

# Christopher G Keene (Topher Keene)

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

## Education

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| <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

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| <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

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| <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</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.   |                     |

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## Choral Conducting

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- Choir Director – Phoenix Boys Choir Training and Cadet Choirs** 2017-Present  
Responsible for rehearsing and conducting the younger PBC choirs.
- Artistic Director – Simple A Cappella Sweet Adeline’s Chorus** 2017-Present  
A competition chorus of approximately 30 female barbershop singers.
- Artistic Director – Fountain of the Sun Community Choir** 2016-Present  
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.
- Co-Director – Sounds of the Mouth Men’s Ensemble/Women’s Ensemble/Vocal Collective** 2015-2018  
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)
- Festival Conductor – Maine District III Elementary Honors Festival** 2012-2016  
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.
- Founding Director – Dover Youth Chorale** 2012-2014  
Formed and built a 20-voice K-12 community choir, in charge of youth music program
- Choir Director – Dover Sherborn Regional High School** 2011-2013  
Rebuilt a program that had been removed due to budget cuts, doubled enrollment first semester, and tripled in first year.
- Conducting Apprentice – Berkshire Choral Festival** Summer 2011  
Highly competitive 4-Week paid apprenticeship under the guidance of internationally acclaimed conductors and musicians.

## Musical Theatre Music Directing

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- Music Director – Phoenix Theatre Summer Camp** 2016-Present  
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”.
- Music Director/Vocal Coach – Act One Youth Theatre, Pinnacle Creative Arts, etc.** 2016-Present  
Direct, Coach, and Accompany small to medium musical theatre productions for community theatres in the valley.  
Shows include “Elf Jr.”, “Annie Get Your Gun”
- Musical Theatre Director – Dover Sherborn Regional High School and Middle School** 2011-2013  
Double-Cast Productions with full orchestra include “West Side Story”, “Carousel”, and “Children of Eden”.
- Music Director – Open Fields Community Theatre** 2011-2013  
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!”

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

## Conferences | Festivals | Speaking

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### *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

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### **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.

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## Teaching

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**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

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**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)

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