

# A Celebration of Excellence

**A Choral Artistry Experience**



## **HOUSTON**

**April 17, 2023**

**South Main Baptist Church**

Site Coordinator: Sally Schott

Announcers and Stage Managers: Eddie Quaid, Michael Madrid

Facilitators: Denise Eaton, Bethany Stuard

## **ADJUDICATORS**

**Brad Holmes, DMA**

Visiting Professor of Choral Music  
Baylor University  
Waco, TX

**Erin E. Plisco, DMA**

Associate Director of Choral Studies  
Assistant Professor of Music  
Missouri State University  
Springfield, MO

**Richard Robbins, DMA**

Director of Choral Activities  
University of Minnesota Duluth  
Duluth, Minnesota

- Benefit from the marvelous acoustics provided by recent remodeling in the gorgeous South Main Sanctuary
- Join other varsity choirs in a day of sharing fine choral music
- Receive a superlative professional recording for archives/future auditions
- Take home constructive comments & participation awards
- Seek a special "Performance of Distinction" award
- Vie for designation as the 2023 Honor Choir which performs at the 2024 Event



**2023 HONOR CHOIR PERFORMANCE, 6:20 PM**

Montgomery High School Madrigals, Heather Orr, Director

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[sally@amclass.com](mailto:sally@amclass.com)



**Brad Holmes** joins the Baylor University choral faculty after tenures at Luther College and Millikin University. His 31-year appointment at Millikin was marked by an expansion of the choral program to a multi-tiered structure of choirs and vocal ensembles led by a nationally recognized choral staff. Importantly, the program fostered extensive concert development on the local level including the growth of their annual Vespers at Millikin, now drawing 6500 patrons annually.

An ambitious touring schedule has taken choirs under Dr. Holmes' direction to every state but Alaska and to thirty-six countries. During their annual two-week tours, the Millikin University Choir became a familiar presence in concert series across the United States. Additionally, seven coveted invitations to perform before conferences of the American Choral Directors Association brought national attention to the choir's approach to tonal variety and programming.

A Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University, Dr. Holmes has returned to the UK for multiple guest-conducting engagements. Other international invitations have taken him to Continental Europe, China, Korea and Japan. Domestically, he has led more than three-hundred choir festivals including twenty-nine All-State choirs, regional ACDA honor choirs and church music clinics. He owns five Carnegie Hall conducting appearances.



**Erin Plisco** is the Associate Director of Choral Studies at Missouri State University, where she conducts multiple choirs and teaches undergraduate/graduate choral conducting and literature. She is a frequent guest clinician across the United States and abroad, and currently serves as the Youth/Student Activities R&R Chair for Missouri ACDA. Choirs under her direction have recently performed at the southwestern ACDA conference and the Missouri Music Educators Association conference. Dr. Plisco completed her DMA in choral conducting from the University of Arizona with Bruce Chamberlain. She also studied at Trinity College, University of Cambridge, where she was a recipient of the prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship and studied with Stephen Layton

Dr. Plisco has conducted choirs of all ages, most notably serving as Director of Choral Studies at Pinecrest High School (NC). Under her direction, the choirs received numerous awards at national festivals and competitions, and her chamber choir was the winner of The American Prize for high school choral performance. She has also held positions at the University of Arizona, East Carolina University and Simpson College. Dr. Plisco is a past recipient of the Colleen Kirk Award, given by southern ACDA in recognition of her outstanding achievements as a young conductor.



**Richard Robbins** is director of choral activities at the University of Minnesota Duluth, where he oversees a program of six ensembles, conducts the UMD University Singers and Chamber Singers, and teaches an array of choral conducting and methods courses. He also serves as chorus master of the Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, regularly broadcast on Minnesota Public Television and Wisconsin Public Radio.

He travels extensively as a conductor for choral festivals, with recent engagements in Los Angeles, Baltimore, New York City, Boston, Miami, San Francisco, and Chicago. Internationally, he has directed residencies at the Krakow Academy of Music and Warsaw's Chopin Conservatory of Music. His performances are featured on American Public Media's Pipedreams, and his choirs have appeared at ACDA conferences and on national and international tours. He also serves as a festival conductor for the Federation Pueri Cantores, the Vatican's youth music organization.

Past positions include the University of Wisconsin-Superior (director of choral activities), Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (2013 Teacher of the Year), the University of Houston (Concert Women's and University Men's Choruses), Houston Symphony Chorus (assistant director), Houston Ballet (chorus master), St. Paul's Choral Scholars (founding director), and South Houston High School. He has served on the executive boards for both Southwestern and Minnesota ACDA.





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