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### **Some Parting Words of Wisdom from Outgoing President Alicia Walker**

I love Mozart. I love the balance and the symmetry of Mozart's music. I love the way the form is fleshed out with such grace and beauty; the way the harmonic structure that could be restricting is treated with such ingenuity that the motion away from tonic and back again is supremely satisfying. Would that life was so symmetrical and balanced!

Instead, I find that life is more like the music of Samuel Barber. The Agnus Dei was sung at a concert I attended recently, and as it always does, the music lingered in my mind long after the performance was over. It, too, is supremely beautiful, and I am always struck by Barber's ability to sustain the harmonic progression, allowing for motion forward that seems to settle briefly, but without a complete resolution. No Perfect Authentic Cadences here!

As I talk with colleagues around our state and beyond, I hear a great deal of uncertainty being voiced. Veteran teachers are uncertain about the future of their programs, churches continue to make deep cuts in budgets and personnel, student teachers are graduating, wondering if they will be able to use their degrees, community choirs seek support from audiences that have less discretionary income than in previous years. As artists and musicians, we are accustomed to dealing with money issues to some degree; it comes with the territory. It seems though that we become battle-weary at times. Perhaps this goes in cycles; maybe it is generational. If this is one of those cycles for you, I encourage you to remember that our vocation is rarely analogous to sonata-allegro form. It is much less predictable, and only occasionally do we find points of rest. No surprise there, I'm sure!

So, as we press on, I hope you will take the following opportunities:

- (1) Advocate – instead of deleting those emails that allow your voice to be heard, go ahead and email your legislator and express your support of the arts.
- (2) Encourage each other – as often as you are able, lend your support to your colleagues. Attend their concerts, ask about their personal and professional welfare, be a resource and mentor to someone.
- (3) Make beautiful music in the moments you have. I remain certain that I will make music all my life and still not scratch the surface of all that is there. Make the most of the time!

It has been my great privilege to serve as President of Georgia ACDA these last two years. I am grateful to have worked with such a fine group of people, and am especially appreciative of the Board members who have worked diligently to make this organization thrive. I hope you will make it a priority to be at this year's summer conference July 7-9. Mary Busman, who will take over as President this summer, is doing a fabulous job preparing this summer's event. You will find great resources and excellent music and I know you will be glad you participated. I look forward to seeing you there!

On a personal note, I want to let you know that I am moving away from this great state. I have accepted a position on the faculty of the University of South Carolina, and will begin teaching there in the fall. I have loved my time and Georgia, and have found here wonderful friends and colleagues that have had great impact on me. I am glad for the opportunities that lie ahead, and am also pleased to not be too far away from the people and the music of Georgia. Peace to you all in your endeavors. May you find great beauty in life's continuing motion.



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## **The Choral Music of Jeffery Ames**

By Alison Mann

R&S Chair for Ethnic and Multicultural Perspectives

In July, Georgia ACDA will host our first high school Multicultural Honor Choir under the direction of Dr. Jeffery Ames. Jeffery Ames is Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Ames has conducted honor choirs at the regional, state, and national level, and will provide a wonderful, musical experience for our Georgia singers. In addition to his fine conducting, Dr. Ames is a talented singer, pianist, and composer.

In anticipation of his work with our great state in July, I have selected seven of his choral works written for a variety of educational levels including elementary-aged singers through the collegiate ensemble. I hope you will explore the choral works of Dr. Jeffery Ames, and I look forward to meeting your students in July.

### **SA Ensembles**

#### **Peter, Go Ring-a Dem Bells**

SA with piano and optional handbells

Walton Music Publishers, WLG124

- This piece features the traditional African-American spiritual text with simple vocal lines accessible for elementary and middle school choirs.

### **TTBB Ensembles**

#### **Gloria Fanfare**

TTBB (divisi) with piano and optional brass and percussion; SATB available

Walton Music Publishers, WW1449

- This majestic fanfare is a fabulous opener for your advanced high school, college, community, or church choir.  
- A recording is available on the Walton website.

### **SATB Ensembles**

#### **For the Sake of our Children**

SATB with piano, viola, and optional percussion

Walton Music Publishers, WW1391

- This piece features original text and serves as a prayer for peace and respect for human rights.  
- 6:00 in length, this piece could serve as a cornerstone in a concert for high school, college, or community choirs.

### **In Remembrance**

SATB (divisi) with piano and horn

Walton Music Publishers, HL08501547

- Performed at the 2005 National ACDA High School Honor Choir  
- A moving text and melody that works for assemblies, memorial services, and traditional concerts for the high school, college, or community choir.  
- A recording available on the Walton website.

### **Let Everything that Hath Breath**

SATB with piano, optional solo and bass guitar

earthsongs music publishers, S-248

- This gospel piece will excite your singers and audiences alike.  
- Accessible for high school, college, or community choirs.  
- A recording is available on earthsongs website.

