



Alabama Choral Directors Association  
Summer Conference

July 17 – 18, 2017

Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
The University of Alabama  
Moody Music Building  
Hotel Capstone  
First Presbyterian Church

[www.alabamacda.org](http://www.alabamacda.org)

# Alabama Choral Directors Association

## Monday, July 17th

8:00-8:30 a.m. Registration: Lobby of Moody Music Building

8:30-9:45 a.m. Session

### **Teaching your Beginners to Sight Sing, M140 - Recital Hall**

Presenter: Dale Duncan, Henderson Middle School, Atlanta, GA  
Presider: Taylor Stricklin, Enterprise Junior High

*In this session, participants will learn several of the techniques used in the S-Cubed Sight Singing Program created by the presenter, Dale Duncan. You'll be introduced to "Chaos" (every choir teacher knows what chaos is, right?), "Varied but comfortable DO", Ear training techniques, Eye training techniques and, of course, the fun part of the program, the Forbidden Pattern Game. Bring your phones or ipads/laptops to this session! You'll be trying out an awesome technology practice tool! ...And we will be hosting a giveaway of the S-Cubed Bundle during the session! Someone is going to win a big bundle of Sight Singing materials!*

9:50-10:50 a.m. Session

### **ACDA Today, M140 - Recital Hall**

Presenters: Dr. Megan Rudolph, Past-President Alabama ACDA  
John Kincaid, President Alabama ACDA

*This session will communicate to participants on the state of ACDA in Alabama and Nationally. Advocacy, an area that is lacking in our choral "state" will be the focus.*

10:50-11:05 a.m. Social Gathering/Visit Vendors, M167 - Choral Rehearsal Room

11:05-12:00 p.m. Reading Sessions

### **Elementary/Middle School, M140 - Recital Hall**

Presenter: Dr. Melinda Doyle, University of Montevallo  
Accompanist: Lis Donaldson, Enterprise Junior High  
Presider: Lisa Latham, Trace Crossings Elementary School

### **High School/Post Secondary, M181**

Presenter: Dr. Philip Copeland, Samford University

Accompanist: Ken Berg, Birmingham Boys Choir

Presider: Randall Fields, Bob Jones High School

12:00-1:30 p.m. Lunch (On your own. Meet in the lobby if you need a place to go or people to go with!)

1:30-2:45 p.m. Session

### **Classroom Management for your Middle School Choral Music Classroom, M140 - Recital Hall**

Presenter: Dale Duncan, Henderson Middle School, Atlanta, GA

Presider: Taylor Stricklin, Enterprise Junior High

*Middle school children are special. They are sort of grown, but...well...not really. They change enormously during the three years they are with us not only physically, but emotionally. In this session, Mr. D will share strategies and techniques that have helped him successfully manage his program that includes well over 300 students with classes as large as 84 for the 25 years he has taught this age group.*

2:50-3:40 p.m. Interest Sessions

### **Basic Sound Engineering for Choir Teachers, M180**

Presenter: Dan Cater and John Kincaid, Simmons Middle School and Hoover High School

Presider: Rachel Smith, Berry Middle School

*Basic descriptions, uses, and applications for the basic sound equipment of which every choir teacher should have a working knowledge. This is for beginners and will offer hands on opportunities to troubleshoot and setup some equipment representative of basic sound needs. Suggestions for equipment purchases and priorities will also be offered. Questions will be welcomed and addressed.*

### **All Things Financial. Strategies for Managing Your Choir Budget. M257**

Presenters: Carl Davis, Decatur High School

Presider: Russell Blackburn

*Information will be discussed regarding booster/board organizations, choir budget management, Charms, trip planning, choir fees and other related topics.*

## **Everyone Can Sing: Inclusion Strategies for the Choral Rehearsal M248**

Presenter: Dr. Ellary Draper, University of Alabama  
Presider: Shelli Rimes, Madison Academy

*As students with disabilities continue to be included in schools at all levels, many of these students participate in choral ensembles. As these students graduate, they may continue to participate in community choral ensembles. Yet, many choral directors do not know how to adapt instruction and materials to successfully include individuals with disabilities in their choirs. This session will include strategies, principals, and resources to include these individuals in choral programs at all levels. Video examples of successful inclusive ensembles will be shown.*

