



## Alex Gartner

Artistic & Executive Director  
Pensacola Children's Chorus  
Office: (850) 434-7760 ext. 5  
agartner@pensacolasings.org  
www.alexgartner.com

## EDUCATION

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**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA  
Certificate, *Arts & Culture Strategy*, 2021

Instructors: Gail Krider & Elizabeth Keating (finance), Peter Frumkin & Jim Rosenberg (strategic planning),  
Laura Morgan Roberts (team leadership), Eileen Heisman (fundraising)

**University of Florida**, Gainesville, FL  
Master of Music, *Music Education*, 2019

Instructors: Dr. Stephanie Standerfer (instructional design), Dr. Timothy Brophy (assessment),  
Dr. William Bauer (technology)

Thesis: "Striking a Balance: Efficient Methods Used by Children's Choir Conductors to Build Musicianship  
Within a Performance-Driven Curriculum"  
Dr. William Bauer, chair

**University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music**, Cincinnati, OH  
Bachelor of Music, *Music Education*, 2012

Instructors: Dr. Brett Scott (choral conducting, choral ensemble), Dr. Eva Floyd (choral music education),  
Dr. Amy Beegle (K-8 general music), Karen Lykes (voice)

Honors: John Leman Award for Outstanding Choral Leadership, 2012; Honors scholarship (Honors College);  
Dean's list 2009-2012; Summa cum laude

## TEACHING/DIRECTING/LEADERSHIP

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**Pensacola Children's Chorus**, Pensacola, FL  
Artistic & Executive Director, 2016-present

Young Singers: 30-45 singers, Grades 9-12, SATB, auditioned  
Choraliers: 40-60 singers, Grades 9-12, SSAA, placement  
Chorale: 10-15 singers, Grades 7-12, TB, placement  
Concert: 50-75 singers, Grades 6-8, SSA, placement  
Ensemble: 25-40 singers, Grades 6-8, SSA, auditioned  
Festival: 60-85 singers, Grades 4-5, SA, placement  
Choristers: 25-40 singers, Grade 3, Treble, placement  
Preparatory: 20-30 singers, Grades 1-2, Treble, placement  
Ambassadors: 15-20 singers, Grades 7-12, SATB, auditioned

### *Artistic Components*

4 annual choral productions (fusion of choral music and production elements of musical theatre); 3 low-to-no-cost community choirs; 2 regional ensembles; 30-40 annual performances; summer education programs; high school and pre-service teacher internships; cross-sector collaborations; musical collaborations with Pensacola Symphony, Pensacola Opera

### *Executive Components*

Annual budget of \$1.5M (including \$575+ in program income, \$320K in additional earned income, and \$365K in contributed income); multifaceted funding structure, including arts grants, choir/instructor-for-hire services, and lucrative governmental and cross-sector contracts

## TEACHING, DIRECTING &amp; LEADERSHIP (continued)

**Cincinnati Youth Choir**, Cincinnati, OH

Richard W. Wesp Assistant Director, 2012-2016

Bel Canto: 50-75 students, Grades 5-12, SSAA, auditioned

Con Brio: 40-60 students, Grades 5-9, SSA, placement

Girl Choir: 30-40 students, Grades 9-12, SSA, placement

3 annual performances; collaborations with Cincinnati Symphony, May Festival, University of Cincinnati

**Epiphany United Methodist Church**, Loveland, OH

Director of Traditional Music, 2014-2016

Assistant Director, 2007-2012

Adult church choir, 3 handbell ensembles, 2 children's choirs, weekly traditional service

**Forest Aires Women's Chorus**, Cincinnati, OH

Artistic Director, 2013-2016

Community women's choir, non-auditioned

**St. James Episcopal Church**, Westwood, OH

Music Director &amp; Organist, 2012-2014

Adult church choir, weekly traditional service

**Montessori Academy of Cincinnati**, Mason, OH

General Music Specialist, 2012

**CHORAL ORGANIZATIONS & PERFORMANCE CREDITS**

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ACDA Southern Region Music in Worship Festival Choir Dr. André J. Thomas, conductor	Mobile, AL 2020
Limerick Sings Festival Choir Dr. André J. Thomas, conductor European premiere of Dan Forrest's <i>Jubilate Deo</i>	Limerick, Ireland 2017
Distinguished Concerts International Festival Choir Eric Whitacre, conductor Carnegie Hall premiere of choral opera <i>Paradise Lost</i>	New York, NY 2010
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Chorale Dr. L Brett Scott, conductor	Cincinnati, OH 2009-2012

