

Schedule

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

7/28/2015	Sanctuary	Multipurpose Room
8:00am-8:30am	Conference Registration & Refreshments	
8:30am-9:20am	Reading Session: Children's/Elementary Choirs <i>Deborah Mello</i>	Exhaling With Sound: Yoga for Choirs <i>Meghan Durham</i>
9:30am-10:20am	Voice Building: An Ensemble of Leaders <i>Travis Sherwood</i>	Administrator Panel: Interview Perspectives <i>Multiple Clinicians</i>
10:30am-12:00pm	Building A Vocal Community: African Rhythm and Chants <i>Dr. Barnwell - Sanctuary</i>	
12:00pm- 1:00pm	Lunch (on your own)	
1:05pm-1:55pm	Reading Session: Men's/Women's <i>Hingrid Kujawinski & Thomas Juneau</i>	These are a Few of Our Favorite Things: Using Movement in the Choral Rehearsal and General Music Classroom to Enhance Instruction <i>Michelle Moore/Eileen Gerardino</i>
2:05pm-2:55pm	Coaching the Musical: High School Music Theater Master Class <i>Margaret Cusack</i>	Body Percussion For Your Choir <i>John Ator</i>
3:05pm-4:35pm	Building A Vocal Community: Spirituals 1 <i>Dr. Barnwell - Sanctuary</i>	

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

7/29/2015	Sanctuary	Multipurpose Room
8:00am-8:30am	Conference Registration & Refreshments	
8:30am-9:20am	Conducting Master Class <i>Chris Thomas, Coordinator</i>	Yoga Practice Session <i>Megan Durham</i>
9:30am-10:20am		Recruiting: Appealing to the Masses <i>Jennifer Sengin</i>
10:30am- 12:00pm	Building A Vocal Community: Spirituals 2 <i>Dr. Barnwell - Sanctuary</i>	
12:00pm- 1:00pm	Lunch (on your own)	
1:05pm-1:55pm	Reading Session: High School <i>Jamie Bunce</i>	Developing Musicianship in Your Children's Choirs <i>Anne Matlack</i>
2:05pm-2:55pm	Reading Session: Middle School <i>Amy Troxel</i>	Technology in Choir <i>Marjory Lopresti</i>
3:05pm-4:35pm	Building A Vocal Community: Gospel Music and Contemporary Songs of Struggle <i>Dr. Barnwell - Sanctuary</i>	

The Musical Source

Located in the choir room.

Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell



Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell PhD, MSPH is a native New Yorker who has lived in Washington, DC since 1968. Dr. Barnwell studied violin with her father for 15 years beginning at age 2 ½, and majored in music through high school. With this background, she went on to earn the Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Speech Pathology (SUNY, Geneseo, 1967, 1968), Doctor of Philosophy in Speech Pathology (University of Pittsburgh, 1975), and the Master of Science in Public Health (Howard University, 1981). Dr. Barnwell has been awarded four Honorary Doctorate Degrees, and the 2014 Humanitarian Award from the Washington Choral Arts Society.

For over a decade, Dr. Barnwell was a professor at the College of Dentistry at Howard University, after which she administered health programs at Children's Hospital National Medical Center and Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Dr. Barnwell joined Sweet Honey In The Rock® in 1979 and recently retired from the ensemble after 34 years.

Dr. Barnwell has been a commissioned composer on numerous choral, film, video, dance and theatrical projects. Dr. Barnwell is the Curator/Composer of the FORTUNE'S BONES: THE MANUMISSION REQUIEM® which began as a year long project culminating in two performances at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center of the University of Maryland in 2012. She has, for the past thirty years, spent much of her time off-stage working as a master teacher and choral clinician in African American cultural performance. Her workshop "Building a Vocal Community®: Singing in the African American Tradition" has been conducted on three continents, making her work in the field a significant source of inspiration for both singers and non-singers, and a model of pedagogy for educators, cultural activists and historians.

Four axioms have proven significant in Barnwell's life:

To whom much is given, much is required.

As one door closes, another door opens.

Everything matters.

Say YES!

Dr. Barnwell's Sessions

Dr. Barnwell's sessions will be held in the Sanctuary.

