

# Voices United '21: Preparing for a New Tomorrow

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## Friday, August 6

### ACDA Friends Track: Sessions available beginning Friday, August 6

Open to all regardless of membership status with ACDA

*Sessions are pre-recorded and are available for all on our YouTube Channel.*

Interest Sessions:

- Matt Hill: [Community Choirs: From Music to Money and Everything in Between, Session 1 – The Music Side](#)
- Matt Hill: [Community Choirs: From Music to Money and Everything in Between, Session 2 – The Business Side](#)
- Kerry Wilkerson: [Careers for Vocalists in the US Military](#)
- Nathan Reiff: [Leading and Growing with a Hospice Choir in the Time of COVID](#)
- Matthew Clear: [Designing a Concert Series to Serve Your Choir, Congregation, and Community](#)
- Cody Miller: [Musical Maps: Are We There Yet?](#)
- Ashley Conway and Emily Williams Burch: [Using Technology to Spark Passion in the Classroom Post-Pandemic: Keeping your Technology L.I.T.](#)
- **Repertoire: Resources from Area Directors**, compiled by C.J. Redden-Liotta

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### Seminar Track: Friday, August 6 – “Masterclasses with Michael John Trotta”

Open to all ACDA Members; suggested registration fee of \$5 per session)

*Each session is 45-minutes. Members attend live online.*

*Space is limited to 12 participants on a first-registered basis.*

- 10:00 – **Collaborating with a Composer**
- 11:00 – **Funding Collaborations and Commissions**
- 1:00 – **The Anatomy of Creativity in Composition**
- 2:00 – **The Conductor as Voice Teacher**

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### State Chapter Conversations: Friday, August 6, 5:00

Network with ACDA members from YOUR chapter! Separate online gatherings for VA ACDA, MD/DC ACDA, and DE ACDA.

Not from around here? You are welcome to network with any of our state chapters!

# Saturday, August 7

## Conference Track: Saturday, August 7

Open to all ACDA Members; suggested registration fee of \$35

*Each session is 45 minutes, with a 15-minute break between.*

*Members can register to attend live or to receive a link to view within one month.*

- 9:00 – Panel: [\*In-Person Singing: Tips for Sharing Live Performance in Virtual Spaces\*](#). Pam McDermott, with Jane Morison, Max Nolin, and McKenna Stenson
- 10:00 – Panel: *Biases, Barriers, and Boundaries: Establishing Affirming Choral Spaces*. Andrew Trites, with Arreon Harley-Emerson
- 11:00 – Michael John Trotta: [\*The Power of Story\*](#)
- 12:00 – Lunch
- 1:00 – Panel: [\*What Is Equity? The Variety of Challenges Facing Today's Choral Director\*](#). Sherlee Glomb, Dr. Marshaun R. Hymon, Kari Adams, Daniel Jackson, and A.J. Rodriguez
- 2:00 – Michael John Trotta: [\*Empowering Singers through Peer Modeling\*](#)
- 3:00 – Panel: [\*Extensions of Virtual Singing\*](#). Alice Boyars, with David Mann, CJ Redden-Liotta, Bonny Tynch, and Pat Vaughn
- 4:00 – Ysaye Barnwell: *What is the "Negro Spiritual"?*
- 5:00 – Happy Hour / Headliner Q&A with Michael Wu

# Friday, August 6 – Pre-Recorded Online Sessions

## Community Choirs: from Music to Money and Everything in Between (Part 1: The Music Side, Part 2: The Business Side)

Community Choirs are the last and best vehicle for keeping singers and audiences engaged with choral music. Community Choir conductors are the nucleus of all activity in their choirs, and must be experts in many fields to be successful. This presentation will bring to bear my fifteen years of experience as the founding artistic/executive director of one of the nation's largest nonprofit choral organizations, Sing Omaha. Our ten choirs of 400+ singers give nine concerts each season and are contracted as the official choirs for the Omaha Symphony. I will share proven strategies on the artistic side of the conductor's role in the areas of recruiting and retaining singers, educating choristers to maximize rehearsal time, programming appropriate repertoire, seasonal programming, rehearsal planning, and methodical rehearsing technique.

