

Florida ACDA Conference Schedule

Thursday, October 23

3:00 pm / High School Honor Choir / 2nd & 3rd Floor

SATB Rehearsal Schedule 3:45-8:50

3:30 pm / Registration for All-Collegiate Lab Choir / Gathering Space

4:00 pm / Emerging Conductors Workshop / Choir Room (Floor 2)

All-Collegiate Lab Choir Rehearsal 4:00-6:00

6:30 pm / FLACDA Board Meeting / Classroom (Floor 1)

Friday, October 24

7:30 am / Conference Registration Opens / Gathering Space

7:45 am / Reading Session I / Chapel

- *Emerging Conductors present a mix of titles expressing Community & Connection. Sponsored by Head's House of Music, Graphite Music, and FLACDA. Dr. Bryan Ijames, coordinator.*

8:30 am / Check-in for Honor Choirs / Various Locations

SA & TB Rehearsal Schedule 9:00-11:30, 12:30-5:00 @ FUMCO

SATB Rehearsal Schedule 9:00-4:45 @ Embassy

9:00 am / Performance Session I / Sanctuary

Welcome & opening remarks

Timber Springs Middle School Solare – Brianna Martin, conductor

Edgewater High School Flying High – Alex Glover, conductor

10:30 am / Interest Session Block I / Various Locations

- *The 411 on Vocal Health and Habits to Avoid “911” Vocal Health Emergencies – Dr. Zerrin Agabigum Martin & Dr. Candice Adams-Mitchell [Choir Room, Floor 2]*
- *Creativity in Today's Traditional Worship – Daniel deShazo [Classroom, Floor 1]*
- *Reading Session 2: R&R Repertoire as Resistance – Isiah Maxey [Chapel]*
 - *Sponsored by Head's House of Music, Graphite Music, and FLACDA*

11:45 am / Performance Session II / Sanctuary

Wellington High School Chamber Chorus – Bradford Chase, conductor

Jacksonville Children's Chorus & Voices of Jacksonville – Darren Dailey, conductor

12:45 am / Lunch served onsite (included) / Lobby

1:45 pm / Interest Session Block II / Various locations

- *The Experience of a Lifetime: Enhancing singer retention across life stages – Dr. J.D. Cain [Classroom, Floor 1]*
- *Gamifying the Secondary Choral Classroom – Brigitte Poulson [Chapel]*
- *If I Had a Hammer: Appalachian songs of power, strength, and creation – Dr. Jami Lercher & Dr. Jason Strunk [Choir Room, Floor 2]*

2:45 pm / Keynote Presentation I by Melanie DeMore / Sanctuary

4:15 pm / Interest Session Block III / Various Locations

- *Unlocking Confident Choristers: Practical Sight Reading Strategies with Sight Reading Factory – Angel Marchese & Elizabeth Cid [Choir Room, Floor 2]*
- *Building a Tenor-Bass Powerhouse: Creating safe spaces and lasting connections – Ian Tapson [Chapel]*

5:15 pm / President's Concert & Awards / Sanctuary

Hugoboom Award

Girl Choir of South Florida – Sylvia Aycock, conductor

iCantemos! of Florida Atlantic University – Dr. Patricia Fleitas, conductor

Saturday, October 25

7:45 am / Reading Session III / Chapel

- *Voices Alike, Songs Aligned: A reading session for like-voiced choirs* – Dr. McKenna Stenson & Dr. Bryan Stenson.
Sponsored by Head's House of Music, MusicSpoke, Graphite Music, and FLACDA

8:30 am / Performance Session III / Sanctuary

Lake Howell High School Wings Concert Choir – Elissael Serrano, conductor
Palm Beach Atlantic University Concert Choir – Sonia Santiago, conductor

8:45 am / Check-in for Honor Choirs / Various locations

SA & TB Rehearsal Schedule 9:00-10:30, 10:30-11:30; Perform 12:00 @ FUMCO
SATB Rehearsal Schedule 8:00-12:30 @ Embassy; Dress Rehearsal 1:30 @ FUMCO

9:30 am / Keynote Presentation II by Melanie DeMore / Sanctuary

10:45 am / Interest Session Block IV / Various Locations

- *Serving Up S.A.S.: Facilitating Student Leadership & Engagement in the Youth Choral Program* – Juliana Child [Chapel]
- *Low-Lift, High-Impact: Everyday practices that strengthen program culture* – Melissa Montoya [Classroom, Floor 1]
- *The Sound of Authenticity: Connecting through timbre* – Dr. Julian Bryson [Choir Room, Floor 2]

12:00 pm / SA & TB Honor Choir Performance / Sanctuary

6-9 Tenor/Bass Honor Choir – Dr. Reed Criddle, conductor
6-9 Treble Honor Choir – Deborah Wong Mar, conductor

3:15 pm / SATB Honor Choir Performance / Sanctuary

9-12 SATB Honor Choir: John Rutter Gloria & Diane White-Clayton Clap Praise – Dr. André Thomas, conductor

Acknowledgements & Gratitude

Enormous thanks to the following, without whom this conference would not be possible:

First United Church Methodist Church Orlando

Rev. Dr. Vance Rains, Lead Pastor
Kim Curtis, Director of Events, Community Partnerships, Facilities
Kelly Rains, Administrative Assistant
Jason Locker, Director of Traditional Worship

Orange County Public Schools

Dr. Maria F. Vazquez, Superintendent
Jason Locker, Senior Director, Visual & Performing Arts

University of Central Florida CACDA

Isabella Chenault, President

Head's House of Music

Marilyn Wirsz & Gary Wirsz
Marian Thomas

Graphite Music

Erika Malpass, Director of Communications & Sales

MusicSpoke

Jennifer Rosenblatt & Kurt Knecht, Cofounders

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Lynne Houston, Sales Manager

Our Tremendous

FLACDA Board & Service Team

(see page 13)

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Keynote Speaker

Melanie DeMore, Vocal Activist

Friday, 2:45 pm in the Sanctuary: keynote address

Saturday, 9:30 am in the Sanctuary: additional thoughts



Melanie DeMore is a 3-time Grammy nominated singer/composer, choral conductor, music director, and vocal activist who believes in the power of voices raised together. DeMore beautifully brings her participants together in her presentations through her music and commentary. DeMore facilitates vocal and stick-pounding workshops for professional choirs, and community groups and directs numerous

choral organizations across the U.S., Canada, and beyond. She is a featured presenter of SpeakOut!-The Institute for Social and Cultural Change, the Master Teaching Artist for Music at UC Berkeley/ CalPerformances; works with everyone from Baptists to Buddhists and was a founding member of the Grammy-nominated ensemble Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir. She is the Music Director for Obeah Opera by Nicole Brooks and will be touring with the company to South Africa. She is a charter member of Threshold Choir founded by Kate Munger, a mentor to the Jerusalem Youth Chorus, and conducts song circles emphasizing the voice as a vessel for healing. In her own words: “A song can hold you up when there seems to be no ground beneath you.” – Melanie

President’s Concert

The Girl Choir of South Florida

Sylvia Rose Aycock, Executive Artistic Director

Friday, 5:15 pm in the Sanctuary



The Girl Choir of South Florida transforms girls’ lives through musical excellence. GCSF provides high-quality music education and performance opportunities that empower young singers to grow in confidence, skill, and self-expression. Founded in 2005, the choir welcomes participants from all backgrounds—no audition required—and nurtures a diverse, inclusive community rooted in artistry, belonging, and joy.

More than 1,000 singers have been part of the program’s history, performing a wide-ranging repertoire that includes classical masterworks, global choral traditions, spirituals, contemporary works, and music by living and underrepresented composers. The choir is known for its expressive sound and meaningful collaborations, including performances with the New World Symphony, Brazilian Voices, and Master Chorale of South Florida. GCSF has also performed at nationally recognized venues such as Carnegie Hall and the White House.

The organization is deeply committed to access and equity, offering sliding-scale scholarships to every family who applies, partnering with schools and community organizations, and supporting students with a range of learning needs and gender expressions. Through weekly rehearsals, music theory instruction, community events, and mentorship from skilled teaching artists, GCSF creates a transformative experience that celebrates both musical excellence and each singer’s unique voice.



Sylvia Rose Aycock is a Brazilian-American music educator devoted to creating beauty in the world with colleagues and student collaborators. Sylvia serves as the Executive Artistic Director of the Girl Choir of South Florida, the very organization that first ignited their passion for choral singing as a student. Under Sylvia's leadership, the Girl Choir has performed with the New World Symphony, Master Chorale of South Florida, the alt-indie rock band KIDS, and appeared on WLRN's Folk & Acoustic Music radio program. A sought-after clinician, Sylvia conducts honor choirs and leads workshops for young singers across Florida. Sylvia previously taught middle and high school choir in Orlando and Boca Raton, and founded a choir at the PACE Center for Girls in Tallahassee. They hold a Bachelor of Music Education from Florida State University and are currently pursuing a Master of Music in Choral Conducting at Michigan State University.

Florida Atlantic University ¡Cantemos!
Dr. Patricia P. Fleitas, Director and Conductor
Friday, 5:15 pm in the Sanctuary



Now in its fourteenth academic year, *¡Cantemos!* is Florida Atlantic University's Latin American choral ensemble and one of the program's most vibrant and versatile groups. Under the direction of Dr. Fleitas, the ensemble has played a vital role in choral and vocal studies through extensive community outreach, student recruitment, and previously, a decade-long role as Madrigal Singers for Florida Atlantic University Madrigal Dinner fundraising event.

