



## 2026 Madrigal & Chamber Choir Festival

March 7, 2026

The Foundry Church

Houston, TX



### ADJUDICATORS



Professor **Dianne Brumley** is Director of Choral Music Studies and Professor of Music Education, Emerita at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley – Brownsville. She was appointed in 2003 and was the first person to hold the position of Director of Choral Studies at the University. Brumley was the founding conductor of the University Master Chorale. During her ten-year tenure at UTRGV, the Master Chorale was selected to perform at the 2011 Texas Music Educators Association Convention and toured internationally. Brumley also served for 20 seasons as the founding Conductor and Artistic Director of the South Texas Chorale and Orchestra. A frequent guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator throughout Texas and the United States, she currently serves as a choral music education consultant and conductor of the Dianne Brumley Chorale. Before her time with University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brumley was a successful choral music educator in public schools. Choirs under her direction were selected for honor performances at TMEA, TCDA, SWACDA and ACDA conferences. In 2011 Brumley was honored to receive the Texas Choral Excellence Award and in 2018 was the third woman to receive the prestigious Texas Choir Master Award from the Texas Choral Directors Association.



**Michael Lysinger** is an adjunct faculty member at Southern Methodist University's Meadows School of the Arts where he conducts the Meadows Chorale, teaches undergraduate choral conducting, music education and supervises student teachers. He also works for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra serving as Chorus Administrator for the Dallas Symphony Chorus. Prior to that, Michael was a successful choral music educator in Texas for 30 years in schools Richardson, Plano, Houston and San Antonio. For six seasons, he was the Artistic Director of the Houston Boychoir. Choirs under his direction have appeared at conventions in 2010 (SWACDA), 2008 and 1996 (TMEA), and 2001 (ACDA). He has prepared his choruses for performances with the Houston Symphony, the University of Houston Choruses, UH Opera and Opera in the Heights (Houston). Michael's choirs have toured throughout the USA and abroad on four international tours. He received his BME from Southwestern University in Georgetown studying with Dr. Kenneth Sheppard and completed additional studies in conducting with Dr. B.R. Henson.



**A. Jan Taylor** holds a Bachelor of Music degree and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from the University of Houston, and a Master of Arts degree from Prairie View A&M University. Dr. Taylor served as Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Prairie View A&M University from 1996-2022. Concert Chorale and Chamber Singers collaborated with the Houston Symphony, performed throughout the United States and at music festivals in Poland, Germany, and South America. Dr. Taylor has taught general music, piano, and directed choirs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in HISD. Her work as a performer, conductor, adjudicator, and choral clinician has taken her across the United States, Europe, and Asia. She has served as Assistant Conductor of the Houston Symphony Chorus and the Houston Ebony Opera Guild. Conductor. She is also a noted lecturer on the performance practices and preservation of the Negro Spiritual. She conducted the "105 Voices of History" HBCU National Choir at prestigious venues, including the Grand Ole Opry House, the Kennedy Center, and the nationally televised MLK50 Commemoration at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. Dr. Taylor received the Texas Choral Directors Association Choirmaster Award in 2023.

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**Derrick Fox** is the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Research and Creative Endeavors and a Professor of Choral Conducting at Michigan State University. Prior to MSU, he was the Director of Choral Activities and Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and Assistant Professor of Choral Music at Ithaca College. Dr. Fox has taught at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels. His conducting experiences include singers from upper elementary choirs through collegiate and community choirs. He was awarded the 2021 Bryan R. Johnson Service Award by the Nebraska Music Educators Association and the 2022 University of Nebraska Omaha Award for Distinguished Research/Creative Activity. He has held teaching residencies at the Latvian Academy of Music and Syracuse University and led performance tours through Lithuania and Estonia. He conducted the 2019 National ACDA Middle School/Junior High Mixed Honor Choir and traveled to South Africa as a 2019 ACDA International Conductor Exchange Fellow where he led choral workshops and rehearsals in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Potchefstroom. His compositions and arrangements are published by Hal Leonard and Brilee Music. He launched The Derrick Fox Choral Series with Music Spoke to publish works by and about marginalized and minoritized people. <https://www.drderickfox.com/>



**Amanda Quist**, Director of Choral Activities at Western Michigan University, was previously DCA for the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. Quist has prepared choirs for the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, Seraphic Fire, and Spoleto Festival. Quist’s work has been described as “transformative, beautifully prepared, gripping,” and “leaving the audience breathless.” She won the American Prize for Choral Performance in 2019 with Westminster Kantorei and has directed invitational performances for American Choral Directors Association Conferences, Boston Early Music Festival, and Interkultur. Her recording, Lumina, is distributed by Naxos. Quist was previously Chair of Conducting at Westminster Choir College (WCC). She is the recipient of WCC’s Distinguished Teaching Award, and the Mazzotti Award for Women’s Leadership. Quist was Director of the Westminster Vocal Institute, and DCA at San José State University. She frequently serves as a guest conductor, and headlines conferences and serve as a lecturer across the United States and abroad. Her research has been published by the Choral Journal, Lexington Books, Hal Leonard, Walton, and GIA, Walton Music and Gentry Publications publish Amanda Quist Choral Series. Her BM and MM are from Western Michigan University, and she earned her DMA at the University of North Texas.



**Robert Simpson** is Founder and Artistic Director of the Grammy® award-winning Houston Chamber Choir. He is also Canon for Music at the historic Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal), Houston, Texas and Lecturer of Church Music at the Shepherd School of Music, Rice University. Mr. Simpson is the recipient of Chorus America’s Michael Korn Founders Award for the Development of the Professional Choral Art and The American Prize. The Houston Chamber Choir also received The American Prize and was honored by Chorus America with the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence. Following his graduation with honors from Brown University and The School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, Mr. Simpson studied for two years at the Hochschule für Musik, Cologne, Germany. His teachers have included organists Barclay Wood, Robert Baker and Michael Schneider and conductors Abraham Kaplan, Peter Neumann, Gustaf Sjökvist and Eric Ericson. Choirs under Mr. Simpson’s direction have toured the US, Europe and Mexico, and performed before national conventions of Chorus America, the American Choral Directors Association, The American Guild of Organists, The Association of Anglican Musicians, and The Hymn Society of America. They have appeared nationally on CBS-TV, ABC-TV and American Public Radio.

