

MCDA Conference Headliners 2016

CHRISTOPHER ASPAAS
Texas Christian University

Christopher Aspaas serves as Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at TCU and most recently served as the Robert Scholz Endowed Chair in Music and Associate Professor of Choral/Vocal Music at St. Olaf College. Christopher received his Ph.D. in Choral Music Education at The Florida State University in Tallahassee, his M.M. in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University in East Lansing, his B.M. in Voice Performance from St. Olaf. Christopher has served on the faculties of Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington and Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts.

At St. Olaf, Aspaas conducted the Viking Chorus, a 90-voice ensemble of first-year student men, as well as the Saint Olaf Chapel Choir, a 100-voice ensemble specializing in the performance of oratorio and larger multi-movement works. In recent years, Christopher has conducted performances of Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem, Mendelssohn's Elijah, the Mozart Requiem and Benjamin Britten's War Requiem, which was chosen for broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio.

His travels as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator have taken Christopher to Alabama, Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ontario, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin and three times to the Sultanate of Oman. He has conducted All-State Choruses in Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Virginia and Wisconsin as well as the British Columbia and Manitoba All-Province Honour Choirs. Additionally, Christopher led the All-Northwest Mixed Choir in 2015 and will lead the ACDA Southern Division Men's Honor Choir in 2016.

Christopher has produced more than forty arrangements and compositions for mixed, men's and women's choirs. Commissioned works include Love Divine, Be Present Now for women's choir, A Closed Path for mixed choir, Tomorrow, I Will Come (The O Antiphons) for mixed chorus, and most recently Shout for Joy to the Lord for mixed choir, brass, organ and optional youth choir. His works are published by Augsburg Fortress, earthsongs, Hal Leonard, and Aspen Hill Music, a publishing house Christopher co-founded with his wife Nancy in 2013.

Aspaas is also active as a tenor soloist, performing Bach cantatas with Helmuth Rilling and the Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra, the Evangelist roles in the John and Matthew Passions of Bach with the Bach Collegium of Fort Wayne, Ind., and other solo roles with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra and the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in Russia. Aspaas traveled to San Luis Obispo, California for a performance of Franz Josef Haydn's Theresienmesse and Johann Michael Haydn's Requiem with the Cuesta Master Chorale and Orchestra. In March 2012, Aspaas returned to the role of Evangelist in the St. John Passion at Wingate University and also with the St. Olaf Cantorei in its 2014 performance of Bach's cantata Aus der Tiefe, rufe ich Herr zu dir.

PAUL CALDWELL and SEAN IVORY

Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory began arranging music together spontaneously in the early 1990s when they were both working with a community-based youth choir in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Their musical partnership was further cultivated from 1993-1997 during summers spent together at the American Boychoir School in Princeton, New Jersey.

Caldwell and Ivory works have become staples in the repertoire of many of the world's finest ensembles. Their music has been telecast on PBS and A&E and performed at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, the Sydney Opera House, and throughout Europe, Asia and Africa. Their commissions have been premiered by conductors Judith Willoughby, Anton Armstrong, Pearl Shangkuan, Cheryl Dupont and Barbara Tagg.

Sean directs the [Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Chorus](#), an affiliate organization of the Grand Rapids Symphony. He is also the choral director at Forest Hills Central High School and an affiliate artist with the Youth Choral Theater of Chicago. He lives in Grand Rapids with his wife Leah and their children, Emma, Samuel and Meredith.

Paul is Artistic Director of the [Youth Choral Theater of Chicago](#). In recognition of his work in this capacity, he and his chorus were awarded the 2006 Chorus America/ASCAP prize for Adventurous Programming. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Chorus America and on the Advisory Board of the New Orleans Children's Chorus. He was recognized for his contribution to the choral community nationwide at the 2008 National Performing Arts Conference when he was selected as the recipient of Chorus America's Michael J. Korn Founders Award for Philanthropic Contribution to the Arts.

ALLEN CHAPMAN

Fort Madison, Iowa

Allen Chapman is a long-time choral director from Fort Madison, Iowa. Named one of the top 12 music educators in Iowa by Music Educators National Conference (MENC), Chapman has taught music at levels ranging from elementary through college. His career spans more than four decades with choirs appearing on 12 divisional and national MENC and American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) convention programs. Chapman and his late wife, Sandra, directed 10 concert tours in Europe and received the prestigious McCowen Award from the Iowa Choral Directors Association (ICDA). Show Choir Nationals established the Allen and Sandra Chapman Excellence in Education Award, presented annually during competition at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn.

Chapman's show choirs were competition finalists and champions across the Midwest, and he was a co-founder of the Iowa Show Choir Camp. He is renowned in southeast Iowa for directing outdoor community Broadway musical productions, which drew audiences of 10,000 people. Soloists from Allen's voice studio have won the National Association of Teachers Singing (NATS) competition and nearly 500 of his students have been selected for membership in the Iowa All-State Chorus.

