

2026 Madrigal & Chamber Choir Festival

March 7, 2026

The Foundry Church

Houston, TX



ADJUDICATORS



Professor **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 seasons as the founding Conductor and Artistic Director of the South Texas Chorale and Orchestra. A frequent guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator throughout Texas and the United States, she currently serves as a choral music education consultant and conductor of the Dianne Brumley Chorale. Before her time with 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 TMEA, TCDA, SWACDA and ACDA conferences. In 2011 Brumley was honored to receive the Texas Choral Excellence Award and in 2018 was the third woman to receive the prestigious Texas Choir Master Award from the Texas Choral Directors Association.



Michael Lysinger is an adjunct faculty member at Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts where he conducts the Meadows Chorale, teaches undergraduate choral conducting, music education and supervises student teachers. He also works for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra serving as Chorus Administrator for the Dallas Symphony Chorus. Prior to that, Michael was a successful choral music educator in Texas for 30 years in schools Richardson, Plano, Houston and San Antonio. For six seasons, he was the Artistic Director of the Houston Boychoir. Choirs under his direction have appeared at conventions in 2010 (SWACDA), 2008 and 1996 (TMEA), and 2001 (ACDA). He has prepared his choruses for performances with the Houston Symphony, the University of Houston Choruses, UH Opera and Opera in the Heights (Houston). Michael's choirs have toured throughout the USA and abroad on four international tours. He received his BME from Southwestern University in Georgetown studying with Dr. Kenneth Sheppard and completed additional studies in conducting with Dr. B.R. Henson.



Dr. Gary Mabry is a Professor Emeritus of the University of Texas at San Antonio School of Music. He founded and conducted the UTSA Women's Choir and the UTSA Men's Glee Club. Before joining the UTSA faculty, Dr. Mabry taught on the music faculty of Montana State University and Abilene Christian University. He earned a DMA degree in Vocal Pedagogy and Performance at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting at Hardin-Simmons University, studying with Dr. Loyd Hawthorne. Dr Mabry served as Artistic Director and Conductor of the San Antonio Choral Society and as Chorus Master for Opera San Antonio. He served on the Board of Directors of the Texas Choral Directors Association and has presented several sessions at the TMEA Convention on vocal technique in the choral setting. He continues to serve the community as a board member of the Children's Chorus of San Antonio, Alegría Women's Chorus, and the Opera Guild of San Antonio. He is Minister of Music for Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, having served churches in Texas, Colorado, and Montana.

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Saleel Menon is an Assistant Professor of Music Education and Choral Studies at Rutgers University, where he teaches music education courses and conducts the Rutgers Voorhees Choir. Before coming to Rutgers, he attended Michigan State University, where he earned his Ph.D. in Music Education and Master's degree in Choral Conducting. He has a Bachelor of Music from the University of Houston. Dr. Menon taught high school choir in Houston, Texas, where his choirs performed both statewide and nationwide. As a prolific researcher, Dr. Menon has published research in several important music education journals, including the Journal of Research in Music Education, Action, Criticism, and Theory in Music Education, and The Choral Journal. His co-authored article published in the Music Educator Journal on popular music was named one of the journal's "most read" articles. In 2020, he received the Texas Choral Directors Association "Young Director of Distinction" Award. Under his direction as Artistic Director, Out Loud Chorus, the Ann Arbor-based choir, became one of the largest mixed LGBT choirs in North America. He conducted the choir on the national stage at the GALA Chorus Festival in 2024. He is active as a composer, conductor, presenter, and adjudicator nationwide.



Amanda Quist, Director of Choral Activities at Western Michigan University, was previously DCA for the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. Quist has prepared choirs for the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, Seraphic Fire, and Spoleto Festival. Quist's work has been described as "transformative, beautifully prepared, gripping," and "leaving the audience breathless." She won the American Prize for Choral Performance in 2019 with Westminster Kantorei and has directed invitational performances for American Choral Directors Association Conferences, Boston Early Music Festival, and Interkultur. Her recording, Lumina, is distributed by Naxos. Quist was previously Chair of Conducting at Westminster Choir College (WCC). She is the recipient of WCC's Distinguished Teaching Award, and the Mazzotti Award for Women's Leadership. Quist was Director of the Westminster Vocal Institute, and DCA at San José State University. She frequently serves as a guest conductor, and headlines conferences and serve as a lecturer across the United States and abroad. Her research has been published by the Choral Journal, Lexington Books, Hal Leonard, Walton, and GIA, Walton Music and Gentry Publications publish Amanda Quist Choral Series. Her BM and MM are from Western Michigan University, and she earned her DMA at the University of North Texas.



Jennaya Robison is the Artistic Director of the National Lutheran Choir (Minneapolis, MN) and an in-demand conductor, educator, and soprano. Known for her dynamic leadership and commitment to intergenerational and globally engaged choral artistry, she has conducted choirs, workshops, and festivals across the United States, Europe, and southern Africa. She is a frequent guest conductor for All-State and honor choirs and is highly sought after for her work in worship, education, and community-based choral initiatives. From 2020 to 2023, Robison served as the Raymond R. Neevel/Missouri Associate Professor and Director of Choral Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory. Prior to that, she was Associate Professor of Choral Music at Luther College. She holds a Master of Music in conducting and voice from the University of New Mexico and a Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting from the University of Arizona. Robison is deeply committed to voice pedagogy within the choral ensemble, cultivating expressive singing and honoring the unique vocal potential of each singer. She is also an active composer and arranger, editing the National Lutheran Choir Series with MorningStar Music and the Jennaya Robison Series with Pavane Publishing. She serves as national chair for Music in Worship for the American Choral Directors Association.

