



**2027 MADRIGAL & CHAMBER CHOIR FESTIVAL**

**FEBRUARY 19 & 20, 2027**

**TBD**

**PLANO / RICHARDSON AREA**



**ADJUDICATORS**



**Karen Kenaston-French** is Professor and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Texas at Arlington, where she conducts the A Cappella Choir, leads the Vocal Area, and teaches graduate and undergraduate conducting. Under her direction, the A Cappella Choir has earned significant national and regional recognition, including invitations to the 2025 national ACDA conference, the 2022 and 2016 SWACDA conferences, the 2019 NCCO national conference, and three invited Honor Choir performances at the TMEA (2024, 2019, 2014). Recent collaborations with major arts organizations have included Carmina Burana with Dallas Winds (2025) and Der Fliegende Holländer with the Fort Worth Symphony under Robert Spano (2025). Since 2019, Dr. Kenaston-French has served as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Fort Worth Chorale, where she has expanded the ensemble's artistic profile through innovative programming, annual choral-orchestral masterworks, commissions, and partnerships with area schools and regional arts organizations. Under her leadership, the Chorale has earned its first-ever auditioned, peer-reviewed invitation to perform at the 2026 Southwestern Division ACDA Conference. A frequent clinician and honor choir conductor, she received the 2025 Texas Choral Directors Association Choral Excellence Award. She holds degrees from West Virginia Wesleyan College, SMU, and the University of North Texas.



**Michael Murphy** is the Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at Stephen F. Austin State University. Dr. Murphy is an active clinician, adjudicator, and author. His international conducting and teaching experiences include Austria, China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Ireland, Norway, Panama, and Sweden. Murphy is the co-author and editor of *Conducting Primer in Practice* and has been published several times in *Choral Journal* and contributed to volume 4 of *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir*. As a passionate champion of music for all, Michael has experience teaching all ages and levels, and several auditioned and non-auditioned collegiate, community, school, and church choirs. His choirs have been invited to perform at several regional and state ACDA and NafME conferences, and he has held several international, national, and state leadership positions in WCCN, ICCF, ACDA, NafME, and NCCO.



**Margaret Winchell** is the Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts, where she conducts the Meadows Chamber Singers and Concordia and teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in choral conducting and literature. Margaret has completed coursework for a DMA in Choral Conducting at Yale University and holds degrees from Western Michigan University and Wheaton College. Her graduate teachers include Jeffrey Douma, David Hill, Felicia Barber, and Kimberly Dunn Adams. Before her graduate studies, Margaret taught high school in the Chicago area and worked as a teaching artist at the Goodman Theatre. She grew up in Houston and is a graduate of the Kinder High School for Performing and Visual Arts. She is praised for her creativity, efficiency, and rapport on the podium, and she enjoys presenting and guest conducting for festivals, clinics, and workshops across the country.

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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 a 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.



**Dr. Brandon Williams** is Associate Professor and Director of Choral Activities at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, where he conducts the Rutgers Kirkpatrick Choir and Rutgers Glee Club and leads the Graduate Choral Conducting program. Previously, he conducted the Rutgers Voorhees Choir, which was selected to perform at Carnegie Hall (2019) and Eastern ACDA (2020, 2024). He earned degrees from Western Illinois University, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Michigan State University. An active conductor, clinician, composer, and presenter, Dr. Williams appears regularly at conferences, universities, and festivals across the United States and abroad. Dr. Williams is the editor of *Choral Reflections: Insights from American Choral Conductor-Teachers*, and his scholarly writing has been published in the *Choral Journal*, *Music Educators Journal*, and the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*. He also curates two choral series: the Brandon Williams Choral Series with Gentry Publications and the Rutgers Glee Club Choral Series with MusicSpoke. His professional affiliations include the American Choral Directors Association, the National Collegiate Choral Organization, and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

