



Virginia Harmony

President's Message: Inspiration and Motivation

ACDA is the place for choral professionals who are dedicated to being their best. The more I get to know members of VA-ACDA, the more I see your commitment to our art. Most recently, I witnessed it in the packed room at our VMEA reception as you got to know each other, cheered each other's accomplishments, and as we lifted our voices together in song.

ACDA looks different in every state. In Virginia, we are fortunate to have a wonderful relationship with our sister organizations in NAFME (National Association for Music Education): both VCDA (Virginia Choral Directors Association) and VEMEA (Virginia Elementary Music Educators Association). As an umbrella organization, we value our choral music educators who are determined to invest in themselves even as they invest in their students, and we were fortunate to be welcomed to their meetings. Those who participate in both organizations often say that they join NAFME for their students, and they join ACDA for themselves – for the resources and conferences that continue to explore best practices in directing choirs.

What other organizations might we partner with? Are you part of a church music or community music organization? Let the directors you meet know about ACDA and what it means to you. Invite them to Voices United (more about that inside this issue); forward or share our newsletters with them. From the volunteer who is stepping onto the podium for the first time to those with advanced degrees in conducting, ACDA provides opportunities to connect, learn, and grow.

When we are "snowed" under with the minutiae of our jobs, ACDA offers inspiration to continue to be the best choral leaders we can be, at whatever level. ACDA reminds us that – while we might be the only person in the building dedicated to choral music – we are surrounded by others equally determined to touch hearts through ensemble singing.

Be encouraged, VA-ACDA. Continue to invest in yourself through your ACDA membership, resources like websites and newsletters, and save up to take yourself to a conference every now and then. It is music for the soul.



— Pamela McDermott, President



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News from National ACDA — Pam McDermott, President

We are preparing to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of ACDA at the National Conference in Kansas City, MO. The themes for the conference are “Legacy” and “Community”. Regional and National conferences feature top-notch performances from children’s choirs to church choirs to professional ensembles, as well as numerous reading and interest sessions. This conference is offering something “new” – an opportunity for participants to register and sing with the “Legacy” choir, singing one piece with eleven iconic choral conductors. It’s a bit like our own Conductors Chorus at Voices United!

In its 60th year, ACDA National continues to refine its structure and look for new ways to connect members with resources. You may be aware of the plans to allow each state to be its own non-profit organization while maintaining a national connection; these large-scale changes are being done carefully and with much thought before implementation. Financial restructuring is being rolled out one state at a time. It has not yet been our turn, but we stand ready to make the switch.

We have drafted a state Constitution and By-Laws that has been submitted to National for review; their team included our draft as they worked to create a template for all states to draft individual by-laws. These documents articulate the balance between individual state autonomy and connection to the National umbrella organization. Once we get the go-ahead from National, we will be bringing this document to you for a vote to adopt.

Meanwhile, our National elected leaders, staff, and committees continue to work to keep ACDA relevant and current, examining communication structures, contemporary issues and challenges facing our profession, and promoting research, composition, and creative initiative. I encourage you to visit the National website, www.acda.org, regularly, and to take advantage of the resources that connect you to your singers and that connect our profession to the world.

If you have never attended a Regional or National conference, I encourage you to start saving and planning. The Southern Region’s next conference is March 10-14, 2020 in Mobile, AL; or you could visit the Eastern Region’s conference March 4-7 in Rochester, NY. If a year is not enough time to save, there will be another National conference in the February-March timeframe in 2021. The experience of an ACDA conference stays with you for a lifetime!

SAVE THE DATES for NATIONAL CONFERENCE & REGISTER BLUE TRACK for VIRGINIA!!!