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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**Notable Conducted Performances**

Carnegie Hall – Manhattan Concert Productions Conductor: National Youth Chorus	New York NY June 2026
American Choral Directors Association – Southern Region Conference Conductor: Pensacola Children's Chorus, choral performance (blind audition, peer-reviewed)	Louisville, KY February 2024
Carnegie Hall – Manhattan Concert Productions Guest Conductor: National Youth Chorus, world premiere of <i>The Persistence of Song</i>	New York, NY June 2022
American Choral Directors Association – Southern Region Conference Guest Conductor: Children's Festival Chorus	Raleigh, NC March 2022

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)

**International Presentations**

International Society for Music Education  
 Presenter: "Practice Your Pitch: Advocacy Is Everybody's Business" Helsinki, Finland  
 August 2024

**National & Regional Presentations**

American Choral Directors Association: Western Region Conference  
 Presenter: "Practice Your Pitch: Advocacy Is Everybody's Business" Pasadena, CA  
 March 2024

Chorus America: National Conference  
 Presenter: "Communicating Your Value" San Francisco, CA  
 June 2023

American Choral Directors Association: National Children's & Community Youth Retreat  
 Presenter: "Communicating Your Value: Choirs, Car Sales, and Everything in Between" Tucson, AZ  
 January 2022

American Choral Directors Association: National Conference  
 Facilitator: "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Children's & Community Youth Choirs" Virtual  
 March 2021

American Choral Directors Association: Southern Region Conference  
 Preparatory conductor, invited collaborative performance session  
 Pensacola Children's Chorus: Children's Festival Chorus directed by southern choral conductors Mobile, AL  
 March 2020

American Choral Directors Association: Children's & Community Youth Choir Conductors' Retreat  
 Presenter: "Southern Specialties" Choral Reading Session Atlanta, GA  
 January 2020

North Dakota State University: ACDA National Choral Symposium  
 Presenter: "Empowering Youth to Be the Voices of Change for Tomorrow" Fargo, ND  
 October 2018

National Handbell Musicians of America: National Seminar  
 Presenter: "Beyond Vibrations: Handchimes for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing" Grand Rapids, MI  
 July 2018

**State & Local Presentations**

Florida Music Education Association  
 Presenter: "Beyond the Cute Factor: Building Choral Tone in Young Voices" Tampa, FL  
 January 2023  
 Presenter: "Activating Your Community: Car Sales, Classroom Music, and Everything in Between" January 2023

Florida Vocal Association: Summer Conference  
 Presenter: "Vowels & Resonance: The 'Frienemies' of Tone" Altamonte Springs, FL  
 July 2022

Escambia County School District  
 Presenter: "Sequencing in the Choral Classroom" Pensacola, FL  
 October 2023  
 Presenter: "The Magic of Transitions in Choral Theatre" April 2021  
 Presenter: "Sight Before Sound: Introducing Notation to Young Singers" October 2017  
 Presenter: "Building Tone Through Vocal Warm-Ups" October 2016

Pensacola Music Teachers Association  
 Presenter: "Building Tone Through Vocal Warm-Ups" Pensacola, FL  
 November 2017

St. Ursula Academy: Theatre Department Masterclass  
 Presenter: "Healthy Singing in Musical Theatre" Cincinnati, OH  
 February 2015

Mt. St. Joseph University: Community Music Teacher Professional Development Seminar  
 Presenter: "Special Needs Students in the Music Classroom;" "Combatting 'Tone-Deafness'" Cincinnati, OH  
 January 2015

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (continued)

