Bass-Clef R&R Chair
 - Eric Leih, Middle School R&R Chair
 - Debbie Lind, Treble-Clef R&R Chair
 - Toni Weijola, Children & Community Youth R&R Chair
 - Kathy Schereck, Vocal Jazz R&R Chair
- 11:45 Break
- 12:15 Roundtables and lunch
- 1:00 Break
- 1:15 Keynote #2 – André de Quadros
- 2:15 Break
- 2:30 Small group sections discussing topics from Dr. de Quadros's Session
- 3:30 WCDA business and recognize award winners
- 4:30 Social event breakouts
- 5:15 Break
- 5:30 Final group session
- 6:00 Finish

- * [How Can I Keep From Singing?](#)
- * [Registration Information](#)
- * [Conference Schedule](#)
- * [Keynote Presenters](#)
- * [Interest Session Presenters](#)
- * [All-State Choir Information](#)
- * [With Great Appreciation](#)
- * [NextDirection](#)

Keynote Presenters

Keynote #1 – Rollo Dilworth – Friday at 7:45 pm

Rollo Dilworth is Vice Dean and Professor of Choral Music Education in the Department of Music Education and Therapy at Temple University's Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts in Philadelphia, PA. He has served on the faculty since 2009. Over 200 of Dilworth's choral compositions and arrangements have been published, and many are part of the *Henry Leck Creating Artistry Choral Series* with the Hal Leonard Corporation. In 2015 Dilworth launched his own choral series with Hal Leonard, focusing on secondary and tertiary level repertoire representing composers and arrangers from diverse backgrounds. He is also an established author and contributor for the *Essential Elements for Choir* and the *Experiencing Choral Music* textbook series. He has authored 3 books of choral warm up exercises intended for elementary and secondary choral ensembles. Dilworth is a frequent guest conductor of all-state, honors, festival, community, church and professional choirs.

He is an active clinician and presenter on topics including African American choral music, composing/arranging for choirs, social justice, cultural appropriation, urban music education, community engagement, and diversity, equity and inclusion.



Keynote #2 – André de Quadros – Saturday at 1:15 pm

André de Quadros, conductor, ethnomusicologist, music educator, writer, and human rights activist has conducted and undertaken research in over forty countries. His professional work has taken him to the most diverse settings, spanning professional ensembles, and projects with prisons, psychosocial rehabilitation, refugees and asylum-seekers, poverty locations, and victims of torture and trauma. André de Quadros is a professor of music at Boston University. He has held a number of leadership positions at Boston University, including Director of the School of Music, Chair of the Music Education Department, Chair of the Department of Music in the College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, and Artistic Director of the Tanglewood Institute. Professor de Quadros also holds affiliate faculty positions in the African Studies Center, Center for the Study of Asia, Initiative on Cities, Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, and the Prison Education Program at Boston University. Dr. de Quadros is Artistic Director and Conductor of the following choirs: Common Ground Voices (Israeli-Palestinian-international), the Manado State University Choir (Indonesia), the Muslim Choral Ensemble (Sri Lanka), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Countries Youth Choir, and Boston's VOICES 21C. He co-leads Common Ground Voices / La Frontera (Mexico-US). He is deeply committed to justice and equity, peacebuilding and reconciliation.



Interest Session Presenters

Friday at 5:15 pm – Simultaneous Interest Sessions

Building connections while keeping your distance – Joy Paffenroth

We are all well aware of how we have had to completely reimagine our teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic. And, we've seen (now more than ever) that we and our students NEED to stay connected to each other and our communities! In this session, we'll take a look at and participate in some innovative ways to build and strengthen those connections. Whether you're in person, hybrid or completely virtual, this session will be for you!

Joy Paffenroth has been teaching choir and general music to students of all ages for 22 years. Currently, she is the choir director at Kaukauna High School in Kaukauna, WI, where she conducts 4 of the 6 curricular choirs, an extra-curricular jazz choir and is involved in the school's musical production each year. She has a B.A. in music from Luther College and a M.M. in choral conducting from Northwestern University. Joy has been very active in the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association by serving on the board in several capacities, including as president from 2015-2017. An active performer, conductor and clinician, she has also presented interest sessions at state, regional and national conferences of the American Choral Directors Association. In 2012, Joy was the selected North Central ACDA representative to the International Conductors Exchange Program and participated in the US/Cuba Choral Summit in Havana, Cuba. In 2020, Joy was selected as a national semi-finalist for the Music Educator Grammy Award. She resides in Sherwood, WI, with her husband Wade, daughters Molly and Gabrielle, and yellow lab Otis.



