



ADJUDICATORS & MANAGERS

2026

Worlds of Fun
YOUTH
PROGRAMS

CHORAL ADJUDICATORS



MAY 2

DR. JENNIFER SENGIN

University of Missouri-Kansas City

Jennifer Sengin is the Raymond R. Neevel/Missouri Professor of Choral Music and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory (UMKC) where she leads the graduate choral conducting program and conducts the flagship ensemble, Conservatory Singers, and the Choral Union. In addition to ensembles, Dr. Sengin teaches graduate choral conducting and choral literature. She has mentored multiple graduate students who have been successfully placed in professional positions, admitted to graduate

programs, accepted to invited conference presentations, and selected to participate in conducting master classes. In the summer of 2024, Dr. Sengin received the inaugural Newcomer Award from the Missouri Choral Directors Association.

Prior to coming to UMKC, Dr. Sengin most recently served as the Associate Director of Choral Activities at Georgia State University (GSU). Under her direction, the GSU Treble Choir (formerly Women's Chorus) won first place in The American Prize and Dr. Sengin received 2nd place in conducting. The Treble Choir has been invited to perform at the National Collegiate Choral Organization Conference (2023) and twice at the Georgia Music Educators Association Conference (2020 and 2023). While at GSU, Dr. Sengin received two university-wide awards –the 2022-2023 Non-Tenure Track Faculty Achievement Award and the 2021-2022 GSU Instructional Effectiveness Award.

An active guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and presenter, Dr. Sengin has conducted honor choirs throughout the country and recently conducted the 2025 Georgia All-State Treble Choir, 2025 Wisconsin Treble-Clef Choir, 2024 South Carolina American Choral Director's Association TTB Honor Choir, 2023 Texas All-State Treble Choir, and additional regional honor choirs. Future engagements include guest conducting the Durufé Requiem at Carnegie Hall with National Concerts and all-state and honor choirs in Florida, New York, California, Mississippi, and Missouri, among others.

She recently participated as a Conducting Fellow with the American Choral Directors Association International Conductor Exchange Program to Germany, where she led workshops at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien in Hannover and the Hochschule für Musik, Universität der Künste Berlin. Dr. Sengin has presented sessions and served as a panelist at international, national, regional, and state conferences. In 2024, Dr. Sengin traveled to Helsinki, Finland to co-present at the International Society for Music Education World Conference. She currently serves on the National Board of the National Collegiate Choral Organization and as the Repertoire and Resource Chair for Youth and Student Activities for the ACDA Southwestern Region. She also sings in the award-winning professional ensemble, mirabai.

Dr. Sengin holds degrees from The College of New Jersey (BM Music Education), Ithaca College (MM Choral Conducting), and Michigan State University (DMA Choral Conducting).



MAY 2

DR. MELISSA GRADY

University of Kansas

Melissa L. Grady serves as Associate Professor of Music Education and Associate Dean of Student Affairs in the School of Music at The University of Kansas. At KU, Dr. Grady teaches undergraduate courses in choral methods, choral conducting, diction for music educators, and student teaching, and conducts the University Singers. She coordinates two community choir collaborations with KU: Rock Chalk Singers and the Lawrence Intergenerational Choir. Her graduate teaching duties comprise choral methods and conducting, vocal pedagogy,

adolescent voices, history and philosophy of music education, musical values and aesthetics, and choral diction for the music educator.

An active researcher, Dr. Grady's research interests include the effects of choral conducting gestures on choir sound, choral warm-ups, adolescent voices, choir spacing, and hearing dosage and hearing conservation in choir contexts. She serves on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Research in Music Education* and the *International Journal of Research in Choral Music*. She holds multiple national and state leadership positions in the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA).

Dr. Grady received her Ph.D. in Choral Pedagogy from The University of Kansas (Lawrence, Kansas) and her undergraduate degree in music education and master's in music education with an emphasis in choral conducting from Wichita State University (Wichita, Kansas). Kansas has served a significant role in Dr. Grady's career. She taught eleven years of public school in Kansas, including elementary general music, middle level, and high school choirs.

DR. BRIAN KITTREDGE

University of Alabama, Birmingham

Brian Kittredge joined the University of Alabama at Birmingham faculty in 2010 as Director of Choral Activities, where he conducts the University Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, University Chorus, and teaches courses in conducting and music education. The UAB choirs under his direction have been selected as the recording choir for the MorningStar Publication series, featuring premiere performances of K. Lee Scott's "Gloria" and Michael Trotta's "I Shall See." Most recently, the UAB Concert Choir was invited to perform in the Championship Competition at the Interkultur World Choir Games in Riga, Latvia in July 2014, and was the featured ensemble in the world premiere performance of Glenn McClure's "Songs of Freedom," a project commemorating the anniversaries of the Civil Rights Movement and the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. The Concert Choir was also invited to perform at the 2012 Alabama Music Educators Conference in Montgomery, AL.

