

Georgia Sings!

AMERICAN
CHORAL
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION 

The Official Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association

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LIFT EVERY VOICE
MOBILE, AL | MARCH 11-14, 2020
AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
SOUTHERN REGION CONFERENCE

Membership...

[Like us on Facebook for news and updates from our membership.](#)



Encourage others to become a more active and informed part of our choral family in Georgia and join ACDA. Membership for all chapters of ACDA is handled via the National Office. Visit [Membership Central](#) for more information.

From our President, Dr. Paul Neal, Georgia ACDA President, Page 3

From our President

Dr. Paul Neal, Georgia ACDA President, Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at Berry College

Dearest ACDA Folks,

Welcome to another year of music-making! I know many of us are already in the throws of rehearsals, and our choir rooms are full of music again. Georgia ACDA is here for you! We wish everyone a prosperous and rewarding new year of great music.

First, I want to thank everyone for a wonderful summer conference this past summer. It was rich in resources offered by Amanda Quist, as well as outstanding interest sessions by so many of our amazing conductors here in Georgia. We were pleased to hear fine performances by the Singing Brothers of Stilwell and the Lifetime Learners, as well as inspiring Atlanta Homeward Choir. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Steve Mulder and Keith Walker who coordinated the LSSL Honor Choir so beautifully, and to conductors Emily Floyd who lead this group so very well. Our summer conferences are always extremely well done, due in large part to the efforts of the members of the board. Thanks also to Stefanie Cash and JD Burnett for their help in securing wonderful interest sessions that were both informative and fun, and to Laura Martin for her help with the logistics of the conference.



I wanted to touch base about a few exciting things that are available to you and your singers in the upcoming year.

Sing Up Campaign

The National ACDA office has started our Sing Up Campaign for the 2019-2020 year. In Georgia, we are looking to raise our membership by 10%. We have several ways to do that:

1. Student Membership Initiative - If you know of a student who is interested in the Student ACDA membership, we can get them a \$5 membership! Just contact [Jennifer Sengin](#) for details.
2. Complimentary Membership Program - If you know someone who is not a member, please let me know! I may be able to get them a free membership! I have a limited number, so first come, first serve.
3. Colleague Referral Program - You identify colleagues who would make good ACDA member. And you invite them to join ACDA. Maybe send them an email or personal note?

This is a great time to be a member of ACDA. We have great conferences that really speak to the importance of our choral art, plus great resources for us all to learn and grow. The best recruiters for our organization are YOU! So, get out there and encourage your colleagues to join.

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From our President, Dr. Paul Neal, Georgia ACDA President, Page 4

Ga-ACDA Composer Lab Choir October 26, 2019 Oglethorpe University

Georgia ACDA announces the FIRST ANNUAL Composer Lab Choir. Selected composers will work with a professional choir and our clinician, Daniel Elder, receiving positive critique followed by a quality recording of their new piece.

We have three exciting compositions to perform, plus Dan Elder will be workshopping one of his new compositions. It will be a wonderful time to singing together. We are looking for singers to participate. Please contact [Dr. Tim Powell](#) for more information.

Honor Choirs at Southern Region Conference in Mobile, Alabama

Make plans now to have your singers audition for the 2020 ACDA Southern Region Honor Choirs in Mobile, Alabama! This year's conference will feature four honor choirs, including a Children's Honor Choir (grades 4-6), Junior High Honor Choir (grades 7-9), Senior High Honor Choir (grades 10-12), and the brand new Lifelong Learners Honor Choir (featuring adults in Community, Symphonic, and Worship Choirs). Accepted singers will make up ensembles comprised of talent from across the region, preparing and performing repertoire to be sung in Mobile's historic Saenger Theater.