There is an awesome power in the human voice and when uncommon voices are blended for the common good, they become a "vocal community" at its best. Singers and non-singers alike will share the common experience of learning in the oral tradition by singing rhythms, chants, traditional songs from Africa and the Diaspora, and a variety of songs from African American culture including spirituals, ring shouts, hymns, gospels, and songs from the Civil Rights Movement. The historical, social and political context will provide an introduction to these songs. Throughout this experience, our vocal community will explore, from an African American world view, the values imbedded in the music, the role of cultural and spiritual traditions and rituals, ways in which leadership emerges and can be shared by and among community members, the nature of cultural responses to and influence on political and social struggle, and the significance of a shared communal experience in ones' personal life. All that is required is a willingness to sing.

Building A Vocal Community: African Rhythm and Chants – Tuesday at 10:30am

Building A Vocal Community: Spirituals 1 – Tuesday at 3:05pm

Building A Vocal Community: Spirituals 2 – Wednesday at 10:30am

Building A Vocal Community: Gospel Music and Contemporary Songs of Struggle – Tuesday at 3:05pm

Session Descriptions

Body Percussion for Your Choir – John Ator – Tuesday at 2:05pm – Multipurpose Room

Explore ways of using body percussion to enhance choir performances, help sharpen rhythm and tempo skills and get your choir focused and having fun. In this session, you'll walk away with warm up exercises, music learning tools, performance enhancing ideas, and a full song using body percussion to introduce to your choir at your next rehearsal.

College Conducting Masterclass – Chris Thomas, coordinator – Wednesday at 8:30am – Sanctuary

Students from Colleges and Universities across NJ will participate in a conducting masterclass with clinicians representing various institutions. Conference participants will create the choir. Following the ten minute on-stage clinic, students will have additional time with their clinician in a one-on-one session.

Developing Musicianship in Your Children's Choirs – Anne Matlack – Wednesday at 1:05pm – Multipurpose Room

This session will provide fun techniques for teaching sight reading and musicianship every minute of your rehearsal using your available resources; the hymnal for the church musician, the choral octavo, or the warm-up. Dr. Matlack has taught children to read music in her RSCM church choir for 25 years. Rehearsals are held on Friday afternoons so it had better be fun!

Exhaling With Sound: Yoga for Choirs – Megan Durham – Tuesday at 8:30am – Multipurpose Room

Yoga and singing have much in common. Both center on the body as an instrument, encourage pure forms of self-expression, and cultivate a deep connection to breath and physical awareness. This workshop will introduce simple breathing and alignment exercises for alleviating muscle tension, finding mental and physical focus, and helping your choir members to express their most authentic, healthy sound.

Coaching the Musical: High School Music Theater Masterclass – Margaret Cusack – Tuesday at 2:05pm – Sanctuary

This session will function in two parts; the first part will feature high school students in a masterclass performing musical theater repertoire. The second part will allow for questions and discussion related to the issues surrounding high school singers and musical theater repertoire.

Administrator Panel: Interview Perspectives – Tuesday at 9:30am – Multipurpose Room

This session is designed for pre-service teachers. A panel of administrators will discuss the secrets to a successful job interview and will then take questions from the audience. The administrators will be available following the session to talk with individual participants.

Recruiting: Appealing to the Masses – Jennifer Sengin – Wednesday at 9:30am – Multipurpose Room

As Choir Directors, we are always engaged in recruitment efforts to either build or maintain our ensembles. This session will discuss ways to analyze the school community, identify areas for growth, and develop targeted recruitment strategies. It will also present ways to engage students who have a variety of previous musical experiences with an emphasis on the first-year singer.

These are a Few of Our Favorite Things: Using Movement in the Choral Rehearsal and General Music Classroom to Enhance Instruction – Michelle Moore and Eileen Gerardino – Tuesday at 1:05pm – Multipurpose Room

Participants will be encouraged to use movement as a tool to improve vocal technique for both rehearsal and performance in the choral setting, as well as using it to enhance skills related to understanding the elements and principles of music covered in the general music classroom. Participants will sing multicultural music, move to classroom repertoire and perform rhythmic body percussion. Specific lesson application, classroom management, curriculum integration, technology, and creativity will be addressed. Participants are encouraged to dress comfortably for this session.

Voice Building: An Ensemble of Leaders – Travis Sherwood – Tuesday at 9:30am – Multipurpose Room

Do you ever struggle to include consistent and specific vocal instruction in the choral rehearsal? This interactive session will focus on creating autonomous singers by establishing a process for building the singing voice through vocal exercises designed for the ensemble paradigm. When students understand the process for singing, they develop the freedom to be expressive and feel empowered to lead.

