American Classic
TOURS & MUSIC FESTIVALS

A Celebration of Excellence

A Choral Artistry Competition

A Specialty Choral Festival for High School Choirs

Saturday, April 3, 2027

Whether preparing for UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation or extending the educational value of a successful contest season, Celebration of Excellence provides an inspiring day devoted to musical excellence.

- **PERFORM with Pride -** Every ensemble performs in an exceptional concert venue selected for its outstanding acoustics and professional performance environment.
- **LEARN with Purpose -** Nationally respected adjudicators provide thoughtful, educationally focused comments, and every choir receives a professionally produced recording of its performance.
- **CELEBRATE Achievement -** Outstanding ensembles are recognized through festival awards, Honor Choir selections, and the Celebration of Excellence Awards Ceremony.
- **Established in 2018 -** Created by music educators, Celebration of Excellence has earned a reputation for providing high school choirs with an educationally meaningful and artistically rewarding festival experience.

Festival Leadership Team: Sally Schott, Bob Horton, Eddie Quaid, Michael Madrid
Adult Staff: Janice Bradshaw, Austin Dean, Deborah Edquist, Janwin Overstreet-Goode, Jessica Radke, Bryanna Robilotto, Ashley Stouffer
Sean Stultz & Rebecca Berger, Klein HS Student Workers

Ready to Learn More?
Visit www.amclass.com and click on the Celebration of Excellence web page for complete festival information and on-line registration. (**Scan the QR code ->**)

Selected from outstanding festival performances, 2027 Celebration of Excellence Honor Choirs represent exemplary artistry, musicianship, and musical achievement.



Summer Creek Chorale Women
Amanda Robison, Director



Shadow Creek Varsity Tenor-Bass Choir
Frankie Espinoza & Jennifer Gallagher, Directors



Summer Creek Chorale
Amanda Robison, Director

2027 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.



Lynne Gackle is Professor Emeritus of Music at Baylor University where she served as the Director of Choral Activities and Chair of the Ensemble Division. Dr. Gackle previously taught at the University of South Florida, the University of Mississippi, and the University of Miami (FL). Lynne is an active choral clinician/conductor, nationally and internationally. She has held various positions within the American Choral Directors Association, including National President, President, Southern Region, President, ACDA-Florida, and was VP of College/ Community Choirs for TCDA. Gackle is the editor of Choral Artistry for the Singer (Walton Music) and the Lynne Gackle Choral Series (Colla Voce). Internationally recognized for her research on the female adolescent voice, Lynne is the author of Finding Ophelia's Voice, Opening Ophelia's Heart. She is a contributing author for other books published by GIA, Oxford, Hal Leonard/McGraw Hill including the Oxford Handbook for Singing (2019), and Choral Reflections: Insights from American Choral Conductor/Teachers (2022). Gackle was awarded ACDA-FL's Wayne Hugoboom Distinguished Service Award, Baylor's Outstanding Faculty Award in Research (2012), the Texas Choir Masters Award (2021), the MacPherson Prize (2023) and most recently, the 2023 Frost Centennial Medal from the University of Miami. She holds memberships in ACDA, TMEA, TCDA, and NATS.



Jenn Goodner is Musical Director of the Longhorn Singers, the premier show choir of The University of Texas at Austin. Founded in 1958, the ensemble is a longstanding UT tradition that celebrates Texas pride in song. They perform across campus, around Austin, and annually at Red River Rivalry Weekend in Dallas, and present three main-stage productions each year. She is also Artistic Director of Tapestry Singers, Austin's Women's Chorus, nearly 100 singers dedicated to connection, confidence, and lifelong music-making. Jenn has been part of Tapestry for seventeen years and leads its auditioned a cappella ensemble, Loose Threads. In addition, she serves as Head of Music Education at the Austin Performing Arts Conservatory (APAC) and co-directs the A Company at The J^2 Method, a performance training studio for young artists. Spending more than twenty years in the high school choral classroom, including fifteen at Westlake High School, Jenn was named Round Rock ISD Teacher and has served as a region choir clinician. A graduate of Kingwood High School, early in her career she and J. D. Burnett worked with Keith Dixon in the Kingwood Choral Department. Jenn believes music builds community and that every singer deserves a space to grow and be truly heard.

American Classic Tours & Music Festivals
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