I'll also speak to "Extending the Experience" which engages singers between weekly rehearsals, and "Enhancing the Experience" which deals with practical strategies to deepen singers' investment into the choir and to increase everyone's enjoyment. Internal Administration includes: "Healthy Operational Policies" including absenteeism, using sectionals, "Choir 101" which teaches singers how to rehearse like professionals. I'll share best practices for maximizing a Board, "do's and don'ts" on audition procedures, new singer recruitment, and internal evaluation guidelines for assessing the current roster. The public-facing administrative focus deals with Marketing and Branding outlining practical, deployable strategies that work.

We'll also discuss how to fundraise and apply for grants.

*Matt Hill, Lecture*

*Dr. Matt Hill earned a DMA in Choral Conducting at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and a Master's degree in Choral Conducting at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Hill joined the Peru State College faculty in September, 2014 as Director of Choral Activities. He founded Sing Omaha Inc. in January, 2007. This 501c3 nonprofit organization serves as the nation's only K-12/adult choral arts nonprofit, and offers ten choirs which serve more than 400 singers in the Omaha, NE metro each year. Additionally, two studios have 150+ students enrolled in lessons. He serves as Executive Director and Artistic Director, managing the budget, nonprofit status, and its 30-member faculty. He is an ex-officio Board member, maintains a full voice studio, and conducts two of Sing Omaha's choirs. Dr. Hill is also regularly called upon to conduct clinics, festivals, and honor choirs, and to adjudicate choral/vocal competitions regionally and nationally.*

## Careers for Vocalists in the U.S. Military

This presentation was most recently given for the VA NATS Conference, January 2021, and is intended to inform, not recruit. With over 6500 classically trained musicians employed by the U.S. military, these well paying jobs with a plethora of benefits should not be ignored. The overwhelming majority of the positions in the military available for vocalists are within the choruses, all of which are stationed in the Baltimore/DC region.

*Kerry Wilkerson, Panel, Lecture*

*Kerry Wilkerson has sung with the professional choruses of the United States Air Force, United States Army, Carnegie Hall Choral Workshops and the critically acclaimed Robert Shaw Festival Singers. As a choral conductor, he served as an enlisted conductor for the Singing Sergeants, the Army Chorus and as Assistant Director of Music Ministries at Vienna Presbyterian Church, where he primarily led their Youth Choir and Orchestra. Upon military retirement in 2018, Mr. Wilkerson joined the music faculty at George Mason University as an Adjunct Professor of Applied Voice. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (BM) and George Mason University (MA).*

### **Leading and Growing With a Hospice Choir in the Time of COVID**

JourneySongs (JS) is an interfaith hospice choir based in Newton, Massachusetts, committed to singing for people on their final journey into death and their family, friends, and caregivers. Since March 2020, JS has wrestled with what it means to serve its mission during a pandemic. Like many other choirs, JourneySongs has been unable to sing as it typically would in the past year, although the work of the choir has never felt more urgent. This session will explore our process of adapting, growing, creating a new sense of connection, and healing through music during COVID-19. Through this presentation, JS hopes to offer ideas about community-building, creative artistry, and meaningful gathering through song that are applicable to choirs of all kinds.

