



James Franklin is the Director of Choral Activities at East Carolina University where he conducts the internationally renowned ECU Chamber Singers, directs the graduate program in choral conducting, and teaches undergraduate conducting. Recent honors include invitations to perform at the National ACDA Conference (Kansas City, MO), European Grand Prix for Choral Singing (Varna, Bulgaria), SW-ACDA Conference (Little Rock, AR), Piccolo Spoleto Festival (Charleston, SC), and Duke Chapel (Durham, NC). Franklin remains active as a guest conductor and clinician with frequent invitations across the United States. In addition to his duties at ECU, Franklin remains active as a singer. He has performed with many professional choirs including the Grammy-nominated South Dakota Chorale, Taylor Festival Choir, Orpheus Chamber Singers, Dallas Bach Society, Houston Bach Society, and Fuma Sacra of New Jersey. Recent recording projects include CDs with Taylor Festival Choir (2018) and South Dakota Chorale (2016 &

2014). Prior to his conducting at the collegiate level, he taught public high school and middle school choir in Texas. An active member of ACDA, IFCM, TMEA and TCDA, he has often served as a clinician and adjudicator. He received his BME, vocal emphasis, from Baylor University, his MM in Choral Conducting from Westminster Choir College, and his DMA degree from the University of North Texas.



Dr. Joey M. Martin is Professor of Music at Texas State University where he serves as the Director of Choral Studies, and Associate Dean for the College of Fine Arts and Communication. He directs the internationally acclaimed Texas State Chorale and teaches graduate courses in conducting, choral literature, and rehearsal technique. For seven years he served as the National ACDA Repertoire and Resources Chair for College and University Choirs and continues his professional service with the National Collegiate Choral Organization. Dr. Martin has conducted honor choirs and presented master classes and clinics in twenty-seven of the United States and in fifteen countries on six continents. Under his direction, Texas State Chorale has toured internationally including much of Europe, South Africa and China with performances for numerous conferences including TMEA, SWACDA, ACDA, and the International Kodály Festival. In 2019, he was appointed to the Fulbright Specialist roster to represent the United States throughout the world. In his spare time, he dreams of culinary school.



Richard Robbins is the director of choral activities at the University of Minnesota Duluth, where he conducts the University Singers and Chamber Singers and teaches choral conducting and methods. Robbins travels extensively as a conductor for choral festivals and honor choirs across the country, with recent engagements in New York City, Boston, Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago; he recently completed an international conducting residency at the Krakow Academy of Music. His early music editions are published internationally, and he has presented on a range of topics for organizations, including the American Choral Directors Association and internationally at Warsaw's Chopin Conservatory of Music and the upcoming 2020 World Symposium of Choral Music. Robbins has prepared choirs for the Houston Ballet and the Houston Symphony, and he is the chorus master of the Duluth Superior Symphony Chorus. Choral groups under Robbins' direction have performed for state ACDA conferences and have earned awards at numerous festivals. He taught choral music in at South Houston High School and Houston's High School for the

Performing and Visual Arts, where he was named Teacher of the Year. He works with young tenors and basses as a staff member of the Lake Superior Youth Chorus, and is also a festival conductor for the American Federation Pueri Cantores, the Vatican's youth music organization. He performed at the San Antonio Madrigal Festival as a high school teacher and also conducted SHHS and HSPVA Chamber Choirs at this event.

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Brian A. Schmidt is Associate Professor of Choral Music and Director of Graduate Choral Studies at Baylor University, where he conducts the Baylor A Cappella Choir and Chamber Singers. He teaches graduate applied lessons, graduate choral conducting and literature courses, and guides graduate conducting recitals. He is also founder and director of the International Choral Conducting Masterclass and Young Artist Program, a weeklong intensive summer program.



Schmidt is founder and Artistic Director of the GRAMMY-nominated South Dakota Chorale, a professional choir based in Sioux Falls, SD where he has grown the ensemble's artistic presence through commercial recordings and an international recording contract in 2014 with PENTATONE, a Dutch classical label. Previously Schmidt served at Duke University Chapel where he conducted the Duke Vespers Ensemble and founded several new ventures including the monthly Bach Cantata Series and Cappella Baroque (a professional period-instrument orchestra) along with publishing recordings on the MSR Classics label.

Z. Randall Stroope is recently retired as a Regents Professor and Doug and Nickie Burns Endowed Chair of Choral Music at the Greenwood School of Music at Oklahoma State University where he served as Director of Choral andVocal Studies. He remains active as a composer, teacher, and conductor. In the last two years, Randall hashad conducting engagements in Salzburg, Dublin, Vienna, Rome, Barcelona, Prague, Singapore, Hong Kong, Cambridge, and St. John (Canada). Randall has also conducted music for mass at the Vatican every year since 2009, conducted 36 times at Carnegie Hall, 16 times at Chicago Orchestra Hall and directed his 47th all-state choir this year. Randall has toured 23 countries with ensembles under his direction, including China, South Africa, Japan, Italy, Latvia, Sweden, Norway, Singapore, Estonia, Ukraine, Romania, Germany, France, and England. In 2017, the Oklahoma State University Concert Chorale, under Randall's direction, performed at the American Choral Directors Association national convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As a composer, Randall has published 180 musical works (instrumental, solo voice, and choral). One of his works was performed by the London Symphony on their 2015 holiday series. Randall completed a Master of Music (Voice Performance) degree at the University of Colorado Boulder, and Doctor of Musical Arts (Choral Conducting) degree at Arizona State University. He did post graduate work with Margaret Hillis, Chorus Master of the Chicago Symphony.

Dr. Julie Yu is Professor and Co-Director of Choral Studies at Kansas State University where she oversees and conducts the undergraduate choral ensembles and the masters in music choral program. Her choirs have performed in Carnegie Hall, in Hawaii, the National Cathedral in Washington DC, as well as in Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Ireland, and Italy. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from the University of Central Oklahoma, Master of Music degree in choral conducting from Oklahoma State University, and the Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting from the University of North Texas. Before joining the Kansas State faculty, she taught at Norman North High School in Norman, Oklahoma and San José State University. She has given presentations, conducted, and/or her choirs have performed for state and regional conferences of the American Choral Directors Association, National Association for Music Education, and the European Music Educators Association Conferences. She is the president of the Southwestern Region of the American Choral Directors Association. She serves as a member of the Kansas State University Faculty Senate. She was selected as an International Conducting Exchange Fellow for the American Choral Directors Association to Kenya.



