

WEST VIRGINIA  
AMERICAN  
CHORAL  
DIRECTORS  
ASSOCIATION



# **Annual Conference**

**February 6th-8th, 2025**

**Morgantown, WV**

**Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place  
WVU Canady Creative Arts Center**



# West Virginia ACDA Executive Board

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Jennifer Ratliff  
Parkersburg South High School

## **World Musics and Cultural & Social Justice**

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Maestri Vocale

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OPEN

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OPEN

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Horace Mann Middle School

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OPEN

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Chris Brown  
Appalachian Children's Chorus  
Horace Mann Middle School

# Rehearsal & Conference Session Schedule

**Thursday, February 6th, 2025**

## **7-9 All State Choir**

12:00pm – 12:45pm Registration  
1:00pm – 3:00pm Sectionals  
3:30pm – 5:00pm Rehearsal  
5:00pm – 6:30pm Dinner Break  
6:30pm – 8:30pm Rehearsal

## **Salon E, F, G, H (Main Floor)**

MEC Lobby

MEC B (Downstairs) (if paid)

## **High School All State Chamber Choir**

12:00pm – 12:45pm Registration  
1:00pm – 5:00pm Rehearsal  
5:00pm – 6:30pm Dinner Break  
6:30pm – 8:30pm Rehearsal

## **MEC B (Downstairs)**

Ballroom Hall Entry (Main Floor)

MEC B (Downstairs) (if paid)

## **Collegiate Honor Choir**

1:30pm – 2:15pm Registration  
2:30pm – 5:00pm Rehearsal  
5:00pm – 6:30pm Dinner Break  
6:30pm – 8:30pm Rehearsal

## **WVU Canady Creative Arts Center**

## **WVACDA Membership Sessions - Waterfront MEC A**

1:00pm – 1:50pm Interest Session: “Past is Prologue: Preparing Young Musicians to Thrive as Choral Artists.”  
Dr. Daniel Gordon, 2025 Collegiate Honor Choir Conductor

2:00pm – 2:50pm Interest Session: “Warmups and Rote Songs”  
Mrs. Mary Biddlecombe, 2025 7-9 All State Choir Conductor

3:00pm – 3:50pm Repertoire Session: World Musics  
Natalie Shaffer, Maestri Vocale Treble

4:00pm – 4:50pm Interest Session: “Scaffolded Score Study for Scaffolded Rehearsals”  
Dr. Ryan Keeling, Westminster College

8:45pm – 10:00pm WVACDA Executive Board Meeting – Puskar Boardroom

## **Friday, February 7th, 2025**

### **7-9 All State Choir and High School All State Chamber Choir**

8:30am - 11:30am Rehearsal

11:30am - 1:00pm Lunch Break

1:00pm - 6:00pm Rehearsal

### **Collegiate Honor Choir**

9:00am - 11:30am Rehearsal

11:30am - 1:00pm Lunch Break

1:00pm - 5:00pm Rehearsal

### **WVACDA Membership Sessions - Waterfront**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 9:00am - 9:50am   | Interest Session: "Forming Formants: A Systematic Approach to Singing Vowels"<br>Dr. Thomas Erik Angerhofer, West Virginia University                  |
| 10:00am - 10:50am | Repertoire Session: Advanced - High School, Community, TTB, and Collegiate Choirs<br>Mrs. Martina Norman-Kiser, R&S Chair - High School                |
| 1:00pm - 1:50pm   | Interest Session: "Revelations and Realizations from a Middle-Aged Choir Director"<br>Mr. Adam Loudin, Robert L. Bland Middle School                   |
| 2:00pm - 2:50pm   | Repertoire Session: Intermediate - Middle School, Mixed, Children's and Treble Choirs<br>Mrs. SarahEllen Beamer, R&S Chair - Middle School/Junior High |
| 3:00pm - 3:50pm   | Interest Session: "The Choral Art of Text, Melody, and Harmony"<br>Mr. Greg Gilpin, 2025 High School All State Conductor                               |
| 4:00pm - 4:50pm   | Interest Session: "Find Your Choir's Mojo: Using Dalcroze Method to Unlock Your Choir's Artistry"<br>Dr. Jason Strunk, Shepherd University             |
| 5:00pm - 5:50pm   | WVACDA General Membership Meeting<br>Mrs. Jennifer Ratliff, Presiding  |

## Saturday, February 8th, 2025

### Dress Rehearsals

8:30am - 9:30am

9:30am - 11:00am

11:00am - 12:00pm

### WVU Canady Creative Arts Center

High School Chamber Choir

7-9 All State Choir

Collegiate Honor Choir

### Concert

1:00pm - 3:00pm      Doors will open at 12:30pm

Tickets will be available online through WVU for \$12 (plus processing fees)

## Helpful Links

### JW PEPPER® Reading Sessions

Each participant will need to download the Reading Session app before the session or use [readingsession.com](http://readingsession.com).

Event Code: [Event02742](#)



### Stay up to date with WVACDA online!

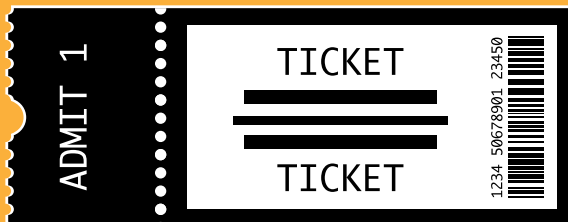
Find us on Facebook and Instagram.