Ethical Cross-Cultural Engagement in the era of COVID and The Black Lives Matter Movement – Mollie Stone and Lonnie Norwood

When COVID-19 shut down international travel, Village Harmony (a non-profit organization that runs music study programs abroad) created a new online platform that allows singers all over the world to come together to learn music directly from culture-bearers. Through this new platform, singers and music directors can go beneath the surface to learn about the history of a genre, explore source recordings, receive vocal coaching, study performance practice, learn physical movement, and gain an understanding of the role the tradition plays in the lives of people from that culture. Village Harmony teacher Lonnie Norwood adapted the international learning platform to create courses in Black Gospel music that allow singers to learn not just about music from thousands of miles away, but also from choral traditions within our country. Come see how this new virtual learning platform can be used by choirs everywhere, and facilitate more ethical engagement with choral artists and choral music beyond the Classical canon.

Mollie Stone serves as Choral Conductor and Lecturer at the University of Chicago. Stone is also the Co-Founder/Director of both the Chicago World Music Chorus and the Augsburg/Twin Cities Global Harmony Choir, and teaches internationally with the organization Village Harmony.

Stone holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Amherst College, a Master of Music degree in conducting from Westminster Choir College, a doctorate in choral conducting from Northwestern University, and has studied at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Stone wrote her dissertation on how Black South Africans have adapted the choral music of the anti-apartheid struggle to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

In 2001, Stone received a grant from the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation to produce a teaching DVD (*Vela Vela*) that helps American choral directors to learn and teach Black South African choral music more authentically in the oral tradition. She has since worked with Patty Cuyler (of Village Harmony) and international instructors to produce a number of teaching resources on choral music from South Africa, Bulgaria, and The Republic of Georgia.



Stone works both internationally and locally to help create programs and collaborations that allow singers to study the music of various traditions by working directly with tradition bearers, and to provide tradition bearers with platforms and resources that support them in sharing their music on their own terms.

Interest Session Presenters

Friday at 5:15 pm – Simultaneous Interest Sessions

Ethical Cross-Cultural Engagement in the era of COVID and The Black Lives Matter Movement – Mollie Stone and Lonnie Norwood (cont.)

Born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, **Lonnie Norwood, Jr.** grew up with an unquenchable passion for music and community service. He knew early on that both would be integral parts of his life's work. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Luther College where he studied under world renowned conductor, Weston Noble. He went on to earn a Master of Music degree with an emphasis in Voice from The Florida State University. Upon completion of his education, Lonnie taught K-12 music in Leon County (Tallahassee) and Chicago area schools, both public and private. He has enjoyed numerous career highlights working as a versatile singer and arranger alongside such artists as Lizz Wright, Nona Hendryx, Nadine McKinnor, Ricky Dillard, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and Chicago's Youth In Unity.

Lonnie joined the artistic staff at Chicago Children's Choir (CCC) as a conductor in 2012 and opened the vivacious Englewood Neighborhood Choir (2013). His ensembles have performed at numerous city venues, including the Chicago Symphony Center, The Museum of Science & Industry, The Shedd Aquarium, Navy Pier, and The McCormick Convention Center. They have done three national tours and have been featured on WGN Channel 9 & ABC 7 News respectively. Their most significant work, perhaps, is in serving the community of Englewood through song at local churches, parks, shopping centers, block parties, schools, and assisted living facilities. He has recently been appointed at CCC as Director of African Diasporic Music & Studies.