Since 2010, the choirs under his direction have appeared in various concerts throughout the United States, including premiere performances in Knoxville, TN; Philadelphia, PA; Virginia Beach, VA; Greenville, SC; Clemson, SC; Mobile, AL; New Orleans, LA; Huntsville, AL; and Atlanta, GA. Prior to his appointment at UAB, Kittredge served on the faculty at Louisiana State University, where he taught courses in choral conducting and conducted the LSU Schola Cantorum, including a collaborative performance of Verdi's Requiem with the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra and the LSU A Cappella Choir in 2010. Kittredge taught middle and high school at the Louise S. McGehee School in New Orleans, LA, where his choirs appeared in performances at state, regional, and international festivals.

Dr. Kittredge is an active clinician and guest conductor and has appeared at choral festivals in Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi, and New York. He is currently serving as the Youth and Student Activities Coordinator for the Alabama Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association and serves on the artistic faculty at the New York State Summer School of the Arts, where his choirs have appeared in several concerts at the Chautauqua Institute and SUNY Fredonia. Kittredge holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Louisiana State University (2011), a Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music (2004), and a Bachelor of Music degree from Mansfield University (2002), and has studied under the mentorship of Kenneth Fulton, William Weinert, and Peggy Dettwiler. He is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association for Music Education.



MAY
2 & 3

MAY
2 & 3



ROBYN LANA

Miami University

Lana is a visiting professor of choral music at Miami University, where she leads the Choraliers, mentors music education students, and supervises student teachers. She is the Founder and Artistic Director Emerita of the nationally celebrated Cincinnati Youth Choir (CYC), Ensemble-in-Residence at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM).

A sought-after conductor and clinician, Lana has led performances and workshops across the United States and internationally at acclaimed venues including The Forbidden City Concert Hall (Beijing), The World Expo (Milan), St. Peter's Basilica (Vatican City), and Minatomirai Hall (Yokohama). Her international work has taken her to Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Italy, Ireland, and China. Domestically, she has guest-conducted at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Cincinnati's Music Hall, and led state and regional choral events in more than 30 states.

Lana previously served on the choral faculty at Xavier University and as a guest professor at CCM. She is also the editor of a choral series with Santa Barbara Music Publishing and co-author of *Voices in Harmony*, a collaborative publication highlighting successful philosophies in choral education. Her writing has appeared in *The Chorister* (Chorister Guild), *CMA Matters* (Chamber Music America), and *Choral Journal* (ACDA), where she also served as guest editor for three issues.

Known for her extensive collaborations in orchestral and operatic works for children, Lana has earned praise from esteemed conductors such as Craig Hella Johnson, John Adams, Louis Langrée, John Morris Russell, Robert Porco, Marcus Huber, James Conlon, Earl Rivers, and Mark Gibson. During her 32 years with CYC, she regularly prepared choirs for performances with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Pops, Cincinnati May Festival, Cincinnati Opera, and CCM ensembles. She also prepared the Cincinnati Youth Choir for two Telarc label recordings with the Cincinnati Pops under the late Maestro Erich Kunzel.

Nationally, Lana has served the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) as Chair for both the Children's Choir and Community Youth Repertoire and Standards Committee and as founding Chair of the Advocacy and Collaboration Standing Committee. She completed three consecutive terms on the Chorus America Board of Directors and currently serves as Southwest Region Chair for the Ohio Choral Directors Association.

Lana holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in music education, with a cognate in voice and a concentration in choral conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She also holds Level III Orff-Schulwerk Certification and has studied children's choir pedagogy at Butler University under Henry Leck.

Her work has garnered numerous national and regional accolades, including but not limited to:

- CCM's Distinguished Alumna Award (2012)
- Gold Medal at the World Choir Games (2012), placing first among U.S. choirs
- The American Prize in Choral Performance (2015, 2024)
- Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming (2016)
- Chorus America Award for Education and Community Engagement (2018)
- Cincinnati CityBeat's Best Local Vocal Arts Group (2015, 2017, 2023)

Most recently, she was featured in *Imagineers • Impresarios • Inventors: Cincinnati's Arts and the POWER OF HER*, a book celebrating the influential women who have shaped Cincinnati's cultural legacy.

Under her direction, the Miami University Choraliers earned third place in the American Prize (2024) and were invited to perform at the Ohio Music Education Association's Professional Development Conference (2024).