Check out our website for more information too.

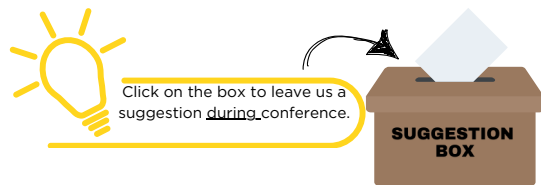


[WVACDA.org](http://WVACDA.org)

### Purchase Concert Tickets



*Livestream Link*



Click on the box to leave us a suggestion [during\\_conference](#).



**SURVEY**

after conference



# West Virginia American Choral Directors Association

presents

## Collegiate Honor Choir

Dr. Daniel Gordon - Conductor  
John Morrison - Collaborative Pianist

Abendlied  
Lament for Pasiphae (No. 1 from "Mid-Winter Songs")  
Evocation (Mon-Nee-Joh)

Josef Rheinberger  
Morton Lauridsen  
Hye-Young Cho

The Road Home  
Non Nobis Domine

Korean Language Coaching - Dr. Sun Jung Lee

Stephen Paulus  
Rosephanye Powell

## High School All-State Chamber Choir

Mr. Greg Gilpin - Conductor  
Graham Sterling - Collaborative Pianist

Dies Irae  
O Shenandoah  
Voice Dance III  
Ain'-A That Good News  
Set Me As a Seal  
I Loved You

Ryan Main  
Greg Glipin  
Greg Jasperse  
William L. Dawson  
Rene Clausen  
Jay Rouse

## 7-9 All-State Honor Choir

Mrs. Mary Biddlecombe - Conductor  
Matty Hoover - Collaborative Pianist

O Praise the Mighty Lord  
Vuela  
Connected  
The Little Creek  
When the Trumpet Sounds

G.F. Handel arr. Liebergen  
Carlos Cordero  
Brian Tate  
Matt Carlson  
Andre Thomas

Today's concert will be livestreamed on WVU School of Music's YouTube channel.

## Conductor: Dr. Daniel Gordon



Since 2005, Dr. Daniel Gordon has served as Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at Southeastern University where he conducts the Concert Choir, Women's Choir, and Chamber Choir. His personal commitment to the proliferation of music programs in schools, communities, and churches across America spans nearly 50 years. His previous post was Artistic Director for Crane Chorus and the Chamber Choir at the Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, where he also served for five years as Chair of Music Education and Professor of Music Education. Concurrent with that post, Dr. Gordon served as the Artistic Director of the Ottawa Choral Society where he prepared choirs for Pinchas Zukerman, Joel Revzen, Duain Wolfe, and Franz-Paul Decker. Dr. Gordon's outstanding choral ensembles have presented Arthur Honegger's King David, Mozart's Coronation Mass in C Major, K. 317, William Walton's Belshazzar's Feast and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Imperial Symphony Orchestra. These choirs have also performed a diverse repertoire that has included guest appearances with The Chieftains, Mark Lowry, and professional folk artists, John Kirk and Trish Miller.

Dr. Gordon recently served as a Repertoire & Resource Chair for the American Choral Directors Association Southern Region. He presented a symposium on rehearsing church choirs and coordinated the ecumenical service for their 2022 ACDA conference in Raleigh, NC. He is an active member of ACDA and is the faculty advisor for Southeastern University's chapter of the National Association for Music Education. His long career as a professional conductor includes concerts with the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra in Canada's capitol city and premiere performances of Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna with the English Chamber Orchestra and the Bath Philharmonia. He is also a recipient of a State University of New York Research Award for his work on "Teach Music in New York City", a congressionally funded project that was designed to bring qualified music teachers into the lives of children populating the nation's largest public school system. Dr. Gordon conducted the Coronation Mass in Carnegie Hall this past April and is schedule to conduct the Lauridsen, Lux Aeterna in April of 2026. Dr. Gordon was recently selected by Southeastern University's Deans' Committee to receive the Excellence in Advising Award for the university and the LINK Program Inclusive Excellence Award. He is dedicated to his wife, singer/actress Mary Grace Gordon and their two sons, David Gordon, a senior architect with Red Hat® and actor Britt Michael Gordon, professional actor and member of Actor's Equity Association.

## Accompanist: John Morrison



John Morrison is an Assistant Professor of Music at Fairmont State University in the Department of Humanities where he is the director and accompanist of the Collegiate Singers and Community Choir, and has been on the music faculty for 16 years. Mr. Morrison has served as the WVACDA Collegiate Honor Choir accompanist since 2015, and the WV All State Children's Chorus accompanist since 2016. He was the 2016 vocal accompanist for the Governor's School for the Arts, and has worked as a staff accompanist at the Interlochen Arts Camp in Michigan.

Mr. Morrison served as the President of the West Virginia Music Teachers Association as well as in other WVMTA roles such as conference site coordinator. In 2020, Mr. Morrison received the WVMTA Teacher of the Year award and in 2022 he received the WVMTA Distinguished Leader of the Year Award. John has been the music director and organist at the First Presbyterian Church of Fairmont since 2009 where he directs the Chancel Choir and Cambridge Handbell Choir. John received a double Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance and French and a Master's Degree in Piano Performance from WVU. His piano studies were with Dr. Marina Schmidt-Lupinacci, Dr. Peter Amstutz, and Dr. Christine Kefferstan.