In recent years, Lonnie has become more active as a choral clinician, helping educators and ensembles understand the historical significance, vocal technique, and the social justice aspects of gospel music and African American spirituals. Recent work has included workshops with ensembles at the University of Chicago, teaching & singing with international ensemble Village Harmony throughout various provinces of South Africa, musical exchanges in Nassau, The Bahamas, with members of the Bahamas National Youth Choir and Bahamian musicians, BFLI Young Artists Camp at ETA Theater Chicago, and with SongRoots (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada) teaching gospel and spirituals. He has also begun authoring articles along these lines of interests, including a recent work for the American Choral Directors Association's Choral Journal (October 2018). Upcoming engagements include master classes and panel sessions with various branches of ACDA, the Island Choirs of Vancouver, and a host of high schools, colleges and universities nationwide.

Every avenue of arts, outreach, and advocacy Lonnie embarks on is credited to his church upbringing. He established Audacious Praise (AP) in 2015, a multicultural arts outreach organization creating accessible, intergenerational programming that impacts social & spiritual awareness in marginalized communities. Audacious Praise is best known for one of South Shore's finest inspirational open mic showcases, Fresh Faith Fridays, and has garnered great interest in its highly regarded outreach initiative educating in the art of gospel, ChicaGO Reach Gospel Workshop, which will reopen virtually in October, 2020. He serves as lead musician and worship leader at Bryn Mawr Community Church in South Shore, under the direction of esteemed soprano and conductor, Felicia Coleman-Evans.



- * [How Can I Keep From Singing?](#)
- * [Registration Information](#)
- * [Conference Schedule](#)
- * [Keynote Presenters](#)

- * [Interest Session Presenters](#)
- * [All-State Choir Information](#)
- * [With Great Appreciation](#)
- * [NextDirection](#)

Interest Session Presenters

Friday at 5:15 pm – Simultaneous Interest Sessions

Rounds and partner songs for choirs of all ages – Marcia Russell

The humble two-part round. A simple lyrical canon. Childhood partner-songs. Some of us may use this repertoire as a way to warm-up the ensemble before the “real” learning takes place. Others may have shelved this repertoire because there are much more exciting songs to play with. In this session, we will explore the versatility of rounds and canons as a means for higher level thinking. We will explore their role as building blocks for vocal technique and composition, as puzzles to spark curiosity and imagination and as a means for “time travel” to the past and the future. You don’t need to invest in the PS5 when you have the classic LEGO® at your fingertips.



Marcia Russell teaches students in middle school general music and choir at Platteville Middle School. She has a Master of Music Degree in Music Education from Kent State University, and a Bachelor of Music Degree in Voice Performance and General/Choral Music Education from Lawrence University. She is currently in her first year of remote/hybrid/face-to-face/cohort/on-line-everyday-is-an-adventure learning, which happens to be her 28th year of teaching overall.

Ms. Russell is an active member of ACDA and NAFME, and serves as the current chair of the Wisconsin Music Educators Association’s Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance project (CMP). She has been a conductor with the Platteville Children’s Choir for over 20 years, and is a past conductor with the Madison Youth Choirs.

Ms. Russell is a member of the Mt. Vernon, Iowa High School Fine Arts “Hall of Fame,” and is a past recipient of the WCDA Outstanding Young Choral Director Award. She received the WCDA Middle Level Choral Director Award in 2015.

Saturday at 9:30 am – Simultaneous Interest Sessions

Music Theatre Vocal Quality: How to Belt and Mix – Corinne Ness

In this session, participants will explore voice anatomy to better understand the vocal qualities of belt and mix. Through recordings and practical exercises, participants will learn effective ways to help students have a healthy and exciting belt and mix quality for music theatre singing.

Dr. Corinne Ness is a dean and director of the graduate program in music theatre vocal pedagogy at Carthage College, where she mentors the research and performance skills of the future generation of music theatre educators.

Equally at home in classical and contemporary repertoire, Dr. Ness’ students have performed on Broadway and the Lyric Opera stage, sung in national tours, on cruise ships, and regional houses. Her students have earned graduate degrees in voice performance, voice pedagogy, directing, music education, and arts leadership.

Dr. Ness is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) and the Music Theatre Educator’s Alliance International (MTEA). She serves as a mentor and a member of the MTEA Voice Advisory Board and is part of the NATS International Advisory Committee. She has presented original research on music theatre vocal techniques, integrated learning technique, assessment, and voice pedagogy in the choral rehearsal.