**Participant/Registrant**

Florida Music Education Association: Annual Conference	Tampa, FL – January 2017-2025
International Society for Music Education: World Conference	Helsinki, Finland – July 2024
Chorus America: Annual Conference	Atlanta, GA – June 2024
American Choral Directors Association: Western Region Conference	Pasadena, CA – March 2024
American Choral Directors Association: Children’s Choir Conductors’ Retreat	Nashville, TN – January 2024
Chorus America: Annual Conference	San Francisco, CA – June 2023
American Choral Directors Association: National Conference	Virtual – February 2023
American Choral Directors Association: Southern Region Conference	Raleigh, NC – March 2022
American Choral Directors Association: Children’s Choir Conductors’ Retreat	Tucson, AZ – January 2022
Yale Symposium on Music on Music in Schools	Virtual – July 2021
Chorus America: Winter Conference	Virtual – February 2021
American Choral Directors Association: Southern Region Conference	Mobile, AL – March 2020
American Choral Directors Association: Children’s Choir Conductors’ Retreat	Atlanta, GA – January 2020
Chorus America: Annual Conference	Philadelphia, PA – June 2019
Americans for the Arts: National Conference	Minneapolis, MN – June 2019
American Choral Directors Association: National Conference	Kansas City, MO – March 2019
North Dakota State University: Choral Symposium	Fargo, ND – October 2018
Chorus America: Annual Conference	Chicago, IL – June 2018
Americans for the Arts: National Conference	Denver, CO – June 2018
American Choral Directors Association: Southern Region Conference	Louisville, KY – February 2018
American Choral Directors Association: Children’s Choir Conductors’ Retreat	Houston, TX – January 2018
American Choral Directors Association: National Conference	Minneapolis, MN – March 2017
Chorus America: Annual Conference	Cincinnati, OH – June 2016
Ohio Music Education Association: Annual Conference	OH – February 2019-2015

**PUBLICATIONS****Print Works**

- Gartner, A. (2024). The keys to collaboration: Unlocking the power of partnership for choral organizations. *Choral Journal*, 65(3), 38-42.
- Burch, E.W., & Gartner, A. (2022). *The business of choir: A choral leader’s guide to organizational growth*. GIA Publications.
- Gartner, A. (2020, March). What is the future of the Pensacola area arts community after COVID-19?. *Pensacola News Journal*, 1A.
- Gartner, A. M. (2020). Leaders of tomorrow today: Empowering and embracing youth leadership. In T. Sharp (Ed.), *Relevance in the choral art: A pathway to connections* (pp. 71-90). GIA Publications.
- Gartner, A. (2016). Bringing music to those who can’t hear it. *Overtone: The official journal of the Handbell Musicians of America*, 62(4), 26-27, 31.

## PUBLICATIONS (continued)

**Online Publications**

Gartner, A. (2023, August 16). *The relevance of choir*. Choral Net. <https://choralnet.org/archives/687533>

Gartner, A. (2022, September 21). *Difficult conversations: A path toward positive outcomes*. ChoralNet. <https://choralnet.org/archives/662515>

Burch, E.W., & Gartner, A. (2022, July 20). *Crash Course in the "Business of Choir."* ChoralNet. <https://choralnet.org/archives/659998>

Gartner, A. (2020, September 17). *From fearful to fierce: Creating authentic and engaging virtual arts experiences for youth*. Americans for the Arts. <https://blog.americansforthearts.org/2020/09/17/from-fearful-to-fierce-creating-authentic-and-engaging-virtual-arts-experiences-for-youth>

**Audio Publications**

Voices United in Education, Meredith Edwards (host)  
Guest, Episode 81: "The Arts: Extra or Essential?" February 2024

