

# Christopher G Keene (Topher Keene)

[LinkedIn](#)

Phone: (207) 233-8301

[TopherKeene@gmail.com](mailto:TopherKeene@gmail.com)

[TopherKeene.com](http://TopherKeene.com)

## Education

---

<b>Masters in Education: Instructional Design – Western Governor’s University</b>	<b>ABD</b>
<b>Graduate Kodály Certification: Level III – New England Conservatory – GPA: 4.0</b>	<b>2008-2010</b>
Studied advanced Aural Skills, Conducting, and Pedagogy incorporating the Kodaly Philosophy of Music Education.	
<b>Bachelor’s of Music Education: Voice - University Of Maine – GPA: 3.78 - <i>Summa cum Laude</i></b>	<b>2006-2010</b>

## Honors and Professional Memberships

---

<b>MENSA</b> (Top 2% IQ Internationally)	<b>ACDA:</b> American Choral Director’s Association
<b>Triple 9 Society</b> (Top 0.1% IQ Internationally)	<b>NAfME:</b> National Association for Music Education
<b>SAT: 2300</b>	<b>OAKE:</b> Organization of American Kodály Educators
<b>ACT: 35</b>	National: Chair of Membership and Tech. Comm.
	<b>AZ Branch of OAKE:</b> President
	<b>Toastmasters International:</b> Competent Communicator

## Business | Consulting | Media

---

<b>Phoenix Boys Choir – Director of Education   <a href="http://BoysChoir.org/Education">BoysChoir.org/Education</a></b>	<b>2017-Present</b>
Delivering workshops for students and teachers in dozens of schools across Arizona. Leading recruitment efforts for the world-renown Grammy Award winning Phoenix Boys Choir and directing one of their Neighborhood Choir programs.	
<b>Choir Unlimited Publishing – Co-Founder and CEO   <a href="http://ChoirUnlimited.com">ChoirUnlimited.com</a></b>	<b>2015-Present</b>
Along with partner Christian Giddings, Choir Unlimited Publishing was created to empower choral musicians, educators, and composers to come together and improve the world of music education. Specializing in <i>Flex Pieces</i> , a special style of choral arrangement that is adaptable to unison, 2 part, 3 part, and SATB choruses, Choir Unlimited Publishing offers a radical membership model where teachers, schools, choirs, and churches can gain unlimited access to the full catalogue for an affordable monthly or yearly fee.	
<b>Embark – Co-Founder and Lead Coach   <a href="http://EmbarkTogether.com">EmbarkTogether.com</a></b>	<b>2014-2017</b>
Startup focused on career coaching and personal/professional development for emerging adults.	
<b>Cleaver Company - Learning and Development   <a href="http://CleaverCompany.com">CleaverCompany.com</a></b>	<b>2014-Present</b>
Right hand to CEO, head of Learning and Development team leading research and curriculum development around sales, leadership, and best practices in corporate training and education. Created a new diagnostic tool and coaching program around learning styles and developmental skills. Currently contracted as resident Instructional Design/Curriculum specialist.	

For more information please visit: [TopherKeene.com](http://TopherKeene.com)

## Choral Conducting

---

<b>Choir Director – Phoenix Boys Choir Training and Cadet Choirs</b> Responsible for rehearsing and conducting the younger PBC choirs.	<b>2017-Present</b>
<b>Artistic Director – Simple A Cappella Sweet Adeline’s Chorus</b> A competition chorus of approximately 30 female barbershop singers.	<b>2017-Present</b>
<b>Artistic Director – Fountain of the Sun Community Choir</b> Mixed chorus of age 55+ singers based in Fountain of the Sun Retirement Community. Built choir from 35 members to 60 in first season. Premiered several works by living composers. Multiple sold-out (360+ seats) concerts each season.	<b>2016-Present</b>
<b>Co-Director – Sounds of the Mouth Men’s Ensemble/Women’s Ensemble/Vocal Collective</b> Men’s, Women’s, and mixed ensembles of ~50 college age students focusing on barbershop and contemporary choral music. (Gold Medals in Harmony International Midwinter Youth Barbershop Festival 2016: Men’s, 2017: Women’s, 2018: Mixed)	<b>2015-2018</b>
<b>Festival Conductor – Maine District III Elementary Honors Festival</b> Led 100 elite 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> graders from multiple school districts in a full day honors festival and concert four years in a row.	<b>2012-2016</b>
<b>Founding Director – Dover Youth Chorale</b> Formed and built a 20-voice K-12 community choir, in charge of youth music program	<b>2012-2014</b>
<b>Choir Director – Dover Sherborn Regional High School</b> Rebuilt a program that had been removed due to budget cuts, doubled enrollment first semester, and tripled in first year.	<b>2011-2013</b>
<b>Conducting Apprentice – Berkshire Choral Festival</b> Highly competitive 4-Week paid apprenticeship under the guidance of internationally acclaimed conductors and musicians.	<b>Summer 2011</b>