Dr. Ness has presented workshops on music theatre techniques across China, including multiple visits to Shanghai, Beijing, Xi’An, and Nanjing. She developed a special visiting artist program for music theatre professionals to train in the United States, and has orchestrated a unique partnership between Carthage College and the Beijing Dance Academy (BDA), where she holds a Distinguished Scholar appointment. She has music directed conservatory productions of musicals ranging from *Carousel* to *Bullets Over Broadway*, as well as music theatre showcases for conservatories across China.



Interest Session Presenters

Saturday at 9:30 am – Simultaneous Interest Sessions

Social-Emotional Learning in the choral classroom – Randy Swiggum



Randal Swiggum is well-known to Wisconsin music educators, having conducted all-state honor choirs and orchestras for WSMA and WCDA over the last twenty years. With the Madison Boychoir (MYC), Randy conducts Britten and Holst, for elementary and middle school boys, and conducted Ragazzi, MYC's advanced high school men's choir on its 2018 tour to Scotland. He has also taught at Whitefish Bay High School, Verona High School, UW-Milwaukee, and Lawrence University.

Randy is the Arts Teacher Leader for the Madison Metropolitan School District, where he works with all K-12 music, art, theatre, and dance teachers as a coach and support. Randy was Artistic Director of the award-winning Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra (Chicago) for over twenty years. He has also served as education conductor for a number of professional orchestras including The Florida Orchestra, Elgin Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, and Boise Philharmonic. With the Madison Symphony he has conducted concerts for young people, including Symphony Soup, the Fall Youth Concerts, and the Carnegie Hall Link-Up concerts. Each February, he had conducted the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in a concert for young audiences, which over the years has featured masterworks such as the Faure *Requiem*, Vaughan Williams *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Poulenc *Gloria*, Bernstein Chichester *Psalms*, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.

A passionate advocate for a richer learning experience in the rehearsal, Randy serves on the Wisconsin CMP (Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance) Project. He has addressed the Pennsylvania MENC and ACDA, Minnesota ACDA, Iowa ACDA, Illinois ACDA and IMEA, Maryland MENC, the ACDA North Central Division and Eastern Division, the Texas Orchestra Directors Association, and MENC National Conventions in Phoenix and Kansas City. He often works with music teachers in workshops and in-services across the U.S. With colleague Margaret Jenks, he recently taught a CMP workshop in Hong Kong for teachers across southeast Asia. They both also continue to serve as faculty for the Carnegie Hall Music Educators Workshop in New York City. He is author of *Strategies for Teaching High School Chorus* (MENC 1998), and co-author of *Shaping Sound Musicians* (GIA 2003). He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in musicology at UW-Madison.

Zooming In: Choral Learning in a Digital Landscape – Erica Breitbarth

While the move to digital and hybrid learning has created some significant challenges for choral singing, it has also opened up some new opportunities to integrate technology into musical experiences. This session will focus on digital best practices in choral learning, including using technology to foster community and musical understanding. Participants will gain strategies and tools that can be applied to both in person and virtual teaching settings.

Erica Breitbarth is an active vocalist, conductor, clinician and music educator in the Milwaukee area. She holds degrees in music education from the Wheaton Conservatory of Music (BMed) and Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music (MMEd). Currently, Erica serves as choir director, musical theater director and chair of the music department at Reagan International Baccalaureate (IB) School in the Milwaukee Public Schools. She is an active soloist throughout the greater Milwaukee area, performing choral masterworks with the Bel Canto Chorus, Milwaukee Bach Chorus, and contemporary works with Present Music's Hearing Voices Ensemble. A strong advocate for music education, Erica serves as a leader of the Milwaukee Music Educators Association, which recently worked to restore 85 music educator positions to the Milwaukee Public Schools. Erica serves as the Diversity Initiatives Liaison for the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association (WCDA) and was recently named the WCDA Outstanding Young Choral Director (2018). She also garnered recognition as the Civic Music Association's Choral Music Educator of the Year (2013), a Grammy Music Educator Finalist (2017) and recently a Herb Kohl Teaching Fellow (2020).