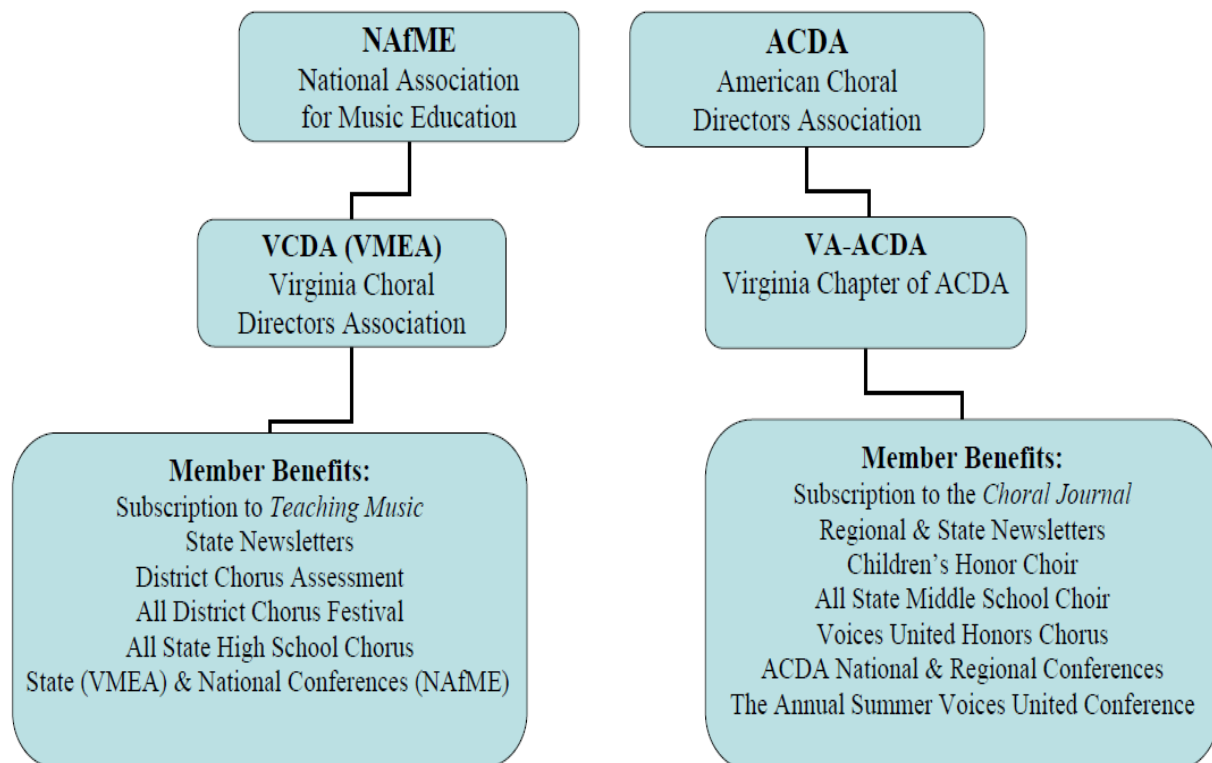
Strengthening the VCDA – VA-ACDA Connection

Virginia ACDA has enjoyed a positive collaborative relationship with our sister organization, VCDA, for many years. VA-ACDA is part of ACDA whose mission is to inspire excellence in choral music through education, performance, composition, and advocacy. VA-ACDA members tend to include choral conductors from school, church, and community choirs. VA-ACDA leadership includes the state executive board and leadership team, with a variety of Repertoire and Resource chairs. VCDA is the choral unit of VMEA – the Virginia Music Educators Association – under the NAFME umbrella whose mission is to advance music education by encouraging the study and making of music by all. Members tend to include secondary school and collegiate choral directors. VCDA leadership includes a state executive board and district level representatives.

This Fall, with the blessing of VCDA President Brian Kelly, Virginia ACDA piloted a District Audition Workshop initiative aimed at supporting our VCDA directors and students as well as our collegiate ACDA members. Colleges and universities were invited to host audition workshops prior to All-District Chorus auditions, giving our collegiate ACDA members an opportunity to coach high school students preparing for their auditions. Audition workshops were planned at Virginia Wesleyan University (Bryson Mortensen), the University of Lynchburg (Jeremy Craft), and Radford University (Meredith Bowen).

District Chorus auditions are held the first weekend in November. If you are connected to collegiate members and would like to plan an Audition Workshop for 2019, we invite you to do so! Reach out to someone who piloted a workshop, or start building something that will work in your area. Contact Pam McDermott at pmcdermott@vaacda.org with questions, or to put your workshop on the calendar for 2019!

VCDA vs. VA-ACDA ?!?!



Meet VA-ACDA President-Elect:

Bonny Tynch



Bonny Tynch is currently in her ninth season as a youth chorus conductor with the Fairfax Choral Society in Northern Virginia. Throughout her teaching and conducting career in the Washington, D.C. area, she has been a leader and learner amongst her colleagues and was nationally recognized as the first recipient of the *Spotlight Award* given by the American Center for Elemental Music and Movement in 2013: *"Bonny has a calm, soothing way about her that sets students and colleagues at ease, but she also carries with her a spark – a joyful, enthusiastic energy that is backed up by high standards, careful plans, and a willingness to allow her students to take an unexpected path."*

Bonny's choirs are consistently recognized for their artistry and have served in residencies at workshops and national festivals including the CME Institute in Kenosha, WI led by Doreen Rao, Lee Kesselman, and Sandra Snow. An experienced educator working with a wide variety of ages and abilities, Bonny is most recently known for her work as co-founder of BRIDGES: Harmony Through Music, a nonprofit affiliate of the El Sistema USA movement. Bonny created BRIDGES to provide her underserved students and their families more opportunity and engagement through high quality and accessible after school music programs.

Bonny is a past president of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association and is a sought after presenter and choral clinician at the regional and national levels. She holds the CME Artist-Teacher Diploma, awarded in 2016 by Dr. Doreen Rao, through her studies with the Choral Music Experience Institute. Additionally, she studied in Salzburg at the Orff Institute and completed her Orff-Schulwerk Certification and Master Level IV training at George Mason University. She is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. Bonny holds choral music education degrees from East Carolina University (BM) and George Mason University (MM).