Honor Choir Timeline

Monday, August 19, 2019 - Honor Choir Submissions Open

Friday, October 4, 2019 - Honor Choir Submissions Application Deadline

Friday, November 8, 2019 - Accepted Honor Choir Results Released

Monday, December 9, 2019 - Honor Choir Registration Due

Encourage your singers to audition! They will learn so much from the great conductors, two of whom are from our great state of Georgia (Dr. Martha Shaw and Dr. Eric Nelson). For more information, click [here](#).

Dates to remember

Southern Regional Convention

March 11-14, 2020

Mobile, Alabama

Georgia ACDA State Convention

June 15-16, 2020

Spivey Hall

Dr. Gary Packwood, Mississippi State University

From our President, Dr. Paul Neal, Georgia ACDA President, Page 5

Interest Session/Ensemble Performance Applications for Ga-ACDA 2020 at Spivey Hall

The links to submit audition material for the 2020 Summer Conference are now up. If you have a group that you would like to perform, we encourage you to apply. The summer conference is a great place to “try out” the convention performance experience for your ensemble. You can find both links at our website - www.gaacda.org.



2020 Ga-ACDA Summer Conference - Ensemble Performance Submission

June 14-15, 2020

Spivey Hall at Clayton State University

Morrow, Georgia

Eligibility and Financial Statement:

Conductors must be current, paid-to-date members of ACDA. It is understood that ACDA will not assume any financial responsibility for food, travel, or lodging for the participating groups. The conductor of any performing group must register for the conference. This application implies that the above-mentioned group is prepared to travel and perform at the convention if accepted.

Deadline January 15, 2020

2020 Ga-ACDA Summer Conference - Interest Session Proposal

Our 2020 Summer Conference is sponsored by the Georgia Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association and will be held at Spivey Hall on the campus of Clayton State University in Morrow, GA on June 14-15, 2020. This form is for submission of interest session ideas for consideration at the conference.

Eligibility: presenters must be current members of ACDA. It is understood that Ga-ACDA will not assume financial responsibility for travel, food, lodging for presenters or interest session participants. All presenters must register for the conference. This application implies that if accepted the presenter is prepared and available to present on any day of the conference.

Deadline January 15, 2020

Dr. Paul Neal
GA ACDA President

Opportunities for Our Young Musicians, Dr. Jennifer Sengin, Music Education-Choral, Associate Director of Choral Activities, GA-ACDA R&R Chair for Youth and Student Activities, Page 6

Opportunities for Our Young Musicians

Dr. Jennifer Sengin, Music Education-Choral, Associate Director of Choral Activities, GA-ACDA R&R Chair for Youth and Student Activities

I hope everyone is off to a great start of their school year! We have some exciting things happening in the world of GA Youth and Student Activities!

Student Conducting Master Class

First, we would like to congratulate all of the students who participated in the GA-ACDA Summer Conference Master Class with Dr. Amanda Quist as both conductors and alternates: Justin Han, Nikki Johnson, Anthony Morris, Samuel Potts, Morgan Rubin, Joel Terning, and Kara Truitt.

The student conductors had a great experience working with Dr. Quist in a supportive and affirming environment. Some feedback from the student conductors include:



"It allowed me the privilege to conduct for experienced directors of music, and receive great, individualized feedback from Dr. Quist!"

Everyone at the conference was so welcoming and helped me to do my best!"

– Kara Truitt, Berry College

I learned SO much from Dr. Quist and had such a fun time. I was nervous leading up to it but once everyone started singing, it just felt like I was at home in a way.

Dr. Quist made me feel really comfortable and explained things in a way that clicked for me.

I learned SO much just from watching her work with everyone else, too.

– Nikki Johnson, Reinhardt University and GA ACDA Collegiate Student Representative

Thank you to all of the teachers who encouraged their students to participate! Information about the 2020 GA-ACDA Summer Conference Conducting Master Class will be available in January 2020 and posted on the Georgia ACDA Website.

Student Membership Pricing for **NEW** Members

Georgia ACDA has opted in for the \$5 **NEW** student membership price for ACDA again this year.