## **Conductor: Mr. Greg Gilpin**

Greg Gilpin is a celebrated ASCAP award-winning choral composer and arranger and a highly respected choral conductor. He is known throughout the United States leading performances at New York City's iconic Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center as well as Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee. His international appearances include the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia, Royal Festival Hall in London, England and Harpa Concert Hall in Reykjavik, Iceland.

In addition to composing and conducting, Mr. Gilpin has worked as a singer for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra as well as background singer for Grammy award-winner, Sandi Patty and other highly acclaimed artists. He has worked extensively in the recording industry as a singer, pianist, arranger and producer with projects from Disney to commercial jingles.

In 2021, Mr. Gilpin wrote the score for the award-winning short film, "Rosie's Rescue" and was awarded "Best Score" for this same movie. He also teamed up with renowned opera singer, Angela Brown, and created the world premiere of the thrilling arrangement of "What Child is This?", debuted by Ms. Brown and the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir. Mr. Gilpin is a proud member of ACDA, NAfME, SAG-AFTRA, and is a Life Loyal Member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and continues his position as Editor and Director of Educational Choral Publications for Shawnee Press.



## **Accompanist: Graham Sterling**

Graham Sterling is a pianist from rural southwestern Pennsylvania in the small town of Fredericktown. He is completing his second and final year of a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano Performance under the instruction of Dr. Lucy Mauro at West Virginia University. He aspires to perform internationally as a collaborative and solo pianist. Graham started self-teaching himself piano at the age of 5 with help from his grandmother, who began to teach him basic chord structure and harmony and ultimately was his driving force to pursue music. He would not start formal piano lessons with Mrs. Marcia Barna until he was 14. During this time, he accompanied various choirs, bands, ensembles, and soloists. It was through his high school career of accompanying the school choirs that kickstarted his further interest in music. Since then, he has played with various choirs along the east coast from New York City to Disney World and many places in between.

While in high school, Graham was collecting various awards such as the "Outstanding Accompanist" award which he was awarded 4 consecutive years while playing competitions with his school's choir. This award was nonexistent until the judges had heard him accompany the choir. Graham looks forward to spending much of this upcoming summer attending music festivals as he did last summer as a collaborative pianist for the Miami Classical Music Festival in Miami Beach, Florida. He also aspires to continue making connections with others through music and discovering unique new ways to interpret pieces through collaborating with others and gaining insight into their interpretations.

At West Virginia University, Graham is involved in various collaborative roles. He has graciously accepted a graduate assistantship at the Suncrest United Methodist Church in Morgantown, WV where he is the pianist and organist. He has accompanied many students as soloists and in chamber settings, as well as being the pianist in large ensembles such as the WVU Wind Symphony, the WVU Symphonic Band, and the WVU Film Scoring Ensemble. Graham has also accompanied the WVACDA High School Honor Chamber Choir, and will be joining them again as their accompanist this upcoming February. Outside of the university, he performs frequently with the Cassidy Paige band (of which he has been a part of since 2017) and his newest band, "Seneca". He has also filled in with various other local bands such as "Tucker Knisell & The Night Riders" and "Intoxicated Zen".





## Conductor: Mrs. Mary Biddlecombe



Mary Biddlecombe is the Director of the Blair Academy at Vanderbilt encompassing nearly 700 families in Middle Tennessee who study at the precollegiate arm of the Blair School. She is also the Artistic Director of the Vanderbilt Youth Choirs and teaches courses in Music Education and Choral Studies at Vanderbilt.

Choirs under Biddlecombe's leadership have performed with the Nashville Symphony on several major projects including Britten's War Requiem, Orff's Carmina Burana, Adams' On the Transmigration of Souls, several Mahler symphonies, Bernstein's Kadish and others. Another favorite is providing the choral parts for the movie Home Alone each December. Choirs have traveled to Ireland, Costa Rica, Budapest, Prague and in summer 2024, Italy, performing the music of Elaine Hagenberg.

Biddlecombe is in demand as a clinician all over the country and conducting all state choirs in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, New Jersey and Kentucky. She also conducted the SWACDA Children's Choir in 2024, co-conducted the Southern Region ACDA UCTB Honor Choir and has conducted state-wide ACDA Honor Choirs in South Carolina, North Carolina, New York and co-conducted the Voices United Festival in Virginia.

Biddlecombe is a native of Syracuse, NY and hold a Masters of Music in Choral Conducting from the Florida State University, and a Bachelors of Music Education from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. Mary makes her home in Nashville with her husband, Dr. Tucker Biddlecombe, Director of Choral Activities at Vanderbilt and Director of the Nashville Symphony Chorus.

## Accompanist: Matty Hoover



Hailing from upstate New York, Matty Hoover is an experienced recitalist, church musician, teacher, and collaborator. They earned their bachelor's degree in piano performance from Mansfield University, where they won the MU Concerto Competition. They were the accompanist for all the university's choirs, including the award-winning MU Concert Choir. With the Concert Choir, Hoover played in Carnegie Hall, participated in the Harmonie Festival in Limberg, Germany, and recorded several albums.

