



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/LEADERSHIP

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

Young Singers: 25-40 singers, Grades 9-12, SATB, auditioned
Choraliers: 35-50 singers, Grades 9-12, SSAA, placement
Chorale: 10-15 singers, Grades 7-12, TB, placement
Concert: 40-50 singers, Grades 6-8, SSA, placement
Ensemble: 25-40 singers, Grades 6-8, SSA, auditioned
Festival: 35-50 singers, Grades 4-5, SA, placement
Choristers: 25-40 singers, Grade 3, Treble, placement
Preparatory: 20-30 singers, Grades 1-2, Treble, non-auditioned
Ambassadors: 15-20 singers, Grades 7-12, SATB, auditioned

3 annual choral productions (fusion of choral music and production elements of musical theatre); 3 low-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; annual budget of \$1M, including \$500K in fundraising; paid staff of 21; governing board with elaborate committee structure; annual audience of 25,000

TEACHING, DIRECTING & 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 & 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 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

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

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
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

Florida Music Education Association: Annual Conference	Tampa, FL – January 2017-2023
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

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.

Online Publications

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/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>

Audio Publications

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

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
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FANTastic People, Christian Jones & Regan Bell (hosts)

Guest, Episode 9: "How listening to world music shapes a worldview"	September 2021
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GUEST CONDUCTING/COLLABORATIONS/CLINICIAN WORK

Alabama Vocal Association, All-State Chorus	Birmingham, AL
Guest conductor for 200-member mixed voice middle school chorus	March 2024

Songs & Sand Choral Festival	Myrtle Beach, SC
Festival artistic director with Dr. Emily Williams Burch; hosted by Kaleidoscope Adventures	June 2023

Florida Vocal Association Music Performance Assessments (MPA)	
Onstage clinician, District 8 (Orange County)	March 2023
Onstage clinician, District 1 (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton Counties)	March 2019

GUEST CONDUCTING/COLLABORATIONS/CLINICIAN WORK (continued)

North Carolina Music Educators Association, All-State Chorus Guest conductor for 100-voice combined 6 th grade treble chorus	Winston-Salem, NC April 2023
Santa Rosa County All-County Elementary Chorus Guest conductor for 100-voice combined 4 th and 5 th grade treble chorus	Milton, FL April 2023
Pensacola Opera & Pensacola Children's Chorus <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 January 2023 November 2021 January 2021 February 2020 February 2019 March 2017
Escambia County All-County Middle School Chorus Guest conductor for 60-voice combined 6 th , 7 th , and 8 th grade SATB chorus	Pensacola, FL October 2022
Orange County All-County Elementary Chorus 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	Winter Park, FL April 2021, 2022
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
Ohio Music Educators Association District 13 Honor Choir Guest conductor for 50-voice 5 th and 6 th grade chorus	Mason, OH February 2019
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
Cincinnati May Festival & Cincinnati Children's Choir <i>Otello</i> (Verdi); prepared children's ensemble	Cincinnati, OH May 2016
University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music & Cincinnati Children's Choir <i>Te Deum</i> (Berlioz); prepared children's ensemble <i>El Niño</i> (Adams); prepared and conducted children's ensemble <i>Chichester Psalms</i> (Bernstein); prepared child soloist	Cincinnati, OH March 2015 February 2014 November 2013
Ohio Music Educators Association District 12 Honor Choir Guest conductor for 60-voice 4 th and 5 th grade chorus	Circleville, OH February 2015

TOURS

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

Cincinnati Children's 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

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

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

SERVICE (continued)

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

ADJUDICATOR

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 TBD for treble voices	Garland, TX January 2024
Florida Singing Sons TBD for changed voices	Ft. Lauderdale, FL May 2023
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

MUSICAL WORKS (continued)

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

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

KEYBOARD STUDY

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

LANGUAGES

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

REFERENCES

Sheila Murphy Dunn, DM

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

Mary Henriques

President, Arts, Culture & Entertainment, Inc. (ACE)
Former Executive Director, Pensacola Children's Chorus
maryhamlin1952@gmail.com

Jerry Unruh, VADM, USN (Ret.)

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

Robyn Reeves Lana

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

Sandra Thornton

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

Host, Music Ed Matters Podcast
emilywilliamsburch@gmail.com

Dr. Peter Steenblik

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

Jerome Shannon

Artistic Director Emeritus, Pensacola Opera
Board Member At-Large, Pensacola Children's Chorus
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