Founded because of Dr. Fleitas' deep interest in the choral music of Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula, *¡Cantemos!* brings attention to these rich musical traditions through performance and education. In 2009, the ensemble was featured as the demonstration choir for Dr. Fleitas' interest session, "Select Choral Music of Latin America," at the Florida Music Educators Association State Conference in Tampa. In 2016, they returned as an invited ensemble.

¡Cantemos! is honored to have been selected to perform at the Fall 2024 Florida American Choral Directors Association Conference President's Concert.



Dr. Patricia Fleitas is Professor of Music and Director of Choral and Vocal Studies at Florida Atlantic University where she led a major program revision upon her appointment in 1992. She has taught undergraduate and graduate applied voice and choral conducting throughout her tenure. Now in her tenth season as Artistic Director and Conductor of Schola Cantorum of Florida (SCOF), she also directs its Chamber Ensemble and Education Program, which includes the Youth Choral Academy, Young Emerging Artists, and Artists in Residence.

Dr. Fleitas has founded and led numerous ensembles and initiatives in Texas and Florida, including the FAU Chamber Singers, Women's Chorus (now Vocalis), University Chorus, the Madrigal Dinner Program, and the University's Latin American Choral Ensemble—*¡Cantemos!* - reflecting her sustained research interest in the choral traditions of the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America. Her ensembles have performed throughout Europe, Canada, and the United States.

Her former voice and conducting students have gone on to teach in higher education, win national and international competitions, and establish professional performance careers. In Fall 2024 she was granted sabbatical leave to research current choral conducting pedagogical practices. Some of her recognitions include Florida Atlantic University 2001 Faculty Talon Award for leadership and service, the 2003–2004 Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and a 2011 Lifelong Learning grant to support her Latin American choral music research in Colombia.

Prior to her appointment at Florida Atlantic University, Dr. Fleitas served as Associate Coordinator of Choral Programs at Texas A&M University, College Station, where she founded the TAMU Women's Chorus, the Madrigal Dinner Program, and the Texas Collegiate Women's Choral Festival—still active today.

She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music in Choral Performance/Conducting from the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied with the late Dr. Morris J. Beachy, as well as a B.A. and M.S. in Music Education. A dedicated educator and artist, Dr. Fleitas remains active as a voice teacher, clinician, adjudicator, chorus master, and conductor, and has served in leadership roles with the American Choral Directors Association and the Florida Music Educators Association.

Interest Sessions & Presenters

(listed alphabetically by presenter)

Emerging Conductors present a Reading Session featuring the inaugural FLACDA Intercollegiate Choir, Dr. Bryan Ijames, coordinator; Friday 7:45 am in the Chapel

This multifaceted session seeks to feature the next generation! Conductors from across the state applied and were selected to conduct a rehearsal, receive feedback, and present their selected piece at this reading session. General membership will receive a reading packet of the titles and sing along with the first-ever FLACDA all-collegiate choir. Clinicians: Dr. Kelly Miller, Dr. Pingyi Song, and Dr. Cara Tasher.

Pianist: Alex Kovalsky. Congratulations to our selected participants:

Tobias Deggans, Florida State University
Natalie Dixon, Stetson University
Devin Embrich, Jupiter Middle School
Peyton Hardesty, Palm Beach Atlantic University
Rose Hellmers, Florida State University

David Johnson, Westminster Academy
Kayla Neely, University of West Florida
Melanie Pires, University of Central Florida
Juliana Shryock, Florida Gulf Coast University
Ruth Springer, Florida State University

The Sound of Authenticity: Connecting Through Timbre, Dr. Julian Bryson, presenter; Saturday, 10:45 am in the 2nd floor Choir Room

Performing music of many musical styles is an important part of the choral experience, but crafting an authentic representation of so many unique sounds presents enormous difficulty for both directors and singers. One of the most challenging, but essential elements to adjust is vocal timbre. In this session, we will use Voce Vista to visualize the unique overtone print of choirs from around the world and explore biofeedback techniques to match them in our own voices. We will also discuss resources for diction, cultural accountability, and helping students to thrive in unfamiliar situations. In the journey toward intercultural connection, our fears frequently keep us from taking the first step. Let's use this hour to remove a few obstacles from our shared path.



Julian Bryson is Choir Director at The Bolles School of Jacksonville, FL and has conducted grades 4-12, collegiate choirs, church music programs, operas, and musical theatre. He holds a DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Kentucky, writing his dissertation on choral collectives. As a composer he has earned awards and commissions from ACDA, the American Prize, Yale Glee Club, Florida All-State Choirs, and the Jacksonville Children's Chorus. His work is published by ECS Publishing, MusicSpoke and JulianBryson.com.

The experience of a lifetime: Enhancing singer retention across life stages, Dr. J.D. Cain, presenter; Friday, 1:45 pm in the 1st floor Classroom

In many areas of the state, young people have wonderful opportunities to participate in a choir as they age – from youth programs, through the secondary years, to college, and beyond. However, competing priorities and interests cause many singers to end their participation in choir. We'll hear from a variety of education professionals who will share what they are seeing regarding barriers to continued participation. We also want to hear from you! Is something preventing your program from growing? What's changed recently that has really helped you with retention? Is there an outstanding inter-institutional partnership that you'd like to highlight? The insights shared during this session may inspire you and may also help to guide future advocacy efforts.



Dr. J.D. Cain is a Florida native and received his earliest musical education in Martin County. He holds degrees from Valencia College, Stetson, USF, and UF. J.D. currently serves as the Associate Director of Choral Activities at UF where he directs two choirs and teaches conducting. For the past two years, he has also worked in the School of Music's student services office, assisting with admissions and advising. J.D. has conducted prior research on the role school administrators play in supporting music programs.

Serving Up S.A.S.: Facilitating Student Leadership & Engagement in the Youth Choral Program,

Juliana Child, presenter; **Saturday, 10:45 am in the Chapel**

As music educators, we know that students can gain countless leadership skills through participation in an ensemble. We work tirelessly to make our spaces inclusive...but if the responsibility of maintaining a healthy community in the ensemble program rests solely on the director, then are we really giving our students the tools and experience they need to become community leaders themselves? Let's explore possibilities that are unlocked when young people contribute their unique voices to the choir both on and off the stage. Using the Student Advisory Committee (A.K.A. "Singer Activities Squad" or "SAS") model of the Pensacola Children's Chorus as an example, we will examine how student leadership initiatives can be structured to empower the students to take real ownership of community building activities and serve as stewards of ensemble culture.



Juliana Joy Child is the Assistant Artistic Director of the Pensacola Children's Chorus (PCC), where she serves as director or co-director of nine ensembles, teaches private piano and voice lessons, leads summer programs, and serves as moderator of PCC's Student Advisory Committee. Ms. Child had the honor of co-conducting PCC's high school treble choir at the 2024 ACDA Southern Region Conference in Louisville, Kentucky alongside Alex Gartner. It is her greatest joy and privilege to be part of the lives of all 275+ members of PCC's Resident Choir Program, ranging in age from 1st through 12th grade. Outside of PCC, Ms. Child serves as principal cantor and pianist at St. Paul Lutheran Church and performs with the Festival Singers of

Florida. In 2024, she served as clinician for the Santa Rosa All-County Elementary Choir. She regularly serves as collaborative pianist for the FMEA elementary all-state chorus and for ACDA reading sessions. She also was the co-coordinator of the Children's Festival Chorus at the 2022 ACDA Southern Region Conference. Most recently, Ms. Child was appointed Chair of Elementary and Children's Choirs for the Florida state chapter of ACDA. She holds bachelor's degrees in music education and voice performance from Ithaca College.

Creativity in Today's Traditional Worship, Daniel deShazo, presenter; Friday, 10:30 am in the 1st floor Classroom

This session aims to give some starting discussion on creative ideas for engaging traditional worship. Often as church choir directors, we can get caught in the "relentless return of the sabbath" and perhaps take the quick and easy way out with planning and programming. This session will discuss creativity with anthems, hymns, set up of your musical ensembles, musical series tied with sermons, special services, engaging congregational participation and other liturgical topics. The goal is to spark some dialogue that will result in more meaningful worship for our congregants.



Daniel deShazo is the current Director of Music and Worship at Riverchase United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. There he conducts the 60-voice sanctuary choir and oversees handbells and children's music as well as conducts the instrumental ensemble. He has served previously on the Alabama ACDA board as Music in Worship

chair and is currently on the executive board as Life-Long Learner Chair. He has a Bachelor's in Music Education from Loyola University New Orleans, and a Master's in Choral Conducting from the University of Alabama.

If I Had a Hammer- Appalachian Songs of Power, Strength, and Creation, Dr. Jami Lercher & Dr. Jason Strunk, presenters; Friday, 1:45 pm in the 2nd floor Choir Room

Deep within the roots of our American musical landscape lies the rich folklore and music of Appalachia. Throughout their history in the Appalachian mountain region, Indigenous, African, and European cultures have mingled and combined to build a unique identity of resilience and inclusion; values that are reflected in their song traditions. Together, we'll explore the background of musical folk heroes like John Henry, work and mining songs that call for justice, and hymn tunes which seek equity and togetherness. Incorporating arrangements of these songs into our choral programming provides fertile ground for building welcoming musical communities and offers us an opportunity to reflect on our past while dreaming of a promising future. Learning the story behind such songs as "Down in the River to Pray," "Wayfarin' Stranger" and "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" helps strengthen our understanding of the music and the collective power behind these folk traditions.