After Mansfield, Hoover earned a master's degree in piano performance from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. They are currently pursuing a doctorate in piano performance from WVU, studying with Dr. Peter Amstutz, and a masters degree in choral conducting, studying with Dr. Kym Scott.

Hoover holds a WVU graduate assistantship as the accompanist for the Mountaineer Singers, Mountaineer Chorus, and Chamber Singers.

# Interest Session Descriptions:

## **“Past is Prologue: Preparing Young Musicians to Thrive as Choral Artists” - Dr. Daniel Gordon**

The process of educating young choral musicians is shaped by the Zeitgeist. This session will review the prevailing biases that shaped undergraduate music education in the 70's and compare them with current practices. Further, we will explore together the paths forward for the choral art.

## **“Warmups and Rote Songs” - Mrs. Mary Biddlecombe**

Utilizing a variety of warmup techniques and how to incorporate rote songs into your daily warmup routine.

## **“Scaffolded Score Study for Scaffolded Rehearsals” - Dr. Ryan Keeling**

A score study methodology that aids the conductor not only in learning the score but at the same time to plan both long-term and short-term rehearsing.

Ryan Keeling, DMA is the Director of Choral Activities at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, Artistic Director of Voces Solis, a premier chamber choir in Pittsburgh, and Artist in Residence at Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park, PA. Ryan has lead choirs at all levels in all age groups and is an avid supporter of living composers having premiered more than 100 new works.

## **“Forming Formants: A Systematic Approach to Singing Vowels” - Dr. Thomas Erik Angerhofer**

In this session, we will work through a systemized set of exercises for singing specific articulation. These exercises promote independence of the articulators, ease and economy of movement, balanced timbre, and efficient acoustic interactions. Additionally, when applied to ensemble singing, they will help promote uniformity of timbre for the section and the ensemble while improving tuning.

Thomas Erik Angerhofer is an Assistant Professor of Music at WVU, where he serves as the voice area coordinator. As an undergraduate student, he studied music education and choral conducting, has sung with notable conductors such as Weston Noble, Donald Neuen, and Robert Shaw. Erik's students have gone on to perform on and off Broadway, in National Tours, with regional opera companies and orchestras, young artist programs, and prestigious international training programs. Erik is the President-Elect for the Tri-States Chapter of NATS and is a member of AGMA.

### **“Revelations and Realizations from a Middle-Aged Choir Director” - Mr. Adam Loudin**

From rehearsal behavior to music literacy and everything in between, Adam shares the systems, routines, and habits he has created to solve the most common problems of teaching choral performance to children, while trying to become a better person and role model for his students.

Adam Loudin is the Director of Band and Chorus at Robert L. Bland Middle School in Weston, WV. During his tenure, the RLBMS band and choir have both been named WVMEA Middle School Honor Ensemble multiple times. He attained his undergraduate degree in music education and trumpet performance from West Virginia Wesleyan College and went on to earn his Master of Music in Jazz Studies at Indiana University where he was the teaching assistant to legendary jazz educator Dr. David Baker.

### **“The Choral Art of Text, Melody, and Harmony” - Mr. Greg Gilpin**

Knowing and understanding selected repertoire is important to both teacher and student. A quality text sets the tone and foundation for all other vocal and interpretive teaching. The text can decide if your students will be engaged in the rehearsal. Once text is explored and understood, the teaching of how the melody and harmony connects will create a more interesting, musical experience. Through selected portions of choral works, Greg Gilpin will present ideas he uses as a composer, conductor and editor, giving tools to expand the beauty of the choral art with students.

### **“Find Your Choir's Mojo: Using Dalcroze Method to Unlock Your Choir's Artistry” - Dr. Jason Strunk**

This interactive session will emphasize the connection between music and movement. Delving into foundational principles of Dalcroze Eurhythmics and Plastiques Animée participants will explore techniques to enhance their choir's musical understanding, artistry, and engagement. Conductors will leave this session with easy exercises that can be effectively incorporated into their rehearsals and performances.

Dr. Jason Strunk serves as Visiting Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at Shepherd University. He conducts Camerata, Chamber Singers and the Masterworks Chorale and teaches courses in conducting and vocal pedagogy. He holds a D.M.A. in Choral Conducting with a cognate in Musicology from the Frost School of Music and the University of Miami, an M.S. in Music Education from Towson University, and a B.A. in Music from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. Maintaining an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician, Dr. Strunk has been on the podium throughout Europe and the United States in notable venues such as the Washington National Cathedral, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Most recently he appeared on the podium at Carnegie Hall, conducting Haydn's *Missa in angustiis* (Mass in Troubled Times). Dr. Strunk is also an active performer, including recent solo appearances in *Messiah* (Miami Civic Chorale) and *Faure's Requiem* (Covenant Choral Society). Additionally, Dr. Strunk has been seen in concert and stage works with Andrea Bocelli, Brad Oscar, Linda Eder, and Liz Callaway.