## **Bella Voce Music, M181 (Enrollment limited to 20 attendees.)**

Presenters: Ken Berg, Birmingham Boys Choir  
Presider: Jeff Caulk, Pleasant Grove Elementary and IB Middle Schools

*"Print on demand" is the logical next step in the complicated dance between fast-paced digital innovation and the music publishing world. How can this best serve you and your students? This session will explore how BELLA VOCE PRESS is being used by teachers all over the world.*

3:40-3:50 p.m. Social Gathering, M167 - Choral Rehearsal Room

3:50-5:05 p.m. Session

## **How to Build Your Choral Music Program, M140 - Recital Hall**

Presenter: Dale Duncan, Henderson Middle School, Atlanta, GA  
Presider: Taylor Stricklin, Enterprise Junior High

*So, you are teaching three chorus classes and three general music classes, and you'd really like to teach chorus all day? Is your class a "dumping ground"? Does your administrator support you? What is the pathway to obtaining that gender split we want for a certain grade chorus? In this session, Mr. D will share the ideas and strategies that have worked for him as he built three choral programs in three different states over the last 25 years of working in public schools.*

5:15-7:15 p.m. Pre-Concert Gathering

**Heat Pizza Bar,**  
2250 6th St, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
**Pizza bar provided and a cash bar available.**

7:30 p.m. Concert

**First Presbyterian Church of Tuscaloosa**

*900 Greensboro Ave, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401*

***Parking deck available and within walking distance of Heat Pizza Bar***

Social Gathering Following the Concert

**Wilhagans Grill & Tap Room,**

*2209 4th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401*

*Featuring Karaoke Contest, Darts, and Pool Tables*

*(cash bar available)*

**Thomas R. Smith Award for Excellence**

**KATHY HUGHES** is in her twelfth year as Choral Director and Chairman of Fine Arts at Spanish Fort High School. Prior to this position, she was an elementary music teacher in Pickens County, a Humanities teacher in the Birmingham City Schools, and Choral Director and Chairman of Fine Arts at UMS-Wright Preparatory School in Mobile for 19 years. She received a Bachelor of Music Education degree with an emphasis in organ from George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville and a Master of Music Education degree from Samford University in Birmingham.

As a music educator, Hughes has worked with elementary, middle school, and high school singers. Her choral groups have performed at local, state and national choral festivals and competitions, earning excellent and superior ratings. She is Past President of the Alabama Vocal Association, having served on the Alabama Music Educators Association Board during her tenure and past Arts Advocacy liaison for the AVA Board. As President of AVA, she was actively involved in securing grant money for the All State Choral Festival from the Alabama State Council for the Arts. She also initiated the All State Middle School SSA Chorus. Hughes holds memberships in the National Association for Music Education, American Choral Directors Association, and the national education sorority, Kappa Kappa Iota.

## **Montgomery Chorale** James Seay, Director

The city of Montgomery has been blessed by the arts, and in the case of the choral arts, it has been especially blessed to receive 40 years of professional quality music from the Montgomery Chorale, one of the city's oldest musical performing arts organization and its official performing choral group. The Chorale has made a significant contribution to the musical enrichment of the community.

The Chorale's dedication to presenting professional quality choral performances and its requirement that all members must audition in order to participate have helped produce a musically compatible blend of voices at ease with any musical composition from Beethoven to Berlin.

The Chorale's audiences have been the real beneficiaries of the group's unique ability to master both classical and popular compositions, from Mozart to Gershwin. Year in and year out, the Chorale's talented singers have provided something for everyone.

Montgomery is a city rich in tradition, and it is replete with landmarks glorifying that tradition. One of its finest and oldest musical performing arts traditions is the Montgomery Chorale, still young at 40 and looking forward to many more years and many more generations of music lovers to entertain.



## 8VALution

Brian Seay, Director

8VALution's (Brian Seay, Karmessa Padgett, Brittany Seay, Andriana Haygood, Sharita Smith, and Cameron Blackmore) journey began on the hills of Alabama A&M University as the "Vocal Jazz Ensemble". The VJE, under the leadership of its founder, Dr. Horace Carney, was established to give students the opportunity for an alternative-performing outlet in which to display their training and talents. Beginning in 2011, through inspiration by the performances of the "Real Group" and "Take Six", the group became more interested in A Cappella Music.