MAY
2 & 3

DR. ANDREW LAST

Luther College

Education: D.M.A., Choral Conducting, University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Music, 2012; M.M., Choral Conducting, Northern Arizona University, 2004; B.A., Music Education, K-12 Vocal, Luther College, 1997

Dr. Andrew Last is an Associate Professor of Music at Luther College, where he conducts the Nordic Choir and teaches conducting. He also serves as the Director of Choral Activities at Luther and as Director of Dorian Summer Camps. Dr. Last is part of a vibrant choral program at Luther College that includes four choral faculty and over 500 singers in six choral ensembles. Luther choirs participate in the annual Christmas at Luther celebration, perform in biennial oratorios, and are featured at regional and national American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) conventions.

Prior to his appointment, Last served on the voice faculty of Concordia University (NE). Last holds a DMA in choral conducting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he was named a Hixon-Lied Fellow. He received his Master of Music from Northern Arizona University and his Bachelor of Arts in music education and voice from Luther College. Dr. Last is a member of the music honor society Pi Kappa Lambda and the academic honor society of Phi Kappa Phi. His high school teaching experience includes positions at Xavier High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Tipton High School in Tipton, Iowa.

A frequent clinician and guest conductor around the United States and abroad (leading choirs in Namibia, South Africa, and Guam), Last is a member of the American Choral Directors Association.

DR. CHRISTINE LE

Texas State University

Dr. Le serves as the Associate Director of Choral Activities at Texas State University, where she conducts the University Singers, Treble Voice Singers, and teaches undergraduate choral conducting. Dr. Le received degrees from Centenary College of Louisiana, Michigan State University, and the University of North Texas. Her dissertation project at UNT centered on Florence Price's Cantata Abraham Lincoln Walks at Midnight.

Before Texas, Dr. Le taught at Olympia High School in Orlando for seven years and Youree Drive Middle School in Shreveport for two years. Under Dr. Le's direction, Olympia choirs were recognized as FVA (Florida Vocal Association) Choirs of distinction and performed at state, regional, and national ACDA conventions.

Outside of Texas State, Dr. Le enjoys a robust career of adjudicating and clinicing choirs around the United States. She was the first middle school guest clinician of the Jacksonville Sings! Festival in 2019, and she is a regular adjudicator for the Worldstrides Heritage Festival. Dr. Le is also a founding member and past associate conductor of the Orlando Sings Symphonic Chorus.



MAY
2 & 3

MAY
2 & 3



KYRA STAHR

Setnor School of Music, Syracuse University

Kyra Stahr is a visionary conductor, educator, and vocalist who has built her career empowering singers to embrace their potential with confidence and fostering community through song. She believes in the transformative power of choral music and leads ensembles with authenticity, courage, and determination.

She currently serves as an assistant teaching professor at Syracuse University, where she conducts the premier treble ensemble, the Crouse Chorale, and teaches graduate choral conducting, undergraduate conducting, Advanced Rehearsal Techniques, and courses in choral literature and voice. Stahr is also a D.M.A. candidate in choral conducting at the University of Miami, a conducting fellow with Spire Chamber Ensemble, and assistant conductor of Seraphic Fire. Her previous appointments include graduate teaching assistant and instructor at the University of Miami and associate conductor of the Master Chorale of South Florida.

Stahr earned an M.M. in choral music from the University of Southern California and a B.M. in vocal performance and music education from Miami University. As an undergraduate, she led an inclusive choir for adults with disabilities and received the Outstanding Future Music Educator award. Most recently, she was honored as a distinguished alumna with Miami University's 18 of the Last 9 award—modeled after Forbes' 30 Under 30—recognizing emerging leaders who have graduated within the past nine years. At USC, she was selected for the 2022 ACDA Eastern Graduate Conducting Masterclass and awarded the 2023 USC Choral Music Departmental Award and the Pi Kappa Lambda Eta Chapter Master's Student Award.

A sought-after guest conductor, clinician, and presenter, Stahr was recently selected for the 2025 ACDA National Graduate Student Conducting Masterclass and the 2026 International Conductors Exchange Program with Portugal. Her work has been showcased at international, national, and regional events, including the World Symposium on Choral Music in Istanbul, ACDA National, the College Music Society National Conference, TMEA, FMEA, FLACDA, and ACDA Southern and SWACDA conferences. As a vocalist, she has sung with Seraphic Fire, the premier ensembles at each of her institutions, and served as soprano section leader and soloist for the Interlochen Adult Choir Camp.

