



2025 Madrigal & Chamber Choir Festival
February 21-22, 2025
Messiah Lutheran Church
Plano, TX



ADJUDICATORS



Joshua R. Brown serves as Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Choral Studies, and Chair of Ensembles at Dallas Baptist University, where he conducts choral ensembles and teaches courses in choral music and conducting. Dr. Brown's students have recently performed at the Meyerson, the Arkansas Gubernatorial Inauguration, Holidays at the Capitol (Little Rock), Carnegie Hall, and the Arkansas All-State Conference. Dr. Brown has been invited to present at conferences in Arkansas, Idaho, Wyoming, Texas and Utah. Additionally, he currently serves as Executive Director of Voces Pacis – a semi-professional choral organization in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex. Previously, Dr. Brown served as the Director of the University of North Texas Men's Chorus as well as Artistic Director of the Coppell Community Chorale (2016-2019) and was Director of Choirs at Coppell High School (2012-2017), where his choirs were selected to perform at the White House (2014), Texas Music Educators Convention (2017), and Southwestern American Choral Directors Convention (2016). Prior to that, Dr. Brown was Director of Choirs at Abilene High School (2009-2012). Brown holds music degrees from the University of North Texas, Baylor University, and Dallas Baptist University.



Dr. Jeffery Goolsby is Director of Choral Studies at Abilene Christian University, where he leads a program dedicated to artistic excellence, transformational musical experiences, and high-impact community engagement. He conducts the university's premiere choral ensemble, the A Cappella Chorus, conducts the University Chorale, and oversees three student-led contemporary a cappella groups. The ACU choral music program engages students from diverse academic, social, racial, and economic backgrounds. More than half of the program is comprised of non-music majors. Dr. Goolsby teaches courses in choral conducting and choral methods and supervises the choral music education program. Prior to joining the ACU faculty, he taught for ten years in successful high school choral music programs in the Dallas and Houston areas. Choirs under his direction have performed at notable venues in the United States and abroad. He is in demand as a clinician, consultant, and adjudicator throughout the country and has served in numerous regional and state capacities with TMEA, ACDA, and UIL. He holds degrees in choral conducting and music education from Texas Tech University, Louisiana State University, and Abilene Christian University, where he was named a University Scholar. Professional affiliations include ACDA, NCCO, TMEA, TCDA, TMAA, and Pi Kappa Lambda.



A. Jan Taylor was Associate Professor and Director of Choral Music Activities at Prairie View A&M University. A Houston native, she attended HSPVA and earned a B. M. from the University of Houston, M. A. from Prairie View A&M University, and a D.M.A. from UH. Dr. Taylor taught general music, piano, and choir in elementary, middle, and high schools in Houston ISD. An adjudicator and choral clinician for competitions and festivals throughout the U. S., as an authority she often lectures on the performance practices and preservation of the African American spiritual. Dr. Taylor has traveled in the U. S., Europe, and Asia as a singer and conductor, served as Assistant Conductor of the Houston Symphony Chorus, and conductor of the Houston Ebony Opera Guild Chorus. She conducted the "105 Voices of History" HBCU National Choir in performances at the Grand Ole Opry House, the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, the Kennedy Center, and for the nationally televised MLK50 Commemoration event held by the National Civil Rights Museum. The Prairie View A&M University Concert Chorale and PV Chamber Singers have performed to critical acclaim throughout the United States and abroad, including performances with the Houston Symphony Orchestra and international music festivals in Poland, Germany, and South America.

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Kristina Caswell MacMullen serves as the Mary Gibbs Jones Chair of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Baylor University. She conducts the Baylor A Cappella Choir, Chamber Singers, and leads the graduate program in choral conducting. Prior to her appointment at BU, MacMullen served on the faculties of the University of North Texas and The Ohio State University. Her interdisciplinary work earned her the Sir William Osler Award at OSU and the President's Special Recognition Award at UNT. MacMullen has also been recognized by TCDA for her innovation in programming. As an active adjudicator and clinician, MacMullen has conducted All-State and honors choirs throughout the United States. She has presented and co-presented interest sessions at state, regional, national, and international conferences. Her teaching and conducting is featured on the recording *Conducting-Teaching: Real World Strategies for Success* published by GIA (2009). MacMullen has enjoyed a diverse career as a public-school teacher, interacting with students in rural, suburban, and urban settings, elementary through high school. She also sings with the professional ensemble mirabai. Creative projects include interdisciplinary performances addressing human trafficking, the Kubler-Ross stages of grief, play theory, Maslow's hierarchy of needs, archetype exploration, belonging, American song, civic engagement, and the nature of tears.



As conductor, pedagogue, and scholar, **Sandra Snow** is widely acknowledged as one who brings singers of all ages and abilities to artful performance through an understanding of the music and its context in the world around them. Dr. Snow is Director of Choral Programs and Area Chair of Conducting at the Michigan State University College of Music where she oversees graduate programs in choral conducting. The Mosaic ensemble has appeared as featured performers at American Choral Directors Association conventions at state, regional, and national levels. As guest conductor, she travels extensively in North America and abroad. In 2017 Snow created mirabai, a project-based professional women's chorus. mirabai's recording *Ecstatic Songs* was the winner of the American Prize in Choral Music, professional choirs' division, in 2020. Their second recording, *Home in Me*, was released in fall 2022. The mission of mirabai includes outreach and education programs designed to support the work of women as educators, composers, poets, and conductors. Snow is a recipient of the Michigan State University William J. Beal Award for Outstanding Faculty, the MSU Teacher-Scholar Award, and the Dortha J. and John D. Withrow award for Excellence in Teaching.



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.