As the ensemble began to evolve, so did the student director, Brian Seay, under Carney's tutelage. Then, the ensemble began to gain recognition from the community and surrounding cities when they became the first HBCU to participate in the Alabama Choral Directors Show Choir and Jazz Festival. Captivating the audience with their style, intricate harmonies, drive, and sensitivity, they were judged to have a superior performance and received a standing ovation. This historic moment gave the group inspiration to premiere their first concert ever, Evolution, on the campus of Alabama A&M to show their musical evolvment.

Why the name, 8VALution? "The hard work, the passion, and the dedication it takes to be great, has helped us constantly evolve into better singers and musicians, and that sums up our name," says Padgett. Another member of the group, Smith said, "We have evolved and made the transition from being college students performing in a classroom to young professional musicians best describes 8VALution." The seven distinguished melodious voices of 8VALution are known for their, spine-tingling arrangements, intricate harmonies, and seamless versatility in jazz, R&B, choral, pop, and gospel music.



## Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>

9:00-10:15 a.m. Session

### **Using Solfege to Develop Tone and Intonation, M140 - Recital Hall**

Presenter: Dr. Mary Hopper, Wheaton College Conservatory of Music  
Presider: Amanda Slay, Hoover High School

*Solfege is not just for teaching sight reading. It can be used in the choral rehearsal to develop tone and intonation. The development of vowel formation and unification starts with the vowels of the solfege scale. Methods from string pedagogy to improve intonation will be explored using solfege. Examples of exercises included in choral warm-ups will be shared and the audience will have an interactive part in the presentation.*

10:15-10:25 a.m. Social Gathering, M167 - Choral Rehearsal Room

10:25-11:15 a.m. Interest Sessions

### **“.....But, I Can’t Sing!”: Strategies, Stories, and Suggestions for Teaching the Uncertain Singer, M180**

Presenter: Libby Hearn, University of Alabama  
Presider: Marvin Latimer, University of Alabama

*How many times have you attempted to recruit a student into choir and their response was, "I can't sing?" Based on the findings of a recent pilot study, instructional strategies for teaching the uncertain singer, characteristics of those singers and attitudes of secondary choral educators will be explored in this session. Current research and experience in the field will inform a meaningful discussion about how to combat and address the issues of singing accuracy and the uncertain singer in the choral classroom. A time of discussion will allow for session attendees to share their success (or not so successful) stories, their strategies and other suggestions for teaching the uncertain singer.*

### **Show Choir: All Aspects, Every Level, Every Budget, M181**

Presenter: Michael Zauchin, Oak Mountain HS and Delle Kincaid, Simmons MS  
Presider: Dan Cater, Simmons MS

*In the world of show choir, people often get discouraged by all the components it takes to put together a show. Michael Zauchin and Delle Kincaid have worked with show choirs of all sizes with all budgets throughout Alabama. This session will provide resources for all choir directors -- whether you are thinking of starting a show choir, or have had an established choir for years. We have done all the beginning work for you!*



### **The Adolescent and Aging Voice, M248**

Presenter: Daniel DeShazo, Helena UMC and Quint Harris, Vestavia Hills UMC

Presider: Chris Deason, Drake Middle School

*The adolescent and aging voice are two areas that often confound choral directors in school, church, and community choirs.*

*This presentation provides insight to some of the research that has been done in these two areas of vocal study. It includes some of the latest scientific analysis as well as information and instruction from well-known teachers in the field.*

### **Build It and They Will Learn: Sequencing for successful sight-singing at any level. M257**

Presenters: Amanda Slay, Hoover High School

Presider: John Kincaid, Hoover High School

Cuts to middle school choir programs, decreasing instructional time in the elementary music class, scheduling conflicts, remediation...the list could go on from here.

Circumstances like these and various others often make it difficult for students to gain and retain any music skills before 9th grade. As a result, choir teachers are facing an increasing number of beginning level singers in the high school setting. In this session, participants will take-away methods to build sight-singing skills that lead to success in the assessment room and overall increased music literacy. Instructional strategies will be based on movable do, la based minor and rhythmic counting.