*Nathan Reiff, Lecture, Repertoire Session*

*Nathan Reiff is Music Director of JourneySongs, an interfaith hospice choir in Newton, Massachusetts. Since 2017, he has served as Resident Conductor of the Harvard Glee Club and on the choral faculty of the Boston Conservatory at Berklee, where he leads choirs and teaches choral repertoire. He holds an M.M. from the University of Michigan and a B.A. and D.M.A. degrees from Yale University.*

### **Designing a Concert Series to Serve Your Choir, Congregation, and Community**

Providing regular concerts for our performers and audiences is a daunting task. The planning, fundraising, and logistics of a large-scale project can be difficult for directors who want to start a Concert Series at their house of worship or for those who want to modify their existing Concert Series to match the changes that our congregations are experiencing. Session attendees will be encouraged to think about the demographic of their choir, congregation, and local community. Tailoring a concert series to meet the needs and musical interests of these three groups of people will create meaningful musical experiences that engender measurable momentum in one's music program. This presentation is divided into two parts: the planning of a concert series and the execution of logistics for a variety of performances.

The planning section discusses topics including scheduling artists, collaborating with arts organizations, creating self-produced concerts, public relations, and fundraising. The logistics section focuses on preparing for recitals or small ensemble performances, preparing for large group performances, considerations for the day of the concert, and steps one should take after a performance is finished. The planning materials available to session attendees will serve as a template for a new concert series or a list of ideas for those wishing to revise their existing concert series. A sample list of concerts, budget, fundraising categories, and concert series brochure from the presenter's concert series will be shared as potential planning resources.

The presentation will include photos and video so that session attendees can see the various concert ideas that are presented and how they function in real life. Finally, a brief time of sharing may be provided for questions and the exchange of ideas that musicians are using in their own congregations.

*Matthew Clear, Clinic, Lecture*

*Matthew David Clear is the Director of Choral Activities and Music Department Chairperson at Pinellas County Center for the Arts Magnet Program (PCCA) at Jonathan C. Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg, Florida. Mr. Clear directs the school's choral ensembles, sponsors the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and teaches classes in vocal techniques, conducting, songwriting, and music philosophy. He also serves as Director of Traditional Worship Music and the Arts at First Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg where he directs the choir program and coordinates the annual concert series.*

*Mr. Clear earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Malone University in Canton, Ohio and completed his Master of Music Education with an emphasis in choral conducting at Florida State University. During the 2019-2020 school year, choirs under Mr. Clear's direction performed at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, collaborated with award-winning composer Jake Runestad, and received straight superior ratings at district Florida Vocal Association adjudication.*

*Matthew is a member of the Florida Music Education Association, Florida Vocal Association, American Choral Directors Association, Presbyterian Association of Musicians and was awarded the Secondary Music Teacher of the Year Award from the Pinellas County Music Education Association in 2020.*

**Musical Maps: Are We There Yet?**

Have you ever made it to the week before your concert and realized your ensemble isn't ready, or made it to concert-day hoping it goes well? Often it can be difficult to judge whether we've budgeted enough time for each piece on a program, and when we err, it results in stressful concert weeks and anxiety-ridden concerts. In this session, we will explore two rehearsal planning methods that help ensure your ensembles are on track to a successful concert: a detailed minute-by-minute approach in which we account for every minute devoted to each piece in a concert cycle, and a broader benchmark approach in which you set specific dates for performance standards, such as "can accurately sing all notes and rhythms". We will discuss the pros and cons of each and decide which is best for you and your ensembles based on your rehearsal schedule and individual preferences. In addition, we will discuss applicable and effective rehearsal strategies, such as consistently rehearsing transitions, which will immediately build confidence in both you and your students. Attendees will be able to create their own rehearsal plan for their next concert cycle while accounting for scheduling issues, musical difficulty, and adjust their plan to accommodate the unexpected.