2021 All-State Choirs

Middle Level Choir

Coordinator: Jean Enyeart

Conductor: Jaclyn Kottman

Repertoire:

- Ich will den Herrn loben allezeit – Georg Philipp Telemann
- Lift Every Voice and Sing – James Weldon Johnson/Pote



Jaclyn Kottman is a music educator in the Appleton Area School District, where she teaches choral and general music and is a liaison for Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching at Einstein Middle School. Passionate about working with middle level changing voices, she has also been a teacher-conductor with the Lawrence Community Music School for nearly ten years and currently teaches the Arioso Girl Choir singers. Ms. Kottman received the Bachelor of Music degree in choral and general music education with a minor in religious studies from Lawrence University and the Master of Music degree in music education from Boston University, where her capstone focused on facilitating empowerment through the adolescent female voice change. She has taught choral and general music and music theatre in New Zealand, Costa Rica, Atlanta, Boston, and Wisconsin. She currently serves on the board of the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association (WCDA) as the chair of the Singing in Wisconsin project and is the Director of Operations for the annual Mile of Music Festival's Music Education Team. Ms. Kottman is a member of the Wisconsin Music Educators Association (WMEA) and an advocate for the Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance (CMP) teaching model. She is the recipient of Lawrence University's Pi Kappa Lambda Award for excellence in music education, as well as WCDA's Outstanding Young Choral Director Award.

Bass Clef Choir

Coordinator: PJ Uhazie

Conductor: James Kinchen

Repertoire:

- Soon Ah Will Be Done – arr. William L. Dawson
- There Is Faint Music – Dan Forrest

James Benjamin Kinchen, Jr., Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, is a native of Jacksonville, Florida, and has taught music and directed choral groups at Stanton High School, Jacksonville; Florida Community College at Jacksonville; Southern Illinois University; Southeastern Illinois College; Hampton University; and Winston-Salem State University. His degrees are from Jacksonville University, Southern Illinois University, and the University of North Carolina Greensboro.

Dr. Kinchen is in frequent demand as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician, and has been listed in the International Who's Who in Music, Personalities of the South, Outstanding Young Men of America, and, most recently, Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Dr. Kinchen has been a Wisconsin Teaching Fellow and received the university's 2003-2004 Stella Gray Teaching Excellence Award, an award made to two outstanding teachers at the university each year. He was highly honored to become one of the very few faculty members to receive the Stella Gray award a second time when he was selected to receive it for the 2014-15 academic year. He was also given the university's 2005-2006 Faculty Distinguished Service Award and the 2011-2012 Campus Diversity Award.

He is an affiliate of the Center for Black Music Research, and holds membership in the National Association for Music Education, and National Collegiate Choral Organization. An active member of American Choral Directors Association, he has served ACDA in several leadership capacities at state, regional, and national levels. He has presented at state, divisional and national ACDA conventions, and has written for and reviewed new music and new recordings for the Choral Journal at various times. He was President-elect, President, and Vice-President respectively of Wisconsin Choral Directors Association from 2004-2009. He has also served as President-elect, President, and Vice President of the former North Central Division of ACDA, a region that embraced Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and the Dakotas. He was Chair of the 2014 NCACDA Conference, which met in Des Moines, Iowa. He currently serves on the Executive Board of Wisconsin Music Educators Association as Vice President for the Southeast Wisconsin District.

2021 All-State Choirs

Bass Clef Choir (cont.)



Music Director of the Milwaukee Choristers, a large, self-sustaining community chorus, since 1993, he has conducted the Choristers in several significant performances, including concert tours of Germany, Austria, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Italy, and performances for the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association in 1996, 1999, and 2002. He is also on the music staff of Saint Paul Baptist Church, Racine.

"I am deeply honored to have been invited to lead the WCDA All-State Bass Clef Choir this year. This honor is all the more special because it was as a 10th grader in an All-State Choir that I first realized that music was calling to me to become my lifelong endeavor!"

Treble Clef Choir

Coordinator: Sarah Plum

Conductor: Cory Ganschow

Repertoire:

- Dies Irae – arr. Ryan Main
- Days of Beauty – Ola Gjeilo

Dr. Cory Ganschow is currently Director of Choral Activities at Bradley University. She is extremely active as an adjudicator and clinician for honor choirs across the country, including All-State, All-Region, and All-District Choirs. Prior to teaching at Bradley, Ganschow was Coordinator of Music Education and Associate Director of Choral Activities at Western Connecticut State University. She has taught choir in the Texas and Illinois public schools, continues to sing professionally, and is a published researcher and presenter in the areas of choral sound, rehearsal approaches, and transformational leadership. She is also currently the ACDA Central Region Collegiate R&R Chair.