## **Rejoice!**

SATB with piano

Santa Barbara Music Publishers, SBMP 728

- Rejoice! is a lively gospel piece featuring strong four-part writing accessible for high school choirs.
- A recording is available on SBMP website.

amann9@kennesaw.edu

A first for Georgia ACDA:

High School SATB  
Multicultural Honor Choir

See next pages for information on  
Conductor Jeffery Ames  
and Registration Form

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Georgia ACDA introduces...

## 2011 HIGH SCHOOL

## MULTICULTURAL HONOR CHOIR

**Guest Conductor, Dr. Jeffery Ames July 7-8, 2011, Spivey Hall**

**For information or registration forms, contact: Alison Mann,  
[amann9@kennesaw.edu](mailto:amann9@kennesaw.edu), 770-423-6392**



Jeffery L. Ames serves as Director of Choral Activities at Belmont University. His prior appointments include Assistant Director of Choral Activities at Baylor University and Choral Director at Edgewater High School and Lincoln High School in Florida. As a choral clinician, Dr. Ames has conducted senior and junior high school mixed and male choirs at the state and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educator's National Conference, including the inaugural Florida Male All-State Chorus, and at Carnegie Hall with the National Youth Choir. He has performed and guest conducted internationally in the countries of Italy and Costa Rica.

An accomplished accompanist, he has performed and collaborated with well-known conductors such as André Thomas, Allen Crowell, Jo-Michael Scheibe, Lynne Gackle, Bradley Ellingboe, and Anton Armstrong.

With a growing reputation as a distinguished and well-respected composer and arranger, Dr. Ames' music has been premiered by the Florida Music Educators Association, the Florida American Choral Directors Association, the Southern Division of ACDA, the National ACDA Conferences in Los Angeles and Miami, and most recently heard on 2009 Christmas at Belmont, which aired on National Public Television. His compositions and arrangements are published by Colla Voce Music, Earthsongs, Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and Walton Music Corporation.

Professor Ames holds the Ph.D. in Choral Conducting/Choral Music Education and a Master of Choral Music Education degree from Florida State University, and a Bachelor of Music degree, with a double major in Vocal Performance and Piano Accompanying, from James Madison University. He is currently the R & S Chairman of Ethnic and Multicultural Perspectives for the Tennessee ACDA, and holds the honor of being the first recipient of the National ACDA James Mulholland Choral Music Fellowship.

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## Georgia Summer ACDA Conference

### Clinician Sessions

**Dr. Daniel Bara, Director of Choral Activities, University of Georgia**

Thursday – 2pm ‘Maestro’ means ‘Teacher’

Friday – 9:45am Creative Score-Study: The Road to Riveting Rehearsals, Technical Precision, Stylistic Authenticity, Musicality, and Dramatic Communication.

Friday – 11:15am Conducting Master Class

Friday – 4:00pm From Read-Through to Performance: The Changing Priorities and Principles for Effective Rehearsals at Every Stage of Preparation. (lecture / rehearsal demonstration with registrants)

Saturday – 9:45am Line, Legato, and the Keys of Expressive Diction. (lecture / rehearsal demonstration with the registrants)

#### Repertoire for these sessions:

Handel/Liebergen:	<i>Awake the Trumpet's Lofty Sound</i> from <i>Sampson</i> (Alfred)
Egil Hovland:	<i>The Glory of the Father</i> (Walton)
Eric Thuman:	<i>Go, Lovely Rose</i> (ECS)
Morten Lauridsen:	<i>Sure on this Shining Night</i> (Peer Music)

### Dr. Bara's Biography

Daniel Bara joined the University of Georgia's Hugh Hodgson School of Music as Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music in fall of 2010, having served as Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities at East Carolina University, in Greenville, North Carolina. While at ECU, his university choirs were invited to perform for state, regional, and national conventions of ACDA and MENC, and the ECU Chamber Singers completed two professional recordings for the Gothic Records label (*Greater Love*, 2007; *Eternal Light*, 2010). His conducting students have consistently advanced into the live rounds of the ACDA National Conducting Competition, and several of his former MM conducting students now hold collegiate conducting appointments at New England Conservatory, Miami University of Ohio, University of Idaho, and William Jewell College.

Dr. Bara is Past-President of NC-ACDA, has held the Artistic Directorship of the New York State Summer School of the Arts - School of Choral Studies (2007-2009), and has served as conductor of the World Youth Honor Choir at Interlochen Arts Camp (2004-2006). He is in increasing demand as a guest conductor and clinician, with recent or upcoming engagements with all-state, regional honor choirs, and conference appearances in Texas, New York, Tennessee, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Florida.