Dr. Jami Lercher (she/her) is currently Associate Professor of Choral Music Education at Baldwin Wallace University in Cleveland, OH. She conducts the BW Treble Choir and teaches courses in choral methods, conducting, and vocal techniques. Jami spent 14 years teaching public elementary and secondary music in Iowa and Minnesota, and now enjoys visiting Ohio classrooms to supervise pre-service music educators. An active performer, she currently sings with SINGergy and the Cleveland Chamber Choir and also serves as a collaborative pianist for Berea-Midpark schools. An Iowa native, Jami earned the Bachelor of Music Education degree at Iowa State University under Dr. James Rodde. Through a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, she completed the Master of Music degree from the University of Wales, Bangor where she studied Celtic music and teaching singing to students with hearing impairments. She was awarded the DMA in Choral Conducting under Dr. Amanda Quist from the University of Miami, Frost School of Music.



Dr. Jason Strunk is Director of Choral Activities, Assistant Professor, and Voice Area Coordinator at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. He conducts Camerata, Chamber Singers and the Masterworks Chorale, and teaches courses vocal and choral pedagogy, conducting, diction and musicology. He holds a D.M.A. in Choral Conducting with a cognate in Musicology from the University of Miami Frost School of Music, an M.S. in Music Education from Towson University, and a B.A. in Music from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania. Jason is an active clinician and guest conductor. He has appeared on the podium throughout Europe and the United States in notable venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Washington National Cathedral, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Unlocking Confident Choristers: Practical Sight-Reading Strategies with Sight Reading Factory, Angel Marchese & Elizabeth Cid, presenters; Friday, 4:15 pm in the 2nd floor Choir Room

Tired of the same old sight-reading drills that leave your students uninspired or overwhelmed? Wondering how to consistently integrate sight-reading into your busy rehearsal schedule without sacrificing precious performance prep time? Join us for an engaging, hands-on session where we'll explore the power of Sight Reading Factory (SRF) to transform how your choir builds musical literacy. This session will demonstrate how SRF can be seamlessly integrated into the everyday choral classroom to develop confident, capable sight readers. Whether you're preparing for MPA, working with developing singers, or just looking to strengthen your choir's musicianship, you'll walk away with ready-to-use strategies that make sight reading more effective, efficient, and even fun.



Mr. Angel Marchese is currently in his second year as the director of the choral program at John A. Ferguson High School. Prior to his current position, Marchese headed the Robert Morgan High School chorus program since 2015, building one of the most respected programs in the state of Florida. His choirs have earned Superior ratings at State MPA every year and have been recognized as a Choir of Distinction by the Florida Vocal Association. He has conducted multiple honor choirs throughout the state, presented clinics at the American Choral Directors' Association Southern Conference and the Florida Music Educators' Conference, and also serves as an adjudicator for choral events across the state. Marchese has also served as Adjunct Music Faculty at Miami-Dade College and as Music Instructor at Florida International University. He has served on the Executive Board of the Florida Vocal Association as District Chair. He has been a member of the Festival Singers of Florida and regularly performs outside of school both locally and around the state. Prior to teaching, Marchese's career as a professional singer has allowed him the opportunity to perform throughout the United States and Europe. He holds an undergraduate degree in Music Education from the University of Miami and a Master's degree in Choral Conducting from Florida International University.



Elizabeth Cid is in her 14th year as choral director at Miami Senior High School. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Florida International University and a Master's in Music Education with a focus on Choral Conducting from Florida State University. Ms. Cid has built award-winning choral programs at both middle and high school levels, with her choirs consistently earning Superior ratings at district and state evaluations. Her students regularly participate in county, state, regional, and national honors choirs. She serves on the Florida Vocal Association board, coordinates Florida All-State choirs, and chairs her school's Fine Arts Department. Ms. Cid is also a certified adjudicator, mentor to new music educators, and host teacher for student interns. She performs with the Festival Singers of Florida and is an active member of FMEA, NafME, ACDA, and DCMEA.

The "411" on Choral Vocal Health and Habits To Avoid "911" Vocal Health Emergencies, Dr. Zerrin Agabigum Martin & Dr. Candice Adams-Mitchell, presenters; Friday 10:30 am in the 2nd floor Choir Room

It "takes a village" to support healthy voices and habits in choral ensembles. Too often, singers and conductors are faced with tough questions that include: "when do I sing and how do I sing when I feel fatigued?"; "what are safe and healthy vocal hygiene routines that actually work?" and "how and should I sing when I'm under the weather?" This interactive session will provide a comprehensive overview of the

“411” on vocal health and hygiene to help prevent “911” vocal health emergencies and promote refreshed and rejuvenated choral voices. The information covered in this session is applicable for all voices, including student singers, older adult voices in community and church ensembles, and voices of individuals receiving gender-affirming care. This session will briefly introduce laryngeal anatomy, how efficient voices function, and the practical methods and tools choral directors and singers can use to establish vocal hygiene and habits that actually work!



Dr. Zerrin Agabigum Martin is excited and honored to be joining the University of Tampa Music Department in Fall 2025 as the Visiting Assistant Professor: Director of Choral Studies! In addition to her experience in directing collegiate choirs, she taught choral music and voice in private and public schools for eleven years, with her choirs presenting solo performances at NAfME and state ACDA, and her students consistently placed in superior ratings at solo and ensemble, all-state choirs, and national honors choirs.



Dr. Adams-Mitchell is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Florida. She has practiced speech language pathology for 14 years and has been fortunate to work in a variety of settings such as skilled nursing facilities, home health, specialty care units in trauma hospitals, schools, early intervention, and travel therapy. She has also spent several summers in Zambia providing therapy to children in orphanages. Her research interests have centered around leveraging artificial intelligence to determine vocal biomarkers of pain and the relationship between sickle cell disease and neurological conditions such as disordered swallowing, pain, and acute chest syndrome.

R&R: Repertoire as Resistance – a Reading Session, Isiah Maxey, presenter; Friday, 10:30 am in the Chapel

A Reading Session Featuring Choral Works by Underrepresented Composers with Resources for Middle School, High School, and Collegiate Ensembles. Participants will engage with choral works by underrepresented composers and communities, using them as entry points to consider how repertoire curation can serve as a form of advocacy and connection. Each piece will be briefly introduced and then sung together, allowing participants to experience the music firsthand while reflecting on the voices and stories it represents. Repertoire will span a variety of idioms and voicings, with selections appropriate for middle school, high school, collegiate, and community ensembles. Attendees will leave with resources that includes sample concert programs, composer notes, and ideas for building more inclusive, student-centered choral experiences.



Isiah Maxey is pursuing a Ph.D. in Music Education/Choral Conducting at Florida State University. A conductor and baritone known for his creative and innovative approach, he formerly directed choirs at Dr. Phillips Visual and Performing Arts High School, where his ensembles earned top ratings and the Choir of Distinction Award from the Florida Vocal Association. He presented research and served on a panel at the 2024 ACDA National Conference. Maxey was a Conducting Apprentice at the 2022 Berkshire Choral International in Barcelona and an Albert C. Yates Fellow at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he conducted the

Tenor/Bass Choir, Juncta Juvant. His classical training includes fellowships with The Thirteen, a DC-based professional ensemble, and Spoleto Festival USA.

Low-Lift, High-Impact: Everyday Practices that Strengthen Program Culture, Melissa Montoya, presenter; Saturday, 10:45 am in the 1st floor Classroom

Student connection is more than a feel-good bonus—it’s foundational to building an ensemble where students feel seen, supported, and invested. This session explores how ensemble directors can intentionally foster a sense of community through authentic teacher-student relationships, meaningful traditions, and shared experiences. Drawing from practitioner interviews and classroom-based research, we’ll examine what makes students feel they belong—and how ensemble directors can nurture that feeling without burning out or overextending themselves. Whether you’re looking to build a positive culture from scratch or sustain the one you’ve worked hard to create, this session offers reflection prompts, real-world examples, and low-lift strategies that center connection over perfection.



Melissa Montoya is a current music education PhD student and graduate teaching assistant at the University of Missouri–Columbia. She earned her Bachelor of Music Education from Florida Atlantic University and her Master of Music Education from The Florida State University. Prior to doctoral study, Melissa taught middle and high school choir for over six years in both public and public charter schools. She has served as a guest clinician for district honor choirs in the Missouri area and has led choral workshops both in person and virtually for schools across the Eastern region, including in South Florida and New Jersey. Melissa’s work reflects a strong commitment to excellence in choral education, student engagement, and the preparation of future music educators.

Gamifying the Secondary Choral Classroom, Brigitte Poulson, presenter; **Friday, 1:45 pm in the Chapel**

“Today we will work on our music theory, sight-reading and aural training skills” Class: “UGH! I HATE sight-reading...” Music literacy has a reputation for being difficult, dull, and dry. Why does it have to be this way? By gamifying music literacy, students will be able to engage in these topics in a fun, exciting, and motivating way. Utilizing healthy competition, individual assessment, group collaboration, and team building techniques, students will learn complex topics and problem solve, building their base of music literacy knowledge. This session is interactive, so bring comfortable shoes and get your competition ON!



