



Alex Gartner

Artistic & Executive Director
Pensacola Children's Chorus
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www.alexgartner.com

EDUCATION

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

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

Young Singers: 25-40 students, Grades 9-12, SATB, auditioned
Choraliers: 40-50 students, Grades 9-12, SSAA, placement
Chorale: 10-15 students, Grades 7-12, TB, placement
Concert: 60-80 students, Grades 6-8, SSA, placement
Ensemble: 30-40 students, Grades 6-8, SSA, auditioned
Festival: 60-80 students, Grades 4-5, SA, placement
Choristers: 25-40 students, Grade 3, Treble, placement
Preparatory: 20-30 students, Grades 1-2, Treble, non-auditioned
Ambassadors: 15-20 students, Grades 7-12, SATB, auditioned

3 annual choral theatre performances; 30-40 annual community performances; summer education programs; host undergraduate music students from University of West Florida; collaborations with Pensacola Symphony and Pensacola Opera; numerous community service partnerships

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

TEACHING & DIRECTING (continued)

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 & Organist, 2012-2014

Adult church choir, weekly traditional service

Montessori Academy of Cincinnati, Mason, OH

General Music Specialist, 2012

CHORAL ORGANIZATIONS & PERFORMANCE CREDITS

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

National, Regional & State Presentations

Florida Vocal Association: Summer Conference	Altamonte Springs, FL
Presenter: "Vowels & Resonance: The 'Frienemies' of Tone"	July 2022
American Choral Directors Association: National Children's & Community Youth Retreat	Tucson, AZ
Presenter: "Communicating Your Value: Choirs, Car Sales, and Everything in Between"	January 2022
Escambia County School District: Elementary Music In-Service	Pensacola, FL
Presenter: "The Magic of Transitions in Choral Theatre"	April 2021
American Choral Directors Association: National Conference	Virtual
Facilitator: "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Children's & Community Youth Choirs"	March 2021
American Choral Directors Association: Southern Region Conference	Mobile, AL
Preparatory conductor, invited collaborative performance session	March 2020
Pensacola Children's Chorus: Children's Festival Chorus directed by southern choral conductors	
American Choral Directors Association: Children's & Community Youth Choir Conductors' Retreat	Atlanta, GA
Presenter: "Southern Specialties" Choral Reading Session	January 2020
North Dakota State University: ACDA National Choral Symposium	Fargo, ND
Presenter: "Empowering Youth to Be the Voices of Change for Tomorrow"	October 2018

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

National Handbell Musicians of America: National Seminar	Grand Rapids, MI
Presenter: "Beyond Vibrations: Handchimes for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing"	July 2018
Pensacola Music Teachers Association	Pensacola, FL
Presenter: "Building Tone Through Vocal Warm-Ups"	November 2017
Escambia County School District: Secondary Choral In-Service	Navarre, FL
Presenter: "Sight Before Sound: Introducing Notation to Young Singers"	October 2017
Escambia County School District: Elementary Music In-Service	Pensacola, FL
Presenter: "Building Tone Through Vocal Warm-Ups"	October 2016
St. Ursula Academy: Theatre Department Masterclass	Cincinnati, OH
Presenter: "Healthy Singing in Musical Theatre"	February 2015
Mt. St. Joseph University: Community Music Teacher Professional Development Seminar	Cincinnati, OH
Presenter: "Special Needs Students in the Music Classroom;" "Combating 'Tone-Deafness'"	January 2015
Commonwealth Artists Summer Theatre: Masterclass	Ft. Thomas, KY
Presenter: "Healthy Singing in Musical Theatre"	June 2013

Participant/Registrant

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
American Choral Directors Association: National Conference	Virtual – March 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
Florida Music Education Association: Annual Conference	Tampa, FL – January 2017-2022
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**

Burch, E.W., & Gartner, A. (2022). *The business of choir: A choral leader's guide to organizational growth*. GIA Publications.

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>

PUBLICATIONS (continued)

- 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>
- 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.

Audio Publications

- Music (ed) Matters Podcast, Emily Williams Burch (host)
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| 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 |
- FANTastic People, Christian Jones & Regan Bell (hosts)
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| Guest, Episode 9: "How listening to world music shapes a worldview" | September 2021 |
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GUEST CONDUCTING/COLLABORATIONS/CLINICIAN WORK

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| Songs & Sand Choral Festival | Myrtle Beach, SC |
| Festival artistic director with Dr. Emily Williams Burch; hosted by Kaleidoscope Adventures | June 2023 |
| North Carolina Sixth Grade All-State Chorus | Winston-Salem, NC |
| Guest conductor for 100-voice combined 6 th grade treble chorus | April 2023 |
| Santa Rosa County All-County Elementary Chorus | Milton, FL |
| Guest conductor for 100-voice combined 4 th and 5 th grade treble chorus | April 2023 |
| Escambia County All-County Middle School Chorus | Pensacola, FL |
| Guest conductor for 60-voice combined 6 th , 7 th , and 8 th grade SATB chorus | October 2022 |
| Orange County All-County Elementary Chorus | Winter Park, FL |
| Guest conductor for 85-voice combined 4 th and 5 th grade chorus representing 40+ elementary schools; Singers' first group singing experience during the COVID-19 pandemic | April 2021, 2022 |
| Pensacola Symphony Orchestra & Pensacola Children's Chorus | Pensacola, FL |
| Performance with Broadway star and PCC alumna Ashley Brown; prepared children's choir | November 2021 |
| Pensacola Opera & Pensacola Children's Chorus | Pensacola, FL |
| Veteran's Day tribute concert; prepared and conducted children's choir and orchestra | November 2021 |
| Pensacola Opera & Pensacola Children's Chorus | Pensacola, FL |
| Fully staged production of Bizet's <i>Carmen</i> ; prepared street urchin ensemble (16 singers) | January 2021 |
| Pensacola Opera & Pensacola Children's Chorus | Pensacola, FL |
| Evening of Rodgers & Hammerstein music entitled <i>Easy to Love</i> ; prepared children's ensemble | February 2020 |