Music (ed) Matters Podcast, Emily Williams Burch (host)  
Co-Host, Episode 172: "Addressing Burnout with Dr. Peter Steenblik" December 2023  
Guest Host, Episode 140: "Collaboration & Service" January 2023  
Co-Host, Episode 118: "Virtual Book Tour with Dr. Marshaun Hymon" August 2022  
Co-Host, Episode 95: "The 'Both/And' of Choral Leadership" March 2022  
Co-Host, Episode 90: "Communicating Your Value: Car Sales, Choir, and Everything in Between" January 2022  
Co-Host, Episode 83: "Show Me the Numbers" December 2021  
Co-Host, Episode 82: "Where Are My People?" November 2021  
Co-Host, Episode 81: "What Is the Value of Choir" November 2021  
Guest, Episode 74: "We're Writing a Book" October 2021

Choralosophy Podcast, Chris Munce (host)  
Guest, Episode 109: "Doing the Business of Choir" June 2022

FANTastic People, Christian Jones & Regan Bell (hosts)  
Guest, Episode 9: "How listening to world music shapes a worldview" September 2021

**GUEST CONDUCTING/CLINICIAN WORK**

South Carolina Choral Directors Association All-State Elementary Chorus	Florence, SC January 2025
Santa Rosa County School District All-County Middle School Chorus All-County Elementary Treble Chorus	Milton, FL January 2025 April 2023
Georgia Music Educators Association Sixth Grade Statewide Honor Chorus	Athens, GA January 2025
North Carolina Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association NC Sings	Charlotte, NC October 2024
Alabama Vocal Association, All-State Chorus All-State Middle School Mixed Chorus	Birmingham, AL March 2024

## GUEST CONDUCTING/CLINICIAN WORK (continued)

Duval County School District All-County Elementary Treble Chorus	Jacksonville, FL February 2024
Horry County School District All-County Middle School Mixed Chorus	Myrtle Beach, SC January 2024
Wisconsin Choral Directors Association All-State Middle Level Mixed Chorus	Appleton, WI January 2024
Songs & Sand Choral Festival, Animado Events Festival co-director with Dr. Emily Williams Burch	Myrtle Beach, SC June 2023
North Carolina Music Educators Association All-State Sixth Grade Treble Chorus	Winston-Salem, NC April 2023
Florida Vocal Association Music Performance Assessments (MPA) Onstage clinician, District 8 (Orange County) Onstage clinician, District 1 (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton Counties)	Various FL Counties March 2023 March 2019
Escambia County Public Schools All-County Middle School Mixed Chorus	Pensacola, FL October 2022
Orange County Public Schools All-County Elementary Treble Chorus All-County Elementary Treble Chorus	Orlando, FL April 2022 April 2021
Ohio Music Educators Association District 13 Honor Choir District 13 Treble Honor Choir (Mason, OH) District 12 Treble Honor Choir (Circleville, OH)	Mason, OH February 2019 February 2015
Okaloosa County School District All-County Middle School Mixed Chorus	Niceville, FL October, 2018

## COLLABORATIONS

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Pensacola Opera & Pensacola Children's Chorus <i>Pagliacci</i> (Leoncavallo); prepared children's ensemble <i>La Bohème</i> (Puccini); prepared children's ensemble Veteran's Day tribute concert; prepared and conducted children's choir and orchestra <i>Carmen</i> (Bizet); prepared street urchin ensemble (16 singers) <i>Easy to Love</i> (Rodgers & Hammerstein revue); prepared children's ensemble <i>Some Enchanted Valentine</i> (Rodgers & Hammerstein revue); prepared children's ensemble <i>Dead Man Walking</i> (Heggie); prepared children's ensemble	Pensacola, FL March 2025 January 2023 November 2021 January 2021 February 2020 February 2019 March 2017
Ballet Pensacola & Pensacola Children's Chorus Nutcracker Ballet; prepared children's ensemble	Pensacola, FL December 2024
Pensacola Symphony Orchestra & Pensacola Children's Chorus Performance with Broadway star and PCC alumna Ashley Brown; prepared children's choir <i>Symphony No. 3</i> (Mahler); prepared children's ensemble	Pensacola, FL November 2021 March 2017
Winnipeg Youth Chorus & Pensacola Children's Chorus Hosted Canadian choir during their Gulf Coast tour	Pensacola, FL July 2017
Cincinnati May Festival & Cincinnati Children's Choir <i>Otello</i> (Verdi); prepared children's ensemble	Cincinnati, OH May 2016

