

Dr. Joshua Bronfman is Director of Choral Activities at Sam Houston State University, where he directs the SHSU Chorale and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in choral conducting and choral literature. He is Artistic Director of Cantare Houston, a professional chorus based in Houston, Texas. He is creator and host of Choral History, a podcast dedicated to conversations with choral conductors from around the world. Prior to his appointment at SHSU, Joshua spent a decade as Director of Choral Activities at the University of North Dakota, Artistic Director of the Grand Forks Chorales, and conductor of the Grand Forks Master Chorale. He is an active clinician nationally, directing honor choir festivals at the middle, high school and collegiate levels. His published articles and presentations on choral music and choral music education have reached state, regional, and national audiences.



Dr. Jennaya Robison is in demand as a conductor, clinician, and soprano throughout the United States. She currently serves as the Artistic Director for the National Lutheran Choir (Minneapolis, MN) where she is the third artistic director in the organization's 37-year history. Robison most recently served as Director of Choral Studies in the Conservatory at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and has held previous positions at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. She has held state, regional, and national leadership roles with the American Choral Directors Association. Robison has conducted and taught courses in choral singing and global connection in the United States, Namibia, South Africa, and Germany and currently serves as the Artistic Dean of the Zephyr Point Summer Music Festival at Lake Tahoe, Nevada. She has served as an invited conductor and clinician for numerous all state festivals and honor choirs throughout the United States and has presented at national, regional, and state ACDA, NAFMe, and NATS conferences. Her choral series is published with Pavane Publishing, and she serves the editor of the National Lutheran Choir series through Morningstar music. Additional arrangements and compositions are published by Kjos Music, Morningstar Music, and Galaxy Music.




Dr. 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.



Heather Orr, Master of Arts, is in her 29th year teaching and 23rd year as the Montgomery High School Head Choir Director. She holds a Master of Arts in Vocal Pedagogy from The Ohio State University and a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from Heidelberg University. Choirs under Orr's direction, have been invited to perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Convention in 2018, 2010, and 2005 and will be performing again in 2024. In addition, they have performed at the National ACDA Conference in 2021 and 2011, as well as the SWACDA Divisional Conference in 2022 and 2018. Orr's choirs consistently earn Sweepstakes at UIL Competitions and choirs under her direction have been recognized with First Place at the Madrigal Festival in San Antonio, Madrigal Festival in Dallas, and Celebration of Excellence in Houston.



Orr has been recognized with the UIL Sponsor Excellence Award and Fine Arts Teacher of the Year Award for Montgomery County. She frequently serves as presenter, clinician and adjudicator. Orr's professional affiliations include TMEA, TCDA, ACDA, NATS, MTNA, and TMAA. Heather resides in Montgomery, TX and has been married to Will Orr for 30 years. They have four children, Abby, Carly, Christopher, and Claire, all of whom are active as musicians.



Clay West, Master of Arts, is an Adjunct Professor on the choral faculty of Sam Houston State University and conducts Belles Voix. He is an honors graduate of Howard Payne University, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Music, and was named a Presser Scholar. West continued his studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary as a student of C. David Keith and Sam Houston State University as a student of Allen Hightower. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in Theology from Andover Newton Theological School. West taught public school for eleven years and was named a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction. Under his direction, choirs consistently received superior ratings at UIL and various festivals, performed nationwide, including Carnegie Hall in 2019, and established themselves as a notable program in Texas. In addition, numerous students earned placement in TMEA all-state ensembles, and many became future educators. West has served as a rehearsal conductor for the Houston Symphony Chorus and in various roles in the leadership of TMEA.

West is an active UIL and festival adjudicator and clinician. West maintains active memberships in the Texas Music Adjudicators Association, Texas Music Educators Association, American Choral Directors Association, and the Texas Choral Directors Association.

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