Her life's work emerged from experiencing a moment of sound so profound that her core-beliefs about choral singing were transformed. That transformation led to her infinite search for how not only to re-create that sound for her students to experience, but how to teach others to re-create that sound and experience for their students: a search that led to the discovery that choral sound is more than a combination of perfected musical, acoustical, and technical elements. The greatest contribution to a choir's sound is its unified intention to create a moment that will change the human spirit. And so, Ganschow's mission continues as she works to define the exact phenomena that craft those moments, because, in the end, that change in the human spirit is the legacy left behind.

She holds a Ph.D. in Choral Music Education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, MME from Illinois State University, and BME from Millikin University, where she studied conducting with Dr. Brad Holmes.



-
- * [How Can I Keep From Singing?](#)
 - * [Registration Information](#)
 - * [Conference Schedule](#)
 - * [Keynote Presenters](#)

- * [Interest Session Presenters](#)
- * [All-State Choir Information](#)
- * [With Great Appreciation](#)
- * [NextDirection](#)

2021 All–State Choirs

Vocal Jazz Choir

Coordinator: Tim Buchholz

Conductor: Ellen Winters

Repertoire:

- I'll Be There – arr. Jeremy Fox
- I'm Hip – arr. Kerry Marsh
- This Masquerade – arr. Steve Zegree

A critically acclaimed and award-winning vocalist, **Ellen Winters** has been singing professionally for over 25 years. She has performed at the Montreux and North Seas Jazz Festivals in Europe; Rocky Mountain Jazz Festival in Banff; Summerfest in Milwaukee; The Dakota in Minneapolis; The Bitter End and Rose's Turn in New York as well as the Jazz Showcase, Davenport's and Victory Gardens in Chicago. Ellen has performed with Bonnie Herman & Don Shelton (members of The Singers Unlimited), Darmon Meader (of New York Voices) and Daryl Stuermer (lead guitarist for Genesis).



Ellen has released two solo CDs and can also be heard on a variety of different collaborations. Ellen has been a featured artist at colleges, symphonies and festivals throughout the United States and continues to teach vocal workshops and clinics and while also performing throughout the country. She also works steadily as a solo vocalist and with several bands in the jazz, rock and pop genres and has several cabaret shows that tour regularly. She has been honored with awards and nominations from the Wisconsin Area Music Industry (WAMI) for Best Female Vocalist and received the 2017 Best Jazz Artist award from the Milwaukee *Shepherd Express People's Choice Poll*. Ellen was also a cast member of "Comicality 2019," which was awarded the 2019 Footlights People's Choice Awards winner for Outstanding Special Performance.

Ellen co-wrote coursework and teaches core curriculum for Columbia College Chicago, where she has been Adjunct Music Faculty and Private Voice Faculty since 2007. She teaches privately in both Milwaukee and Chicago.

Children's Choir

Coordinator: Jill Lawson Ahrens

Conductor: Emily Burch

Repertoire:

- The Little Creek – Matt Carlson
- Ella Sing! – Kirstina Collins



Dr. Emily Williams Burch is the founder and artistic director of RISE Chorales, a community choir organization in Savannah, GA, with a mission of experiencing musical artistry, education, and personal growth through the choral arts and community experiences. Burch received her doctorate in conducting with doctoral minors in music history and music theory from the University of South Carolina, during which she taught Introduction to Music, designed and taught The History of Rock, and directed the university women's chorus. Dr. Burch earned her Master of Music Education from Florida State University, where she assisted with the Capital Children's Choir, and a Bachelor of Music Education from Louisiana State University, where she graduated *magna cum laude*. Prior to that, she served on the podium as Director of Education and Music for the Savannah Children's Choir for nine years and worked as Department Chair/General Music/Piano Teacher at Garrison School of Visual and Performing Arts. She continues to have the privilege of traveling the country as a Teacher Trainer and Choral Curriculum Developer for Quaver's Marvelous World of Music, an interactive K-8 music curriculum. Additionally, she serves as Artistic Adviser for Perform International, where she helps organizations create and realize their dreams on tours in the US and abroad. Choirs under her direction have performed regionally, nationally, and internationally. Dr. Burch has volunteered in various roles within the American Choral Directors Association, including as Children's and Youth Repertoire & Resources Chair, and most recently as Youth Coordinator and Co-Programming chair for the 2020 conference for the Southern Region. She and her husband live in Savannah, GA, where they are members of the Metropolitan Savannah Rotary Club and marathoners who train with the Savannah Striders.

