

2021 Madrigal Festival - March 5-6, 2021

University United Methodist Church



ADJUDICATORS



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 years as the founding Conductor and Artistic Director of the South Texas Chorale and Orchestra.

Brumley is a frequent guest conductor, clinician, motivational speaker and adjudicator throughout Texas and the United States. Currently, she serves as a choral music education consultant. Before her time with the 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 Texas Music Educators Association conventions, American Choral Directors Association regional and national conventions and a featured performance at the Texas Choral Directors Association convention. Active in Texas choral music endeavors for many years, in 2011 Brumley was honored to receive the Texas Choral Excellence Award and in 2018 the Texas Choir Master Award from the Texas Choral Directors Association.



Karen Kenaston-French is Associate Professor and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Texas Arlington, where she conducts the A Cappella Choir, teaches graduate and undergraduate conducting, and heads the Vocal Area. Under her direction, the UTA A Cappella Choir performed at the National Collegiate Choral Organization convention in College Park Maryland (2019), gave invited performances at the Texas Music Educators Association state convention (2019 and 2014) and Southwestern Division Conference of ACDA (2016), and served as Ensemble-in-Residence for the National Student Conducting Competition at the American Choral Directors Association conference in Salt Lake City (2015).

The choir has made appearances with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Worth Chorale, Texas Ballet Theatre, and the Fort Worth Symphony. Prior to her arrival at UTA, Dr. Kenaston-French served as Director of Choral Activities at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, taught conducting at Southern Methodist University and the University of North Texas, and was director of music ministries at Plymouth Park United Methodist Church in Irving, Texas. She holds a B.A. from West Virginia Wesleyan College, M.M. and M.S.M. degrees from Southern Methodist University, and a D.M.A. from the University of North Texas. In the 2019-2020 season Dr. Kenaston-French took over as Artistic Director/Conductor of the Ft. Worth Chorale, following Jerry McCoy as only the fifth conductor in the organization's 56 year history.



Robert Simpson is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Houston Chamber Choir. He also serves as Canon for Music at Houston's historic Christ Church Cathedral, and Lecturer of Church Music at Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. Chorus America awarded him the Michael Korn Founders Award for the Development of the Professional Choral Art and most recently awarded the Houston Chamber Choir the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence in 2018. Mr. Simpson is the recipient of the 2015 American Prize in Choral Conducting. Choirs under his direction have toured the United States, Europe and Mexico, and performed before national conventions of Chorus America, the American Choral Directors Association, The American Guild of Organists, The Association of Anglican Musicians, and The Hymn Society of America. They have appeared nationally on CBS-TV, ABC-TV and American Public Radio. Mr. Simpson is married to Marianna Parnas-Simpson, the noted children's choir conductor.

American Classic Tours & Music Festivals

85 NE Interstate 410 Loop, Ste. 616
San Antonio, TX 78216

Call for more information:

1-800-733-8384

www.amclass.com

CLINICIANS

Lynne Gackle is Director of Choral Activities at Baylor University and holds the Mary Jane Gibbs Professor of Music Chair. She conducts Baylor Bella Voce, Baylor Concert Choir, teaches choral conducting, choral literature and serves as the Director of the Ensemble Division. Prior to her Baylor appointment, Lynne taught at the University of South Florida, University of Mississippi and the University of Miami (FL). She received her education from LSU (BME) and the University of Miami (MM/PhD). Lynne is an active choral clinician and conductor, nationally and internationally. She has held various positions within the American Choral Directors Association, including President, Southern Division and ACDA-Florida and served as the TCDA-VP of Collegiate/Community Choirs. She currently serves as the National President for the American Choral Directors Association.



Gackle is the editor of Choral Artistry for the Singer (Walton Music/GIA) 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 in addition to contributing-author for other books published by GIA, Oxford, and Lead Author for Voices In Concert (Hal Leonard/McGraw Hill). Gackle was awarded Baylor's Outstanding Faculty Award in Research (2012).

Allen Hightower is the Director of Choral Studies at the University of North Texas where he serves as conductor of the A Cappella Choir and the Grand Chorus and oversees a comprehensive choral program that includes eight choral ensembles. Dr. Hightower leads the master's and doctoral programs in choral conducting. As a member of UNT's Early Music Faculty, he leads the vocal ensemble Vox Aquilae, an artist partner of the UNT Baroque Orchestra. Previously, Dr. Hightower was the first holder of the Weston Noble Endowed Chair in Music at Luther College where he served as conductor of the renowned Nordic Choir and Artistic Director of Christmas at Luther. As Luther's Director of Choral Activities, he gave leadership to a choral program that included six choirs and over 530 singers. From 2000-2010, Dr. Hightower served as Director of Choral Activities at Sam Houston State University. During his tenure, the SHSU Chorale performed for the 2007 ACDA National Convention, the 2010 ACDA Southwestern Division, and the 2003, 2006, and 2010 conventions of the Texas Music Educators Association. From 1992-1996 he was Director of Choirs at Odessa Permian High School and led the PHS Kantorei and Chamber Orchestra in performance at TMEA in 1996.



Sandra Snow 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. As Professor of Choral Conducting and Music Education at the Michigan State University College of Music, the MSU Women's Chamber Ensemble has appeared as featured performers at American Choral Directors Association conventions at state, regional, and national levels. As guest conductor, she travels extensively in North America and abroad.



In 2017 Snow created *mirabai*, a project-based professional women's chorus. *mirabai* features alumna associated with the MSU Women's Chamber Ensemble. *mirabai* was a featured ensemble at the Texas Choral Director's Association conference in 2018. The inaugural recording, Ecstatic Songs, was released in 2018. Snow is author of the DVD "Conducting-Teaching: Real World Strategies for Success" published by GIA (2009), a resource for conductor-teachers at all levels of teaching. She edits the choral music series In High Voice published by Boosey & Hawkes. Snow is the Artistic Director of the American Institute for Choral Teacher Education produced annually at MSU. 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.