## COLLABORATIONS (continued)

University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music & Cincinnati Children's Choir	Cincinnati, OH
<i>Te Deum</i> (Berlioz); prepared children's ensemble	March 2015
<i>El Niño</i> (Adams); prepared and conducted children's ensemble	February 2014
<i>Chichester Psalms</i> (Bernstein); prepared child soloist	November 2013

## TOURS

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Pensacola Children's Chorus Tours	
Carnegie Hall, New York – with Manhattan Concert Productions	June 2022, 2026
France	June 2025
New York City	June 2024
Walt Disney World/Orlando, Florida	May 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2024
Costa Rica	June 2023
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina – Songs & Sand Choral Festival with Animado Events	June 2023
Honolulu, Hawaii – with Robyn Lana, Cincinnati Youth Choir	July 2019
San Francisco, California	July 2018
Cincinnati, Ohio – with Robyn Lana, Cincinnati Youth Choir; and Jim Papoulis, composer-in-residence	June 2018
Limerick, Ireland – with André Thomas, Florida State University	June 2017
Washington, D.C.	June 2017
Cincinnati Youth Choir Tours	
Phoenix, Arizona – for Arizona Choral Directors Association	July 2016
Vatican City & Italy	July 2015
Beijing & Shanghai, China – with Yang Hong-Nian, China Children's Choir	June 2014

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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International Society for Music Education	2023-present
Chorus America	2016-present
American Choral Directors Association	2010-present
National Association for Music Education	2009-present
Florida Elementary Music Educators Association	2016-present
Florida Music Education Association	2016-present
Florida Vocal Association	2016-present
Americans for the Arts	2019-2021
Ohio Music Education Association	2009-2016

## SERVICE

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### NATIONAL & REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Chorus America	
Award Selection Committee, Education & Community Engagement	2020, 2023, 2025
American Choral Directors Association	
Advocacy & Collaboration Standing Committee Chair	July 2025
Advocacy & Collaboration Standing Committee Member	2022-present
Southern Region Children's & Community Youth Repertoire & Standards Chair	2019-2022
Yale University	July 2021
Yale Symposium on Music in Schools; Community Music Working Group Delegate	
Americans for the Arts	2020-2021
Arts Education Advisory Council Member	

## SERVICE (continued)

**STATE LEADERSHIP**

Florida Elementary Music Educators Association All-State Choir Co-Coordinator	2020-present
Ohio Choral Directors Association Music in Worship Repertoire & Standards Chair	2015-2016

**TASKFORCES/COMMITTEES**

American Choral Directors Association – Southern Region Conference Committee Member	2020-2022
Escambia County School District – Strategic Planning Community Focus Group	2021
American Choral Directors Association – Site Host, Children’s Choir Conductors’ National Retreat	2020
Florida Elementary Music Educators Association – All-State Audition Revision Taskforce	2020
Greater Cincinnati Choral Consortium – Membership Chair	2014-2016

**ADJUDICATOR**

Alabama Vocal Association District 7 State Choral Performance Assessment First Baptist Church of Fairhope	Fairhope, AL March 2025
Florida Thespian Society District 1 Festival Mattie Kelly Performing Arts Center	Niceville, FL 2017, 2018, 2019
University of West Florida Undergraduate Research & Performance Competition Grier Williams Center for Fine & Performing Arts	Pensacola, FL April 2018
Kentucky Music Educators Association District 6 Large-Group Assessment First Church of Christ	Burlington, KY February 2014
Rural Alliance for the Arts Solo Voice Contest Batesville High School	Batesville, IN January 2013