*Cody Miller, Lecture*

*Dr. Cody Miller is the Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point, where he conducts three choirs and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in conducting and music education. Prior to his university work, Dr. Miller worked in K-12 education as Director of Choirs at Texas Christian Academy – Waco and Associate Choir Director at Milstead Middle School in Houston, Texas. He also has extensive experience in church, community, and children's choirs, and currently serves as Artistic Director of the Monteverdi Chorale, a 63-voice auditioned community choir in Stevens Point.*

*Dr. Miller is in demand as a guest conductor and clinician, and has presented sessions at state and region conferences on choral excellence, rehearsal planning, and performance practice. He holds a BM in Vocal Music Education from St. Olaf College, MM in Conducting from Baylor University, and DMA in Choral Conducting Michigan State University.*

## **Using Technology to Spark Passion in the Classroom Post Pandemic: Keeping your Technology L.I.T.**

Creativity feeling snuffed out? Ever thought of lighting your computer screen on fire? Yes, we survived the year of constant pivots and virtual teaching situations, and while we may want to throw the next Zoom invite in the fire pit when we get back to “normal,” there’s more heat left in those embers!

Taking the analogy of building a fire from a spark, attendees will explore a variety of platforms, projects, and democratically designed assignments that focus on student leadership, reflection, and discovery, while building opportunities for transferring knowledge and creating meaningful collaborations in and out of the music room. Attendees will walk away with their creative sparks LIT: Leadership, Inspiration, and Transfers.

*Ashley Conway and Emily Williams Burch, Lecture*

*Dr. Emily Williams Burch and Dr. Ashley Conway’s paths crossed in 2020 when they met through ACDA’s International Activities. Both have taught multiple levels and in multiple states. Currently, Dr. Burch is the Coordinator of Music Education and Professor at the University of South Carolina, Aiken. She is also the Founder/Artistic Director of RISE Chorales (based in Savannah, GA), and an Artistic Advisor for Perform International and choral specialist for Quaver Music. Be sure to catch Dr. Burch’s podcast “Music (ed) Matters” wherever you listen to podcasts. She holds degrees from Louisiana State University, Florida State University and the University of South Carolina. Dr. Conway is the Choral Director and Adjunct Professor of Music Education at Brenau University in Gainesville, GA. She holds degrees from Brenau University, the University of Georgia, and Arizona State University. When she is not teaching or collaborating with colleagues like Dr. Burch, Dr. Conway loves to spend time with her husband and two daughters.*

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## **Saturday, August 7 – Live Online Sessions**

### **In-Person Singing: Tips for Sharing Live Performance in Virtual Spaces**

Research shows that audiences may be the last ones to return to the concert hall. As we return to working with singers in person, we need new ways to share performances. This session offers tips and strategies for reaching audiences virtually and for creating meaningful "no audience" performance experiences for your in-person singers. A conversation with directors who worked live with youth, collegiate, and adult singers will shed light on accessible ways to connect your singers with your audience.

*Panel: Pamela McDermott, Jane Morison, Max Nolin, and McKenna Stenson*

### **What Is Equity? The Variety of Challenges Facing Today’s Choral Director**

Whether it is in professional organization, community group, or elementary-secondary and collegiate programs, choral ensembles are being challenged to meet the needs of a more diverse and inclusive community. Equity is a very general term, but very important in any organization. Because of the multitude of

variances in any community, it is important to consider a variety of issues pertaining to equity, and possible practices to consider.

This panel will discuss the definition of equity, aspects of the choral organization's activities and operations that may need examination and challenges that may arise from developing more equitable practices.

*Panel: Sherlee Glomb, Dr. Marshaun R. Hymon, Kari Adams, Daniel Jackson, A.J. Rodriguez*

*Sherlee Glomb is an educator, conductor, director and accompanist who has taught over 20 years in Virginia and Florida. She currently serves as Director of Choral Activities at South County Middle School in Fairfax County. She received the Master of Music Education degree with emphasis in choral conducting from Florida State University, a Post Master's degree in Administration from George Washington University, and received a Bachelor of Music degree from James Madison University in Piano Performance.*

*Mrs. Glomb attended James Madison University and studied with Dr. Eric Ruple and Ms. Vicki Bernicking. She has also studied under master teachers including Dr. Andre Thomas, Dr. Judy Bowers, and Dr. Kevin Fenton from Florida State University.*

