



Alex Gartner

Artistic & Executive Director
Pensacola Children's Chorus
Office: (850) 434-7760 ext. 5
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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

| | |
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| 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 DEVELOPMENT

National, Regional & State Presentations

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| Florida Music Education Association Presenter: "Beyond the Cute Factor: Building Choral Tone in Young Voices" Presenter: "Activating Your Community: Car Sales, Classroom Music, and Everything in Between" | Tampa, FL January 2023 |
| Florida Vocal Association: Summer Conference Presenter: "Vowels & Resonance: The 'Frienemies' of Tone" | Altamonte Springs, FL July 2022 |
| 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 |
| Escambia County School District: Elementary Music In-Service Presenter: "The Magic of Transitions in Choral Theatre" | Pensacola, FL April 2021 |
| 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 |

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

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| 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 |
| Pensacola Music Teachers Association Presenter: "Building Tone Through Vocal Warm-Ups" | Pensacola, FL November 2017 |
| Escambia County School District: Secondary Choral In-Service Presenter: "Sight Before Sound: Introducing Notation to Young Singers" | Navarre, FL October 2017 |
| Escambia County School District: Elementary Music In-Service Presenter: "Building Tone Through Vocal Warm-Ups" | Pensacola, FL October 2016 |
| 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 |
| Commonwealth Artists Summer Theatre: Masterclass Presenter: "Healthy Singing in Musical Theatre" | Ft. Thomas, KY June 2013 |

Participant/Registrant

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| 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, March). What is the future of the Pensacola area arts community after COVID-19?. *Pensacola News Journal*, 1A.

PUBLICATIONS (continued)

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. *Overtones: The official journal of the Handbell Musicians of America*, 62(4), 26-27, 31.

Online Publications

Burch, E.W., & Gartner, A. (2022, July 20). *Crash Course in the "Business of Choir."* ChoralNet. <https://choralnet.org/2022/07/crash-course-in-the-business-of-choir-and-advocacy-collaboration-curated-post>

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, 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

Music (ed) Matters Podcast, Emily Williams Burch (host)

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/COLLABORATIONS/CLINICIAN WORK

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 6th grade treble chorus April 2023

Santa Rosa County All-County Elementary Chorus Milton, FL
Guest conductor for 100-voice combined 4th and 5th grade treble chorus April 2023

Escambia County All-County Middle School Chorus Pensacola, FL
Guest conductor for 60-voice combined 6th, 7th, and 8th grade SATB chorus October 2022

Orange County All-County Elementary Chorus Winter Park, FL
Guest conductor for 85-voice combined 4th and 5th 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

GUEST CONDUCTING/COLLABORATIONS/CLINICIAN WORK (continued)

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|---|----------------------------------|
| Pensacola Opera & Pensacola Children's Chorus Veteran's Day tribute concert; prepared and conducted children's choir and orchestra | Pensacola, FL November 2021 |
| Pensacola Opera & Pensacola Children's Chorus Fully staged production of Bizet's <i> Carmen </i> ; prepared street urchin ensemble (16 singers) | Pensacola, FL January 2021 |
| Pensacola Opera & Pensacola Children's Chorus Evening of Rodgers & Hammerstein music entitled <i> Easy to Love </i> ; prepared children's ensemble | Pensacola, FL February 2020 |
| 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

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|---|----------------------------|
| Pensacola Children's Chorus Tours | |
| Costa Rica | June 2023 |
| Myrtle Beach, South Carolina – Song & Sand Choral Festival | June 2023 |
| 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 |

GUEST CONDUCTING/COLLABORATIONS/CLINICIAN WORK (continued)

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| 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 |
| 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

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|--|--------------|
| American Choral Directors Association | |
| 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 | |

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 | 2020-2022 |
| 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 Education Association – All-State Audition Revision Committee | 2020 |
| Greater Cincinnati Choral Consortium – Membership Chair | 2014-2016 |

ADJUDICATOR

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| 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 |

SERVICE (continued)

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| Florida Thespian Society District 1 Festival Mattie Kelly Performing Arts Center | Niceville, FL 2017, 2018, 2019 |
| 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 |

COMPOSITIONS & COMMISSIONS

COMMISSIONS

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| 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

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|--|--------------------------------|
| <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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| 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, Board of Directors, Pensacola Children's Chorus
Professor of Voice, 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, Board of Directors, 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

Former 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