Virginia ACDA Calendar, 2018-19

July 27	Executive Board Planning Meeting
July 29	1 st Quarter Meeting: Full Leadership Team
August 2-4	Voices United Conference, State Lunch Meeting Honor Choirs: Children/Middle; Community/Music in Worship/High School
All Year	#ACDASing4VA advocacy initiative
Sept. 1	Newsletter: Voices United Wrap-Up; 18-19 Calendar; Leadership Team; Membership Drive
Sept. 15 – Nov. 15	Membership Drive
TBD	2 nd Quarter Meeting: Executive Board, R&R Coordinators
Nov. 1	Newsletter: VMEA participation; Membership Drive Update; President-Elect candidates
Nov. 10-15	Begin Election: President-Elect, 2019-21
Nov. 15-17	State Reception and Meeting at VMEA
Dec. 10-15	Close Election
Jan. 1	Election Results due to National
TBD	3 rd Quarter Meeting: Full Leadership Team
Feb. 1	Newsletter: Election results; #ACDASing4VA Update; All-Virginia Middle information; Voices United Honor Choirs registration and conference information
TBD	4 th Quarter Meeting: Executive Board
April 4-6	All Virginia Middle School Honor Choir (with HS and Elem VCDA events) Free Professional Development Workshops State Breakfast, Brunch, or Lunch Meeting TBD
May 15	Newsletter: All-State Middle School Wrap Up; Voices United; Student Chapter Focus
June 1	End-of-Year Reports Due to National

Voices United Planning Committee Meetings in Sept., Oct., Nov., Jan., Mar., & May



UPDATE

Dear Virginia members,

During the *SingUp* membership drive Virginia gained 48 new members! Wow! Thanks to everyone who invited a colleague to join ACDA for the first time, and also thanks to our great college chapter sponsors who recruited new student members.

Current VA-ACDA membership statistics as of February 15:

Total members = 488

Active: 335

Associate: 2

Industrial: 3

Institutional: 3

Life: 39

Paying Life: 1

Retired: 31

Student: 74

We are also VERY EXCITED to announce that we have two members who are presenters at this year's National Conference. Congratulations to Meredith Bowen and Shelbie Wahl Fouts! We are trying to schedule a "get together" in Kansas City on Thursday evening where we can celebrate Meredith and Shelbie. If you can come to such a gathering, please email me at: janemorison1@gmail.com. The schedule in KC is pretty tight, but I am hopeful we make some time to get together.

—Jane DeLoach Morison, Membership Chair

From your Vocal Jazz R&R Chair: Darden Purcell

Where's the Rep?: Finding new and exciting music for your Vocal Jazz and A Cappella groups

It is that time of year again when I have a difficult time finding exciting new repertoire for my ensemble. In August, I have had the summer to explore websites and material, so I typically find more music than needed. By January, I know (to a certain extent) the make-up of my group and am on the search for “fresh” material. The Jazz Education Network (JEN) <https://jazzednet.org/> (new version of IAJE) holds a conference each January, where one of my favorite activities is the “New Vocal” reading session. During this session, new music is performed by some of the top Vocal Jazz educators and arrangers, and music catalogs are provided to attendees to take home, peruse, and gain inspiration. However, if you were unable to attend this conference, where can you find this new repertoire? We all know of the larger publishers, but there are many other resources and independent arrangers just waiting to be found online.

I thought it might be useful to list some of these resources (websites and arrangers). Many of these people may already be known to you, but hopefully there will be some new names to add to your programming.

Sound Music Publications: <https://smpjazz.com/store/>

The SMP “search” function is one of the best in the business. You can search by product title, category, voicing, arranger, composer, and difficulty. Some featured arrangers are Dave Bar-duhn, Jennifer Barnes, Rosanna Eckert, Matt Falker, Jeremy Fox, Greg Jasperse, Kelly Kunz, Larry Lapin, Kerry Marsh, Paris Rutherford, Kirby Shaw, Vijay Singh, and Michele Weir, to name a few. Almost every product has the difficulty level listed, a PDF sample, and a recording to hear before you purchase. Charts are not downloadable on this site; however, they will be mailed to you and you can make copies as needed.

Kerry Marsh: <https://www.kerrymarsh.com/>

Kerry Marsh is one of the most sought after arrangers in the Vocal Jazz and Contemporary Music world. He is currently on the jazz faculty at the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, where he directs the vocal jazz ensembles and teaches Jazz Voice. His full catalog search can filter the following: difficulty, voicing, accompaniment, genre, solos, and program function. All charts sold on his website are delivered digitally so there is no wait time! He also features other arrangers, *Groove For Thought*, and Brad Rees. For most titles, he also has part tracks, minus-one tracks, and rhythm section tracks. For those with beginning groups, Kerry's Level 2/Starter Series is a wonderful place to “cut your vocal jazz teeth!”

Michele Weir: <https://www.michmusic.com/>

Michele Weir is on faculty at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and is a highly sought after teacher and clinician as well as prolific vocal arranger. Her arrangements have been performed by The Manhattan Transfer, New York Voices, Swingle Singers, and M-Pact, just to name a few. Her store is divided into three (3) categories: SSAA/SSA/SAB, SATB, and holiday arrangements. Every title lists the level, style, a PDF sample, and sound file for listening. If you choose a piece where the publisher is MichMusic, a link will be sent to you to download after purchase. If it lists another publisher, you will be directed to that site and, typically, those are mailed to you after purchase.