In addition to her artistic work, Stahr co-founded and co-hosts the podcast "conduct(her)" with her sister, McKenna Stenson. With more than 14,000 listeners, "conduct(her)" amplifies the voices of women conductors, composers and arts leaders while addressing the gender divide in the choral music field. Building on this work, their research on gender equity in choral music was recently published in the Choral Journal.

EDUCATION

- D.M.A. (In Progress), University of Miami
- M.M., University of Southern California
- B.M., Miami University

MAY
2 & 3



DR. MAGGIE BURK

Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities

Margaret (Maggie) Burk is a conductor, composer, and vocalist committed to the transformative power of choral music. She is the Director of Choral Activities at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wis., where she oversees the choral area, conducts the Carthage Choir, Lincoln Chamber Singers, and the Carthage Chorale (Vox Ignis), and teaches coursework in conducting and education. In demand nationally as a clinician, she has led All-State and District honor choruses as well as church music festivals in Illinois, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Delaware, North Carolina, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Maggie holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan, where she studied with Eugene Rogers.

While at Michigan, Maggie directed the Arts Chorale and the University Choir; she also served as Assistant Director of the Men's Glee Club (becoming the first woman in the Club's 162-year history to hold this title). In addition to her choral work, she led a music workshop titled "Sounds from Within" in conjunction with the Prison Creative Arts Project, where she taught singing, music literacy, and songwriting to incarcerated men. She earned her MM in Choral Conducting from the Yale School of Music/Institute of Sacred Music, where she received the Robert Shaw Prize for choral conducting and the ISM's Faculty Prize for outstanding academic achievement and community leadership. She holds the Bachelor of Music degree summa cum laude from St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Maggie is an active church musician, professional chorister, and composer. She has served on the faculties of the Conference for Music and Worship at Montreat (North Carolina), the Royal School of Music's King's College Course (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.), RSCM's Midwest Choral Festival (Evansville, Ind.) and the Saint Cecilia Choral Series (Lewes, Del.).

As a composer, Maggie's works are published by Oxford University Press, Hal Leonard, and Selah Music Publishing and have been heard on BBC Radio 3, at national ACDA conventions, and at churches/universities throughout the United States and the United Kingdom. Recent commissions include "This Holy Hour," a 25-minute work for harp and SATB choir for Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, OR, and "Recuerdo," composed for Oxford University Press's new collection Music for Choir and Cello.

An accomplished choral soprano equally at home in the worlds of early and new music, she sings with professional choirs around the United States, including Audivi (Detroit, MI), Musica Atlantica (Savannah, GA), and the Yale Choral Artists (New Haven, CT). A fierce advocate for music education in public schools, Maggie taught middle and high school choral music in Minnesota and Kansas before her graduate studies. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, running, CrossFit, hiking, and spending time with her two rescue cats (Leo and Wilma).

INSTRUMENTAL ADJUDICATORS



MAY
8-10

DEBORAH BAKER MONDAY

Logan, Utah

Deborah Baker Monday (ASCAP) is a retired string educator after completing a 25-year tenure in the award-winning Logan City, Utah orchestra program. She received her B.M.E. Magna Cum Laude, from Florida State University with an emphasis in string education. She was awarded an academic fellowship to attend the University of Alabama where she received her M.M. in Composition. During that time, she was a bassist with the Meridian Symphony and the Tupelo Symphony Orchestra. She continued her studies at Louisiana

State University where she received the Chancellor's Award to participate with the LSU Symphony Orchestra under the direction of James Yestadt. She studied theory and composition with Harold Schiffman, John Boda, Frederic Goossen, Paul Hedwall, and Dino Constantinides. Ms. Monday continued to be an active bass performer when she moved to Utah. After completing the coursework and passing the written and oral portions of the doctoral exams, she was hired to teach in the Logan City School District as a low string specialist.

Throughout her tenure with Logan and beyond, she pursued her interest in composition and arranging for educational strings and became published. Ms. Monday has over 180 original and arranged works with seven publishing companies. Many of her published works have been honored as J.W. Pepper Editor's Choice selections. They have been selected for many state required music lists for festivals and contests. She has received awards for Outstanding Elementary Educator and Superior Accomplishment from UtahASTA and UtahMEA respectively. In 2006 and 2011, Ms. Monday was the winner of the UtahASTA Composition Contest. Serving as a composer and arranger of educational music has been a rewarding part of her career while she and her husband Bill have raised four amazing children.

Ms. Monday has presented at many state music conferences throughout the United States, as well as numerous national ASTA conferences, The Midwest Clinic, the Ohio State Summer Workshop, and the Florida Orchestra Association. She is active as a clinician, guest conductor and adjudicator, and has numerous commissions for her work. Her studies in composition and experience in string teaching combine to make her one of the leading contributors to the repertoire for string players.