All-State Choir Information

This year's All-State Choir weekend will be January 16-17, 2021. Just under 300 of the best singers from around the state will join together virtually for two days of exceptional music making. The students will work with renowned guest clinicians through Zoom rehearsals, exploring their repertoire while connecting and growing as a community. Following their two days of rehearsals, students will submit recordings of themselves to be used in a virtual concert that will be premiered at a later date.

You can find more information about the All-State Experience Weekend at our website: <https://www.wischoral.org/all-state>

Keep an eye on WCDA's website and Facebook page for upcoming announcements and more information on our virtual concert.

If you would like a more detailed rehearsal schedule or have other questions about All-State, please contact the WCDA All-State Choir Chair, Michael Jones, at allstate@wischoral.org.

Thank you to everyone that nominated students to be part of the 2021 All-State Choir experience! We are looking forward to a unique and exciting year!

– Michael Jones, All-State Choir Chair

With Great Appreciation

We are immensely grateful for all who have made this conference possible, especially given the new format this year. Sincerest thanks to each and every one!

Conference Leadership

Zachary Durlam, Conference Chair
Alexa Doebele, Program Chair
Jerry Hui, Technology Chair
Frank Watkins, Interest Sessions Chair
Karen Bruno, Reading Sessions Chair
Cody Miller, Communications Chair
Amy Wright, Registration Co-Chair
Cassie Tingo, Registration Co-Chair

All-State Leadership

Michael Jones, All-State Choir Chair
Jill Lawson Ahrens, Children All-State Coordinator
Jean Enyeart, Middle Level All-State Coordinator
PJ Uhazie, HS Bass Clef All-State Coordinator
Sarah Plum, HS Treble Clef All-State Coordinator
Tim Buchholz, Vocal Jazz All-State Coordinator

WCDA Board

Rebecca Winnie, President
Stephen Sieck, Past-President
Zachary Durlam, President-Elect
Todd O'Connor, Treasurer
Michael Puffall, North East Representative
Amy Baker, South East Representative
Heather Thorpe, South West Representative
Frank Watkins, North West Representative
Cody Miller, Central Representative
Karen Bruno, R&R State Coordinator
Jaclyn Kottman, Singing in Wisconsin Chair
Derek Machan, NextDirection Chair
Paul Gregg, Refresh! Chair
Matthew Wanner, Summer Conference Coordinator
Melissa Ebert, Office Manager/Webmaster
Victoria Donahue, Liaison to WSMA
Michael Jones, All-State Coordinator
Erica Breitbarth, Diversity Initiatives Liaison
Alexa Doebele, Editor of *The Voice*
Eva Stokes, Collegiate and Early-Career Liaison
Lee Stovall, Membership Chair

Repertoire & Resources

Karen Bruno, R&R State Coordinator
Eric Leih, R&R Youth Chair
Toni Weijola, Children & Community Youth
Eric Leih, Middle School
David Bowman, High School
Jerry Hui, R&R Collegiate Chair
John Albrecht, R&R Lifelong Chair
Cathy Reitz, Community
John Albrecht, Music in Worship
Kathy Schreck, Repertoire Specific Chair
Raymond Roberts, World Musics and Cultures
Herb Berendsen, Bass-Clef
Debbie Lind, Treble-Clef
Kathy Schreck, Vocal Jazz
Dennis Gephart, Commercial & Contemporary
Brad Burrill, Wisconsin Composition

Reading Sessions Sponsor

J.W. Pepper

THE VOICE



2021 Conference Issue

- * [How Can I Keep From Singing?](#)
- * [Registration Information](#)
- * [Conference Schedule](#)
- * [Keynote Presenters](#)
- * [Interest Session Presenters](#)
- * [All-State Choir Information](#)
- * [With Great Appreciation](#)
- * [NextDirection](#)



NextDirection

A PROGRAM OF AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
WITH ARTISTIC DIRECTION BY WISCONSIN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
Inspiring Choral Leadership

COME AND BE ENCOURAGED, INFORMED, and INSPIRED!