Tim Brent: <https://www.timbrent.com/>

Tim Brent is the visiting assistant professor of Popular Music Studies at Westminster College of the Arts of Rider University. He is an active composer, arranger, and performer, and, this semester, I am excited to perform his arrangement of the Count Basie classic "Little Pony." In his Vocal Score Store, you can search by voicing, level, and genre. Each title has a PDF sample, recording, and is downloadable after purchase. I love instant gratification!

Jeremy Fox: <http://www.jeremyfox.net/>

Grammy-nominated Jeremy Fox teaches full-time at the School for Music Vocations in Creston, Iowa. Jeremy's "Score Store" is divided into the following categories: choral, holiday, learning part tracks, SSA, SSAA, SAB, SSAB, SATB, Sheet Music Plus, and vocal jazz. The "Sheet Music Plus" category takes you directly to another site where you can listen, "look inside" the score, and purchase a digital download. Another wonderful feature is the "Learning Part Tracks" category where you can instantly see what repertoire these additional resources have for your ensemble.

Matt Falker: <https://matfalmusic.com/>

Matt Falker, vocalist in the vocal jazz group "True North," is full-time faculty at MiraCosta College in Oceanside California where he directs the *Frequency* vocal jazz program. All of Matt's arrangements are digital downloads immediately following your purchase. Included in your purchase is the SATB score, rhythm section scores (many with written out piano and bass parts), listening examples, and, in some cases, individual track parts. Each title has a "More Info/Purchase" link where a director can find the level, voicing, style, and PDF sample as well as a sample recording.

Of course, there are many other wonderful arrangers. Too many to list in this brief article, but I hope you find these resources useful in finding new repertoire for your group!

Please join us on March 9, 2019 for the Mason Vocal Jazz Festival at *George Mason University* with guest clinicians Lisanne Lyons and Brad Rees!

<https://music.gmu.edu/visit-us/mason-vocal-jazz-festival/>

(This festival is open to Vocal Jazz, A Cappella and Pop groups.)



MARCH 9, 2019

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

with internationally acclaimed Jazz
musicians, arrangers and educators

LISANNE LYONS & BRAD REES

The Mason Vocal Jazz Festival is a non-competitive invitational event open to high school and college groups. Ensembles will perform a 20-25 minute set followed by a clinic with Lisanne Lyons and Brad Rees.

Registration: music.gmu.edu/mason-vocal-jazz-festival/
\$225 participation fee per ensemble

Festival Director: Darden Purcell dpurcel2@gmu.edu



VIRGINIA ACDA

American Choral Directors Association



Is Your Choir an Effective Team? — Hannah Wunsch Ryan

Recently, a group at Google HR researched what key components could make or break the effectiveness of a Google team. They thought they would discover that the *members* of a team define its capability. Instead, they determined that *how* the team members interact and view their contributions is the most important component in a team's success. In fact, they determined that an effective team features five key elements.

1. **Psychological safety:** Team members take risks on this team without feeling insecure or embarrassed.
2. **Dependability:** Team members can count on each other to do high-quality work on time
3. **Structure & clarity:** Team members have clear goals, roles, and plans
4. **Meaning of work:** Work is personally important for each team member
5. **Impact of work:** Team members believe that the work they're doing matters.

So, is your choir an effective team?

1. **Psychological safety:** Do your singers feel able to take risks as they learn their music? When they make mistakes, are they called out and embarrassed, or do they understand that mistakes are part of the learning process? Can they ask questions without feeling incompetent?
2. **Dependability:** Do some of your choir members do the bulk of the work? Do others depend on them to learn the notes for their section? Or, does every choir member understand that the success of the ensemble hinges on their individual success? Do you rely on some singers more than others?
3. **Structure and clarity:** Do your singers clearly understand their responsibilities from rehearsal to rehearsal? Do they understand what they are expected to practice outside of class? Do they have clear roles as section leaders, choir president, etc...?
4. **Meaning of work:** In your rehearsals, are singers encouraged to personally connect with the music? Do they feel personal achievement when the choir is successful? Is their own work and success clearly connected to the goals of the choir?
5. **Impact of work:** Do your singers understand "why" they are singing the current repertoire? Do they understand the meaning of the text? How does their work from rehearsal eventually relate to communicating with the audience?

As a director, we can help model behaviors to foster these elements. In her TEDx talk, Novartis Professor of Leadership at Harvard Business School, Amy Edmondson, offers three simple things individuals can do to foster team psychological safety:

Frame the work as a learning problem, not an execution problem: Everyone's brains need to be "in the game" because there is a huge amount of unknown ahead.

Acknowledge your own fallibility: Saying "I may miss something" creates safety for speaking up.

Model curiosity and ask lots of questions: Questions create a necessity for input and others' voices as well as opens up channels of communications.