# Collegiate Honor Choir

## **Fairmont State University**

**Director: John Morrison**

Zachary Taylor

## **Glenville State University**

**Director: Sarah Nale**

Akasha Brown

Elijah Carr

Briar Cochrum

Carissa Coffindaffer

Onyx Crawford

Chelsea Devins

Todra Hall

Marion Lawson

Garrett Lewis

Isiac McAllister

Holly Peterson

Eli Shinn

Cora Stubbins

Harrison Teschendorf

Jacob Thompson

Finn Townsend

Kaylee Wine

## **University of Charleston**

**Director: Chris Brown**

Ryan Charnock

Maddie Dankmyer

Marina Hannah

Allie Morgan

Elijah Newell

Luke Page

Reese Weaver

## **West Liberty University**

**Director: Douglas McCall**

Chase Burdick

Daisy Deaton

Carly Fox

Calista Hall

Ken Kittell

Hailey Lewis

Lenixx Pugh

Zoey Russell

Tiffany Sites

Mason Stoll

Naomi Torres

## **West Virginia University**

**Director: Kym Scott**

Fiorella Alarcon

Isaiah Albertus

Elijah Baker

Alanna Burden

Maria Carmona

Cal Chacalos

Reagan Corliss

Riley Dalton

Sarah Dawson

Brady Dent

Ryan Derifield

Alex Desai

Ava Formaini

Sarah Fox

Katie Fritter

Tyler Hiestand

Cayleb James

Gavin Lusk

Drew Mackey

Hailee Merritt

Max Miyashita

Zora Muhammad

Haley Orcutt

Lizzie Owens

Emily Plunkett

Kaylee Saldaña

Ben Seabolt

Riley Slusher

Jacob Smolkin

Chris Soria

Evan Turner

## **WVU-Parkersburg**

**Director: HG Young**

Miranda Beatty

Cami Derenberger

Megan Hill

Tyler Melvin

Megan Mestuzzi

William Weiner

# High School Honor Choir

## **Bridgeport High School**

**Director: Jeremiah Smallridge**

Catherine Camenga  
Jonah Camenga  
John Honce  
Sarah Yearego

## **Buckhannon-Upshur High School**

**Director: Lauren Smith**

Aeliza Hibbs

## **Cabell Midland High School**

**Director: Ed Harkless**

Logan Harris  
Hannah Kotalic  
Tobias Sigmon  
Hannah Vance

## **Chapmanville Regional High School**

**Director: Robin Bailey & Ducky Adams**

Caiden Mullins  
Luke Saunders  
Jason Sheppard

## **Fairmont Senior High School**

**Director: Gregory DeVito**

Tarynn Cecil

## **George Washington High School**

**Director: Ellen Woods Ramey**

Jayden Stanley  
Emily Claire Swingle

## **Lewis County High School**

**Director: Tina Kiser**

Emma Clary  
Maize Corley  
Sam Johnson  
Hayden Taylor  
Kaylee Tomey

## **Lincoln High School**

**Director: Madison Linger**

Xavier Gaston  
Gianna Fragman

## **Musselman High School**

**Director: James Miller**

Adrian Floyd  
Keigo Johnson  
Osman Peralta

## **Morgantown High School**

**Director: Clayton Heinecke**

Dane Gerdes  
Joshua Wagus

## **Parkersburg High School**

**Director: Joshua Dubs**

Riley Ball  
Hunter Hall  
Alex Marshall

## **Parkersburg South High School**

**Director: Jennifer Ratliff**

Caleb Alderman  
Ali Evans  
Kaden Frum  
Bryar Greene  
Becca Hunt  
Keilan Jagdmann  
Ethan Perry  
Ty Street  
Briauna Stump  
Dylan Roberts  
Isabella Wolfe

## **Philip Barbour High School**

**Director: Lewis Hall**

Triston Campbell  
Morgan Loy

## **PikeView High School**

**Director: Jeffery Shrewsbury**

Parker Shrewsbury

## **St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church**

**Director: Julia Giuliani**

Sean Nash

## **Smallridge Studio**

**Director: Jeremiah Smallridge**

Ella McNeish

## **University High School**

**Director: Barry Kolar**

Lincoln Fuhriman  
Halle Lewis  
Emily Nguyen

## **Washington High School**

**Director: Ken Cooper**

Amelia Addison  
Mason Bennett  
Megan Brady  
Devin Brandenburg  
Amara Caison  
Ava Chicchirichi  
Ashlee Cockerham  
Peyton Day  
Christine Larsen  
Elexa Littleton  
Becky McGivern  
Ayden Shiflett  
Alexis Stuntz  
Wyatt Taulton

