



2024 Madrigal & Chamber Choir Festival
February 23-24, 2024
University United Methodist Church San
Antonio, TX



ADJUDICATORS



Dianne Brumley is Director of Choral Music Studies and Professor of Music Education, Emerita at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley – Brownsville. She was appointed in 2003 and was the first person to hold the position of Director of Choral Studies at the University. Brumley was the founding conductor of the University Master Chorale. During her ten-year tenure at UTRGV, the Master Chorale was selected to perform at the 2011 Texas Music Educators Association Convention and toured internationally. Brumley also served for 20 years as the founding Conductor and Artistic Director of the South Texas Chorale and Orchestra. Brumley is a frequent guest conductor, clinician, motivational speaker, and adjudicator throughout Texas and the United States. Currently, she serves as a choral music education consultant. Before her time with the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brumley was a successful choral music educator in public schools. Choirs under her direction were selected for honor performances at Texas Music Educators Association conventions, American Choral Directors Association regional and national conventions, and a featured performance at the Texas Choral Directors Association convention. Active in Texas choral music endeavors for many years, in 2011 Brumley was honored to receive the Texas Choral Excellence Award and in 2018 the Texas Choir Master Award from the Texas Choral Directors Association.



Dr. John Ratledge is Professor Emeritus of the University of Alabama where he was the conductor of University Singers, Area Coordinator of Graduate Choral Conducting, and Director of Choral Activities. Dr. John Ratledge also taught graduate conducting, literature, and pedagogy. Ratledge made his European conducting debut in 1996 with the Filharmonia Sudecka of Walbrzych, Poland, and since that time, he has conducted orchestras in France, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Spain, and South Korea. His choirs have given the premiere of the full orchestral version of the Duruflé Requiem in Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Greece, the organ version premiere of same in Bulgaria, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms premiere in Poland, and the St. Petersburg, Russia's premiere of Handel's Messiah. Ratledge's compositions are published by Alliance Music and Carl Fischer Music Publishers.



Dr. Gary Seighman is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Trinity University where he also teaches courses in conducting and music education. Under his direction, Trinity's choral ensembles have garnered regional and national accolades with invited performances at TMEA, the National Collegiate Choral Organization, frequent international touring, and third place for the 2022 American Prize as the smallest university in the nation among the cohort of finalists. Seighman has traveled to East Asia five times where he conducted the Peking University Summer Opera Program, led graduate master-classes in Taiwan, and guest conducted throughout the Henan and Sichuan provinces. In 2019 he was artist-in-residence at University College-Dublin with further engagements in London, Cambridge, and Liverpool. The year prior he was chorus-master for the Classical Music Festival in Austria and more recently a guest faculty artist with Manhattan Concert Productions for whom he conducted Mozart's Requiem at Carnegie Hall. Seighman has served on multiple arts organization boards, is a frequent panelist on the webinar series "In the Teacher's Lounge" through Worldstrides Travel, and a grant evaluator for the Texas Commission on the Arts. He holds degrees from Westminster Choir College, the University of Oklahoma, and the University of Maryland.

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Eduardo García-Novelli was born in Argentina, where he served 8 years as Choir Director at Belgrano Day School in Buenos Aires and as Assistant Conductor of the National Youth Choir. Former Assistant Director, Houston Symphony Chorus, and Director, Symphony of Southeast Texas Chorus, he received the Faculty Merit Award for distinguished teaching as Director of Choral Activities, Lamar University, Beaumont, TX. Two undergraduate degrees from state conservatories, Argentina. MM: Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ. DMA: University of Houston. His choirs performed for TMEA, WMEA, WCDA, NCCO National Conference, the International Choral Festival in Panama City, Panama, and on several National, European, and South American tours. He made his conducting debut at Carnegie Hall in 2011, returning in 2015 and 2017. In 2016 he was in residence at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, Slovenia, lecturing and conducting the award-winning AVE Chamber Choir. Other international engagements include Mid-Am Festival, conducting Mozart at the historical Peterskirche in Vienna, the Coro Nacional de Jóvenes (in residence), Madryn Canta Festival (clinician), Tous Ensemble (guest conductor) all in Argentina, and leading Carthage Choir to win First Prize at the prestigious Spittal International Choir Competition in Spittal, Austria, in July 2019.



Tony Thornton is Professor of Music and Doug and Nickie Burns Endowed Chair in Choral Music at Oklahoma State University, where he serves as the Director of Choral and Vocal Studies. He is Artistic Director of the Sarteano (Italy) Chamber Choral Conducting Workshop. Thornton received his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and Voice from Westminster Choir College, his Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Louisiana State University, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting and Historical Musicology from the University of Arizona. Thornton has worked with over 400 mixed, treble, and tenor/bass choruses in public and private schools, colleges, churches, community ensembles, and professional organizations in 25 states, Japan, and throughout Europe. As a member of the Westminster Choir, he performed at the Spoleto Festival in Italy and the United States, and he has recorded with Leonard Bernstein, Riccardo Muti, Robert Shaw, Claudio Abbado, and Zubin Mehta. He sang for seven years as a member of the Robert Shaw Festival Singers. He is Past President of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Choral Directors Association, and he was Collegiate R&R Chair for the ACDA Eastern Division from 2020-2022.



Dr. Betsy Cook Weber is a Madison Endowed Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Houston Moores School of Music and is also active internationally as a conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and lecturer. In the summer of 2013, she became the thirteenth person and first woman to receive the TCDA's coveted Texas Choirmaster Award. She is editor of the Betsy Cook Weber Choral Series with Alliance Music Publishing. Weber served for eight seasons as Director of the Houston Symphony Chorus, preparing programs for some of the world's leading orchestral conductors including Juraj Valcuha, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Jane Glover, and Nicholas McGegan. Choirs under Weber's direction have been featured at multiple state and national conventions. Internationally, the UH Concert Chorale has won prizes and received acclaim at prestigious competitions in Wales, France, Germany (2), Hungary, Italy, and Norway. Weber often prepares singers for early music orchestras Ars Lyrica and Mercury Houston, as well as for touring shows, including Josh Groban, NBC's Clash of the Choirs, Telemundo's Latin Grammys, Star Wars in Concert, Andreas Bocelli, Eric Whitacre, and The Eagles. Previously, Weber taught vocal music, K-12, in the public schools. Her degrees are from the University of North Texas, Westminster Choir College, and the University of Houston.