Yoga Practice Session – Megan Durham – Wednesday at 8:30am – Multipurpose Room

A supplement to the workshop *Exhaling with Sound*, this class will guide you through a basic yoga practice, focusing on meditative breathing and simple yoga postures that specifically relate to feeling grounded and opening the body for optimal phonation. No previous yoga experience necessary! Wear comfortable clothes, bring a yoga mat if you have one, and come enjoy an easy, energizing morning practice!

Presenter Biographies

John Atorino hails from Ridgewood, New Jersey where he attended the public schools. He attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. There, he developed a passion for arranging and composing while studying conducting under Dr. Jerry Blackstone. After college, he taught in Chicago for four years with the Chicago Children's Choir and at Social Justice High School where he developed and implemented a choir curriculum, a group piano curriculum, and an after-school arts program.

John moved back to the east coast to further his education by obtaining a master's degree in music education from New York University where he restarted the sleeping NYU Men's Glee Club in 2011 and became the conductor. He worked as a guest teacher and sometimes musical director at various charter, private, and public schools around the city and taught 6-8 grade for a year back in his hometown of Ridgewood as a full-time vocal teacher. Most recently, John conducted a piece at the New York City Gay Men's Chorus concert in the spring of 2015 and was commissioned to arrange a piece for their Pride Concert for which he also conducted a piece with soloist Ann Hampton Calloway.

Now, John resides in Queens, NY where he teaches full-time in Forest Hills at a 6-12 expeditionary learning school while still conducting the NYU Men's Glee Club and acting as assistant conductor with the NYC Gay Men's Chorus conducting outreach events and guest conducting in concerts. He is on a quest to write and publish 365 singing rounds for 365 days on his website www.subdividedpress.com.

Jamie Bunce graduated in 2007 with honors from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, where she studied voice with Judith Nicosia. At MGSA, Ms. Bunce was a soloist with both the University and Voorhees Choirs, and was a member of the select University Singers under the direction of Thomas Juneau. Ms. Bunce has served as the Director of Choral Activities at Columbia High School since September 2010, where she directs Chorus and the award-winning Excelsior Singers. She also supervises and arranges music for CHS's own contemporary a cappella groups: the all-male Knights of Columbia, and all-female Altitude, and the mixed-voice Unaccompanied Minors. A member of the All-State Choral Procedures Committee, Ms. Bunce is also an active member of NJSMA, having prepared the Region I High School Women's Chorus in February 2012 and serving as guest conductor for the 2012 Region I Junior High School Mixed Chorus. Additionally, she has been chosen to guest conduct the Sussex County Honors Chorus in the fall of 2013.

Ms. Bunce is a twelve-year veteran of both musical theater and contemporary a cappella, and has musically directed several collegiate, high school and community projects throughout NJ.

Soprano **Margaret Cusack** is Professor and Chair of the Piano and Voice Department at Westminster Choir College of Rider University, where she teaches private voice, opera literature, and voice pedagogy. She has been a Regional Governor of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, and is currently a member of the Artist Faculty at the Brevard Music Center. Ms. Cusack's current and former students have sung at the San Francisco Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Washington Opera, Virginia Opera, Opera Theater of St. Louis, Glimmerglass Opera, Mississippi Opera, Eugene Opera, and the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden and the Stuttgart Opera in Germany.

Ms. Cusack is a winner of the International American Music Competition at Carnegie Hall and made her New York recital debut at Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall in 1987. She made her New York City Opera debut in 1985 as Micaela in Carmen. She then became a leading soprano with the company, returning to sing Musetta (La Bohème), Nedda (I Pagliacci), Elena (Mefistofele) and, on the company's tour to Taiwan, Violetta (La Traviata). Ms. Cusack created the role of the Empress Alexandra in the world premiere of Jay Reise's Rasputin with the company. She received much acclaim in the role of Anna Maurant in City Opera's production of Street Scene. Ms. Cusack made her Metropolitan Opera debut in Elektra in 1999 under the baton of James Levine.