DR. ALBERT NGUYEN

University of Memphis

Dr. Albert Nguyen is the Director of Bands at the University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music, where he also leads the Conducting Area and serves as Executive Director of the Summer at the Scheidt Music Camps. His primary responsibilities include overseeing the University Bands Program, conducting the Wind Ensemble, directing the graduate Wind Conducting Program, and teaching graduate-level courses in wind/band repertoire and rehearsal techniques.

Under Dr. Nguyen's leadership, the University of Memphis Wind Ensemble has performed at prestigious events including the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Southern Division Conference, the Tennessee Music Education Association (TNMEA) All-State Conference, and international venues in Austria and Italy. He is a sought-after conductor and clinician, having worked with ensembles across the United States, including All-State Bands in Arkansas, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Texas. His presentations on leadership, conducting, and rehearsal strategies have been featured at the Midwest Clinic and numerous music educator conferences nationwide.

Dr. Nguyen began his professional career as Director of Bands at Morrilton High School in Morrilton, Arkansas. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Arkansas Tech University and both his Master's and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Wind Conducting from The University of Texas at Austin.

In recognition of his excellence in teaching, creative activity, and service, Dr. Nguyen has been honored with the Pearl Wales Professorship and the First Tennessee Professorship at the University of Memphis. He is a member of Kappa Kappa Psi, Tau Beta Sigma, Phi Beta Mu, and the American Bandmasters Association, and currently serves on the Diversity Committee for the College Band Directors National Association.



MAY
8-10



MAY
8-10

DR. DENNIS LLINÁS

University of Oregon

Dr. Dennis Llinás serves as Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands at the University of Oregon where his principal responsibilities include overseeing all aspects of the UO Department of Bands, conducting the Oregon Wind Ensemble, teaching graduate and undergraduate conducting, and wind literature. Since arriving to the U of O in 2019, the wind ensemble has engaged in 4 outreach tours in Oregon, a COVID video-lesson project for 20 public schools, international tour in Costa Rica in 2024, performing at the 2022 OMEA

conference, performing at the 2023 WIBC conference, starting The Workshop video project with video lessons for musicians around the world, inviting guest conductors to conduct the Wind Ensemble and to work in our conducting workshop including Jerry Junkin, Cynthia Johnston Turner, Steve Davis, Sarah McKoin, and Jason Fettig, and inviting guest artists and composers including Omar Thomas, Viet Cuong, Alex Klein, Hiram Diaz, and Eighth Blackbird. The Oregon Band Department has engaged in multiple consortium projects with composers Viet Cuong, Matthew Browne, Omar Thomas, Ingrid Stözel, Cassie Wieland, and Angélica Negrón.

Prior to his appointment at the U of O, he served as the Associate Director of Bands at Louisiana State University where his responsibilities included conducting the LSU Symphonic Winds, teaching undergraduate & graduate conducting, and directing the Tiger Band. At LSU, The Golden Band from Tigerland was nationally recognized by CBDNA two consecutive years as a marching band of distinction both at the regional and national levels. With the LSU Symphonic Winds, Dr. Llinás collaborated with several composers on consortiums and hosting residencies with composers such as Joseph Schwantner, David Maslanka, John Mackey, Paul Rudy, and Mara Gibson.

As a clinician, Llinás has a public face nationally and internationally. He has worked with chamber orchestras and wind ensembles in Colombia and Austria, served as an adjudicator for the Mid-Europe International Festival, worked with ensembles at the World Youth Wind Orchestra Project (WYWOP) and World Adult Wind Orchestra Project (WAWOP), conducted the Eugene Symphony Orchestra, conducted All-State and Honor Bands throughout the US, guest conducted the Dallas Winds and the West Point Band, and presented at several conventions including WASBE, The Midwest Clinic, TMEA, FMEA, LMEA, OMEA (Oregon) and OMEA (Ohio) to name a few. He has also published a chapter in the 10th Volume of the Teaching Music Through Performance Series.