- » Dynamic rehearsals and discussions as a conference choir
- » Understanding the conductor's approach to rehearsal
- » Motivating discussions on the Power of Music
- » Hands-on experience with the influence of conducting gestures
- » Leadership in the choral environment
- » Collaborate with a master teacher-conductor
- » Network with other enthusiastic choir students
- » Experience great choral literature

COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE
JULY 12 – 16, 2021

HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE
JULY 14 – 16, 2021

Registration Deadline:
March 30, 2021

First year teachers are welcome to join the Collegiate Conference!

Registration and more information:
www.wischoral.org/NextDirection



Join us on the beautiful campus of **University of Wisconsin Eau Claire**

If COVID-19 restrictions do not allow an in-person conference, we will be offering NextDirection as a virtual conference. A decision regarding format will be made by the end of April 2021.



WISCONSIN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

FEATURED CONDUCTOR



DR. JEFFERSON JOHNSON
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Become part of the **FUTURE** of choral music and choral leadership!

College students and high school students completing grades 10–12 who demonstrate leadership skills should **APPLY NOW!**

Scholarships available!
Check with your state ACDA chapter to see if your state offers a scholarship for this event.

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION 

- * [How Can I Keep From Singing?](#)
- * [Registration Information](#)
- * [Conference Schedule](#)
- * [Keynote Presenters](#)
- * [Interest Session Presenters](#)
- * [All-State Choir Information](#)
- * [With Great Appreciation](#)
- * [NextDirection](#)

NEW FROM J. W. PEPPER

See into the music without opening the score.

MINTS

Music Insight Technology System

OVER 7,000 CHORAL TITLES
NOW AVAILABLE

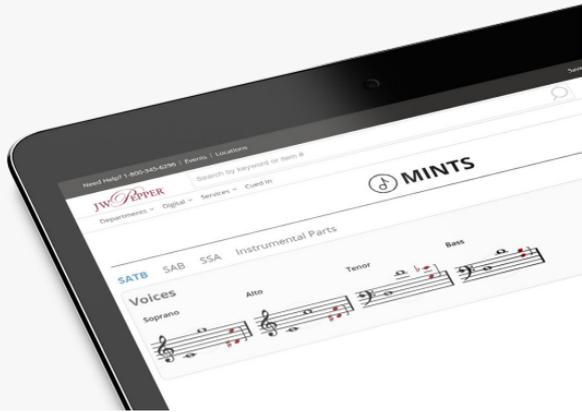
MINTS (Music Insight Technology System) unlocks valuable information buried within the score to reveal a snapshot of the composition's critical building blocks. Until now, musical components were understood only by examining the music in depth. With MINTS, score elements jump off the page, captured visually so you can quickly determine if the music is suited to your needs.

Today, MINTS provides range and tessitura for each part as well as instrumentation for over 14,000 top-selling choral, band, and orchestra titles. More titles are being added all the time and new features such as key and meter insights will be coming soon!

FEATURES

Range / Tessitura / Instrumentation

JWPEPPER.COM/MINTS



Choral Tracks
Practice Made Simple

JWPEPPER.COM/CHORALTRACKS

Rehearsal tracks for your choir

Professionally sung rehearsal tracks for practice everywhere! Available for over 8,000 choral titles for singers of all levels. Each bundle contains:

- a part dominant track for each voice part
- a balanced voices track
- an accompaniment track if the work is accompanied

\$49.99 PER BUNDLE

Each bundle is licensed to be used by up to 50 users. Please adjust the quantity accordingly if you have more than 50 users.



Wisconsin Choral Directors Association

435 Sandstone Ter., Kiel, WI 53042

www.wischoral.org