*Mrs. Glomb's students are the recipients of numerous awards and regularly receive the highest ratings in competitions and festivals including All-County, All-District, All-State and Senior Honors Choir. Most recently, she has had students audition and make Virginia Governor's School, MENC National Honor Choir, and the Mirabai's Young Women's Scholar Program at University of Michigan under director Sandra Snow.*

*Mrs. Glomb is currently the owner of Glomb Music Studios, teaching private voice and piano. She is the previous owner of the musical theatre training company, "Performing Arts Institute" Orlando, Florida. Students ages 14-21 would work with current Broadway community members in voice, dance and Broadway casting agents in summer musical theatre intensive programs.*

*She has served as District Chair in Fairfax County and was selected as a "Future Leader" through Virginia Music Educators Association. Before her appointment at South County Middle School, Mrs. Glomb served as Choral Director at Gainesville Middle School. Her Advanced Women's Ensemble from Gainesville performed at the Virginia Music Educators Association Conference in Hot Springs, VA. Mrs. Glomb has presented sessions for American Choral Director's Association, Florida Music Educators Association and Orange County Public Schools. She is the current VA-ACDA R and S chair for Women's Music. Additionally, she continues to serve as a clinician and guest conductor for middle and high school honor choirs, as well as a festival adjudicator, throughout the state of Virginia and Maryland.*

*Dr. Marshaun R. Hymon is the Co-Founder and Principal for True Change Alliance, LLC. He works to develop leaders and organizations to create environments that cultivate maximum employee impact. Prior to expanding and co-founding TCA, he founded Hymon Consulting Group, LLC. With HCG, he most recently finished a consulting contract with the Getty Museum & Trust where he develops equity-focused programming for their summer internship programs. Aside from various training commitments, he is now on contract with One Workplace supporting in developing organizational DEI strategy.*

*Dr. Hymon is an Assistant Professor and he teaches college, career and employment readiness courses. Most recently, he was featured on the Los Angeles, CA based Podcast, Motivation for Black People and the Savannah, GA based podcast, Music (ed) Matters. Dr. Hymon has worked in several capacities within the higher education and non-profit sector. He began his career in K-12 public school as a music educator and has served in many capacities with the Tallahassee, Savannah and Jacksonville Children's Choirs.*

*Dr. Hymon earned a Bachelor of Music in Choral Music Education from Florida State University and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of West Florida. Dr. Hymon received a Doctor of*

*Education in Educational Leadership from the University of California, Los Angeles. His research interests are race in America, identity development and the impact of music on the schooling success of young Black men. Dr. Hyman looks forward to presenting his research at the 2021 Florida Music Education Association state conference, 2021 Georgia Music Educators Association state in-service conference, the 2021 California All-State Music Education state conference and the 2021 American Choral Directors Association national conference.*

*Kari Adams is Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at Florida State University and conductor of the FSU Women's Glee Club. Prior to her appointment at FSU, Adams completed the PhD in music education at the University of North Texas. She is a passionate educator, conductor, clinician, and researcher. Her research interests include incremental theories of intelligence and teacher identity development. Her work has been published in Music Educators Journal, Update: Applications of Research in Music Education, International Journal of Research in Choral Singing, and Journal of Research in Music Education.*

*Daniel Jackson is the Director of Choral Activities and Music Theory at Stone Bridge High School, in Ashburn, VA. He also serves as the Choral Director at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Va. Prior to accepting these positions, he has served as an Associate Director of the National Children's Chorus, Director of Music at the Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, MA, and as the Director of Choral Activities at Olympia High School in Orlando, Florida for thirteen years. Between the years of 2007 to 2012, the Olympia choral department had multiple ensembles selected to perform at State ACDA, Music Educators Conferences and the NAACP National Conference. In his current position at Stone Bridge High School, the department have had choirs selected to perform at the Virginia Music Educators Conference, a spotlight performance in Carnegie Hall, and was selected to participate in the 2019 Music For All Conference in Indianapolis. While in Orlando, Mr. Jackson served as the Associate Artistic Director of the Garden Community Chorus (of the Orlando Choral Society), under the direction of Dr. Jeffery Redding. During his tenure he formed the Garden Chamber Singers-a select group of singers within the community chorus.*