Dr. Bara holds the DMA degree in conducting from the Eastman School of Music, organ and conducting degrees from the University of Michigan, and is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy. At UGA he conducts the Concert Choir and Men's Glee Club, and oversees the graduate choral conducting program. He currently serves as the Repertoire and Standards Chairperson for Youth and Student Activities for the Southern Division of the American Choral Directors Association.

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## **KEEPING VOLUNTEER SINGERS MOTIVATED**

by Emily Floyd  
R & S Chair for Music in Worship

What keeps volunteer singers returning to your choir year after year?

Fine music making, of course, is what brings them back season after season. But, what other experiences keep church & community choir singers fresh and motivated?

**ADVENTURE** : a sense of journey, newness, and energy.

What is the choir singing or doing that is new or challenging?

new repertoire, a new language to sing in, a new venue, a new conductor to guest rehearse for retreat, a new genre of music, create avenues for individuals to grow vocally

Tip: Use “ world music” in your worship. It creates a great sense of adventure, and this type of music turns us outward rather than inward. (Example: Wana Baraka, arr. Shawn Kirchner)

**EXPRESSION**: music touches the soul; and expressing our faith is of utmost importance.

How does the choir express itself?

In a church, the choir brings scripture to life! We lament, we celebrate, and we long. We become more human when we are in touch with our feelings.

Tip: Speak your text as a choir to create muscle memory. As Sandra Snow reminds us, “words are sensual”. Explore! (Example: Set Me As A Seal, by David Childs)

**GRATITUDE**: show your singers that you are glad they volunteer so faithfully

Do your singers know that you appreciate them?

Sing happy birthday to each of your choir members; celebrate at yearly parties and/or retreats

Tip: Send a card of thanks to your singers

**COMMUNITY** : choir rehearsals are opportunities to gather and build each other up

How do you build group dynamics?

Singing in harmony builds community. Musical interaction within the ensemble builds community. Prayer concerns build community. Leading in worship services builds community.

Tip: In a retreat setting, explore non-musical activities that generate a group dynamic and team building.

**COMFORT**: songs tell stories that comfort our souls

What things are familiar and/or comforting in your choir?

What rehearsal and performance routines do you implement to create comfort? Repetition breeds comfort.

Sufficient and inspiring warm-up time creates a sense of comfort. Examine the pacing of your rehearsals. Are you challenging the choir within a comfort zone?

Tip: Find a special arrangement of a familiar hymn to utilize ( Example: My Shepherd Will Supply My Need, arr. Mack Wilberg)

**MEANING** : singing means so much more when there is deep meaning attached to it.

How does the literature that you have selected function?

Does your anthem serve to support the sermon message in your worship? Or is it randomly chosen?

Tip: connect your literature to current events, such as times of lament (Example: Rutter's Requiem sung as a prayer for the people of Japan suffering from earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown)

Those of us who conduct volunteer choirs know it can be a challenge to keep volunteer singers year after year. In a church or community choir, singers may be in the choir for 20 or 30 years. Keeping the singer motivated is important. I hope you will think about the extra-musical components of what we do which enhance the experience of singers who give of their time and talents for years on end.



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GEORGIA ACDA SUMMER CONFERENCE 2011  
**LIFETIME SINGERS LIFETIME LEARNERS CHOIR EVENT**

*We're looking for adult singers from church choirs, community choirs, or college choirs to sing with us at our **summer ACDA conference**.  
This event is sponsored by Janice Folsom, R & S chair for community choirs and Emily Floyd, R & S chair for music in worship.*

**Conductor:** Michael O'Neal founder & artistic director for Michael O'Neal Singers director of worship arts Roswell United Methodist Church

**Venue:** Spivey Hall Clayton State University Morrow, Georgia

**Repertoire:** **The Testament of Freedom by Randall Thompson (SATB – E.C. Schirmer)**  
**America, the Beautiful arr. John Ness Beck (SATB – Beckenhorst)**  
**Battle Hymn of the Republic arr. Peter Wilhousky (SATB – Carl Fischer)**

**Dates:** Friday, July 8, 2011 6:00 – 6:30 pm check-in  
6:30 – 9:30 pm rehearsal in  
Saturday, July 9, 2011 9:00 – 10:30 am rehearsal in Spivey Hall  
10:45 am performance in Spivey Hall  
no tickets necessary [www.spiveyhall.org](http://www.spiveyhall.org)

**Cost:** \$15 per singer (please submit money in one check for your choir members)

**Concert attire:** white on top, black on bottom

**Bring:** your music, black folder, pencil, water, and wear concert attire on performance day

**Mail registration form and money (one check preferred payable to Georgia ACDA) to:**

Emily Floyd 2940 Stonegate Trail Atlanta, GA 30340

**Registration deadline: May 20, 2011**

*Singer nominations: Any choir director is welcome to register singers for this event. Quartets are preferred, but not required.  
Duplicate this form as needed. Participants are responsible for providing their own scores, and should be prepared in advance.*