In order for students to take advantage of this one-time \$5 membership initiative, they will need to go to acda.org and click on "Join Now". This offer is only available online. Once students create an account, the system should automatically identify Georgia as a participating state and provide the \$5 membership option.

If the website does not provide a \$5 membership prompt for new members, please contact the ACDA National Office and they will help new members to join - www.acda.org 405-232-8161

This offer is only available to new student members. Returning members can renew their membership at the current student membership rate of \$35.

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Pictures from the 2019 GA-ACDA Summer Conference



**Need a job? Want to fill a position? Visit our blog at the
GA-ACDA website.**

If you want to post a listing, email Nathan at schreernj@fultonschools.org.

Did you know ACDA has it's own *radio station*?

- [ACDA RADIO](#) is an online radio station broadcasted live from the ACDA National Office
- Recordings are brought to you directly by NAXOS
- ACDA members must login to listen!

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The Avocation of Music: Keeping Students Singing through College and Beyond, Dr. Clell E. Wright, Director of Choral Activities, Valdosta State University, GA-ACDA R7R Chair for College and University, Page 8

The Avocation of Music: Keeping Students Singing through College and Beyond

Dr. Clell E. Wright, Director of Choral Activities, Valdosta State University, GA-ACDA R&R Chair for College and University

When I visit high school choral programs I always love to talk with the students about college life, the profession of music, or just the choral experience in general. A quick show of hands in most high school choirs reveals a few students who wish to seek a music degree, but far more who want to pursue another career path. This is fine, I tell them. Because music is the vocation for a few, but it is the greatest avocation in the world. And I urge them to continue making music no matter what career path they choose.

Yet it has been my experience that many high school choral students, including those who were extremely active in their high school years, do not continue to sing when they enter college. When I talk with these students, a variety of reasons are given, including class and/or work schedule, and even burnout.

But the joy of collaborative music making is an enriching experience that can bring happiness and fulfillment to an individual throughout their life, and I have made it my mission over the past few years to find ways to bring those no longer involved in choir back into the fold. When I have succeeded in re-engaging a student in the choral experience, I often hear comments as to how the student had forgotten how much fun singing in a choir could be and that they didn't realize how much they had missed it.

As college choral directors, we are tasked with recruiting and our focus is, appropriately, on bringing in those top-tier vocalists from the high school ranks. Those voices bring quality, stability, and often recognition to our choirs. They also aid in further recruitment because quality attracts quality. But an equal focus of our recruiting should be from within the university, seeking out those students who are no longer singing, not necessarily for the quality and quantity that they may add to our choirs, but simply because they need to be singing – for their benefit and growth as individuals.

So, as we build our programs, we will continue to seek out great students to prepare for a career in choral music, but let us also seek out students to equip with the means of making great music at any level. Let us do our part to foster a culture of singing in our schools and communities across the state and the nation.



Fostering Diversity and Inclusivity, Dr. Melissa Arasi, Artistic Director, Atlanta Women's Chorus, Assistant Professor of Music Education, Reinhardt University, GA-ACDA R7R Chair for Diversity Initiatives, Page 9

Fostering Diversity and Inclusivity

Dr. Melissa Arasi, Artistic Director, Atlanta Women's Chorus, Assistant Professor of Music Education, Reinhardt University, GA-ACDA R&R Chair for Diversity Initiatives

The National office of ACDA has created a mission statement around a new initiative regarding diversity in ACDA. In part, the mission states "to foster diversity and inclusivity in our membership, ensembles, and repertoire through active engagement with underrepresented choral musicians and potential choral participants. As a result of this inclusivity, the committee plans to bring about a broader definition of choral excellence to maintain relevance through the expansion of both the reach and impact of our profession and its musical scope." And my thoughts were, it's about time!