Works Cited

- Edmondson, Amy. *Building a Psychologically Safe Workplace*. YouTube, TEDxHGSE, 4 May 2014. www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhoLuui9gX8&feature=youtu.be
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- Rozovsky, Julia. "Re:Work - The Five Keys to a Successful Google Team." Google, Google, 17 Nov 2015. <https://rework.withgoogle.com/blog/five-keys-to-a-successful-google-team>

Hannah Wunsch Ryan, DMA, is Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral and Vocal Activities at the University of Virginia's College at Wise (UVa-Wise) where she directs three choral ensembles and teaches courses in conducting, vocal pedagogy, diction, choral literature, and choral methods.



A note from *Virginia Harmony* editor, Matthew Russell:

As you consider writing your article for the *Virginia Harmony* Newsletter, just a few pre-editing suggestions...

1. Please keep your articles to between 500 and 700 words. Remember less is always more; "simple and direct" and the people will read.
2. Please send the text of your article via a Word.doc. We can work with a PDF file, but a Word.doc makes things so much easier to edit and format.
3. Please make sure that any images you wish to include with your article are in JPG or PNG format.
4. Most articles for publication are solicited by the *Virginia Harmony* editorial board. However, ALL Virginia ACDA members are welcome to submit items of interest. The President, President-Elect, Communications Director, and Newsletter Editor will review all submissions prior to acceptance for publication.
5. Please email all article submissions to Matthew Russell at mnr10707@gmail.com, copying Communication Director Brandy Baxter at brandy.buckles@gmail.com.

Collegiate Member Conference Held at Radford University

Student Activities R&R Chair, Meredith Bowen, held a mini-conference for collegiate members on Saturday, September 22, 2018 focused on teaching middle school vocal/choral music.

The mini-conference was a hit with students and teachers alike. Dr. Stuart Hill was the headliner and was quite engaging. He gave a presentation entitled “Your Brain on Choral Music” (which is available to view on the VA-ACDA Student Activities Facebook page as it was live-streamed), a reading session from Hinshaw Music (his publisher) geared specifically for middle school singers, and a session entitled “Honor” in which he talked about honoring the person and experiences of middle school aged children.

Local teachers Dave Carroll, Daren Goad, and Brandy Baxter gave some seasoned teacher tips about the first few years of teaching and nuggets of wisdom when teaching middle school students. They stayed for the afternoon sessions and thoroughly enjoyed them, asking if the conference would open to not only college students but to teachers next year as well.

Dr. Bowen has engaged Dr. Joshua Palkki from California State University, Long Beach, for the conference next year. So, SAVE THE DATE: September 28, 2019!



Reflection by Rachel Tougas, senior music education major at Radford University

The Student Activities day at Radford University this past September was an incredible learning opportunity. I have long admired Dr. Stuart Chapman Hill's compositions, so having the opportunity to learn about his methods and ideas for the classroom as well as ask him questions was invaluable. From choosing repertoire, to student interactions, to rehearsal techniques, Dr. Hill gave me so much to think about and so many tools to add to my tool box. Dr. Hill had many wonderful and positive ideas about teaching music in a middle school classroom. His presentation about honoring our students, their voices, and their ideas resonated so deeply within me. I remember that being such a difficult time in my life and struggling with my voice, so it's easy to fall into the mindset that middle school is an awful, horrible time where your students will be so miserable, but it doesn't have to be. After spending the day learning from Dr. Hill, I feel a new excitement about teaching middle school voices and the opportunity to positively impact young people so early in their singing careers.

All the panels were informative, engaging, and downright fun. The reading session was full of beautiful texts and melodies, and the discussion about what made these pieces great for changing voices was illuminating. Dr. Meredith Bowen's panel about vocal pedagogy for singers auditioning for district and honor choirs was a great time to apply the skills we've been learning and to see what works, what doesn't, and why— all through a mock voice lesson. The teachers' panel — consisting of Dave Carroll, Brandy Baxter, and Darren Goad — was full of many different and intriguing perspectives on teaching music. It was also very inspiring seeing these three teachers interact and bounce ideas off each other and learning from each other. As a new teacher I sometimes feel intimidated: like I will never be good enough. But, seeing that these teacher-conductors were learning as much as I was reminded me that this feeling of inferiority should be turned into a drive to learn more and be better for my students.

Overall, that's what I loved the most about this experience. Conferences are a time to be reinvigorated in what we do and to have a day — where the focus was on people like me that haven't had a lot of experience in the field — made it that much better. I truly appreciated all the opportunities to give my input, ask questions, and receive thoughtful feedback. Though this is my final year of my undergraduate degree, I see so much value in this Student Activities day. I hope that I can attend again next year to hear from Dr. Joshua Palkki.

The *NextDirection* Conference comes to Virginia!