Her regional opera experience is extensive and includes such roles as Desdemona (Otello), both Donna Anna and Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni) and Santuzza (Cavalleria Rusticana). Ms. Cusack sang the role of Sieglinde in Act One of Wagner's Die Walküre with Sylvan Opera in Haverford, Pennsylvania, in the fall of 2001. She has also sung the role of Fiora in Montemezzi's L'amore dei tre re in the debut performance of the Teatro Grattacielo in New York's Alice Tully Hall in 1997. She returned to Alice Tully Hall later that year to perform excerpts from Strauss' Guntram with the Little Orchestra Society and Dino Anagnost in their 50th anniversary gala.

Ms. Cusack has performed frequently at the Tanglewood Festival, including as Alice Ford in Act III of Falstaff with the Boston Symphony under Seiji Ozawa, the Marschallin in Act III of Der Rosenkavalier with the Tanglewood Orchestra under the late Erich Leinsdorf, and Bernard Rand's Canti Lunatici with composer/conductor Luciano Berio. Maestro Berio then invited her to Italy to sing three concerts with the Florence May Festival, including Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with Christa Ludwig and conductor Lorin Maazel, as well as concerts with other Italian orchestras.

She has also given many highly acclaimed performances of such diverse works as Strauss' Four Last Songs, Mozart's Mass in C minor, Britten's War Requiem, Frank Martin's Le vin herbé, Schoenberg's String Quartet No. 2, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Brahms' Ein deutsches Requiem, Mahler's Symphony No. 8, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and Rachmaninoff's The Bells, which she performed with Semyon Bychkov and the Buffalo Philharmonic. Ms. Cusack has given numerous performances of the Verdi Requiem with the orchestras of Syracuse, Ft. Worth, Nashville, and the Chautauqua Festival.

Ms. Cusack is a frequent recital partner of JJ Penna; they have specialized in 20th century literature, in particular songs of Poulenc, Marx, Debussy, Wolf, Strauss, Barber, Rorem, Korngold, and Schoenberg. In October, 2004, they performed "A Tribute to Phyllis Curtin," a recital celebrating the career of the great American soprano and teacher, in Lenox, Massachusetts, with Ms. Curtin in attendance. In addition to her performing and teaching, Ms. Cusack frequently lectures on opera. She earned a Bachelor of Music in voice performance and a Master of Music in teaching at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music.

Mezzo soprano **Megan Durham**, M.M., S.V.S. serves on the voice faculties of DeSales University in Center Valley, PA and Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. Ms. Durham also works as a Singing Voice Specialist (SVS) in partnership with medical professionals as part of a voice care team to habilitate singers diagnosed with voice disorders. In addition, Ms. Durham is a RYT-200 certified yoga teacher and YogaVoice® practitioner and incorporates yoga philosophy, asana, meditative breathing and body awareness into her pedagogy. Ms. Durham holds a Master of Music degree in voice pedagogy and performance from Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from the University of Richmond. She completed her certification in singing voice habilitation with Dr. Karen Wicklund at the Chicago Center for Professional Voice. Ms. Durham serves as the Vice President and Student Auditions Coordinator for the Lehigh Valley chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and is a member of the New York Singing Teacher's Association and the Voice Foundation.

Eileen Gerardino is in her third year of teaching K-5 General Music and Chorus at Central Elementary in East Brunswick, NJ. During her time in East Brunswick, Miss Gerardino has taught in three elementary schools, has co-directed the Elementary All-District Chorus, all while using multicultural literature, creative movement, and fusions of Orff, Dalcroze, and Kodály methodologies. Miss Gerardino writes, arranges, and prepares adults for regular worship and special events at the Central Jersey Church of Christ. Additionally, Miss Gerardino teaches private guitar, piano, and voice lessons to students ranging from five to fifty years of age. Previously, Ms. Gerardino held a General Music K-5 position, at Parsippany-Troy Hills School District. Ms. Gerardino also performed with Josh Groban for NBC's 2010 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Miss Gerardino holds an undergraduate degree in Music Education from Westminster Choir College of Rider University (summa cum laude) and is currently working towards her M.Ed. degree in Administration and Supervision at the Graduate School of Education of Rutgers University. She completed her Kodály Level I at New York University Steinhardt in 2014. Miss Gerardino looks forward to combining her musical pedagogy with administrative knowledge, in hopes of inspiring adult teachers, as a Supervisor of Arts Education.