11:15-1:15 a.m. Lunch (on your own) ACDA Board Luncheon and Meeting, M167

1:15-2:30 p.m. Session

### **Conducting Tune-Up, M140 - Recital Hall**

Presenter: Dr. Mary Hopper, Wheaton College Conservatory of Music

Presider: Amanda Slay, Hoover High School

*A conducting refresher course. Back to basic exercises and application to repertoire. Involvement for everyone and volunteers to experiment with the conductor's chorus.*

2:35-3:25 p.m. Reading Session

### **Elementary/Middle School, M140 - Recital Hall**

Presenter: Teresa Rhyne, Auburn Junior High School

Accompanist: Lis Donaldson, Enterprise Junior High

Presider: Garrett Lindsey, Walker High School

## **High School/Post Secondary, M181**

Presenters: Dr. Melinda Doyle, University of Montevallo  
Accompanist: Ken Berg, Birmingham Boys Choir  
Presider: Diana Preoteasa, Lawson State Community College

3:25-3:45 p.m. Social Gathering, M167 - Choral Rehearsal Room

3:45-5:00 p.m. Session

## **Walking the Tightrope: Programming for Everyone, M140 - Recital Hall**

Presenter: Dr. Mary Hopper, Wheaton College Conservatory of Music  
Presider: Amanda Slay, Hoover High School

*Choosing repertoire can be exciting and also challenging. How do we make decisions about what we want to share with our singers and our audiences. Sometimes programming is a balancing act!*

## **Upcoming ACDA Events**

Collegiate Choral Festival, Thursday, November 2, 2017  
Birmingham, AL

Alabama ACDA Contempo Choral Festival, January 12-13, 2018  
Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia Hills, AL

ACDA Board Meeting, AMEA In-Service Conference, Friday, January 19, 2018  
Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex, Birmingham, AL

ACDA Southern Division Conference, February 21-24, 2018  
Louisville, KY

ACDA Young Voices Festival, April 27-28, 2018  
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

Alabama ACDA Summer Conference, July 16-17, 2018  
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL  
Headliners: Tim Sharp, Executive Director, American Choral Directors Association  
Gary Packwood, Mississippi State University

ACDA National Conference, February 27-March 2, 2019  
Kansas City, MO



**Dale Duncan** teaches Choral Music and Music Theatre to over 340 eager middle school school students at Henderson Middle School in the Dekalb County School System in Atlanta, GA. He has over 23 years experience teaching this very special age group.

Using a 21st-century approach including video teaching tips, video teaching examples, and digital lesson plans, Dale originally developed and

created S-Cubed! Successful Sight Singing program for Middle School Teachers and their Students in order to specifically help new and struggling choral music educators in the state of Georgia learn how to teach Sight Singing to the Beginners. Since developing and offering the system online in 2013, teachers from all over the world have discovered S-Cubed, and are using the system in their classrooms with great success.

Mr. Duncan has presented his work on the subject with articles in Choral Director Magazine, ACDA's ChorTeach, in webinars for NAFME, in state ACDA events in Georgia and South Carolina and at Georgia Music Educator's Association Convention on many occasions. His materials are available at Teachers Pay Teachers! He blogs about the subject at [inthemiddlewithmrd1.blogspot.com](http://inthemiddlewithmrd1.blogspot.com).

**Mary Hopper**, Professor of Choral Music and Director of Performance Studies at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music conducts the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club and the Women's Chorale and is a frequent conductor for the Wheaton Opera production. Both of her choirs have appeared on ACDA conferences. The Women's Chorale has been invited to sing at two National Conferences (Salt Lake City and New York City) and four Central Division Conferences including a 2012 appearance in Fort Wayne. The Men's Glee Club appeared on the 2014 IMEA conference under Dr. Hopper's leadership. She has toured both nationally and internationally with both choirs.



Dr. Hopper is currently National President of the American Choral Directors Association and was conference chair for the ACDA 2015 National Conference in Salt Lake City. She has served ACDA on the state and division levels since 1983 when she was a member of the planning committee for the Central Division convention. Since then she has held positions as Central Division Women's Choir R&S Chair, Illinois State Treasurer, Illinois Newsletter Editor, Illinois State President, and Central Division President.

She has been honored by Wheaton College with a Senior Teaching Achievement Award and the Distinguished Service to Alma Mater Award. In 2014 Illinois ACDA awarded Dr. Hopper the Harold A. Decker Award in recognition and appreciation of the significant contribution she has made to choral music.