Brigitte Emenheiser Poulson is in her fifth year as performing arts coordinator and executive director of Ignite Student Experiences in Pinellas County Schools. She has 14 years of experience teaching secondary choral/general music in Orange County Public Schools (Florida), District of Columbia Public Schools, Montgomery County Public Schools, and Pinellas County Schools. Brigitte received her bachelor’s in choral music education from Florida State University (2006) and MME from Boston University (2011). She received her national board certification in music in 2018. Brigitte is the proud mama of two girls, Genevieve and Clara, which is her best job to date!

Voices Alike, Songs Aligned: A Reading Session for Like-Voiced Choirs, Dr. McKenna Stenson & Dr. Bryan Stenson, presenters; **Saturday, 7:45 am in the Chapel**

This interactive reading session presents a carefully sequenced selection of repertoire for like-voiced choirs, including treble, tenor-bass, and unison ensembles. Designed with pedagogical progression in mind, the session highlights literature that supports vocal development, musical literacy, and expressive growth at various stages of ensemble learning. Attendees will explore repertoire that aligns with curricular goals across a range of ability levels, with attention to voicing, text, range, and developmental appropriateness. Ideal for conductors of middle school, high school, and community ensembles seeking purposeful programming that fosters musical continuity and growth.



As an innovative conductor, teacher, and vocalist, **McKenna Stenson** has built a career inspiring students to sing confidently and motivating communities to create lasting change through song. Her energetic demeanor permeates positivity throughout the ensemble, creating a community of compassion, trust, and resilience. Stenson currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education on the faculty at Florida State University. Stenson conducts Levana, an advanced treble choir, and teaches undergraduate choral methods, graduate conducting, and graduate seminars. Stenson enjoys serving as a guest conductor, clinician, presenter, and adjudicator for choirs throughout the United States and abroad.



Born in Tokyo, Japan, **Bryan Hiroto Stenson** was raised in music through his parents who worked at St. Mary’s International School. His international upbringing in music shaped his perceptions of choral singing, and he seeks to share a global perspective with the students and collaborators he works with. Intent on fostering cross-cultural communication, his research centers on Japanese choral music and folk songs. Stenson works with a variety of ages and abilities. Past organizations include the U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own,” the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, the Tacoma Youth Chorus, the Children’s Chorus of Washington, Christ United Methodist Church in Plano, and Columbia College in Missouri. He and his wife have recently joined the faculty at Florida State University where he directs the vocal jazz ensemble and teaches courses in music education.

Building a Tenor-Bass Powerhouse: Creating Safe Spaces and Lasting Connections, Ian Tapson, presenter; **Friday, 4:15 pm in the Chapel**

Recruiting and retaining tenor-bass singers goes far beyond getting them in the door—it’s about making them feel seen, heard, and valued. This session draws on interviews with current and former tenor-bass students, as well as insights from experienced educators, to uncover what truly helps these singers thrive.

Learn practical strategies for creating safe, affirming spaces; building trust and connection; and empowering your tenor-bass section to become a confident, central force in your choral program. Walk away with tools you can use right away—and a deeper understanding of what makes these singers stay.



Ian Tapson has been teaching since 2010 and has served as the choral director at Lake Minneola High School in Minneola, Florida, since 2018. There, he directs five choirs, teaches AP Music Theory, and assists as music director for the school's musical theatre productions. His choirs are active both locally and beyond, frequently participating in community events, invitational, and auditioned honor choirs. While his students regularly earn high ratings at District and State events, Ian is most proud of the welcoming, student-centered community they've built—one where every voice matters and every singer belongs. Originally from Missouri, Ian holds a Bachelor's degree in Vocal Music Education (2010) and a Master's degree in Educational Administration (2013), both from Missouri State University. During his college years, he actively performed in the choral and opera programs.

Performing Choirs

(listed alphabetically by organization)



Edgewater High School *Flying High*, Alex Glover; Friday, 9:45 am in the Sanctuary

Edgewater High School is one of 23 high schools in the heart of Orange County. As one of the oldest schools, Edgewater is known for its rich traditions of academics, athletics, science and technology magnet, and performing arts. Edgewater is a proud A-rated school by the State Department of Education and is a Title I school. Serving over 2,000 students just north of downtown Orlando, Edgewater represents students from various races,

social groups, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The chorus program at Edgewater reaches over 270 of our students across seven different ensembles that vary in style, size, and voicing, and is a true subsection of the school population at large. Flying High is Edgewater High School's vocal jazz, a cappella group. While the ensemble has existed in some form for decades, it reestablished itself as an a cappella ensemble in 2014 and has enjoyed success performing in the vocal jazz and a cappella genres ever since. Made up of 16 tenth through twelfth grade students, Flying High enjoys a busy performance schedule traveling throughout the Central Florida community and around the country. Flying High consistently earns Superior ratings at District Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment as well as Superior with Honors at State Solo and Ensemble via the Florida Vocal Association.



Alex Glover is the Director of Choirs at Edgewater High School where he directs seven vocal ensembles and teaches Advanced Placement Music Theory. Choirs under his direction have consistently received Superior Ratings at District and State Music Performance Assessment as well as toured throughout the United States. Most recently, the Edgewater Chamber Choir was invited to perform at the 2021 Florida Conference of the American Choral Directors Association. Alex is also the Director of Traditional Music at the First United Methodist Church of Winter Park where he conducts the Chancel Choir and Impact Singers Youth Choir. Alex is an active adjudicator and guest lecturer throughout Florida, Louisiana, Missouri, and New Jersey and has presented sessions at conferences of the Florida Music Educators Association and the Missouri Choral Directors Association. He is an active member of ACDA, FMEA, NAFME, and FVA. He proudly performs as a

member of the Orlando Sings Symphonic Choir and Solaria Singers. Alex holds a master's degree in Music Education from the University of Missouri and a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Westminster Choir College of Rider University. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, traveling, and making memories with his husband, two sons, and four dogs.

Jacksonville Children's Chorus *Touring Choir* and *Voices of Jacksonville*, Darren Dailey; **Friday, 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary**



The Jacksonville Children's Chorus is a dedicated organization committed to inspiring excellence in young singers through a high-quality choral music education. From 16 singers in 1995, JCC has developed into one of the nation's most important providers of music education, enriching the lives of singers and audiences around the globe. The **Touring Choir** is the Jacksonville Children's Chorus' premier ensemble for advanced singers ages 12–18. Performing a challenging repertoire, the group tours locally, nationally, and internationally. Highlights include singing at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, St. Mark's Basilica in Venice, and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City—where they made history in 2023 as the first non-NYC-based choirs invited to perform in the annual Christmas program. **Voices of Jacksonville** is the adult professional ensemble of the Jacksonville Children's Chorus dedicated to increasing the awareness, appreciation, and esteem of choral music through performance, outreach, and education. Voices is comprised of faculty, alumni, and friends of the JCC.



Darren Dailey came to Jacksonville in 2006 and since then has been shaping The Jacksonville Children's Chorus into a world-class organization. Under his artistic leadership, The Chorus has grown to serve over 1,000 First Coast children annually with five core performance choirs, multiple satellite rehearsal locations, and outreach throughout the region. A nationally recognized clinician and conductor, Mr. Dailey has served as guest conductor in Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center and the ACDA Honor Choir in Seattle. In 2019, Mr. Dailey was honored with the distinguished Alumni Merit Award by Westminster Choir College. In 2020, Chorus America presented Darren with the Brazeal Wayne Dennard Award in recognition of his dedication to diversity and his contributions to the African American Choral Tradition. The Jacksonville Children's Chorus, under Darren Dailey's direction, achieved significant recognition in 2022, winning the American Prize for Choral Performance. Furthermore, in the same year, the ensemble was bestowed with the David C. Brotemarkle Award for their outstanding presentation of 'Songs of the Sunshine State.' Mr. Dailey received a Bachelor of Music Education degree with a concentration in Voice from Westminster Choir College and a Master of Music Education in Choral Conducting from Appalachian State University's Hayes School of Music.

Lake Howell High School *Wings Concert Choir*, Elisael Serrano; **Saturday, 8:30 am in the Sanctuary**



Lake Howell High School is one of eleven high schools in Seminole County located in Winter Park, FL. Lake Howell is known as one of the most spirited high schools in the nation. We are an A-rated school known for our traditions in our academics, athletics, and fine and performing arts. Lake Howell serves just over 2,000 students of various races, social groups, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The chorus program holds over eighty members with four choirs and three ensembles performing different styles from early music to contemporary. *Wings Concert Choir* is Lake Howell's Auditioned Women's Choir. They are also our Women's Show Choir. This choir has existed since before Mr. Serrano came to Lake Howell only as *Wings Show Choir*. It was established as *Wings Concert choir* in 2024-2025. This choir has 28 ninth through twelfth graders. *Wings Concert Choir* has received superior ratings in both District Solo and Ensemble as a Show Choir and District and State Music Performance Assessment as a Concert Choir. They have also received superior with distinction at the state Music Performance Assessment.