A committee of choral musicians in our state is taking this charge head on! First on the agenda was to consider the possibility of providing some financial support for ACDA member conducted choirs that are selected to perform at an ACDA conference. This endeavor will hopefully encourage more diversity in performing ensembles at conference. Please consider applying for National, Regional, and State conferences in the coming years. And, it should be noted that the National Diversity initiatives Committee plan to revisit/reform the application, audition, and performance requirement procedures at all levels so that there is a more diverse and representative body of performing choirs and honor choir participants.

In addition, a goal is to develop a network of personnel and resources to provide education around issues of race, poverty, urban/rural/suburban, and LGBTQ, gender and related issues within the context of choral music. There have been several articles of late in the choral journal that address the need for conductors and singers to possess a greater understanding of all repertoire selected...it's origins, who arranged this, what are appropriate performance norms, who should perform, who should not perform, etc...*A Rubric for Choral Relevance* by Jennifer Rodgers, May 2019.

As a conductor of a Gay and Lesbian Association Chorus whose mission is to *give voice to all*, these topics are near to my heart. If you are interested in helping us make this a reality in our state, please send your thoughts and suggestions! For this to happen, we, the membership of ACDA, must welcome and encourage acceptance and support rather than judgment.



The Inaugural GA-ACDA Composer Lab Choir, Dr. Timothy Powell, Director of Choral Activities, Oglethorpe University, GA-ACDA R7R Chair for Choral Composition, Page 10

The Inaugural GA-ACDA Composer Lab Choir

Dr. Timothy Powell, Director of Choral Activities, Oglethorpe University, GA-ACDA R&R Chair for Choral Composition

On Saturday, October 26 in the Skylight Gallery at the Oglethorpe University Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia ACDA will host the first Composer Lab Choir. This new, unique event will be conducted by award-winning composer and Georgia native Daniel Elder, and will be made up of ACDA members. Georgia composers Brad Gooch, Michael Parker, and Ryan Ward were selected to present their works for this inaugural event.

The Composer Lab Choir, which is open to the public, is part of GA-ACDA's ongoing efforts to promote new choral music through our Composition Initiative. Our clinician, Daniel Elder, is even planning on work-shopping one of his new, in-process pieces!

The three featured composers submitted their score electronically, which were reviewed and vetted by members of the GA-ACDA state board. Each composer will be present for a 30 minute live rehearsal with our GA-ACDA choir, conducted by Elder. The choir and clinician will provide real-time, positive feedback during the process, which will culminate in a live, high quality audio recording by SoundAround Audio that each composer may use for archival and demonstration purposes, and for submissions to publishers.

As a prolific writer of vocal and instrumental music, Daniel Elder (b. 1986) ties these genres together to create forms and aesthetics that are at once lyrical and textural, drawing its roots particularly from the impressionist movement. Critics have hailed his works as "deeply affecting" and "without peer," with emotional evocations ranging from lush lyricism to jagged polyphony. Daniel's compositions have won recognition from The American Prize, The Simon Carrington Chamber Singers, Cantus, and many others, including a recording by the Grammy-award-winning Eric Whitacre Singers made at Abbey Road



The Inaugural GA-ACDA Composer Lab Choir, Dr. Timothy Powell, Director of Choral Activities, Oglethorpe University, GA-ACDA R7R Chair for Music and Worship, Page 11

Studios as part of their 80th Anniversary Anthem Competition. The first commercial album of Daniel's choral works, "The Heart's Reflection: Music of Daniel Elder," was released in October 2013 by Westminster Choir College (Princeton, NJ) and Naxos of America, and debuted at #53 on the overall classical Billboard chart. Daniel currently resides in Nashville, TN as a full-time freelance composer. He is published internationally by Carus Verlag, Edition Peters, GIA Publications, Hal Leonard, Imagine Music, Walton Music, and Wingert-Jones Publications, while also self-publishing his newest releases through J.W. Pepper.

www.DanielEldermusic.com/about



More Pictures from the 2019 GA-ACDA Summer Conference



Lifetime Singers, Lifetime Learners, Dr. Stephen J. Mulder, Director of Music and Worship, First United Methodist Church, Griffin, GA-ACDA R&R Chair for Music and Worship, Page 12

Lifetime Singers, Lifetime Learners

Dr. Stephen J. Mulder, Director of Music and Worship, First United Methodist Church, Griffin, GA-ACDA R&R Chair for Music and Worship

At our Summer Conference we again celebrated the lifetime enjoyment of the choral arts through our Lifetime Singers- Lifetime Learners Honor Choir. This summer our ensemble was directed by Emily Floyd from Shallowford Presbyterian Church.