## **Wheeling Park High School**

**Director: Joyce Jingle**

Mia Holmes  
Emma McPherson  
Kaleb Trimmier

# Jr. High/Middle School Honor Choir

## **Belington Middle School**

**Director: Laura Hart**

Alivia Turner

## **McClain Studio**

**Director: Pamela McClain**

Aiden Philpott

## **Bridge Street Middle School**

**Director: Luke Mazure**

Layla Beck

Benjamin Crews

Abigail Lewis

Kathryn Lewis

Ciara Mead

Kaleb Pell

Jacob Robinson

Kamden Scott

## **Bridgeport High School**

**Director: Jeremiah Smallridge**

Brie Howell

Harmonie Ruderman

## **Buckhannon Upshur High School**

**Director: Lauren Smith**

Leah Collins

Harper Currence

Alexis Huffman

Ava Trent

## **Buckhannon Upshur Middle School**

**Director: Evaleen Atha**

Ryder Dillon

Nicholas Perrine

Olivia Gebler

Kayla Smith

## **Cabell Midland High School**

**Director: Ed Harkless**

Mallore Harris

Maddox McCray

## **Cameron Middle & High School**

**Director: Keenan Seditz**

Kennedi Lilley

Joshua Richards

## **Charles Town Middle School**

**Director: Sena Dove**

Natalia Davis

Landen Hawes

Estella Indomenico

Taylor Lafferty

Brynn Leicester

Collin Purvis

Sabrina Sheppard

Dante Terango

## **Doddridge County Middle School**

**Director: Laura Hoggard**

Addison Adams

Hayley Ball

Kavon Newman

Mattison White

## **Eastern Greenbrier Middle**

**Director: Shelley Neal**

Trippley Duffett

Ryah Eggert

Mallori Frye

Sasha Lanek

Phillip McCutchen

Izabella Winnings

## **Edison Middle School**

**Director: Robin Facemire**

Chloe Dickerson

Liam Hembree

Jett Hines

Sophie Leblanc

Olivia Pickrell

Kileigh Shaver

## **George Washington High School**

**Director: Ellen Ramey**

Kessa Hinamon

Sandra Kidd

Ezekiel McConihay

Allen Nguyen

Ellie Rhodes

Robert Ronen

Jayden Snodgrass

Marissa Wagner

Hayden Stover

## **Hamilton Middle School**

**Director: Charlotte Dotson**

Emery Bond

Elyse Gainer

Deegan Harper

Ayla Khan

Lexi Petersen

Piper Rutter

Ethan Wilson

## **Harpers Ferry Middle School**

**Director: Haley O'Meara**

Adeline Graves

Jonathan Gutzman

Emily Hillgren

Rachael McDaniel

Charlie Nichols

Freddy Roldan

## **Horace Mann Middle School**

**Director: Christopher Brown**

Avery Atha

Aaleyah Boggs

Reagan Brown

Mireya Ferrante

Lilly Hall

Griffin Lacy

Brooklyn Leavitt

Lucas Miller

Jacob Shamblin

Aubree Toler

## **Lewis County High School**

**Director: Martina Kiser**

Connor Brown-Helmick

Izaac Chrislip

Heidi Hefner

## **Lincoln Middle School**

**Director: Shaylyn Dabbs**

Isabella Allen

Kaylee Faber

Adelyn Hill

Lorelei Miker

# Jr. High/Middle School Honor Choir

## **Morgantown High School**

**Director: Clayton Heinecke**

Khloie Boreing  
Violet Chien  
Avery Garvin  
Nathan Hetzer  
Khloe Smith

## **Mountaineer Middle School**

**Director: Erin Drury**

Aubrey Adkins  
Barrett Phillips

## **Parkersburg High School**

**Director: Joshua Dubs**

Stella Davis  
Zach Gaston  
Carson Hall  
Arabella Kemp  
Andrew Salizzoni  
Levi Towner

## **Parkersburg South High School**

**Director: Jennifer Ratliff**

Analeigh Bennett  
Max Boyd  
Liam Galloway  
Bryson Gribble  
Gatlin McLain  
AJ Poellot  
Audrey Raffa  
Jaysa Smith  
Madelyn Stout

## **Philip Barbour High School**

**Director: Lewis Hall**

Addison Mayle

## **PikeView High School**

**Director: Jeffery Shrewsbury**

Luke Brown  
Madelyn Evans  
Samantha Meadows  
Christian Shrewsbury  
Haleigh Shrewsbury

## **PikeView Middle School**

**Director: Erin Arnett**

Kassidy Belcher  
Addison Fortner  
Abigail Nolan

## **Ripley Middle School**

**Director: John Ryder**

Ava Isner  
Julianne Knopp  
Isabella Lockett  
Korbin McCracken  
Levi Moore  
Kylee Rawlings

## **Robert L Bland Middle School**

**Director: Adam Loudin**

Kathleen Cantrell  
Georgia Carpenter  
Channing Rinehart  
Kai Ryan  
Andrew Taylor

## **Shady Spring Middle School**

**Director: Megan Gray**

Sydney Cook  
Lilly Sheets  
Madison Thomas  
Alaina Treadway  
Abby Webb  
Emily Williams

## **Shepherdstown Middle School**

**Director: Kelly Bennett**

Kerrigan Cottrill  
Holly Helwig

## **Sherrard Middle School**

**Director: Michael Murphy**

Rayann Beckner  
Eli DeCrease  
Kenzie Lyseski  
Carter Wells

## **Spring Mills Middle School**

**Director: Mary Pratt**

Charlotte Degraw  
Emma Howell  
Brandon Moore  
Connor Palmer  
Sawyer Vongtip

## **St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church**

**Director: Donna Kinsey & Julia Pinn**

Stella Devono  
Anthony Grabo  
Winnie Huffman  
Greg Major  
Leyna Munroe  
Elizabeth Nguyen

## **Summersville Middle School**

**Director: Mason Atha**

Zander Bryant  
Riley McMillion

## **Suncrest Middle School**

**Director: SarahEllen Beamer**

Lily Burkhart  
Mya Caravasos  
Izabella Gao  
Harper Matheny  
Beatrice Oliverio  
Emily Weigand