Thomas Juneau DMA, performs with a variety of ensembles in the Northeast. He is Founder and Artistic Director of his professional vocal ensemble, the Juneau Vocal Alliance. He serves as Artistic Director of Summit Chorale, now entering its 107th season and is currently in his seventh year as Director of Choral Activities at Saint Joseph's University, where he is also Instructor of Voice and Director of SJU Opera Theater. He is Director of the Woodbridge Community Chorus and is Minister of music at Saint Joseph's Church in Carteret, NJ.

Dr. Juneau's compositions for chorus are published by numerous companies, including Walton Music, Alliance Music, Southern Music Company, Hal Leonard Corporation, and Carl Fisher Music Company.

Hingrid Kujawinski worked in Brazil for more than 10 years as an accompanist, orchestra member, and choral conductor. She has an undergraduate degree in piano performance from the Universidade Federal de Santa Maria and a degree in choral conducting from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul. Kujawinski came to the United States in 2009 to

pursue a master's degree in choral conducting and collaborative piano at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania. There, she studied with Dr. Peggy Dettwiler and served as her assistant. Kujawinski conducted Schubert's Psalm 23 for the Mansfield University Women's Choir at the 2011 Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod in Wales. This performance was awarded the highest score in the women's chorus division, earning the comment "Elegant conducting." Kujawinski will soon complete a doctoral degree in choral conducting at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, where she studies with Dr. Patrick Gardner, directs the Voorhees Choir, and is a teaching assistant for the Rutgers University Kirkpatrick Choir. She is an active member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and an engaged researcher for the women's choir repertory.

Marjory Lopresti currently teaches piano, music theory, composition and digital recording at East Brunswick High School in New Jersey. Prior to teaching at the high school she taught elementary vocal music and directed the district-wide chorus. Marj is President of the NJ Chapter of TI:ME and was named NJMEA 2015 Master Music Teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Rutgers University and is pursuing an M.S. in Educational Technology at Nova Southeastern.

Anne Matlack holds degrees from Yale University and the College-Conservatory of Music (University of Cincinnati.) She has been Artistic Director of Harmonium Choral Society, recognized for its musical excellence and innovative programming, since 1987. She is music director and organist at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison, NJ where her children's program includes over 60 youth singing every week from second grade through select a capella high school guy/girl groups, as well as adults. In August, her choir will travel to England to sing evensongs in residence at Winchester Cathedral. Dr. Matlack serves as Repertoire and Standards Chair for Community Choirs for NJ ACDA and is active as an adjudicator and clinician. She has conducted choirs at Yale, Lafayette College, and Rutgers University. She is the 2003 recipient of the Arts Council of the Morris Area's Outstanding Professional in the Arts Award.

Founding and Artistic Director of the Children's Chorus of Sussex County, **Deborah Mello** is the recipient of the inaugural Distinguished Music Educator Award from Yale University, the NJ Master Teacher Award, the NJ Governor's Award, and the NJ Symphony Orchestra Master Teacher Collaborative Award. She is former National and Divisional Chair of the American Choral Directors Association National Committee for Children's & Youth Choirs. Currently, Deborah serves NJ ACDA as the R&S Chair for Children & Community Youth. Deborah has conducted All State and regional honor choirs and served as clinician for sessions on the child voice throughout the United States. Deborah is on the choral music education faculty of the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University.

Michelle Moore is in her sixteenth year of teaching and her thirteenth year of teaching K-5 General Music and Chorus at Irwin Elementary in East Brunswick, NJ. During her tenure at Irwin School, Ms. Moore co-directed the Elementary All-District Chorus and prepared students to perform at the NJMEA Convention in New Brunswick, NJ and the CJMEA Elementary Honors Chorus. In 2011, Ms. Moore prepared and conducted students to sing for the Kenny Rogers Greatest Hits/Christmas Tour at The State Theatre in New Brunswick, NJ.

Ms. Moore has participated in many district-wide committees including writing elementary music curriculum; developing elementary standards based report cards, and creating professional development for teachers. Previously, Ms. Moore taught several sections of Choral Readiness at the Westminster Conservatory of Music in Princeton, NJ, and held a position as a Singer/Children's Choir director at Lamington Presbyterian Church in Bedminster, NJ.

Ms. Moore holds an undergraduate degree from Westminster Choir College of Rider University and later received her M.M.E degree (with distinction) in 2006. She completed her Kodaly Level I at Westminster Choir College.