**CHOIR DIRECTOR INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Choral Organization \_\_\_\_\_

**SINGER INFORMATION**

**SOPRANO**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

**ALTO**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

**TENOR**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

**BASS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

For more information contact: Janice Folsom, R&S Chair for Community Choirs [janicefolsom@mindspring.com](mailto:janicefolsom@mindspring.com)

## **President-elect Mary Busman Invites You to the Summer Conference!**



The National ACDA convention in Chicago was a time for enjoying choral music from around the country and the world. Perhaps equally enjoyable were the discussions of performances following each concert session. Walking out of the venues, clusters of listeners could be heard intently sharing their opinions of the recent music. Discussion of tone, blend, programming, and diction often spiraled into lengthy analysis of what made the performance work.

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Richard Restak M.D., author of *The New Brain; How the Modern Age is Rewiring Your Mind*, asserts that as trained musicians listen to music, they are more likely to use their left brain function, engaging in analysis and comparison. Non-trained listeners on the other hand, use their right hemisphere to enjoy music with little thought to analysis. This analytical function is never more apparent than at a choral conference. Thankfully, Restak states that this is not a rigid division, accounting for the blend of genres enjoyed by trained and novice musicians alike.

Georgia ACDA's summer conference is focused on bringing the highly trained choral director together with the more novice musician who loves to sing in a choir. A celebration of choral music at all levels; participants will share the conference with each other and with novice choral music enthusiasts. ACDA members will be encouraged to use their analytical and comparative reasoning through sessions by the University of Georgia's Dr. Daniel Bara. Reading sessions will allow directors to compare music in anticipation of the upcoming choral season. Interest sessions by Jeffery Funderburk of Dekalb School of the Arts and Stefanie Cash will prompt new thoughts about how to sequence and enhance instruction with popular and multicultural music. A multi-cultural choir under the direction of Dr. Jeffery Ames of Belmont College is sure to thrill young singers. The performing groups will span the ages, from elementary to adult with Dr. Michael O'Neal conducting the Lifetime Singers at the conclusion of the conference.

Spivey Hall at Clayton State University is the site for the conference. We hope to analyze, compare, and enjoy the choral art in the company of our choral colleagues and our treasured singers. Please join us July 7-9 in this celebration of choral music in Georgia.

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## Full Circle



By Paul A. Neal  
R&S Chair for College and University Choirs

I have just returned from the ACDA National Convention in Chicago. A special congratulations to Dr. Eric Nelson and the Emory University Concert Choir for their superb performance! It was one of the best at the convention, and they truly showed that we have great choral music happening in the state of Georgia!

I always return from conventions with a renewed sense of purpose, with new music and new ideas that I'm ready to put to work. This year, my renewed spirit also has a sense of nostalgia for the Windy City. It was in Chicago at the ACDA convention in 1999 that I was a graduate student at the University of Oklahoma, completing my coursework and preparing for my first big job. My graduate professor, Dr. Dennis Shrock, helped me meet people and encouraged me to attend concerts and sessions that would help me grow. The convention was a great time of networking and hearing great choirs. I was at the right place.

Fast forward twelve years, and I was sitting in a restaurant with one of my recent choral conducting graduates. I was listening to her talk about her current job and the prospects of another more prestigious position. That's when it occurred to me - this has come full circle.

Now, I am the professor helping my students learn about the incredible world of choral music. Some of my students come with great experiences, while others come with little or no experience. I am honored to help my students become better musicians through the power of the choir. They often look to me for guidance for job searches, careers, much like when I was at that convention in Chicago in 1999.

While I do get busy with my own life and career, I don't want to ever forget how I felt at that Chicago Convention in 1999. The experience made a lasting impression on me to continue my career in the world of choral music. And now, in 2011, the same thing happened again at ACDA-Chicago.

I call on myself and my fellow college/university choral directors to instill in your students the importance of ACDA.

- Help start a student chapter at your campus. We recently started one at Valdosta State University. While we only had a handful of members this first year, we're looking to expand next year. In fact, we've been given money from the student activities board to help with their travel to future ACDA conventions. So, in a time of dwindling budgets, this may be a new source of funding for your students and their growth as choral conductors.

- Encourage them to attend conventions, especially our state convention this summer. It's free for them!
- Encourage your graduates to participate in ACDA after they leave campus. I am in constant contact with our graduates who are out in the first jobs. Many of them get busy with their programs. But ACDA is an important part of their growth as a conductor. Let's continue that push for choral excellence through their participation.

Conventions are always fun for me, but this trip to Chicago is probably one of the best in my mind. Thank you for your work with the future choral conductors of Georgia. I hope that your participation in ACDA can come full circle and you will help grow our next generation of ACDA members.

Hope to see you all at the state convention in July!

paneal@valdostasta.edu

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