# Jr. High/Middle School Honor Choir

## **Triadelphia Middle School**

**Director: Angela Day**

Leah Cole  
Rosalie Dobson  
Landon Kelly  
Katelyn Maloney  
Kaelyn Warfield

## **University High School**

**Director: Barry Kolar**

Maya Haifley  
Brinley Mielcarek  
Ezra Ree  
Lela Riffle  
Sasha Rounds

## **Warwood Middle School**

**Director: Lisa Stapel**

Rianna Farrow  
Brayden Gilbert  
Isaac Gregory  
Kendyl Lewis  
Chloe Pollard  
Lily Tennant

## **Washington High School**

**Director: Ken Cooper**

Savannah Ahearn  
Peyton Burns  
Jace Chu  
Brooklyn Glover  
Adrian Nelson

## **West Fairmont Middle School**

**Director: Samantha Lilly**

Cate Amos  
Reilyn Bainbridge  
Chloe Hedio  
Camryn Watson

## **Westwood Middle School**

**Director: Elaine Riffle**

Ashton Duke  
Trinity Keene-Egnor  
Madison Lowther  
Aaliyah Otey  
Kairi Rowan  
Cameron Simmons

## **Wheeling Middle School**

**Director: Wendy Seidewitz**

Ava Dominquez  
Zach Gaylor  
Bri Miller  
Ali Morris  
Brayden Sheedy

## **Wheeling Park High School**

**Director: Joyce Jingle**

Sean Burns  
Gabrielle Contraguerro  
Briele Dobson  
Maria Faulstick  
Finnegan Gilbert  
El Green  
Ben Henderson  
Kyra Murad  
Regan Pockl  
Jacob Trimmier

## **Wildwood Middle School**

**Director: Molly Wildman**

Andrea Castillo Agosto  
Lucy Field  
Hailey Robey  
Hope Wells

## **Winfield Middle School**

**Director: Eliza Davis**

Dakota Blackwelder  
Emma Cadle  
Eli Conner  
Hudson Dobbins  
Brayden Miller  
Naomi Ridenhour  
Ava Scott  
Juliana von Wulffen

# The Jean Singer Award

The Jean Singer Award for Distinguished Service to Choral Music in West Virginia was established in 2000 during the presidency of Dr. David Castleberry. Jean Singer, longtime director of the Parkersburg High School A Capella Choir, was selected as the first recipient and the award was named for her in recognition of her excellence to the choral art.

Note: The Parkersburg High School A Cappella Choir under her direction is the only West Virginia choir selected to perform at a national ACDA Conference – Nashville, TN, in 1983.

Though the inception of the award began as an annual honor, it was voted on by the executive board in 2007 that the honor can be awarded in the second year of the President's two-year term.

## Recipients:

2001 – Jean Singer, Director of the Parkersburg High School A Cappella Choir

2002 – Alfred R. de Jaager, Professor and Director of Choral Activities at West Liberty University

2003 – Dr. Truman Dalton, Professor of Music, West Virginia State University and Director of the Charleston Civic Chorus

2004 – Dr. H.G. Young III, Professor of Music, West Virginia University at Parkersburg

2005 – Dr. Larry Parsons, Professor and Director of Choral Activities, West Virginia Wesleyan College and founder of the West Virginia Symphony Chorus

2009 - Donna Kinsey, Pastoral musician at St. Francis De Sales Parish and Director of choirs in the Monongalia County schools

2011 - Clara Glover, Choral Director at Tyler Consolidated High School

2015 - Bruce Ensinger, Choral Director at New Martinsville High School

2015 - T. Edwin Harkless, Choral Director at Cabell Midland High School

2023 - Joyce Good-Pitchford, Choral Director at Ravenswood High School

2023 - Barbara Wygal Lutz, Choral Director at Greenbrier East High School

2023 - Pamela McClain Choral Director at Parkersburg High School



# The History of ACDA in West Virginia

## West Virginia American Choral Directors Association Presidents

1970-73 Frances Moody, Fairmont  
1973-75 Alfred R. de Jaager, West Liberty  
1975-77 Alfred R. de Jaager, West Liberty  
1977-79 Elizabeth Francis, New Martinsville  
1979-81 David Johnson, South Charleston  
1981-83 Alfred R. de Jaager, West Liberty  
1983-85 Delores Ambrister, Wheeling  
1985-87 Alfred R. deJaager, West Liberty  
1987-89 Bruce Ensinger, New Martinsville  
1989-91 Alfred R. de Jaager, West Liberty  
1991-93 Judy Likins, Romney  
1993-95 Dr. H.G. Young, Parkersburg  
1995-97 Dr. Penny Saeler, Morgantown  
1997-99 Dr. Jeffrey Poland, Fairmont  
1999-01 Patty Moffett, St. Marys  
2001-03 Dr. David Castleberry, Huntington  
2003-05 Rebecca Thompson, Charleston  
2005-07 Dr. Joseph Janish, Charleston  
2007-09 Dr. Jeffrey Poland, Fairmont  
2009-11 T. Edwin Harkless, Ona  
2011-13 Robert Wray, Huntington  
2013-15 Dr. Sam Spears, Fairmont  
2015-17 Dr. Dirk Johnson, Charleston  
2017-19 Dr. Kym Scott, Morgantown  
2019-21 Dr. Lauren Tosh, Morgantown  
2021-22 Dr. Dirk Johnson, Charleston  
2022-23 Dr. Lauren Tosh, Morgantown  
2023-25 Jennifer Ratliff, Parkersburg