Jennifer Sengin is the Director of Choirs at East Brunswick High School where she oversees all activities in a large choral program consisting of 270 students in five choirs: Concert Choir Honors, Bella Voce Honors, Chorus, Men's Choir, and Acabellas. Additionally, she serves as Music Director of the musical and teaches Singing for Musical Theatre. Under her direction, choirs from East Brunswick High School have performed at Carnegie Hall, the New Jersey State Theatre, and at Princeton Chapel. Her choirs have received Superior ratings in both Performance and Sight-Singing at the NJ ACDA High School Choral Festival and were selected to perform in the Evening Showcase at the Roxbury Choral Invitational in March 2015.

Currently, Ms. Sengin is on the faculty of the Ithaca College Summer Music Academy where she conducts the Academy Chorus and teaches conducting. Ms. Sengin has guest conducted the 2015 CJMEA Treble Honors Chorus, Salem County Honors Choir, Rowan University Festival of Song, and the New York Area All-State Women's Chorus (Zone 3). In addition, she served as the Conductor of the Greater Princeton Youth Orchestra Choir.

Ms. Sengin has presented at the New Jersey Music Educators Association Conference, Rowan University, The College of New Jersey, and Rutgers University on several topics related to rehearsal strategies and recruitment. Additionally, she has published and contributed to articles in the Choral Journal and Tempo Magazine. She served as R&S Chair of Ethnic and Multicultural Perspectives for the New Jersey Chapter of ACDA for three years. Ms. Sengin is an alumna of Ithaca College, where she earned a Master of Music in Choral Conducting and studied with Dr. Janet Galván. She was a finalist in the ACDA National Graduate Student Conducting Competition in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in March of 2009. In the fall of 2015, Ms. Sengin will begin a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting at Michigan State University.

American Baritone **Travis Sherwood** has been praised for his powerful voice and emotionally poignant performances around the world, as an opera singer, concert artist, recitalist, and actor, performing a wide range of musical genres and styles.

Equally at home in Opera and Musical Theater, Dr. Sherwood has performed over a dozen leading roles throughout the US. On the concert stage Dr. Sherwood has performed with the Hunterdon Symphony, Symphony of the Vines, Canto Bello Chamber Orchestra, and La Sierra Symphony Orchestra performing such works as Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Requiem, Fauré's Requiem, Gounod's Messe Solennelle de Sainte Cécile, Schubert's Mass in G, Bach's Cantata 140, Haydn's Die Schöpfung, William Grant Still's Plain-Chant for America, Brahms's Ein Deutsches Requiem, and creating the role of Jesus in Kata Markon by Mark Lanz Weiser. Dr. Sherwood has enjoyed many collaborative recitals with distinguished pianists throughout the world.

Offstage, Dr. Sherwood maintains an active career as a stage director and educator. As a stage director, Dr. Sherwood has directed for the Chamber Opera of USC, RVRHS Performing Arts Center, ENMU Opera, and assistant directed West Side Story for the opening of the Kilden Teater in Kristiansand, Norway. Dr. Sherwood is currently an Instructor of Voice on the faculty of Eastern New Mexico University. Prior appointments include Lecturer and Chair of the Voice department at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand; Fullerton Junior College; University of Southern California; and Westminster Conservatory of Music. Dr. Sherwood is a highly sought after guest lecturer on the subjects of Vocal Pedagogy, Vocal Health, Vocal Anatomy, and Tomatis Technique for Singers.

Dr. Sherwood holds a Doctor of Musical Arts and a Master of Music degree from the University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music; and a Bachelor of Music Degree from Westminster Choir College in music education and vocal performance. Additional studies include a certificate from the "Académie Internationale d'Eté de Nice" in "Interprétation chant & piano" under the instruction of Dalton Baldwin.

Amy Troxel graduated Magna Cum Laude from The College of New Jersey with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education. She has served on the board of NJ-ACDA since 2010, first as Advocacy Chair and currently as the Repertoire & Standards Chair for middle school music. She has also been involved in the All South Jersey Chorus, serving as rehearsal manager from 2006-2009, 2013-2015 and as the senior high conductor in 2011. After six years as a choral educator at Burlington City High School, Miss Troxel studied choral conducting with Z. Randall Stroope at Rowan University and received a Master of Music in Music Performance, graduating Summa Cum Laude. Miss Troxel currently teaches choir and general music at Clearview Regional Middle School.