*The **NextDirection** conference is a conference for both High School Students (10-12) and Collegiate students who are interested in or already pursuing Music Education. In addition to working with two stellar choral conductors, students get the opportunity to develop skills that will help them on their path to becoming music educators. Last year, **NextDirection** was elevated as a national event hosted in Wisconsin. This summer, Virginia will host the first ever 'state-level' — or regional — **NextDirection** conference for students in Virginia and surrounding states on the campus of Virginia Wesleyan University. Melodie Henderson, who has spearheaded the efforts to bring **NextDirection** to Virginia, discusses the most exciting aspects of the conference with Bryson Mortensen, co-chair and site host, for the **NextDirection** Virginia conference.*

MORTENSEN: What do you find so appealing about the *NextDirection* experience? Why was it so important to bring it to Virginia?

HENDERSON: I love that the *NextDirection* conference is a truly unique experience for aspiring choral leaders. Participants get to rub elbows with leaders in the field of choral conducting and gain instruction and actual experience in principles of choral leadership. This isn't typically something high school students focus on in the course of their studies, so it's a great way for them to begin to determine whether their interest in music education is something they would actually like to pursue. For the college students, it gives them the opportunity to learn from professionals outside of their universities, allowing them to gain a greater breadth of experience and insight in their chosen field. Of course, there's some singing that goes along with the experience, but the primary focus is on what it takes to be a leader — practicing conducting skills, learning how to study and prepare a score, understanding principles of rehearsal pacing, thinking about what considerations go into repertoire selection, and so much more.

Last year, I served on the leadership team and taught at the first national-level *NextDirection* conference in Wisconsin. The students came away from the experience excited for their future careers and empowered by the wealth of knowledge and resources they received. Only one student at the conference was from Virginia, while at least half were from Wisconsin and Minnesota. So I thought that by offering a *NextDirection* conference closer to home, we would be able to increase the positive impact this program might have on more of our own students who, otherwise, might not be able to travel so far. I'm really excited to bring it here and give the opportunity to more students in our area!

MORTENSEN: I agree, I first discovered *NextDirection* when I was teaching in Wisconsin shortly after finishing my doctoral degree. I thought it was one of the most unique conferences out there — helping prepare the next generation of music educators and choral conductors and getting them excited about their career early on in their education. I tried to create something similar once I arrived in Virginia, and I knew that you were creating a similar experience in Northern Virginia. It can be a challenge to do it alone, so I am so excited for this new conference that brings together lots of great choral conductors, don't you think?

HENDERSON: Yes! I know the high school students who participate in my weekly conducting seminar program, *D.C. al Fine*, learn a ton from observing one another and grow as conductors. Getting to meet and work with even more like-minded peers in an intensive summer program is equal parts fun, inspiring, (should I mention exhausting!?), and — like any other ACDA conference — an experience they'll draw from for the rest of their professional lives. Additionally, they'll definitely benefit from starting to create their own network of choral conducting colleagues.

MORTENSEN: Adding two fantastic headliners to their network, too!

HENDERSON: Absolutely. We are so fortunate this year to be working with Dr. Shane Lynch, from Washington and Lee University, who will be headlining the high school track, and Dr. Lisa Billingham, from George Mason University, who will be headlining the collegiate track. Both of these conductors bring with them a wealth of experience in conducting, as well as a passion for training the next generation of choral leaders.

MORTENSEN: I think one of the great things about this is that students get to learn more than just conducting, and they do more than learn a few pieces of choral repertoire. They get to learn what it is like to study the music in preparation for a rehearsal, to look inside the music to see the challenges, and think of ways to solve them.

HENDERSON: And they get to turn around and apply the skills they are learning right there at the conference in seminars and master classes!

MORTENSEN: So how is this different from the national *NextDirection* conference? How is it similar?

HENDERSON: The bones of it are largely the same. We have the same goal — to inspire the next generation of choral leaders. At both conferences, students spend about 3 days working primarily with one headliner conductor and fill in the rest of time by attending interest sessions presented by members of the conference leadership team as well as spending some recreational time with the other participants.

Perhaps the biggest difference between the national conference and ours is that we will have the high school and collegiate tracks running at the same time, which means all of the students and both headliners will be on campus at the same time. So, we've built time into our schedule where the students in both tracks will actually get to spend some time working with one another and will also get to attend at least one session presented by the headliner assigned to the other track.



MORTENSEN: Plus, students will live on campus while here and have access to the many amenities made available at Virginia Wesleyan University. They will also be able to take in part of the beautiful landscape of Coastal Virginia. It's not limited to Virginians though, is it?

HENDERSON: Not at all. As I said before, I really wanted to bring this conference "home" so that it would be more convenient and cost-effective for students here on the East Coast. Of course, anyone in the country is welcome to attend. We are simply imagining that this option will offer an opportunity for students in Virginia and surrounding states that might not otherwise be able to afford long distance travel.