### **National ACDA Leadership from West Virginia**

1959 – 1977: R. Wayne Hugoboom (Marshall College faculty 1950-58), Editor of Choral Journal and first ACDA Executive Secretary

2007 – 09: Dr. David Castleberry (Marshall University), ACDA Southern Division President

2008 – 2020: Dr. Tim Sharp (Fairmont Senior High School graduate), ACDA Executive Director

### **National ACDA Choral Performance by audition**

1983 Parkersburg High School A Cappella Choir, Jean Singer, conductor, Nashville, Tennessee

# History of the American Choral Directors Association

In February 1959, a group of 35 choral conductors from around the United States met in Kansas City, Missouri, during the Music Teachers National Association's (MTNA) biennial conference. This group created the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and approved its original ten purposes, which still stand largely unmodified today. (Pictured from left to right: ACDA Steering Committee members J. Clark Rhodes, Elwood Keister, Curt Hansen, Harry Robert Wilson, R. Wayne Hugoboom, and Archie Jones.)

The association evolved over its first decade to include divisions modeled after those of the National Association for Music Education (formerly MENC) and state chapters. ACDA was founded to serve the professional needs of all choir directors, and as a result, membership grew steadily from the initial 35 choral directors who attended that meeting to 111 charter members, and later to tens of thousands of members around the world.”

From its origin, ACDA has promoted excellence in choral music through its workshops, symposia, choral program exchanges, international efforts, and especially through its conventions. Early conferences were held in conjunction with MENC conventions. Like present-day conferences, they offered reading sessions, interest sessions, panel discussions, and concert sessions. In 1960, at the first conference held in conjunction with MENC, five choirs performed. By 1971, the Association had matured to the point where it could offer its own independent conference. That conference took place in Kansas City, Missouri, at the Muehlebach Hotel, the same site as the first organizing meeting. The first international choirs performed at the 1973 conference, also held in Kansas City, Missouri, and by 1977, conference attendance had grown to the point where dual-track interest sessions were added. The 1980s saw a refinement of the conference system. Performance halls were used instead of ballrooms beginning in 1981. Honor choirs began singing at ACDA conferences in 1983. Again, by the 1990s, conference attendance had grown to a point where dual and triple tracks became necessary. Dual tracks were offered beginning in 1993, and the first triple-track conference followed in 1999. The most elaborate track system was offered in 2005, where conference attendees followed six tracks. In its history, the conferences have been expanded and refined but always with the commitment to improving the experience of choral music excellence and education.

Throughout its history, ACDA has honored both its members for their contributions to the choral art and quality choral composition through its competitions and commissions. From the Schmitt and Pepper Awards for Choral Composition in 1962 to the Raymond W. Brock Student Composition Competition, ACDA has worked to recognize and reward superior choral music, research in the choral art, excellence in conducting and teaching, quality newsletters, superb student organizations, and promise for the future of choral conducting. Equally important have been the pieces commissioned by ACDA, reflecting the Association's commitment to fostering superior-quality composition.

Over the course of ACDA's long history, its leadership has helped it remain true to its purposes. The organization that decided in 1959 to promote excellence in choral music through performance, composition, publication, research, teaching, and advocacy has maintained and evolved those goals into the organization that exists today.

In 2019 ACDA celebrated its sixtieth birthday, holding a special ceremony in the Muehlebach Hotel, the very location of its first meeting.

## **ACDA lives out its mission in the following ways:**

- To foster and promote choral singing, which will provide artistic, cultural, and spiritual experiences for the participants.
- To foster and promote the finest types of choral music to make these experiences possible.
- To foster and encourage rehearsal procedures conducive to attaining the highest possible level of musicianship and artistic performance.
- To foster and promote the organization and development of choral groups of all types in schools and colleges.
- To foster and promote the development of choral music in the church and synagogue.
- To foster and promote the organization and development of choral societies in cities and communities.
- To foster and promote understanding of choral music as an important medium of contemporary artistic expression.
- To foster and promote significant research in the field of choral music.
- To foster and encourage choral composition of superior quality.
- To cooperate with all organizations dedicated to the development of musical culture in America.
- To foster and promote international exchange programs involving performing groups, conductors, and composers.
- To disseminate professional news and information about choral music.

## **2025 West Virginia ACDA would like to recognize:**

Morgantown Marriott at Waterfront Place event and hotel staff

WVU Canady Creative Arts Center event staff

Monongalia County Schools for the use of equipment and bus transportation

Morgantown High School for providing pianos and tech equipment

The WV ACDA Executive Board for their hours of voluntary organizational work

The conductors, accompanists, and presenters for enhancing our choral experience,  
exposure and knowledge

JW Pepper for the electronic reading session packets

The Volunteer Chaperones for your supervision and support of our honor choir  
students

The Teachers/Members of all WV ACDA Honor Choir students for the time spent  
preparing students for this experience

All parents/guardians of WV ACDA Honor Choir students for your support



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Grammy-nominated British vocal ensemble

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**2025**

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