As a composer and arranger, Llinás has been commissioned to compose works for musicians from across the country. *Waking Dreams* and *Javier's Dialog* were recorded by Mark Hetzler, trombone professor at The University of Wisconsin, on Summit Records on two separate albums in 2012 and 2014. His first work for wind ensemble, *Un Cafecito*, has had numerous performances including at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, the 5A all-state band in Texas, Music for All National Concert Band Festival, The United States Air Force Band, The United States Navy Band, and abroad in Europe. *Sueños de Calle Ocho*, a euphonium concerto with wind ensemble accompaniment, was commissioned by Hiram Diaz of The President's Own Marine Band in 2022 and has subsequently been performed at the International Tuba and Euphonium Conference in Valencia, Spain. He has been commissioned by a consortium of 25 collegiate institutions led by Vanderbilt University for *La Chancla* in conjunction with a philanthropic initiative to donate one copy per participating member of the consortium to a wind ensemble in South and Central America. *Code 404* is his most recent composition which will be performed the Indiana All-State Band in 2026. His most recent transcription was *Masquerade* by Anna Clyne which was premiered at the National College Band Directors National Association Conference in Tempe, AZ in 2019 and is published by Boosey and Hawkes. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by prestigious organizations in the US and Internationally including the Dallas Winds.

In the world of marching arts, Llinás is an active arranger/composer/show designer producing marching band and indoor percussion shows for over 50 programs across the nation. Several of his works have been published by Center X Productions and performances of his works could be heard throughout the country including Oklahoma State University, Texas Tech University, The University of Arkansas, University of South Florida, University of Tennessee, University of Texas at El Paso, Penn State University, Louisiana State University, and The University of Texas at Austin. Several special projects have been commissioned of him by Estefan Enterprises in Miami, FL for the Miami Dolphins and the Florida Marlins, as well as the 2007 Orange Bowl Halftime Production with special guest star from American Idol Taylor Hicks.

He maintains memberships in the Conductors Guild, the College Band Directors National Association, the Oregon Music Educators Association, the Golden Key National Honors Society, the Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society, and is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi. His recording credits include projects with The University of Texas at Austin, Summit Records, and Florida International University.

Prior to his collegiate teaching, Dr. Llinás taught at Miami Coral Park High School in Miami, FL and W. Charles Akins HS in Austin, TX. He received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Florida International University and both a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from The University of Texas at Austin. His primary conducting professors were Roby George and Jerry Junkin.



MAY
9 & 16

ALEX CLAUSSEN

Fine Arts Director for the OSSAA

Alex Claussen is in his fourth year as the Fine Arts Director for the OSSAA where he manages all OSSAA music contests, one-act play contests, and speech/debate tournaments for the state.

Before going to the OSSAA, he taught for 26 years at the middle school, high school, and university levels. During his teaching career, Alex earned and renewed national board certification and served the profession in a variety of capacities, including serving as president of OBA, OkMEA, and Phi Beta Mu. His concert bands in Duncan, Sapulpa and Bartlesville earned consistent Superior ratings, Sweepstakes Awards, and were regularly named best in class or festival champion when competing across the country. His marching bands were competitive and while at Duncan, they won the Class 5A OBA Marching Contest. In addition to serving on the staff of the Oklahoma Ambassadors of Music helping thousands of students perform music tours across Europe for 20 years, his Bartlesville bands also traveled to Germany, Austria, Italy and Ireland.

Early in his career, Alex was recognized by his peers through being named the Young Bandmaster of the Year by both Phi Beta Mu and ASBDA. Later, he was recognized by the OkMEA as an Exemplary Music Teacher and the OBA named him the state Band Director of the Year. Most recently, Alex was inducted into the OkMEA Hall of Fame for his success in the classroom and service to the profession.

Alex has been married for 29 years to Amitia, who teaches 5th grade at Redbud Elementary in Edmond. Their oldest daughter, Abbie, is a third-generation music teacher and is in her first year as the music teacher at an elementary school in Mustang and teaches private bassoon lessons in her spare time. Her husband, Noah is an assistant band director in the OKC area and is also a former student from Bartlesville where they were in band together. Their youngest daughter, Katie, also started out in Alex's bands in Bartlesville but went on to graduate from Edmond Memorial HS after the family relocated to the OKC area. She is now in her first year attending the University of Oklahoma, where she is pursuing Dental Hygiene and enjoying being a member of the trumpet section in the Pride of Oklahoma Marching Band. When Alex and Amitia aren't attending OU Sooner football games, they enjoy following the OKC Thunder!

DR. THOMAS CANEVA

Ball State University

Following a 45-year teaching career, Dr. Thomas Caneva was named Director of Bands Emeritus/Professor Emeritus of Music at Ball State University upon his retirement in 2025. He served on the Ball State University School of Music faculty for nineteen years. At Ball State, Dr. Caneva's responsibilities included conducting the Ball State Wind Ensemble, coordinating the graduate wind conducting program, teaching undergraduate conducting, and administering the entire band program.