Elisael Serrano was born in Brooklyn, New York to Puerto Rican Parents. His passion for music began with his father who was a Spanish singer specializing in the style of trio music. He frequently listened to the late-night rehearsals and his love for music grew. He joined the band and chorus in middle and high school where his choral director Mr. Greg Carswell was the greatest influence in his decision to pursue Music. Mr. Serrano received his bachelors of Music Education with a focus on Choral music from The University of Central Florida under the direction of Dr. Kelly Miller. He has taught at Liberty High School in Osceola County and is currently the choral and orchestra director at Lake Howell High School in Seminole County. Choirs at both schools have consistently received superiors at District and State MPA. They have also received Superior with Distinction at State MPA. His choirs have performed as an Honor Choir for Disney's Candlelight processional, at the World Strides Music Festival in Atlanta, Ga. Where they received the highest award, His Mixed choir performed at FMEA in 2025. They were also selected as

one of the Choirs of Distinction for the Rollins College Bach Festival. Mr. Serrano has served as a guest clinician for Polk Counties High School All-County Chorus and has been invited to serve as Osceola Counties guest clinician for their All-County Middle School Choir in 2026.

Palm Beach Atlantic University Concert Choir, Sonia Gonzalez Santiago; Saturday, 9:00 am in the Sanctuary



PBA Concert Choir is one of the Palm Beach Atlantic University's premier music ensembles and a living expression of unity, excellence, and ministry. More than a group of musicians, this Choir is a family—bound together by a shared passion for glorifying the Lord through music. This select SATB ensemble explores a broad and dynamic repertoire and performs regularly at

both campus and community events. While primarily composed of music majors, it is open to all advanced vocalists with prior choral experience who seek to grow in faith and artistry. Members regularly collaborate with prestigious organizations such as the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Palm Beach Symphony, The Society of the Four Arts, The Palm Beach Opera, The Choral Society of the Palm Beaches, The Royal Poinciana Chapel, The Church of Bethesda-by-the-sea, First Presbyterian Church of North Palm Beach, Young Singers of the Palm Beaches and The Palm Beach Round Table. Choral members actively serve in the worship ministries of numerous area churches of all denominations. The Choir consistently bears witness to the power of music as ministry. This year, the ensemble continues its mission of global outreach, with a tour through Czechia, Germany, and Austria—sharing the light of Christ through the universal language of song. Together, we believe that every note we sing, every harmony we craft, and every stage we grace is an offering—for the glory of the Lord.



Performing artist and veteran educator **Sonia Gonzalez Santiago** is a distinguished music educator and voice instructor. Known for her dynamic teaching and inspiring leadership, she maintains a thriving voice studio and has earned widespread recognition as a master teacher and vocal clinician. Her work emphasizes vocal freedom through healthy, sustainable technique across all styles and genres, and her expertise is regularly called upon as an adjudicator and clinician. Mrs. Santiago currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida in addition to maintaining a select private voice studio. Her acclaimed choirs are active throughout the school year and play an important role in outreach and recruitment for the university. Prior to her position at the university, she served as Director of Vocal Arts for the nationally acclaimed Conservatory of the Arts at The King's Academy in West Palm Beach, Florida for twelve years. Sonia is also part of the artistic staff of the

Young Singers of the Palm Beaches in residence at the Kravis Center. An accomplished mezzo-soprano, Sonia has captivated audiences around the world with her rich, lyric, expressive voice. Born in Miami, Florida, Sonia Gonzalez Santiago is the daughter of Cuban immigrants. A product of Florida music education, Sonia was the first in her family to pursue higher education in the United States. She holds degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance from the University of Florida and Florida State University. She is an active member of multiple professional organizations including the American Choral Directors Association, National Association for Music Education and the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

Timber Springs Middle School Solare, Brianna Martin; Friday, 9:15 am in the Sanctuary



Timber Springs Middle School's Solare is an advanced ensemble composed of seventh and eighth graders with a dedication to choral music. Solare received straight superior ratings at the District 8 MPA in 2025 and frequently performs throughout the East Orlando community. This choir is a group of young singers who value musicianship, community, and hard work. Director Brianna Martin is constantly inspired by her students' work ethic, joyfulness, and the music they create together. Solare is excited to share what they have been pouring their time and energy into during this rigorous process.



Brianna Martin earned her Bachelor of Choral Music Education from Florida State University in 2021. She is currently the chorus director at Timber Springs Middle School (Orlando). She serves as the Tri-M Sponsor which allows her to collaborate with other programs and administrators at her school, facilitating service projects and enhancing support for the arts. Recently, her choirs have earned straight Superior ratings at District 8 MPA. Throughout her teaching career, she has been an active member of ACDA, FMEA, and FVA. Ms. Martin has also been awarded the FMEA Secondary Enrollment in Music award in 2024.

Wellington High School Chamber Chorus, Bradford Chase; Friday, 11:45 am in the Sanctuary



The Chamber Chorus is the advanced mixed chorus at Wellington High School. They regularly perform at school events and throughout the community, sharing their passion for music with diverse audiences. They consistently earn top ratings at music performance assessments and frequently achieve Superior with Distinction at the state level. Their commitment to excellence has led to prestigious performances, including the Florida ACDA Conference in 2025.

Individual chorus members have been selected for ACDA honor choirs at the national, regional, and state levels, as well as the Florida All-State choruses. Comprised of students in grades 9-12, this choir is a place where singers come together to grow, inspire, and create something greater than themselves.



Bradford Chase is in his 18th year at Wellington High School in Palm Beach County, FL, where he directs a choral program comprising five choirs and serving over 100 students. Under his leadership, the WHS choirs have performed at the Florida ACDA Conference and the President's Concert for the FMEA State Conference. Ensembles under his direction consistently receive "Superior with Distinction" ratings from the Florida Vocal Association. A graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music and the University of Connecticut, Bradford holds a BM in Percussion Performance and an MM in Orchestral Conducting. Before moving to Florida, he was a member of the Boston Philharmonic and served as a conductor at Harvard University. Beyond his professional achievements, Bradford is a proud father to two amazing children, Josie and Oliver, and a devoted husband to his extraordinary wife, Shana.

FLACDA Board & Service Team

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Brigitte Poulson & Gabriela Santos: TB Coordinators

Chad DeLoach, Suzanne McCormick & Judy

Williams: SA Coordinators

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Zerrin Agabigum Martin: Research Chair

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Connie Drosakis: Conference Hotel Liaison

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Honor Choir Programs

**Saturday
October 25, 2025**

SA & TB Honor Choir / 12:00 PM

SATB Honor Choir / 3:15 PM

Melinda Fradley,
Honor Choir Chair

TB Honor Choir

Dr. Reed Criddle,
Clinician

Samuel Carlton,
Collaborative Pianist

Brigitte Poulson &
Gabriela Santos,
Choir Coordinators

SATB Honor Choir

Dr. André J. Thomas,
Clinician

Elizabeth LaJeunesse,
Collaborative Pianist

Emily Ramos &
Erin Scully Kolodinsky,
Choir Coordinators

SA Honor Choir

Deborah Wong Mar,
Clinician

Chad DeLoach,
Collaborative Pianist

Chad DeLoach, Suzanne
McCormick
& Judy Williams,
Choir Coordinators

TB Honor Choir Concert Program

Saturday, October 25 @ 12:00 PM

- Ombra mai fu.....G.F. Handel, arr. Robert Sieving
- Remember Me.....Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez, arr. Roger Emerson
- Fly Me to the Moon.....Bart Howard, arr. Roger Emerson
- A Place in the Choir.....Bill Staines, arr. John Leavitt
- Shout Glory!.....Byron J. Smith



Dr. Reed Criddle is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Utah Valley University, where he conducts the Chamber Choir and Deep Green (tenor-bass choir) and teaches conducting, lyric diction, and voice. He is twice recipient of the UVU Faculty Senate Teaching Excellence Award and winner of the School of the Arts Dean's Award for exemplary faculty scholarly and creative work. He has conducted the acclaimed UVU Chamber Choir at national conferences of the American Choral Directors Association (2023) and the National Collegiate Choral Organization (2013, 2017), as well as over a dozen divisional and state conferences of ACDA and the National Association for Music Education. In addition to his ongoing service as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator for school and community ensembles, Dr. Criddle has served as president of the Utah chapter of ACDA. He previously taught music courses at the University of California-Berkeley Young Musicians Program, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI), Eastman Community Music School (Rochester, NY), and Willow Oaks Elementary School (Menlo Park, CA). seph Piazza, and Robert Geary.

In Fall 2024, Dr. Criddle was a Visiting Professor of Choral Music and Interim Associate Director of Choirs at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, where he conducted the University Choir, Michigan Youth Chamber Singers, and the 100-voiced University of Michigan Men's Glee Club in its 165th season. In Spring 2025, Dr. Criddle was a Visiting Professor at Maastricht Conservatoire in the Netherlands. In the last year, he also conducted the Cathedral Voices and Jackson Hole Symphony Orchestra (Wyoming) for a performance of Beethoven's Choral Fantasy and guest lectured on his arrangements of Chinese folk songs at Furen Catholic University (Taipei, Taiwan), Nanjing University of the Arts, Nanjing Xiaozhuang University, Yangzhou Vocational University, and Jinzhong University in China. In July 2024, Criddle made his Weiwuying National Concert Hall conducting debut as the conductor of the Formosa Taiwan Youth Honor Choir.