Most recently, Chapman was recognized by the Iowa High School Music Association with the national Federation Award of Merit at the All-State Music Festival in Ames, Iowa. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to music education at the local, state and national level. He is a graduate of Iowa Wesleyan

College, holding a bachelor's degree in music education, and Truman State University, holding a master's degree in voice.

ANNE CHAPMAN
Fort Madison, Iowa

Anne Chapman is a freelance choreographer from Fort Madison, Iowa. She works with many middle school, high school, and collegiate show choirs. Her groups are consistent place winners and finalists. Anne has served as a staff member for numerous summer show choir camps, has been a guest choreographer and clinician for workshops and conventions, and adjudicates many show choir competitions across the country. Anne holds a degree in education from Baylor University. After college, she taught kindergarten and second grade, but has now devoted her career to choreography and dance. She is a dance instructor at the Top Hatter Dance Studio in Fort Madison and has coached two award-winning dance teams. Outside of show choir and dance, Anne enjoys traveling, visiting Disney World, and cheering on the Baylor Bears!

CHRISTINE GUTER
California State University

Christine Guter (Helferich) is a jazz vocalist, pianist, and studio singer who brings an immense wealth of experience to our faculty. She has a full, rich voice of great range and versatility. Christine mainly works as a jazz vocalist, but is versed in many musical styles including classical, pop/rock, musical theater, country, and blues. She has performed extensively at concerts, festivals, colleges, and other venues in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Christine performs frequently in L.A. and Orange County, and has worked with many legendary musicians including Joe Williams, Rosemary Clooney, Diane Schuur, Maynard Ferguson, Mercer Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Mel Torme, Bobby McFerrin, and Darmon Meader.

Christine has worked extensively in studio settings since 1990, and has sung on over 40 Hollywood soundtracks including *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*, *Despicable Me 2*, *Oz the Great and Powerful*, *The Lorax*, *Men in Black 3*, *Ice Age 4*, *Superman Returns*, *Beowulf*, *Horton Hears a Who*, and *Spiderman 3*. She is a member of SAG-AFTRA (Screen Actors Guild—American Federation of Television and Radio Artists). She also is the lead singer in the nationally acclaimed vocal jazz ensemble, *Vocalogy*.

An extraordinary educator, Christine is active nationally as a guest conductor, lecturer, adjudicator, and clinician. She has presented many clinics, performances, and demonstrations for music education organizations and conferences, and has conducted numerous All-State Jazz Choirs. Christine is on the board for the California Alliance for Jazz (CAJ), and is a member of the Jazz Education Network (JEN), California Music Educators Association (CMEA), Music Educator's National Conference (MENC), and American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). She serves the California ACDA as Vocal Jazz R&S Chair. She is sought after as a clinician and adjudicator for jazz festivals and workshops throughout the United States and Canada.

Christine is currently the Director of Vocal Jazz at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University Long Beach. She teaches private jazz and classical

voice lessons, a solo jazz vocal techniques course, class jazz piano, jazz theory, and directs the university's award-winning vocal jazz ensemble, Pacific Standard Time.

DIANNA L. JARVIS

Barbara Bush Middle School, San Antonio, Texas

Dianna L. Jarvis received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from University of Texas at San Antonio in 1986 and a Master's of Music Education in 1991 also from UTSA. Ms. Jarvis is a published composer and arranger of children's choral music. She recently received the Texas Choral Directors Association "Choral Excellence Award" which honors elite musicians whose work has benefited choral music throughout the state of Texas. She served as Vice President of TCDA, has served on the UIL PML committee, UIL Sight-reading committee, UIL advisory board, TMEA Region 12 MS Vocal Chairman, and is currently the Fine Arts/Elective department head at Bush Middle School. Dianna was acknowledged for her excellence as a distinguished educator in "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" in 1998, 2000, 2002, and again in 2003, received the Yellow Rose of Texas Educational award in 2010, and is a PTA Lifetime Member. Ms. Jarvis is a member of ACDA, TCDA, TMEA, TMAA and serves as an adjudicator throughout Texas at various UIL competitions and music festivals. She is often called upon to mentor beginning teachers and train college students with aspirations of becoming choral directors. She frequently serves as a guest clinician for Region Honor Choirs, a guest speaker at Colleges and Universities, and is a consultant specializing in sessions about improving student performance, personal growth/development for professionals and team building. Dianna is the proud parent of two daughters, Micaela and Madelyn who are both aspiring musicians.

DR. CRAIG JESSOP

Utah State University

Dr. Craig Jessop is Professor of Music and the founding Dean for the Caine College of the Arts at Utah State University. These appointments follow Dr. Jessop's distinguished tenure as music director of the world famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Head of the Department of Music at Utah State. He is the founder and Music Director of the American Festival Chorus and Orchestra and has served as the music director of the Carnegie Hall National High School Choral Festival sponsored by the Weill Institute of Music at Carnegie Hall. Prior to his appointment with the Tabernacle Choir, Dr. Jessop was a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force music programs, where he served as director of the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants in Washington, D.C. (1980-1987); as commander and conductor of the Band of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe at Ramstein, Germany (1987-1991); and as commander and conductor of the Air Combat Command Heartland of America Band (1991-1995). He has also been music director of the Maryland Choral Society, the *Rhineland-Pfalz* International Choir of Germany and the Omaha Symphonic Chorus.