**MUSICAL WORKS****COMMISSIONS**

Garland Independent School District Children’s Chorus <i>Let Us Make a Song</i> , 2-part treble	Garland, TX January 2024
Florida Elementary Music Educators Association <i>Brighten the Corner Where You Are</i> , SSA	Tampa, FL January 2024
Manhattan Concert Productions <i>The Persistence of Song</i>	New York, NY June 2022
Durham Children’s Choir, Dementia Inclusive Durham & TimeSlips Creative Storytelling <i>Toward Something New</i> , focusing on memory loss, SSA	Durham, NC May 2022
Pensacola Opera <i>Shenandoah</i> , bass soloist + orchestra <i>Danny Boy</i> , tenor soloist + orchestra	Pensacola, FL November 2021



**MUSICAL WORKS (continued)**

Epiphany United Methodist Church <i>Ring Out, O Bells</i> , SATB <i>Make Way for the King</i> , SATB + treble chorus <i>At the Gates</i> , SATB	Loveland, OH April 2020 March 2019 March 2018
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music <i>Therefore I Will Hope</i> , focusing on gun violence, SSA	Cincinnati, OH February 2020
Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy <i>Why We Sing</i> , featuring lyrics by high school choir students, SATB	Cincinnati, OH March 2019
Cincinnati Children's Choir <i>Your Heart Is My Heart</i> , focusing on breast cancer, SSA & SATB	Cincinnati, OH May 2017

**PUBLISHED CHORAL WORKS**

<i>Need Somebody</i> , SSA & SAT(B)	MusicSpoke
<i>The Persistence of Song</i> , SSA	MusicSpoke
<i>Bound for Glory</i> , 2-part (opt. SSA)	Alfred Music Publishing
<i>Hakuna mungu kama wewe</i> , SSA	Santa Barbara Music Publishing
<i>Let the People Shout Hosanna</i> , SATB	Lorenz Music Publishing
<i>Make Way for the King</i> , SATB + treble choir	Choristers Guild
<i>Therefore I Will Hope</i> , SSA	Santa Barbara Music Publishing
<i>Tuli, Tuli</i> , SSA	Santa Barbara Music Publishing
<i>Your Heart Is My Heart</i> , SSA & SATB	Santa Barbara Music Publishing

**VOCAL STUDY**

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Classical Voice & Musical Theatre Karen Lykes, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Stacy Strakowski, local teacher	2009-2012 2005-2009
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**KEYBOARD STUDY**

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Organ Kirsten Smith, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Karl Zinsmeister, Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church (Cincinnati, OH)	2009-2011 2005-2006
Piano Myron Brown, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Nancy Walker, local Cincinnati-area teacher Karl Zinsmeister, Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church Sherry McGahie, local Cincinnati-area teacher Patricia Glaser Hattendorf, local Cincinnati-area teacher Krista Cornish Scott, local Cincinnati-area teacher	2009-2010 2006-2007 2005-2006 2000-2005 1999-2000 1998-1999
Collaborative Piano/Accompanying Richard Wesp, Anderson High School (Cincinnati, OH) Sherry McGahie, local Cincinnati-area teacher	2006-2009 2000-2005

**LANGUAGES**

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Italian, German, French, Latin & Spanish (diction for singers)  
International Phonetic Alphabet (advanced)

## REFERENCES

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**Sheila Murphy Dunn, DM**

President, Board of Directors, Pensacola Children's Chorus  
Chair & Professor of Voice, University of West Florida  
sdunn@uwf.edu

**Linda Brent, EdD**

Past President, Board of Directors, Pensacola Children's Chorus  
Board Member At-Large, Arts, Culture & Entertainment, Inc. (ACE)  
linda.brent@theastagroup.com

**Robyn Reeves Lana**

Founder & Managing Artistic Director, Cincinnati Youth Choir  
lanarr@uc.edu

**Lauren Hess**

Former Executive Director, Cincinnati Youth Choir  
Past Arts Education Advisory Council Member, Americans for the Arts  
lshess123@gmail.com

**Emily Williams Burch, DMA**

Host, Music Ed Matters Podcast  
Chair, American Choral Directors Association National Standing Committee for Advocacy & Collaboration  
emilywilliamsburch@gmail.com

**Peter Steenblik, DMA**

Director of Choral Activities, University of West Florida  
Artistic Director, Choral Society of Pensacola  
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**Mary Henriques**

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