

A Celebration of Excellence

A Choral Artistry Experience - Central Texas

A Celebration of Excellence Specialty Choral Festival

Monday, April 7, 2025

Manchaca United Methodist Church

1011 FM 1626, Manchaca, TX 78652 (South Austin)



Experience Choral Artistry Which Builds Community!

- Benefit from performing UIL repertoire in a beautiful space with quality acoustics.
- Join other Varsity Mixed, Tenor Bass and Treble choirs on a day of sharing fine choral music.
- Receive a superlative professional recording for archives/future auditions.
- Celebrate each other's achievements during the concluding Awards Ceremony.
- Take home constructive comments & participation awards.
- Seek a special "Performance of Distinction" award.
- Vie for designation as the 2025 Varsity Mixed Honor Choir which presents the 2026 Honor Concert.

FESTIVAL STAFF

Site Coordinator: Sally Schott

Staff: BriAnne Woodward, Becky Byers, Helen Miers, Kay Sherrill, Malcolm Nelson, Dr. Morris Stevens

Student Workers: Leo Garcia & Lehman HS Choir

ADJUDICATORS

Eduardo Garcia-Novelli

Professor of Music
Director of Choral Activities
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS

Gary Packwood

Freelance Conductor
Pedagogue, Lecturer
Baton Rouge, LA

Jennifer Sengin

Visiting Assistant Professor of Choral Studies
University of Missouri-Kansas City
Kansas City, MO

The University of Texas Concert Chorale,
J.D. Burnett, Conductor



Guest Choir Performance Preceding Awards Ceremony

Eduardo García-Novelli, born in Argentina, served as Choir Director at Belgrano Day School in Buenos Aires and as Assistant Conductor, 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, KMEA, WCDA, NCCO National Conference, the International Choral Festival in Panama City, Panama, and on several National, European, and South American tours.

He had 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 MidAm 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, Tamara Brooks summer course in Galicia, Spain, and leading Carthage Choir to win First Prize at the prestigious Spittal International Choir Competition in Spittal, Austria, in July 2019. In July of 2023 he led The University of Kansas Chamber Choir to win First Prize at the Preveza International Competition in Greece, where he also received the best program award and the best conductor award. He had the honor of serving as conductor of the Texas Small School All-State Choir in 2024.



Recognized as an inspirational and motivational conductor, pedagogue, and lecturer, **Gary Packwood** has appeared throughout North and South America, Europe, and Asia, and has conducted all-state and honor choirs in over 40 states. Dr. Packwood has served as professor of music and director of choral studies at universities throughout the southeast and his choirs have performed at The White House, throughout Europe, and at State and Regional Conferences sponsored by the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and the National Association for Music Education (NAfME). In 2017 Santa Barbara Music Publishing began the Gary Packwood Choral Series, which features compositions that specialize in music for developing and advanced young voices. He also has additional music publications through MusicSpoke, Alliance Music, and a new choral series Gentry Music. Dr. Packwood has published articles in the Choral Journal, Teaching Music, the 2nd Edition of the AmeriGrove Dictionary, and a book chapter in GIA's Publication of Conducting Men's Choirs, and the book Choral Reflections: Insights From American Choral Conductor-Teachers published by Hal Leonard. He is a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Pi Kappa Lambda.

Jennifer Sengin serves on the choral faculty at the University of Missouri-Kansas City where she serves as the Visiting Assistant Professor of Choral Studies. There, she leads the graduate choral conducting program and conducts the flagship ensemble, Conservatory Singers, and the Choral Union. In addition to ensembles, Dr. Sengin teaches graduate choral conducting and choral literature. She most recently served as the Associate Director of Choral Activities at Georgia State University (GSU). Under her direction, the GSU Treble Choir won first place in The American Prize and Dr. Sengin received 2nd place in conducting. The Treble Choir has been invited to perform at the National Collegiate Choral Organization Conference (2023) and twice at the Georgia Music Educators Association Conference (2020 and 2023). An active guest conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and presenter, Dr. Sengin has conducted honor choirs throughout the country and recently conducted the 2024 South Carolina American Choral Director's Association TTB Honor Choir, 2023 Texas All-State Treble Choir, and others. Future engagements include guest conducting along with Dr. Sandra Snow in Carnegie Hall with National Concerts. Dr. Sengin currently serves on the National Board of the National Collegiate Choral Organization and sings in the award-winning professional ensemble, mirabai.





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