GUEST CONDUCTING/COLLABORATIONS/CLINICIAN WORK (continued)

Ohio Music Educators Association District 13 Honor Choir Guest conductor for 50-voice 5 th and 6 th grade chorus	Mason, OH February 2019
Pensacola Opera & Pensacola Children's Chorus Evening of Rodgers & Hammerstein music entitled <i>Some Enchanted Valentine</i> ; prepared children's ensemble	Pensacola, FL February 2019
Pensacola Opera & Pensacola Children's Chorus Production of <i>Dead Man Walking</i> ; prepared children's ensemble	Pensacola, FL March 2017
Pensacola Symphony Orchestra & Pensacola Children's Chorus Performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 3; prepared children's ensemble	Pensacola, FL March 2017
Okaloosa County All-County Middle School Chorus Guest conductor for 40-voice 7 th and 8 th grade chorus representing 5 regional middle schools	Niceville, FL October 2018
Pensacola Children's Chorus & Winnipeg Youth Chorus Hosted Canadian choir during their Gulf Coast tour	Pensacola, FL July 2017
May Festival & Cincinnati Children's Choir Performance of Verdi's <i>Otello</i> ; prepared children's ensemble	Cincinnati, OH May 2016
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music & Cincinnati Children's Choir Performance of <i>Te Deum</i> by Hector Berlioz; prepared children's ensemble	Cincinnati, OH March 2015
Ohio Music Educators Association District 12 Honor Choir Guest conductor for 60-voice 4 th and 5 th grade chorus	Circleville, OH February 2015
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music & Cincinnati Children's Choir Performance of <i>El Niño</i> by John Adams; prepared and conducted children's ensemble	Cincinnati, OH February 2014
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music & Cincinnati Children's Choir Performance of <i>Chichester Psalms</i> by Leonard Bernstein; prepared child soloist	Cincinnati, OH November 2013

TOURS

Pensacola Children's Chorus Tours	
Carnegie Hall, New York – with Manhattan Concert Productions	June 2022
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
Orlando, Florida	May 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
Cincinnati Children's Choir Tours	
Phoenix, Arizona – for Arizona Choral Directors Association	July 2016
Vatican City & Italy	July 2015
Beijing & Shanghai, China – with Yang Hongnian, China Children's Choir	June 2014

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Choral Directors Association	2010-present
Chorus America	2016-present
National Association for Music Education	2009-present

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS (continued)

Florida Elementary Music Education 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

NATIONAL & REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

American Choral Directors Association	2019-present
Southern Region Children's & Community Youth Repertoire & Standards Chair	
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	

STATE LEADERSHIP

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

COMMITTEES

American Choral Directors Association – Southern Region Conference Committee Member	2020-present
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 Education Association – All-State Audition Revision Committee	2020
Greater Cincinnati Choral Consortium – Membership Chair	2014-2016

ADJUDICATOR

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

COMPOSITIONS & COMMISSIONS

COMMISSIONS

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
Epiphany United Methodist Church <i>Ring Out, Wild 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 WORKS

<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

Karen Lykes Voice, classical & musical theatre	2009-2012
Stacy Strakowski Voice, classical & musical theatre	2005-2009

KEYBOARD STUDY

Kirsten Smith, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Organ	2010-2011
Myron Brown, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Advanced piano	2009-2010
Richard Wesp Choral accompanying	2006-2009
Nancy Walker Advanced piano	2006-2007

KEYBOARD STUDY (continued)

Karl Zinsmeister Advanced piano, organ	2005-2006
Sherry McGahie Intermediate piano, accompanying	2000-2005
Patricia Glaser Hattendorf Intermediate piano	1999-2000
Krista Cornish Scott Beginning piano	1998-1999

LANGUAGES

Spanish (intermediate), Latin American
Italian, German, French, Latin & Spanish (diction for singers)

REFERENCES

Sheila Murphy Dunn, DM

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

Robyn Reeves Lana

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

Jerry Unruh, VADM, USN (Ret.)

Past President, Pensacola Children's Chorus
junruh1@cox.net

Sandra Thornton

Assistant Artistic Director, Cincinnati Youth Choir
Director of Traditional Music, Epiphany United Methodist Church
sandrathornton715@gmail.com

Mary Henriques

Former Executive Director, Pensacola Children's Chorus
maryhamlin1952@gmail.com

Lauren Hess

Executive Director, Cincinnati Youth Choir
Past Arts Education Advisory Council Member, Americans for the Arts
lhess@cincinnati-choir.org

Emily Williams Burch, DMA

Coordinator of Music Education, University of South Carolina Aiken
Host, Music Ed Matters Podcast
emilywilliamsburch@gmail.com

Dr. Peter Steenblik

Director of Choral Activities, University of West Florida
psteenblik@uwf.edu

Jerome Shannon

Artistic Director Emeritus, Pensacola Opera
jerry@pensacolaopera.com