Named a U.S. Fulbright Senior Scholar to Taiwan in 2018, Dr. Criddle is an ardent advocate for multiculturalism and a foremost ethnomusicologist of Chinese Buddhist chant. Fluent in Mandarin Chinese, Dr. Criddle is editor of *Chanting the Medicine Buddha Sutra: A Musical Transcription and English Translation of the Liberation Rite of Water and Land at Fo Guang Shan Monastery* (AR Editions: Middleton, Wisconsin). This unprecedented ethnography and translation of Chinese Buddhist liturgy was named a finalist for the American Musicological Society's 2021 Claude V. Palisca Award.

Dr. Criddle completed a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Conducting at the University of Michigan and Masters of Music in Choral Conducting at the Eastman School of Music. At Stanford University, he received a Masters of Arts in East Asian Studies and Bachelors of Arts in Vocal Performance and Chinese. His conducting mentors include Jerry Blackstone, Paul Rardin, William Weinert, Stephen Sano, Helmuth Rilling, Joseph Piazza, and Robert Geary.

TB Honor Choir Performers

Abdiel Escobar Timber Springs Middle School	Dominick Moskalenko Eagles Landing Middle School	Jayson Cebula Progress Village Middle Magnet School of the Arts	Morgan Brown Lake Nona Middle School
Alden Ramirez Somerset College Preparatory Academy	Dylan De Jesus Maldonado Eisenhower Middle School	Jazen Martin Eisenhower Middle School	Nicholas Holman Lake Nona Middle School
Alexavier Rodriguez Powell Middle School	Edmond Gomez Bak Middle School of the Arts	Joel Rivera Academy for Innovative Education Charter School	Noah Campbell Newsome High School
Andres Ospina Barrington Middle School	Emmett Elliott Barrington Middle School	Jonah Burleson Lake Nona High School	Nolan Franzen Progress Village Middle Magnet School of the Arts
Anthony Mendez South Miami Middle School	Evan Bernhardt Liberty Middle School	Jorge Gonzalez Baez Lake Nona Middle School	O'Mari Young LaVilla Middle School
Anthony Ponce Southwood Middle School	Everett Roog Jupiter Middle School	Jose Dominguez Eagles Landing Middle School	Ocean Simpson Randall Middle School
Anthony Velasquez South Creek Middle School	Ezra Berkovich Randall Middle School	Justin Montfort Somerset College Preparatory Academy	Owen Juliano North Broward Preparatory School
Anton Mares Bloomingdale Senior High School	Gabriel Capote Powell Middle School	Kai Nagao Bak Middle School of the Arts	Phoenix Gallardo Howard Middle School
Antonio Aristazabal American Heritage Schools	Gabriel Gonzalez Powell Middle School	Kelvyn Serrano Timber Creek High School	Pranav Purushothaman Hunter's Creek Middle School
Augustus Avellan Lake Nona Middle School	Gavin Grooms Barrington Middle School	Kendall Tisdale Burns Middle School	Raphael Sanchez Eagles Landing Middle School
Austin Battles Howard Middle School	Giovanni Denacimiento Academy for Innovative Education Charter	Kenello Bolden LaVilla Middle School	Rishit Srivastava Barrington Middle School
Becket Himmelman Randall Middle School	Giovanni Perez Deltona Middle School	Kornel Racz American Heritage Schools	Robert Curtis American Heritage Schools
Benen Salmons Timber Creek High School	Hayden Goddard Deltona Middle School	Levi Welch Douglas Anderson School of the Arts	Robert Mills Lake Nona High School
Brady Mills Lake Minneola High School	Ikemba Nwaigwe Luminary Middle School	Liam Cline LaVilla Middle School	Rolando Carrasco Barrios Hunter's Creek Middle School
Brayden Houghton Innovation Middle School	Isaac Bjorn Lake Minneola High School	Logan Bond Burns Middle School	Roman Suarez Coral Reef Senior High School
Braylun Clark Powell Middle School	Isaiah Casimir Southwood Middle School	Logan Pastora Florida Christian School	Roy Burgosfiallo South Miami Middle School
Caleb Marquez Crespo Timber Springs Middle School	Jack Taylor Bridgewater Middle School	Lucas Berson Lake Nona Middle School	Samuel Toro Lakeview Middle School
Cameren Burch LaVilla Middle School	Jackson Wyatt DeLand High School	Lucas Olivo Colon Eisenhower Middle School	Sebastian Ramirez American Heritage Schools
Carson Palacios West Boca Raton Community High School	Jacob Forst Boone High School	Lucas Resto Concepcion University High School	Stefan Ortiz Boone High School
Christian Kuhn Olympic Heights Community High School	Jacob Miles Bak Middle School of the Arts	Maddox Honey Bloomingdale Senior High School	Taliyo Alame Randall Middle School
Christopher Orasma Lake Nona Middle School	Jacob Sims Powell Middle School	Malachi Carreras Bridgewater Middle School	Thomas Barrett Dennis Howard Middle School
Clark Bentinganan Barrington Middle School	Jaden Johnson Southwood Middle School	Manuel Arencibia Southwood Middle School	Travis Quarles Rodgers Middle Magnet School
Cristian Guerrero Lake Brantley High School	Jaxon Anderson Lake Nona Middle School	Marco Zummo-Hurley Eagles Landing Middle School	Tyler Hughes Lake Minneola High School
Declan Morris Howard Middle School	Jaxon Forsythe Bridgewater Middle School	Marcus Roberts Powell Middle School	Victor Pantoja Progress Village Middle Magnet School of the Arts
Diego Barrios Bloomingdale Senior High School	Jayden Andrade Powell Middle School	Mark Packard Eagles Landing Middle School	Wyatt Scott Lake Highland Preparatory School
Dominic Minicky Bridgewater Middle School	Jayden Faustin Lakeview Middle School	Mikael Colon South Creek Middle School	Xander Persaud Lake Highland Preparatory School
			Zachary Parnell Southwest Middle School

SA Honor Choir Concert Program

Saturday, October 25 @ 12:00 PM

Musica Dei.....Tom Shelton

Child With the Starry Crown.....Eleanor Daley

Ay! Mi Palomita.....Lullaby from the Dominican Republic, arr. Juan Tony

Ikan Kekek.....Malay Folksong, arr. Tracy Wong

Beside the Still Waters.....Rollo Dilworth



Deborah Wong Mar, now retired, was a choral director for 46 years. She received a BA in Music Education from Barry College and the MM in Music Education from the University of Miami. High school and middle school choirs under her direction received superior ratings since 1983. General Music Today, published her article on teaching in multicultural environments in 1990. She was named Teacher of the Year in 2003 and in 2018. Her leadership with the FVA includes district chair, all-state coordinator, certified adjudicator, and MPA chair. She has conducted honor choirs in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Santa Rosa counties. Southwood Choirs received Superior with Distinction ratings for five years and were active participants in ACDA and FVA. One of her professional goals has been the mentoring other music educators. Deborah Mar was inducted into the FVA Hall of Fame in 2017. She taught at North Miami Beach Senior High School, John F Kennedy Junior High School, Miami Southridge Senior High School, and Southwood Middle School. Deborah received the FMEA Music Educator of the Year and the FVA Mentorship awards in 2023.