## Musical Theatre Music Directing

---

<b>Music Director – Phoenix Theatre Summer Camp</b> Direct, Coach, and Accompany ~35 students per week in musical theatre productions. Age groups include 8-10 year olds and 6-8 year olds. Shows include “The Little Mermaid”, “Matilda”, and “Shrek”.	<b>2016-Present</b>
<b>Music Director/Vocal Coach – Act One Youth Theatre, Pinnacle Creative Arts, etc.</b> Direct, Coach, and Accompany small to medium musical theatre productions for community theatres in the valley. Shows include “Elf Jr.”, “Annie Get Your Gun”	<b>2016-Present</b>
<b>Musical Theatre Director – Dover Sherborn Regional High School and Middle School</b> Double-Cast Productions with full orchestra include “West Side Story”, “Carousel”, and “Children of Eden”.	<b>2011-2013</b>
<b>Music Director – Open Fields Community Theatre</b> Responsible for music and vocal coaching for 130-member musical theatre cast ranging from elementary age to adults. Productions include “Wizard of Oz”, “Broadway Rocks!” and “13!”	<b>2011-2013</b>

For more information please visit: [TophKeene.com](http://TophKeene.com)

## Conferences | Festivals | Speaking

---

### *Raise Every Voice: Strategies for Teaching "Tone Deaf", "Droners", and "Non-Singers"*

Presented in PA at Organization of American Kodály Educators' Eastern Division Conference, and AZ AMEA Conference.

### *Directing Your First Musical*

Presented at University of Massachusetts Lowell

### *Singing Through Shame: Overcoming Bullying and Building Self-Esteem With Singing*

Presented at Rockland Middle School in Maine

### *Community Sings*

Leading group singing with "non-singing" amateur audiences ranging from small groups to crowds of thousands.

### *Aural Literacy: Teaching the Language of Music Through Solfège*

Presented at Massachusetts and Maine Music Educator's Conference, Boston Kodály Music Institute, and ACDA Voices United Conference in Virginia.

### *Big Sing! Connecting Communities through Group Singing in the Aural Tradition*

Presented at Massachusetts and Maine Music Educator's Conference.

### *Undergraduate Conducting Masterclass*

Presented at Maine Music Educator's Conference.

### *Nurturing Your Artistic Child*

Presented at homes of parents, churches, schools and community organizations.

## Vocal Performance Highlights

---

### **Worship Leader – Spirit of Hope Lutheran Church**

2017

Performed as pianist and vocal soloist leading worship in a ~80 person congregation.

### **Tenor – GoodeTimes Carolers**

2016-2017

Performed in quartets as a tenor with the premiere Christmas Caroling Company in AZ.

### **Tenor/Baritone Section Leader & Featured Soloist – Love of Christ Lutheran Church**

2015-2017

Performed as a tenor and baritone in multiple Cantatas and other church musical productions.

### **Tenor & Featured Soloist – Ktizo UCC Church**

2013-2017

Performed as a tenor in multiple music productions, as well as several solo performances and recitals.

### **Tenor & Featured Soloist – Boston Symphony Orchestra Tanglewood Festival Chorus**

2014-2015

Performed as a tenor with the official chorus of the Boston Symphony Orchestra in dozens of performances including the Christmas shows, Verdi Requiem, and other masterworks.

For more information please visit: [TophKeene.com](http://TophKeene.com)

## Teaching

---

**Private Coach – Voice/Conducting/Aural Skills/Beginning Piano** 2005-Present  
Coached hundreds of students in building their confidence, performance, and communication skills through music.

**Private Tutor – Math/Chemistry/Test-Anxiety/SAT Prep** 2005-Present  
Helped hundreds of students raise grades, prepare for exams, and improve standardized test scores

**Mini Music Makers Instructor – Musical Instrument Museum** 2015-2017  
Early Childhood music instructor for parents and children in small classes 3-20 children.  
Age ranges include 3 months – 1 year, 1-3 years, and 3-5 years.  
Each month's curriculum is from a different World Music tradition including US, Africa, Asia, South America, etc.

**High School Chorus/Music Theory– Mesa Preparatory Academy, Mesa AZ** 2013-2014  
Mesa Preparatory Academy is a charter school in the Great Hearts school system.  
Responsible for mandatory music theory/history/choir classes for all enrolled 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**High School Chorus, HS/MS Musical Theatre – Dover-Sherborn Regional Schools, MA** 2011-2013  
Boston Magazine ranks dover-Sherborn the #1 academic public high school in MA. The choral program was removed due to budget cuts before my hire, rebuilt choral program from 7 students to 16 in first two weeks of the semester, and increased to 25 in first year. Responsible for High School chorus and middle/high school musical theatre programs.

**Middle School Math – Dover Sherborn Regional School System, Dover MA** 2011-2012  
Responsible for Title 1 math instruction at the eighth grade level. Created curriculum designed to improve performance on MCAS (State standardized test) with demonstrable results.

**Adjunct Voice Faculty – Dover-Sherborn/Newton Community Extension, MA** 2011-2013  
Taught classes in singing, theory, and careers in music through multiple adult learning extensions.

## References

---

**Josie Torres**  
President of Fountain of the Sun Retirement Community Choir.  
[sheboxer5401@yahoo.com](mailto:sheboxer5401@yahoo.com)

**Nathan Richard**  
High School Choir/Music/Orchestra Teacher, Musical Theatre Director, Composer, professional colleague, collaborated on multiple projects.  
[Nathan.D.Richard@gmail.com](mailto:Nathan.D.Richard@gmail.com)

**Christian Giddings**  
Music Teacher, Former student, DMA in Choral Conducting at University of Arizona. Cofounder of UnNamed Publishing.  
[GiddingsCC2@Yahoo.com](mailto:GiddingsCC2@Yahoo.com)

For more information please visit: [TopherKeene.com](http://TopherKeene.com)