MAY
15 - 17

While at Ball State, the BSU Wind Ensemble under Dr. Caneva's direction was invited to perform at numerous festivals and conventions including the 2011, 2017 and 2023 CBDNA National Conferences, the 2010 and 2014 CBDNA North Central Division Conferences, the 2012 and 2022 Conventions of the American Bandmasters Association, the 2009 MENC North Central Division Conference, and the 2011 and 2017 Indiana Music Educators Association Conferences.

Previous to his appointment at Ball State, Dr. Caneva was a member of the music faculties at the University of Illinois, University of Colorado, Auburn University, and University of Texas. His teaching career began at Lincoln-Way Community High School in New Lenox, Illinois.

In 2001, Dr. Caneva was elected to membership in the American Bandmasters Association, where he serves as Chair of the Sousa-ABA-Ostwald Composition Contest committee and recently served as a member of the ABA Board of Directors. He is a Conn-Selmer Educational Clinician and a past President of the Mid-American Conference Band Directors Association. In 2014, he was elected to membership in Phi Beta Mu

Dr. Caneva earned degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Colorado at Boulder. He holds the unique distinction of also having served on the faculties of each of these universities.

MAY
15-17



PETER MARKES

Oklahoma City University

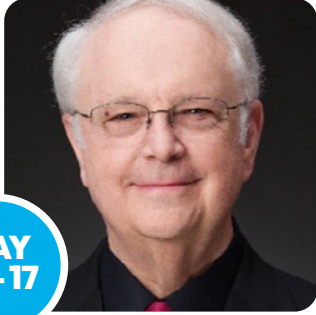
Peter Markes (Marcus) lives in Oklahoma City with his wife, Kris, and their two boys, Patrick and Vincent. Since 2020 he has taught on faculty at his alma mater, Oklahoma City University, as associate professor and director of music education and faculty advisor for OCU's NAFME Collegiate Chapter. From 2002-17, he taught orchestra in the Edmond Public Schools, taking the Edmond North High School Orchestra to a performance at the Midwest Clinic in 2012 and two tours to Carnegie Hall. For over 20 years he has served in

numerous faculty capacities with the Oklahoma Youth Orchestras, including seven years as conductor for the Oklahoma Youth Philharmonic, and currently as Artistic Director and Conductor for the OKYO Summer Symphony Strings Camp. In 2013, he was selected as the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year, one of the "50 Directors Who Make a Difference" by School Band and Orchestra magazine, and the National Federation of High Schools "Outstanding Music Educator" for Region VI.

In addition to teaching, Markes owns his own small business specializing in music performance and education consulting. In 2024 he had his academic publishing debut with a chapter contribution to Portraits of Social Emotional Learning in Music Teacher Education (Edgar & Melago), and in spring 2026 will be published in American String Teacher. In February 2026, he had his conducting debut with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic's Discovery Family Series, presenting "Musical Moods: Feelings You Can Hear!" He maintains active membership and frequently presents with the National Association for Music Education (OkMEA Chapter) and the American String Teachers Association.

Markes teaches and performs based on the belief that "music changes lives." Among his greatest joys are the countless times he has witnessed music inspire, encourage, and heal widely varied audiences around the world. He writes music and performs guitar and vocals with his musical partner of 30 years, Kyle Dillingham. Together they have performed in over thirty countries, completing two American Music Abroad tours to Taiwan, Korea, Myanmar, and Russia (2013) and Kuwait and Kosovo (2019). In July 2019, the band had their debut performance at the Grand Ole Opry, and that same year were selected to perform at World Expo 2020 in Dubai. They have taken their education program, Playing with Purpose, to numerous schools throughout the Midwest. Most recently they performed the 2025 New Year's Eve Halftime Show for the Oklahoma City Thunder. As a solo artist, Peter actively performs with a focus on live-looping violin and folk-pop singer-songwriter styles and regularly appears with the Arts Council of Oklahoma City's Art Moves program. He has released two albums, I Have a Dream (2018) and My Father's Age (2024), available to stream worldwide.

When not creating music, Peter enjoys time with his family – building LEGO, watching movies, making more music, and rearranging the dishwasher after them. Learn and hear more at www.PeterMarkes.com and YouTube and social media @PeterMarkesMusic.