MORTENSEN: Speaking of affording the conference, many states will be offering scholarships to cover part of the fees related to the conference. Teachers who are interested in learning more and who want to share details about the *NextDirection* conference with their students can visit <https://www.vaacda.org/nextdirection>



The poster for the NextDirection conference features a large blue logo at the top with a stylized figure above the 't' in 'Next'. Below the logo, the text 'A PROGRAM OF AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION' is displayed. The dates 'July 23-26, 2019' are prominently shown. To the right, a photo shows two students sitting on a bench outdoors. Below the dates, the 'Application Deadline: May 1, 2019' is stated. On the left, two portraits are included: Dr. Shane Lynch, a man in a suit, and Dr. Lisa Billingham, a woman with blonde hair. Text to the right of these portraits describes the conference as being for future music educators and lists various activities like conducting, score study, and vocal pedagogy. At the bottom, it provides the website for applications and mentions that many states offer scholarships. The Virginia ACDA logo is in the bottom right corner.

NextDirection
A PROGRAM OF AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

July 23-26, 2019

**Application
Deadline:
May 1, 2019**

Dr. Shane Lynch
Washington and Lee University

Dr. Lisa Billingham
George Mason University

Sleep, eat, and study on the Virginia Wesleyan University campus in Virginia Beach, Virginia

For future music educators that are high school students in grades 10-12 and collegiate students. Open to students in Virginia and nearby states.

While working with top-notch choral conductors preparing and rehearsing gems from all centuries of choral music, students will develop skills in:

- Conducting/Rehearsing
- Score Study
- Musicianship and Choral Artistry
- Choral Leadership
- Vocal Pedagogy and Vocal Health
- Various Genres and Styles of Choral Music
- Career Paths in Choral Music

Applications are available at [vaacda.org/nextdirection](https://www.vaacda.org/nextdirection)

Many states are offering scholarships. Check with your state leadership to apply.

VIRGINIA ACDA
American Choral Directors Association

REBECCA TYREE "BRING A FRIEND" MEMORIAL FUND



Becky Tyree, past Virginia ACDA President and Voices United Chair, passed away unexpectedly on May 24, 2018. Becky had a huge heart and positive spirit. She was a constant presence at Voices United, Southern Region, and National ACDA conferences as a presenter and participant. She led an active student chapter at VCU and worked to bring young educators into ACDA.

Becky regularly reached out to friends to share rooms and meals at conferences. The Rebecca Tyree "Bring a Friend" Memorial Fund is being established to continue Becky's work and inspiration among us. Members and friends are encouraged to make donations to honor Becky, or to remember/honor others who have guided and inspired.

Recipients of this award will be nominated by a current member of ACDA. Scholarship winners will receive conference registration fees and hotel expenses for two nights. If the recipient has not already joined ACDA, they will also receive a complimentary membership from their home state during the National ACDA fall membership drive. Awards will be announced before the Early Bird registration deadline for VoicesUnited.

Tyree Scholarship Fund UPDATE:

We have received our first donations to provide scholarships to any ACDA member who is a first-time attendee at our summer collaborative conference, Voices United! The Becky Tyree Memorial Fund was established over the summer to continue Becky's legacy of encouragement and connection at ACDA conferences.

This fund is an opportunity to honor the choral mentors in your life. You are invited to make a contribution in memory of or to honor ANYONE. A list of dedications will be included in each year's program. Click on the Rebecca Tyree "Bring a Friend" Memorial Fund link on the Voices United webpage at www.acdavoicesunited.org to make your donation and list your dedication.

Jacob Devol, a Virginia choral conductor and former student of Becky's, will be chairing the committee to establish application and selection guidelines. Watch for details in future newsletters!



www.acdavoicesunited.org



Sing for Virginia is an opportunity for choirs of to promote excellence in choral composition and performance throughout Virginia. It is an opportunity to raise awareness, spotlight Virginia choirs and composers, and connect with each other through videos, photos, and lists. It is an opportunity for directors of young and older, school and community singers, to be active participants and advocates together for Virginia ACDA.

In conjunction with Sing for Virginia, we have launched the Virginia Choral Composer Connection. In order to share the great talent and works of Virginian choral composers, we would like to compile a database. We invite you to share your favorite Virginian composers or compositions through a Google Form. If you are a composer, please let us know about your work. The information collected will instantly be available on the Virginia ACDA website for all to see. What a tremendous resource this could be in discovering and promoting the great works of Virginian choral composers!

Congratulations to our Sing for Virginia participants so far! These choirs and their directors have posted a rehearsal or performance video on the Virginia ACDA Facebook page using the hashtag #Sing4VA featuring a piece by Virginian composers:

- "Out of the Depths" by Anthony Kouri Williams performed by the Randolph Macon Chamber Singers under the direction of Sherri Matthews.
- "Sing the Day With Joy" by Mark Patterson performed by the Randolph Macon Concert Choir under the direction of Sherri Matthews.
- "Song of Eternity in Time" by Luke Frels performed by Lanier Middle School's Bella Canzone for their 2018 VMEA performance under the direction of Juliana Woodill
- "Villagers All" by Dwight Bigler performed by the Broad Run High School Select Choir under the direction of Jennifer Kauffmann

Check out the composers and their listed works on our Virginia Choral Composer Connection so far:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| • Dwight Bigler | • Shane Lynch |
| • Daniel Gawthrop | • Mark Patterson |
| • Lynne German | • Gordon Ring |
| • Bryan Greer | • Judith Shatin |
| • Undine Moore | • Teresa Cobarrubia Yoder |
| • Christopher Hoh | |

Would you like to participate?! Here's how:

- Post a video of your choir rehearsing or performing a song by a Virginian composer, about Virginia or a part of Virginia's history on the Virginia ACDA Facebook page and use the hashtag #Sing4VA
- Share information about Virginian composers or compositions on our database by using the form found at this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/GbZ6dEJKfQbHmS0g2>
- Compose a song, perhaps with your singers, and become a Virginian composer yourself!