Dr. Jessop has a Bachelor of Science from Utah State University, 1973; Master of Arts from Brigham Young University, 1976; and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from Stanford University, 1980.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the cultural life of Utah, Dr. Jessop received the 2014 Governor's Mansion Performing Artist Award bestowed by Governor Gary Herbert, Governor of the State of Utah. In 2013 he received the prestigious Madeleine Award for distinguished service to the Arts and Humanities by the Madeleine Arts and Humanities Council and in 2012 he was awarded the Utah National Guard's Minuteman Award for service to the State of Utah.

Under his direction, the Tabernacle Choir received numerous awards, including the coveted National Medal of Arts in a ceremony at the White House. He has recorded over 15 CDs on the Telarc and MTC labels with the Choir and in 2008 received a Grammy nomination for his work with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and Orchestra at Temple Square.

At the Opening Ceremony of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Dr. Jessop conducted the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Utah Symphony, working with world-renowned artists Sting and Yo-Yo Ma, and composers John Williams and Michael Kamen. Other artists with whom he has collaborated include Renée Fleming, Frederica von Stade, Bryn Terfel, Audra McDonald, The King's Singers, Angela Lansbury, Claire Bloom, Walter Cronkite, and Charles Osgood. In 2003, Dr. Jessop conducted the choir and prepared the singers for a performance of *A German Requiem* at the prestigious Tanglewood Festival with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Rafael Frübeck de Burgos. A much sought-after guest conductor, Dr. Jessop has been on the American choral scene for more than three decades. His tenure as Music Director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and as director of the United States Air Force Singing Sergeants in Washington D.C. has taken him to the most prestigious concert halls of the nation and around the world including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Royal Albert Hall in London and throughout Europe and Asia. In 2013 Dr. Jessop was selected by the American Choral Directors Association to conduct the monumental Benjamin Britten *War Requiem* with the Dallas Symphony Chorus and Orchestra at their national convention, the fourth time in his career to conduct at the national ACDA conventions. He is also a frequent guest conductor at the prestigious Berkshire Choral Festival in Massachusetts.

In addition to his work as a conductor, Dr. Jessop has been active as a baritone vocalist, first as a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, and later with the choirs of Helmuth Rilling and John Rutter and with the *Robert Shaw Festival Singers*. He is a previous winner of the Metropolitan Opera regional auditions and San Francisco Opera auditions, and has participated in the Merola Opera training program of the San Francisco Opera.

He lives in the peaceful setting of the northern Utah valley of Cache County with his wife RaNae. They are the parents of four children and have seven wonderful grandsons.

ALICE PARKER

Melodious Accord, Hawley, Massachusetts

Composer, conductor and teacher Alice Parker was born in Boston, MA in 1925. She began composing early, and wrote her first orchestral score while still in high school. She graduated from Smith College with a major in music performance and composition, then receiving her master's degree from the Juilliard School where she studied choral conducting with Robert Shaw.

Her life-work has been in choral and vocal music, combining composing, conducting and teaching in a creative balance. Her arrangements with Robert Shaw of folksongs, hymns and spirituals form an enduring repertoire for choruses all around the world. She continues composing in many forms, from operas to cantatas, sacred anthems to secular dances, song cycles to string quartets. She has been commissioned by such groups as the Vancouver Chamber Chorus, the Atlanta Symphony Chorus and Chanticleer. Her many conducting and teaching engagements keep her traveling around the United States and Canada.

In 1985, she founded Melodious Accord, Inc., a non-profit group which presents choral concerts, sponsors workshops, symposia, and her many professional appearances. The Fellows programs have provided unique training for composers, conductors and song leaders. Her techniques have encouraged a generation of music teachers and choral conductors to think about music and the act of conducting in new ways. No less an authority than Robert Shaw himself has said of Parker that "...she possesses a rare and creative musical intelligence."

She has made thirteen acclaimed recordings, most with the Musicians of Melodious Accord, a sixteen-voice professional chorus. Recent releases include *O Sing the Glories; The Family Reunion; Angels and Challengers*; the remastered for CD, *Songs for Eve; Singers Glen; Saints Bound for Heaven; And Glory Shone* and *Where Heart and Heaven Meet*, the companion to the popular *Melodious Accord Hymnal*. The organization has received generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Copland Foundation, and the New York State Council for the Arts.

Now a resident of western Massachusetts, Ms. Parker has published books on melodic styles, choral improvisation and 'Good Singing in Church'. Her detailed analysis, *The Anatomy of Melody*, was released in 2006. In 2010, as a part of the Melodious Accord 25th Anniversary celebration, *The Alice Parker Melodious Accord Hymnal* was introduced. Five videos have appeared, showing her work with hymns and folksongs. She has been recognized by Chorus America, the American Guild of Organists, the American Choral Directors Association, The Hymn Society and Choral Arts New England for her lifetime contributions to choral music. She is the recipient of six honorary doctorates and the Smith College Medal.