MAY
15-17

DR. JOHN R. LOCKE

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Dr. John R. Locke served on the UNCG School of Music Faculty as Director of Bands, Director of Summer Music Camps, conductor of the Wind Ensemble, and conducting teacher from 1982 until his retirement in December 2018. He holds the Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from West Virginia University and the Doctor of Education degree from the University of Illinois. Previously, Dr. Locke held teaching positions in music at West Virginia University, Southeast Missouri State University, and the University of

Illinois. He has conducted band performances throughout the world including National Conventions of the MENC, CBDNA, ABA, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Strathmore Center in Washington, DC, Lincoln Center in New York City, Dvorak Hall in Prague, Czech Republic, Innsbruck, Austria, Bologna and Rome, Italy. Twice, the UNCG Wind Ensemble earned critical acclaim from The Washington Post newspaper following concert performances in the nation's capital. Locke has conducted numerous "Tribute to John Philip Sousa" concerts at UNCG, as well as across the country. Under Locke's leadership, the UNCG Wind Ensemble released 21 commercially available compact discs including fireworks! which was a Grammy Entry List 2011 CD in two categories, "Classical Album of the Year" and "Best Orchestral Performance." In addition, he has guest conducted the U.S. Air Force Band, U.S. Army Field Band, U.S. Navy Band, "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band, the Dallas Wind Symphony, as well as numerous university bands including University of Illinois, Iowa, LSU, Alabama, Florida, West Virginia, Idaho, Georgia, Nebraska - Omaha, Long Beach State, Troy, Bowling Green, South Florida, Furman, Bob Jones, Youngstown State, Boise State, Morehead State, Eastern New Mexico, Washburn, Kennesaw State and numerous all-state honor bands and intercollegiate bands including the CBDNA National Intercollegiate Band in 2023.

Dr. Locke has served as Editor of The North Carolina Music Educator and has published articles on band and wind ensemble literature in the Journal of Band Research and in Winds Quarterly. He is Past-President of the North Carolina Music Educators Association representing 2,200 members. Dr. Locke is a recipient of Phi Mu Alpha's Orpheus Award and has received the National Band Association Citation of Excellence on three occasions. He is a National Arts Associate of Sigma Alpha Iota. In 1989, Dr. Locke was among the youngest conductors ever to be elected to membership in the prestigious American Bandmasters Association. In 1994, he received the Phi Beta Mu International Fraternity Outstanding Bandmaster of the Year Award, presented at the Mid-West International Band Clinic in Chicago. Dr. Locke is Past-President of the Southern Division of College Band Directors National Association and hosted the Southern Division Convention at UNCG in February 2000. In 2002, Dr. Locke was nominated for the O. Max Gardner Award, the highest award in the 16-campus UNC System. He also received the "Outstanding Music Teacher Award" in the UNCG School of Music in 2003. In 2005, Dr. Locke was elected President of the American Bandmasters Association and received the Albert Austin Harding Award from the American School Band Directors Association. In 2007, he received The Old North State Award from NC Governor Mike Easley "for dedication and service beyond excellence to the state of North Carolina." In 2009, Locke became Editor of the Journal of Band Research, the premiere scholarly band publication in the world, begun in 1964. In July 2012, Locke was honored by NC Governor Beverly Perdue with The Order of the Longleaf Pine Award, the highest civilian honor in North Carolina. In 2014, Locke was named the Marion Stedman Covington Stedman Distinguished Professor of Music at UNCG. In 2018, Locke became just the seventh person inducted into the NCMEA Hall of Fame.

At UNCG, Dr. Locke is the founder of the Summer Music Camp program, now the largest university music camp in America on a college campus, enrolling over 2,000 students annually and served by a staff of 170 professionals. He is also the founder of the Carolina Band Festival and Conductors Conference. Since 1977, he administered summer music camps for over 67,000 students. Locke is in constant demand as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator for band festivals throughout the world.

FESTIVAL MANAGERS



DR. ROBERT LAWRENCE

Robert Lawrence has always been a singer. Robert earned a BA in Music Education but pursued his master's and Doctorate in Conducting. He directed choirs in Kentucky before joining UDM in 1998. He is also an active guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician, traveling around the country to state, national, and international conferences to direct honor choirs, present clinics, and perform.

JOHN BELL

John Bell was an instrumental music educator in the public schools of Missouri for 30 years, held positions at UMKC and Missouri Western, and recently retired as Artist-in-Residence from Northwest Missouri State University. Ensembles under his direction have been invited to perform at state, regional, national, and international festivals. John is currently in his twentieth year as music director and conductor of the NorthWinds Symphonic Band of Kansas City.



DR. PETE EKLUND

Peter A. Eklund is the Hixson-Lied Professor of Conducting and President-Elect of the UNL Faculty Senate. He has conducted All-State choirs across the country. He was named one of the elite national quarterfinalists for the first-ever GRAMMY® NATIONAL MUSIC TEACHER OF THE YEAR (out of over 30,000 nominees). He conducts the "University Singers" and the "Varsity Men's Chorus" of UNL, both national MENC-selected ensembles.