SA Honor Choir Performers					
Abella Cloke The Geneva School	Brunette Telcy Rodgers Middle Magnet School	Eva Sarver Randall Middle School	Keira Lassen Randall Middle School	Nadeene Nesbeth LaVilla Middle School	Shriya Iyer Lumina Youth Choirs
Abigail Bowser The Geneva School	Cali Smith Lake Nona High School	Finnley Griffing Jupiter Middle School	Kensington Jones Jupiter Middle School	Nala Jones Lake Highland Preparatory School	Skylar Aronowitz Tuskawilla Middle School
Abigail Rivera Meadow Woods Middle School	Camila Delvalle Southwood Middle	Gabriella Abreu Lake Nona High School	Kyla Selleck Randall Middle School	Nashlee St Juste Somerset College	Sofia Ficagna Southwest Middle School
Adaline Sowada LaVilla Middle School	Catalina Lavilla Sanchez Southwest Middle School	Gabriella Kushnir Spanish River High School	Kylee Tibbits Progress Village Middle Magnet	Natalia Quintero Innovation High School	Sofia Nuñez Southwood MS
Adelaide Nelson Bridgewater Middle	Catalina Rodriguez Luminary Middle School	Gabriella Morales Horizon Middle School	Laia McGregor Southwood Middle	Natalie Caranza Rodgers Middle Magnet School	Solymar Dominguez West Boca Raton Community
Agata Lopez Bridgewater Middle School	Caylee Vega Tarpon Springs High School	Gabrielle Isiguzo Lake Nona Middle School	Layla Williams Newsome High School	Natalie Ventimiglia-Morel Tuskawilla Middle School	Sophia Acanda Academy for Innovative Education
Aiden Rodrigues Maitland Middle School	Charlotte Laufer Lake Nona High School	Gemma Tursi Bak Middle School of the Arts	Leanis Alarcon Coral Reef Senior High School	Nicole Orozco Lake Nona Middle School	Sophia Finnegan West Boca Raton Community
Alayla Ramirez Eagles Landing Middle School	Chloe Cabotaje Meadow Woods Middle School	Gia Palomino Eagles Landing Middle School	Lexi Twiddy Newsome High School	Nikhaylie Barnett Ramblewood Middle	Sophia Kutylo Lake Nona Middle School
Anaya Congreaves-Browne Progress Village	Chloe Davis Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda	Haley Seal Ramblewood Middle School	Lili Kuehn Bak Middle School of the Arts	Noemi Oliphant Lake Nona High School	Sophia Lariviere Bak Middle School of the Arts
Anna Panasenko Randall Middle School	Claire Mathson LaVilla Middle School	Hannah Wright Burns Middle School	Lilianna Spruill Burns Middle School	Norah Nadeau Burns Middle School	Sydney Gendron Lake Brantley High School
Arabella Spearing American Heritage	Deavlyn Dawson Timber Springs Middle School	Hara Friedman Eagles Landing Middle School	Lily Alerta Barrington Middle School	Olivia D'Apolito Somerset College Preparatory	Taylor Hagin Rodgers Middle Magnet School
Arianna Diaz Olympic Heights Community High	Eleanor Floyd Barrington Middle School	Isabel Eldridge Tuskawilla Middle School	Lily Hercules-Fralc Bak Middle School of the Arts	Parker Herold Newsome High School	Valentina Mendiola Figueroa Spanish River
Arianna Sanchez Academy for Innovative	Elena Mchayleh Lake Highland Preparatory	Isabella Arguelles Tuskawilla Middle School	Liv Vora Eagles Landing Middle School	Peighton Connelly Lake Nona Middle School	Vanessa Pineda Academy for Innovative Education
Arwyn Willow Taylor Eagles Landing Middle	Elisa Galloni Lake Nona High School	Isabella Gabino Bak Middle School of the Arts	Logan Stark Lumina Youth Choirs	Penelope Curtis Timber Springs Middle School	Vega-Tirado Gianna Florida Christian School
Ashlynn Bradley Randall Middle School	Elisa Victor Stuart Middle School	Isabella Ledesma Randall Middle School	Madelyn Obel LaVilla Middle School	Penelope Hawkins Tuskawilla Middle School	Victoria Galloni Lake Nona Middle School
Aubree McCreary Howard Middle School	Ella Nelson Dr John Long Middle School	Isabella Mosquera Millennium Middle	Madelynn Lee Lake Highland Preparatory	Penelope Real Jupiter Middle School	Viktoriia Nagorna Eagles Landing Middle School
Aubrey Belle Martin Progress Village Middle	Ella Sheppard Powell Middle School	Isabella Pesce Eagles Landing Middle School	Maeby Kreuser Howard Middle School	Rachel Bernal Southwood Middle	Violet Eaton Lakeview Middle School
Aubrey Maguire Bloomingdale Senior	Elle Howell Boone High School	Isabella Williams Lumina Youth Choirs	Maia Frauenberger American Heritage	Raelynn Ramos Eagles Landing Middle School	Wynn Mohler Bak Middle School of the Arts
Audrey San Miguel Lake Nona High School	Ellie Meisner Innovation Middle School	Jai'Dynn Allen Quallo Bak Middle School of the Arts	Makayla Alexis Eagles Landing Middle School	Rayne Willis Somerset College Preparatory	Yvanna Gukovsky Eagles Landing Middle School
Ava De Stefanis Ramblewood Middle	Emily Ballard Jupiter Middle School	Jinayah Fabian Powell Middle School	Margaret Mohler Randall Middle School	Rie Dunlap Riverview High School	Zahari Wilkerson Leon High School
Ava Gray Howard Middle School	Emily Miller Howard Middle School	Josielys Aldea-Arocho Millennium Middle	Mariana Santi Eagles Landing Middle School	Riley Shannon Lake Brantley High School	Zoe De La Rosa Coral Reef Senior High School
Ava Hall Howard W. Blake School of the Arts	Emily Pereira Meadow Woods Middle School	Kailynn Rios Cruz Lakeview Middle School	Mariana Sighieri Tognoli Lake Nona Middle School	Sadie Rose Arceno Hagerty High School	Zoe Richards Howard Middle School
Ava Searcy Bloomingdale Senior High School	Emily Reed LaVilla Middle School	Kalina Race Boone High School	Mariana Suarez Eagles Landing Middle School	Sahasra Ayyagari Florida State University Schools	Zoe Rodriguez Innovation High School
Avery D'Amico Jupiter Middle School	Emily Rodriguez Coral Reef Senior High School	Karishma Kishore Southwest Middle School	Mariyah Hicks Deltona Middle School	Samira Ambroise Eagles Landing Middle School	Zoey Barrientos South Miami Middle School
Avery Lee Duffell LaVilla Middle School	Emma Schmidt Eagles Landing Middle School	Kate Marques American Heritage Schools	Mattias Baron Lumina Youth Choirs	Sarah Holtzman Bak Middle School of the Arts	Zoey Perez Academy for Innovative Education
Ayla Siddiqui Eagles Landing Middle School	Esther Gonzalez Southwood Middle	Katherine Lynch Lake Highland Preparatory	Mia Velez Lake Nona Middle School	Sariah Salerno Liberty Middle School	Zoey Soto Meadow Woods Middle School
Brianne Frazier Progress Village Middle Magnet	Eva Pelletier Boone High School	Katia Rodriguez Southwood Middle	Mila Acevedo South Creek Middle School	Saskia Blackman Jupiter Middle School	Zoya Sahai Lake Highland Preparatory School
Briella Olson Eagles Landing Middle School		Kaylee Augi Florida Christian School		Savannah Greenman Liberty Middle School	

SATB Honor Choir Concert Program

Saturday, October 25 @ 3:15 PM

Gloria.....John Rutter

- i. Gloria
- ii. Domine Deus
- iii. Quiniam tu solus sanctus

Clap Praise.....Diane L. White-Clayton



ANDRÉ J. THOMAS is an Associate Artist with the London Symphony Orchestra.

Thomas is Professor Emeritus of Music at Florida State University. He was visiting Professor of Choral Conducting at Yale University from 2020-2022. He also served as faculty member at the University of Texas, Austin.

Dr. Thomas received his degrees from Friends University (B.A.), Northwestern University (M. M.), and The University of Illinois (D.M.A). He is in demand as a choral adjudicator, clinician, and director of Honor/All-State Choirs throughout North America, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, Australia, and Africa. Dr. Thomas has conducted choirs at the state, division, and national conventions of the Music Educators National Conference (NAFME) and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). His international conducting credits are extensive. They include conductor/clinician for the International Federation of Choral Musicians' summer residency of the World Youth Choir in the Republic of China and the Philippines. He was also the conductor of the World Youth Choir's winter residency in Europe and a premier performance by an American choir (Florida State University Singers) in Vietnam.

He is a highly respected guest conductor who has led numerous prestigious orchestras and choirs around the world, including the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in England, the Berlin Radio Choir and the North German Radio Choir in Germany, the Netherlands Radio Choir, The Bulgarian Radio Choir and Orchestra, the Seoul Metropolitan Chorus, Ansan City Choir, Jeju Provincial Seogwipo Chorale in South Korea, the Charlotte Symphony, China's People's Liberation Orchestra, the Czech National Symphony Orchestra, and the London Symphony. He also served as the Artistic Director of the Tallahassee Community Chorus for 31 seasons.

Thomas has also distinguished himself as a composer/arranger. Hinshaw Music Company, Mark Foster Music Company, Fitzsimons Music Company, Lawson Gould, Earthsongs, Choristers Guild, and Heritage Music Company publish his compositions and arrangements. Dr. Thomas has produced two instructional videos—What They See Is What You Get on choral conducting, with Rodney Eichenberger, and Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice on adolescent voices, with Anton Armstrong. His recent book, *Way Over in Beulah Lan': Understanding and Performing the Negro Spiritual*, has quickly become a significant source in this area of study.

Various musical organizations have recognized Thomas. The African Diaspora Sacred Music honored Dr. Thomas as a Living Legend. In 2011, Chorus America recognized Thomas' dedication to and accomplishments in the choral arts, presenting him with its Distinguished Service Award. In March 2017, ACDA presented Thomas with its highest honor, the Robert Shaw Award, and in November of 2017, NCCO (National Collegiate Choral Organization) presented Thomas with its Lifetime Achievement Award. In January 2019, he was inducted into the Florida Music Educator's Hall of Fame. In 2022 he was presented with the Award of Excellence from the Southern Region of ACDA. Yale University School of Music presented Thomas with the Samuel Simons Sanford Medal, the most prestigious honor conferred by the Yale School of Music. In 2025 Florida State University presented him the honor of the Torch Award.

He is the past president of the Florida ACDA, the Southern Division of ACDA, and the current Past President of the National ACDA.