*Mr. Jackson has served as a clinician and adjudicator for Middle and High School Honor Choirs, throughout the state of Florida. He has led workshops on ensemble technique, vocal pedagogy in the ensemble rehearsal, and cultivating a safe environment in the classroom. He has been invited to work with ensembles at public schools, church ensembles and colleges throughout the Southeast United States. Mr. Jackson is the founder of the Diversity Coalition, a committee within the Virginia ACDA Chapter, dedicated to fostering equity, diversity, inclusion, and awareness in Virginia's choral music leadership, membership, and ensembles through education of current membership and engagement with underrepresented members of the choral world.*

*Mr. Jackson received his Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Music Education from the Florida State University, under the guidance of Dr. André Thomas, Dr. Judy Bowers and Dr. Kevin Fenton. He is an active member of NAFME and ACDA.*

*A.J. Rodriguez is the Director of Choral Activities at South County High School*

### **The Power of Story and Empowering Singers through Peer Modeling**

*Michael John Trotta*

*Fueled by a passion to share new music that engages conductors, ensembles, and audiences alike, Michael John Trotta (b. 1978) is fast becoming one of the most exciting and prominent new composers of choral music. Drawing on his experience as a conductor and clinician, he brings artistry and excellence within reach for thousands of musicians each year.*

*From Carnegie Hall to classrooms all over the world, Trotta's unique blend of engaging and artistic music creates opportunities to experience new music and empowers individuals to realize their artistic potential. His engaging style fuses tradition and innovation to create moments of beauty that "effectively carry out a dialogue between the [music] and the modern listener." (Choral Journal)*

### **Biases, Barriers, and Boundaries: Establishing Affirming Choral Spaces**

The return to the classroom calls choral music educators to address the biases, barriers, and boundaries that prevent full inclusion in choral spaces. Framed by research in choral pedagogy and culturally responsive teaching, facilitators and students will name specific inequities in choral spaces and propose ways educators might address these issues. Facilitators will field stories, suggestions, reflections, and questions from participants through polling and open dialogue.

*Andrew Trites, with Arreon Harley-Emerson; Panel, Open Dialogue*

*Andrew T. Trites is doctoral student and teaching assistant at Temple University. Previously, he taught middle school choir for nine years in Delaware and Texas. His research interests include middle school choral spaces, critical pedagogy, and religious identities. Mr. Trites currently serves as a board member with Voices United and as webmaster and event chair with the Delaware chapter of ACDA.*

*A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Arreon A. Harley-Emerson was appointed Director of Music and Operations of the Choir School of Delaware in June 2013. Committed to the principles of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), Mr. Harley-Emerson has established a thriving consultancy, Equity Sings, to assist arts and culture nonprofit organizations in remaining relevant in the 21st century. His work includes longitudinal studies, strategic planning, Board Excellence training, resource and asset development, and board diversification. Mr. Harley-Emerson currently serves as the National Chair of the American Choral Directors Association's Diversity Initiatives Committee. An active member of the Wilmington, Delaware community, Mr. Harley-Emerson is on the Delaware Arts Alliance's Board of Directors, where he serves as President of the Board and chairs the Advancement Committee which is tasked with fundraising, membership development, and DEIB.*

### **Extensions of Virtual Singing**

Wondering how to keep choirs and audiences engaged from a distance? This session will cover ideas to support music-making within the bounds of both the choir and the audience and tips for running synchronous rehearsals and planning for virtual concerts. A conversation between experienced virtual and hybrid choir directors on the various methods of pre-recorded singing that is relevant for socially distant and virtual choirs and audiences that worked best for their own comfort level.

*Panel: Alice Boyars, David Mann, CJ Redden-Liotta, Bonny Tynch, and Pat Vaughan*