If you have ideas, questions or would like to get more involved with Sing for VA, please contact VA ACDA Vice President, Bill Podolski at bill.podolski@gmail.com.



August 1 – 3
George Mason
University
Fairfax, Virginia

2019 Headliners

Amanda Quist

Chair of the Conducting, Organ, and Sacred Music Department, Westminster Choir College, Director, Westminster Vocal Institute. National ACDA Repertoire and Resources Coordinator for Collegiate Activities.

Thea Kano

Artistic Director, Washington Gay Men's Chorus. Founder and Artistic Director, New York City Master Chorale. Champion of music education: she believes in the power of music to nurture, and that classical music should be accessible to all.

Tom Shelton

Associate Professor, Westminster Choir College. National ACDA President. Director of Music for Children's and Youth Choirs, Princeton United Methodist Church. Associate Conductor - Princeton Girlchoir.

Opportunities for Directors and Choristers

- Sing in Director's Chorus, ACDA Voices United Chorus, Children's Honor Chorus
- Attend conference sessions by Amanda, Thea, and Tom, as well as colleagues from around the region
- Visit a variety of choral reading sessions (with complimentary octavos!)
- Join our networking dinner, conference banquet, chapter lunches, and opportunities to connect with peers
- Browse the comprehensive resources available from The Musical Source

www.acdavoicesunited.org

ACDA Voices United, a local conference sponsored by MD/DC, VA, and DE chapters along with The Musical Source.

Voices United Summer Conference

August 1-3, 2019 at George Mason University

Plans for our 21st Annual collaborative state conference are well underway. Here are a few ways you can consider supporting and/or participating in our state conference:

Micro-Interest Sessions

If you are planning to attend the conference, we are looking for “in-house” participants to lead morning micro “warm-up” sessions. It might be something for the body — from body awareness to blood-pumping games/activities — to something for the voice, something for the mind, or any combination of objectives. It could be for directors to care for themselves each day, or it could be ideas to get our singers ready to go. We are thinking ACTIVE sessions — not lecture-style — where participants come in, put down their stuff, and join in. Sessions will be from 8:30 am-8:55 am to kick off each day.

The link to submit a proposal is here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eqUXFJB3bUmsA8sxevnKF4o75JeWGUyZ-4sYXBapLA0/edit?usp=sharing>

Promote Singing for our Youngest: Tom Shelton, director

YOU can sponsor a young singer, ages 10-15 (unchanged voices), to come sing with Tom Shelton. Repertoire and rehearsal tracks are provided with their registration. **You do not have to be their teacher** to recommend them – you can reach out to your friends and family, to the home-school community near you, to anyone. Just point them to the simple audition process, and assist if needed. This experience is LIFE-CHANGING for young singers and is a first step in creating lifelong singers! First rehearsal is Thursday evening, August 1 at George Mason University; concert is 1:30 pm on Saturday, August 3. Applications will be online soon (www.acdavoicesunited.org) and are due mid-May.

Promote Lifelong Singing: Thea Kano, director

Singers 15-95 (and younger changed voices) are invited to sing in our Voices United Honor Chorus. Consider encouraging family members to come sing together! We are piloting a **new rehearsal schedule** that includes sectionals prior to the event, rehearsals Thursday evening, a half day on Friday afternoon, and Saturday morning/afternoon rehearsals and concert. Also new: a registration process that allows singers to enter your member number and register themselves – **you no longer register your singers**. Repertoire and rehearsal tracks are provided. Applications will be available in March and are due in July.

Practice What You Preach: Amanda Quist, director

If you are planning to attend the conference, you can opt to sing in the Conductors Chorus and participate from the other side of the podium. We bring our best sight-reading skills and put them to the test as we learn 3-4 pieces to sing together during the Saturday concert. Four hours of rehearsal are built into the conference schedule, and you don't miss any of the conference to sing in the choir. This is a great way to get to know some of the other director-singers, and it is also an opportunity to learn by doing! Registration will be available in March; simply indicate on your registration form that you'd like to sing.

Attending a conference is the best gift you can give yourself. This is where your ACDA membership pays dividends. We hope to see you there, and hope you will send some singers to experience the joy of a festival chorus under a nationally-known guest conductor!



August 1 – 3, 2019

George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia

featuring



**Amanda
Quist**



**Thea
Kano**



**Tom
Shelton**

www.acdavoicesunited.org

ACDA Voices United, a local conference sponsored by
MD/DC, VA, and DE chapters along with The Musical
Source.

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