

2025 Madrigal & Chamber Choir Festival
March 8, 2025
The Foundry Church
Houston, TX



ADJUDICATORS



J.D. Burnett enjoys a varied career as a conductor, singer, and teacher. He is Artistic Director of Orpheus Chamber Singers, the premier professional chamber choir in Dallas. Burnett is also Director of Choral Activities at the University of Texas Butler School of Music, where he conducts the UT Concert Chorale and guides the graduate program in choral conducting. Additionally, Burnett is the founding Artistic Director of Kinnara, Atlanta's premier professional chamber choir. Formerly, he was Associate Director of Choral Activities at the University of Georgia Hugh Hodgson School of Music. Burnett has served as Assistant Director of the Dallas Symphony Chorus, conductor of the New Jersey Youth Chorus Young Men's Ensemble, Associate Conductor of the Masterwork Chorus of New Jersey, and Acting Director of Choral Activities at Montclair State University. Earlier posts include Interim Director of Choral Activities at San Jose State University, Artistic Director of the New Jersey Chamber Singers, Music Director of the Houston Masterworks Chorus, and Founder of Men's Consort Houston. He also served as Choral Editor at McGraw-Hill, Inc. Burnett did undergraduate study at Stanford University and Oklahoma State University. He holds advanced degrees in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College and the University of North Texas.



Karen Kenaston-French is Professor and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Texas Arlington, where she conducts the A Cappello Choir, teaches conducting, and heads the Vocal Area. Under her direction the UTA A Cappello Choir has performed at the Texas Music Educators Association state convention {2019 and 2014}, Southwestern Division of ACDA {2016 and 2022}, the national conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization {2019} and served as Ensemble-in-Residence for the National Student Conducting Competition at the American Choral Directors Association conference in Salt Lake City {2015}. In addition, the choir has placed in the American Prize for Choral Performance {College/University Division: 3rd place, 2021 and finalist, 2014}. Prior to UTA, Dr. Kenaston-French was Director of Choral Activities at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee. She holds a B.A. from West Virginia Wesleyan College, M.M. and M.S.M. degrees from Southern Methodist University, and a D.M.A. from the University of North Texas. In 2019 she assumed the position of Artistic Director/ Conductor of the Fort Worth Chorale of Schola Cantorum of Texas, only the fifth conductor in the organization's 57-year history.



Dr. Gary Seighman is Professor, Director of Choral Activities, and Chair of the Music Department at Trinity University where he also teaches conducting and music education courses. Under his direction, Trinity's ensembles have garnered regional and national accolades with multiple 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 masterclasses in Taiwan, and guest conducted throughout the Henan and Sichuan provinces. He is a frequent artist-in-residence at institutions including University College-Dublin with further U.K. engagements in London, Cambridge, and Liverpool. He served as chorus-master for the Classical Music Festival in Austria, guest faculty artist with Manhattan Concert Productions at Carnegie Hall, and conductor for both treble and mixed choirs as part of the Worldstrides Honors Performance Series. Seighman has served on many arts organization boards and is a frequent 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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Dr. Derrick Fox is the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Research and Creative Endeavors and a Professor of Choral Conducting at Michigan State University. Prior to MSU, he was the Director of Choral Activities and Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and Assistant Professor of Choral Music at Ithaca College. Dr. Fox has taught at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels. His conducting experiences include singers from upper elementary choirs through collegiate and community choirs. He was awarded the 2021 Bryan R. Johnson Service Award by the Nebraska Music Educators Association and the 2022 University of Nebraska Omaha Award for Distinguished Research/Creative Activity. He has held teaching residencies at the Latvian Academy of Music and Syracuse University and led performance tours through Lithuania and Estonia. He conducted the 2019 National ACDA Middle School/Junior High Mixed Honor Choir and traveled to South Africa as a 2019 ACDA International Conductor Exchange Fellow where he led choral workshops and rehearsals in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Potchefstroom. His compositions and arrangements are published by Hal Leonard and Brillee Music. He launched The Derrick Fox Choral Series with Music Spoke to publish works by and about marginalized and minoritized people. <https://www.drderickfox.com/>



Dr. Yoojin Muhn serves as the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where she oversees a comprehensive choral program, conducts the UTSA Chamber Singers, and teaches undergraduate and graduate choral conducting classes. She also holds the position of Music Director for the San Antonio Mastersingers, a highly acclaimed 120-voice chorus of volunteers from the expansive San Antonio Area. Dr. Muhn is highly in demand as a clinician, guest conductor, and adjudicator. Recently, she conducted Mozart's Requiem with the New York City Chamber Orchestra as part of Manhattan Concert Productions (MCP)'s Masterwork Series at Carnegie Hall in June 2023. Prior to her appointment at UTSA, she served as the Artistic Director of the Tucson Masterworks Chorale in Tucson, Arizona, co-directed the Oriana Women's Chorus, and assisted in leading the Concert Choir at the University of Southern California. Furthermore, she was selected as a conducting fellow at both Oregon Bach Festival and the Yale Summer School of Music-Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. She received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Music with honors from the University of Southern California, a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Cincinnati, a Master of Music degree in Sacred Music from Westminster Choir College (where she graduated with distinction), and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Composition from SookMyung Women's University in Seoul, Korea.



Alissa Mercurio Rowe serves as Associate Professor and Galante Chair and Director of Choral Studies at Louisiana State University. She conducts the renown LSU A Cappella Choir who will travel to London in 2025 and perform Jocelyn Hagen's Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci in the Vox Anima Festival. She is an active adjudicator and guest conductor and has conducted numerous All-State and District 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 American Choral Directors Association Conference. Dr. Rowe received the President's Award from St. Tammany Parish President, Patricia C. Brister, as Musical Artist of the Year in St. Tammany Parish and was awarded the Southeastern Louisiana University's President's Award for Excellence in Artistic Activity. Dr. Rowe has also performed as soprano soloist 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. Dr. Rowe is a versatile performer who regularly performs a wide variety of works such as the Beethoven's Mass in C, Messiah of Handel, Pergolesi's Stabat Mater and Schubert's Mass in G, as well as opera roles in La Cenerentola, The Consul, Magic Flute and La Perichole, among others. 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.