SATB Honor Choir Performers

Adrijana Milic Atlantic Coast High School	Daniela Botero Florida Christian School	Jaxon Joya Academy for Innovative Education Charter School	Lily VanZetten Celebration High School	Phoebe Pascal Lake Worth High School
Alexander Sosa John A. Ferguson High School	David De La Rosa Jule F. Sumner High School	Jermaine Estor East River High School	Lochlan Hassell Innovation High School	Robert Mejia Chirinos Olympia High School
Alexandra Vazquez Lehigh Senior High School	Diego Esposito Coral Reef Senior High School	Jeydel Ayla Ramos Lake Minneola High School	Ludyn Carias Rivas Gateway High School	Roxy Durso North Fort Myers High School Choir
Alisha St. Germain North Fort Myers High School Choir	Diego Garcia Alonso High School	John Franco Braden River High School	Madden Moore H.B. Plant High School	Ryan Burnham Viera High School
Anabel Quittman William T. Dwyer High School Chorus	Eleanora Forrest Dr. Phillips High School	Jospeh Busto Miami Senior High School	Madigan Watson University High School (Volusia)	Ryan Noe Newsome High School
Andrea Gonzalez Perez American Heritage Schools	Elijah Turner Howard W. Blake School of the Arts	Juan Marulanda Spanish River High School	Madison Falcone Melbourne High School	Ryan Pickett Howard W. Blake School of the Arts
Andrew Jenkins Sickles High School	Ella Culbertson North Fort Myers High School Choir	Juan Zapata John A. Ferguson High School	Madison Wexler Park Vista Community High School	Rylie Cohen West Boca Raton Community High School
Andrew Pullen DeLand High School	Ella Walker Lake Nona High School	Julia Lau Peres Lake Highland Preparatory School	Makeda Gadson Howard W. Blake School of the Arts	Salvador Novaro East Ridge High School
Annabella Armstrong Winter Park High School	Emma Velez Rondon Lake Minneola High School	Julia Morse Central Florida Youth Chorus	Mallory Goddard Martin County High School	Samantha Hayford Lake Brantley High School
Annabella Cardwell Lake Brantley High School	Ethan Mohring North Fort Myers High School Choir	Kane Quiles Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts	Marcelo Grativol Olympia High School	Samuel Reyes Poinciana High School
Annabelle Camargo Coral Springs High School	Gabriella Yakisch Horizon High School	Kara Yoakum East Bay High School	Maria Malley Leon High School	Samy Lorgeat Tohopekaliga High School
Annabelle Puopolo The Geneva School	Gabrielle Itzkovitz West Orange High School	Karla Urbaz North Broward Preparatory School	Maryan Martins Amar Horizon High School	Sarah Glen Santaluces Community High School
Anthony Ellis Oak Ridge High School	Garrett Tingey Newsome High School	Karley Kopacz Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts	Maven Cardenas Apopka High School	Savannah Slaymaker South Fork Highschool
Anthony Tran Park Vista Community High School	Giselle Arana-Cisneros Lincoln Park Academy	Kayleen Gonzalez Jule F. Sumner High School	Michael Sharpe Heritage High School	Sebastian Castaneda John A. Ferguson High School
Austin Blakely Taravella High School	Greta Harms Westminster Academy	Kendall Kibler Hagerty High School	Miles Cabrera Innovation High School	Semaiya Thomas Somerset College Preparatory Academy
Brandon Mustain Lake Brantley High School	Griffin Chase Lake Nona High School	Kepha Waffubwa Lake Minneola High School	Nathan Paul Timber Creek High School	Sofia Aleman John A. Ferguson High School
Brendan Rodriguez Coral Reef Senior High School	Harmony Gates Saint Cloud High School	Kerieliz Fuentes Lopez Lake Nona High School	Nestor King Ocoee High School	Sophia Hesh Lake Highland Preparatory School
Brennen Hettler-Harrigan Horizon High School	Holden Raley Pensacola Children's Chorus	Kiara NeSmith Florida State University Schools	Nherelyz Luciano Robert Morgan Senior High School	Spencer Hernandez Lake Minneola High School
Calista Guzman North Broward Preparatory School	Ilyanna Pantaleon North Fort Myers High School Choir	Kristian Koon-Koon University High School (Orange)	Nichole Singmaster Innovation High School	Stefano Cestero Olympia High School
Cameron Rineer Lake Highland Preparatory School	Isaac Gonzalez Miami Senior High School	La'Shawn Simmons Lake Worth High School	Nitya Srikant Strawberry Crest High School	Suarmy Riverol University High School (Orange)
Cassiel McLeod Lumina Youth Choirs	Isaiah Rivera University High School (Orange)	Laura Voyard William T. Dwyer High School Chorus	Nora Franzen Howard W. Blake School of the Arts	Tristan Pomareda Miami Senior High School
Catarina Gustave Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts	Itzabelle Melendez Trejos Innovation High School	Laylah Springer Howard W. Blake School of the Arts	Olivia Brisch Escambia High School	Tylasha Johnson Riverview High School
Chandler Hall Windermere High School	Jacob Avery Newsome High School	Leighton Tafaro Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts	Olivia Layton Lake Nona High School	Virginia Jackson Bloomingdale Senior High School
Charlotte Brown Horizon High School	Jacqueline Clark Windermere High School	Leilani Sanchez Howard W. Blake School of the Arts	Pearl Dolce Howard W. Blake School of the Arts	Xavier Clay Oak Ridge High School
Christian Matta Innovation High School	Jaqueline LeFils DeLand High School	Lester Lopez John A. Ferguson High School	Penn Waldman Newsome High School	Xavier Pabey Lake Nona High School
Cooper Wojcicchon Spanish River High School		Lillie Smith Douglas Anderson School of the Arts		Zoey Davison Tarpon Springs High School

Concert Etiquette

Please refrain from talking during the performance.
Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices.
Please refrain from text messaging during the performance.
Please refrain from flash photography during the performance.
Please immediately take restless or crying children to the lobby.

Thank you for being considerate to the performers and those around you!

Florida ACDA Officers

Dr. Peter Steenblik, President

Justin Chase, Past President

Shanpatrick Davis, President Elect

Tabitha Peck, Treasurer & Webmaster

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Cristina Morales, Membership Chair

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Special Thanks To...

The Florida ACDA Board

First United Methodist Church of Orlando, FL

The FL-ACDA High School Honor Choir judges

Beethoven & Company and Head's House of Music

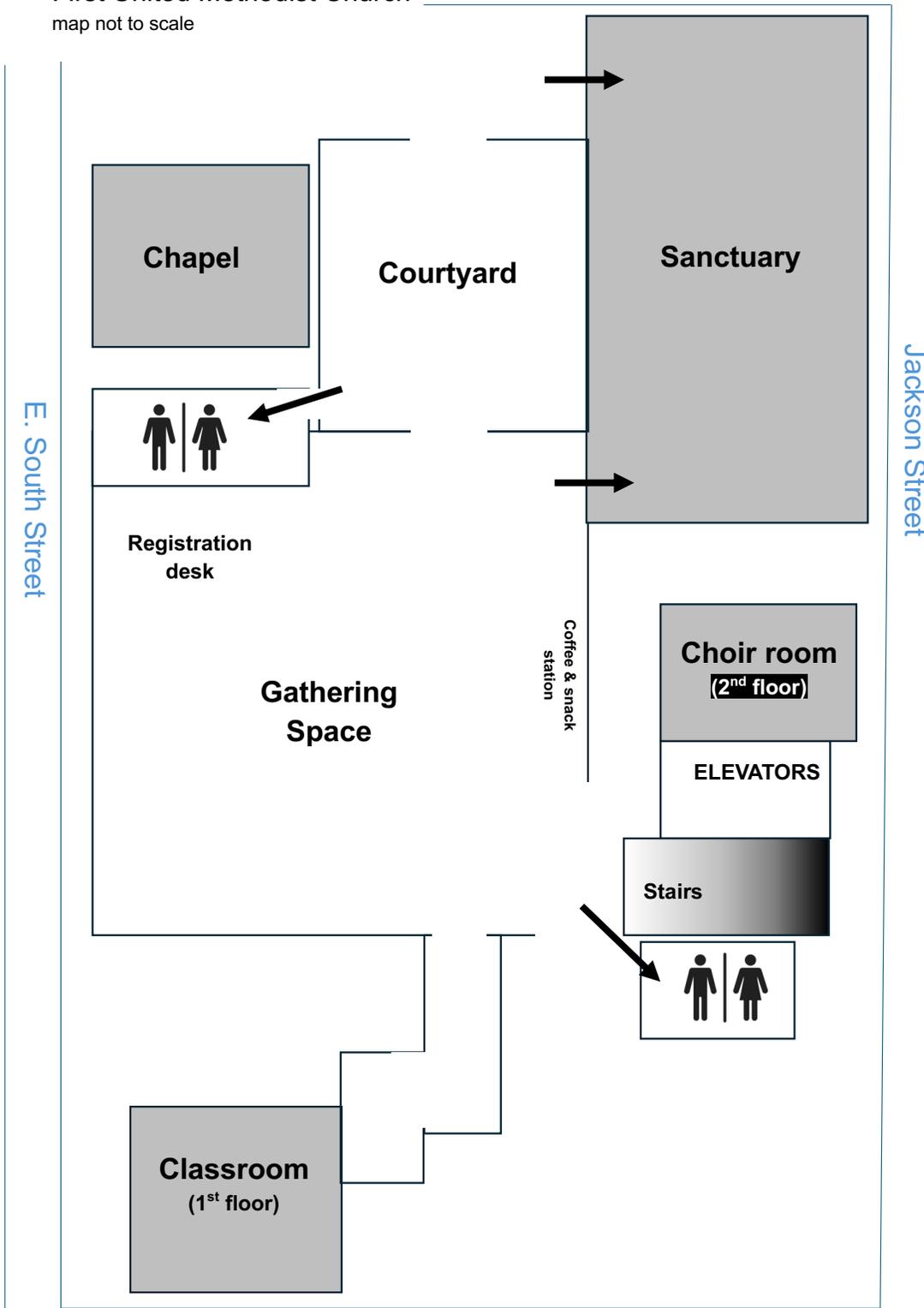
The students, teachers, and parents/chaperones for all of their hard work in making this honor choir possible.

Map of FLACDA events



First United Methodist Church
map not to scale

S. Magnolia Ave.



S. Rosalind Ave.