

**2024 Madrigal & Chamber Choir Festival**  
**March 1-2, 2024**  
**Messiah Lutheran Church**  
**Plano, TX**



**ADJUDICATORS**



**Dr. Meg Frazier** is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Loyola University New Orleans, where she conducts the Loyola Chorale and Chamber Singers and teaches conducting. Dr. Frazier served the College of Music and Fine Arts as Associate Dean and the School of Music and Theatre Professions as Director. A native of Longview, Texas, Dr. Frazier studied with Dr. Bev Henson at Sam Houston State University, earning her BMEd and MM in Conducting; she later studied with Dr. Ken Fulton at LSU, where she earned her DMA in Choral Conducting. In addition to her Loyola choirs, Dr. Frazier is the Artistic Director/Conductor of the choirs of NOVA, a community-based choral organization in New Orleans. She serves as the choral contractor/conductor for the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. A frequent guest conductor/clinician, Dr. Frazier has conducted honor choirs in 14 states, including 9 all-states. She has extensive experience in church and community choirs as both a conductor and chorister and particularly enjoys singing in chamber ensembles.



**Joey M. Martin** is Professor of Music at Texas State University where he serves as the Director of Choral Activities 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. He served as the National ACDA Repertoire and Resources Chair for College and University Choirs for seven years and continues his professional service with the National Collegiate Choral Organization. Dr. Martin has conducted numerous honor choirs and has presented master classes and clinics in seventeen countries, on six continents and in twenty-seven of the U.S. states. Under his direction, Texas State Chorale toured internationally including much of Europe, South Africa, and China with performances for numerous conferences such as TMEA, SWACDA, ACDA, and the International Kodály Festival. For over 35 years, Dr. Martin has been engaged in music ministry and is currently the director of music/organist at New Braunfels Presbyterian Church. Additionally, he is the music director for Honor Choir USA (Honolulu). 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.



**Dr. Pearl Shangkuan** is a highly sought-after conductor, lecturer and clinician who has led performances and workshops across six continents. She is Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI, and the Grand Rapids Symphony chorus director. Now Editor of Hinshaw Music, Shangkuan has an earthsongs choral series and is music editor of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship choral series (GIA). A jurist for international choral competitions in Europe and Asia, she has led conducting masterclasses for national ACDA and Chorus America conferences. She has conducted numerous All State choirs, ACDA division honor choirs, and choral festivals nationally and internationally, and has headlined several ACDA state and other professional conferences. Upcoming engagements include conducting the SSAA Honor Choir at the ACDA National conference and a fourth residency conducting at Carnegie Hall. Professional service includes the Chorus America Board of Directors and serving as ACDA Central Division and Michigan ACDA President. She has commissioned and premiered numerous choral works and her choirs have performed at ACDA national, division and state conferences. She received the Calvin University Award for Excellence in Teaching (2020) and Michigan ACDA Maynard Klein Choral Award for "artistic excellence and lifetime leadership in choral music" (2013).

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**Richard Bjella**, Director of Choral Studies Emeritus, Texas Tech University, has distinguished himself as a conductor, clinician, choral pedagogue, and choral arranger. He was honored to have his choirs appear at the 2009 and 2013 National ACDA Conventions, as well as performances at Carnegie Hall, Orchestra Hall, and TMEA conventions. In addition, Bjella's graduate conductors received finalist recognition in conducting competitions at two recent National ACDA Conventions and one was awarded the Julius Herford Dissertation Prize. He has conducted and presented master classes throughout the world and at over 400 festivals and workshops in 34 states with workshops at 17 major universities in the last several years. He has also presented workshops and conducted in South Korea, England, Sweden, France, Switzerland, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Columbia, Haiti, and Italy. He is also active in the promotion of creative choral programming and is a contributing writer for the book, *The Oxford Handbook of Choral Pedagogy* (2017). Bjella also served as President of the WCDA (Wisconsin) and was awarded the prestigious Lawrence Excellence in Teaching Award (2007) and the Lifetime Achievement Award (2013) from WCDA. Bjella was the recipient of the 2017 Professing Excellence Award at Texas Tech University. He has served as the Artistic Director for the San Antonio Chamber Choir since 2014.



**Gary Packwood** is recognized as an inspirational and motivational conductor, pedagogue, and lecturer who has appeared throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Now in his 34th year of teaching, Dr. Packwood has conducted all-state and honor choirs in over 40 states. Dr. Packwood is currently a professor of music and director of choral studies at Mississippi State University, where he oversees and administers all aspects of the undergraduate and graduate degrees. Dr. Packwood has published articles in the "Choral Journal," "Teaching Music," "AmeriGrove Dictionary, 2nd Edition" and book chapters in GIA's publication of "Conducting Men's Choirs" and Hal Leonard's publication of "Choral Reflections: Insights from American Choral Conductor-Teachers." A lifetime member of ACDA, Dr. Packwood is a past president of the Southern Region of ACDA (2017-2019) and a former member of the board for the National Collegiate Choral Organization.



**Alissa Mercurio Rowe**, choral conductor, voice teacher, and soloist, currently serves as Associate Professor and Galante Chair Director of Choral Studies at Louisiana State University. She conducts the renowned LSU A Cappella Choir and teaches graduate advanced conducting and choral literature. An active adjudicator, she has given choral and vocal workshops in the Midwest and Southeastern states <https://www.lsu.edu/cmda/> and has conducted numerous All-State and Honor Choirs. She presented research on Individual Assessment in the Choral Rehearsal at the International Conference on Arts and Humanities and at the 2019 National ACDA Conference in Kansas City, MO. Dr. Rowe is also an active soprano soloist who has performed with the Tallahassee Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Baton Rouge Symphony, New Hampshire Symphony, and the National Symphony Orchestra (Mexico). She also performed and recorded three roles in David Schiff's opera *Gimpel the Fool* with Third Angle, Portland Oregon's renowned new music ensemble. Rowe released the album "Defining French Arias of Early 19th Century New Orleans" in October 2021 on Centaur Records. Dr. Rowe holds a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from Louisiana State University, a Master of Music in Conducting, a Master of Music in Vocal Performance, a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Teacher Certification K-12 from the University of Michigan.