Over 100 singers rehearsed on Tuesday night at Shallowford prior to performing at Spivey Hall on Thursday evening, June 20. Emily was a fantastic clinician, supremely organized and efficient. She chose beautiful and diverse repertoire, including selections by Mendelssohn, Randall Thompson, John Rutter, and Mark Miller, among others.

Participants enjoyed a vigorous rehearsal with masterful teaching on vocal techniques (“ponytail and beard,” “question mark shaped head space”) and diction (introducing us to “Singlish”). The Thursday evening Lifetime Singers performance is becoming a hallmark of the Summer Conference representing the shared desire for everything we do as choral musicians—whether in churches or schools, with older adults or with children, in communities or on campuses, in our nation or anywhere in the world—that we may inspire a lifelong passion for singing.



SOUTHERN DIVISION- LIFELONG LEARNERS HONOR CHOIR

Following the model of our GA ACDA Lifetime Singers-Lifetime Learners Honor Choir, which has existed for over a decade, the Southern Region of ACDA has initiated a similar Honor Choir for the ACDA Southern Region Conference in Mobile, AL, on March 11-14, 2020.

Dr. Eric Nelson of Emory University and the Atlanta Master Chorale will be the clinician. The Lifelong Learners Honor Choir will have the opportunity to perform on stage at Mobile’s historic Saenger Theater.

Applications for participants are due by October 4, 2019 and require a recorded singing submission of two excerpts. Details about the event and auditions can be found at www.acdasouthern.org/lifelong-learners-honor-choir/, or you can contact Morgan Luttig, Honor Choirs Chair, at mluttigacda@gmail.com.

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More Pictures from the 2019 GA-ACDA Summer Conference



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Opportunities for Our Young Musicians, Dr. Jennifer Sengin, Music Education-Choral, Associate Director of Choral Activities, GA-ACDA R&R Chair for Youth and Student Activities, Page 14

All choral organizations are encouraged to publicize in our newsletter!

Georgia Sings! Is a great place to let our choral community know about your organizations and events!

- Our newsletter is published in color, not grayscale, you can include color in your ad!
- If you want to include a written article or column in your advertisement, we reserve the right to place a disclaimer such as “*This is an advertisement*” somewhere in the ad.
- You may request for your ad to be placed before or after a certain article or section, but please be understanding of changes that must be made for the best layout.
- You may request a border for your ad, but please be understanding of changes that must be made for a visually appealing page.
- There is a discount for ACDA members from any state chapter. Non-members such as businesses are invited to advertise in our newsletter.
- If you know of other organizations from other states, please invite them to advertise in *Georgia Sings!*
- The Fall edition is published by Nov. 1; the Spring edition is published by May 15.
- Purchase Forms and ad designs are due by Oct. 1 for the Fall issue, and April 1 for the spring issue.
- Advertisements can be purchased in 1/4 page, 1/2 page vertical, 1/2 page horizontal, or full page sizes.
- Advertisers can design their own ad!

Visit our webpage at www.gaacda.org

Are you interested in contributing to this newsletter?

Would you like to see an article on a particular topic?

Georgia Sings! is the official newsletter of Georgia ACDA. We welcome member- contributed articles, book reviews, and suggestions for articles, as well as advertisements. For more information, please email Newsletter Editor **Mindy Forehand** at mindymartin143@gmail.com.