

The Arkansas ACDA Conference
Holiday Inn Airport Convention Center
July 18-21, 2016

Keynote Speaker

Creating *Independent* Choral Singers

Monday, 10:00am – Kittyhawk Ballroom

The session establishes foundational elements that MUST be in place in order to produce a high achieving choir. Pitch Matching is addressed through a group vocal placement procedure, followed by exploration of a 10-step music selection hierarchy that supports independent part-singing for all students. Re-voicing music to accommodate needs of an unbalanced choir (generally, too few male singers) will also be demonstrated.

Creating *Expressive* Choral Singers

Monday, 3:00pm - Kittyhawk Ballroom

Students sometimes believe their music is ready for performance once pitches and rhythms are learned. On a scale of 1-10, the choir is actually at “1” if only secure pitches and rhythms are evident. This session will address the use of RULES FOR EXPRESSIVE SINGING, which allow a teacher/conductor to quickly move the choir toward a musical performance. The second focus of this session will address developing student musical knowledge through use of solfege and targeted concepts.

Creating *HIGHLY EFFECTIVE* Teacher/Conductors

Monday, 9:30am - Kittyhawk Ballroom

Several variables often hinder rehearsal effectiveness, despite the good intentions and musical excellence of the teacher: rehearsal pacing, student engagement, and classroom management issues. TEACHING PATTERNS (a research based teaching model that targets delivery and student achievement) will be used to address musical content and classroom management in choral rehearsals.

Elementary Sessions

Sing! Dance! Play! - An interactive Clinic with the U of A Children's Choir

Joshua Block – Madison Simis Elementary – Phoenix, AZ
Rachel Cornett – UACC Director – Fayetteville
Tuesday, July 19 – 2:30pm – Kittyhawk Ballroom

Joshua Block, Conference Clinician, and Rachel Cornett, the director of the UACC, will provide hands-on strategies for student engagement, rehearsal energizers, singing games, and realistic tools for working with young voices. Come ready to sing, dance, play, and create with these vibrant young musicians.

Get Your School Year Orff and Running

Wednesday, July 20 – 8:30am – Linberg A,B,C

The first experiences you create for your students set the tone for the whole year. How do you introduce yourself to your students and each other? What is the first experience for your students with their voices, body percussion, non-pitched percussion, bar instruments, and movement? We will try out activities that provide positive first experiences for the students and allow them to create from the very beginning.

Let the Children Be Their Own Composers

Wednesday, July 20 – 1:00pm – Linberg A,B,C

This famous quote by Carl Orff expressed his philosophy that children should be allowed to create music at their own level, inspired by their imaginations. Learning music should be a pleasurable filled with joy and excitement. In this workshop, we will explore ways to facilitate improvisation and composition using the Orff media of speaking, singing, playing, and dancing. With today's talk of 21st Century Skills, there is no better way to get children thinking critically, collaborating, communicating, and creating than through music, using the Orff-Schulwerk process. Be prepared to have a great time creating together! (Please bring a recorder.)

Interest Sessions

The Diverse Choral Classroom: Challenges, Strategies, and Successes - A Panel Discussion

Dr. Ryan Fox – Lakeside Junior High – Springdale

Monday, July 18 – 4:30pm – Linberg A,B,C

Tuesday, July 19 – 1:30pm - Linberg A,B,C

Dr. Fox will moderate a panel of Arkansas choral music educators will share their experiences teaching a diverse body of students. Topics will include: socioeconomics, ethnicity, and culture, as well as the unique challenges of teaching English Language Learners. Panel members will discuss ways in which they meet the needs of all their students in a diverse classroom. Audience participation is welcome.

It's Not About Me

Kyle Linson – First United Methodist Church – Little Rock

Wednesday, July 20 – 9:30am – Enterprise A, B

Picking music for the church choir should be about your lay people. Pick pieces that will bring people to the fold. Sometimes we pick music for lofty reasons or personal favorites that only we might appreciate. In this session we will share pieces and ideas that might not be in the norm for the church. It is proven that these types of out of the box ideas bring people who might not have joined before!

Sharpening the Knife: Daily Conducting Exercises to Keep Your Conducting Skills Sharp

Dr. Stephen Caldwell – University of Arkansas

Monday, July 18 – 4:30pm – Kittyhawk Ballroom

Tuesday, July 19 – 1:30pm – Kittyhawk Ballroom

How often do you practice...conducting? If conducting is at the heart of what we do, why isn't it a part of our daily routine? Why don't we warm up as a conductor, like we would as a singer? Why don't we practice conducting like a concert pianist would practice scales? This conference session will explore how we, as conductors, can practice in a manner that maintains dexterity in our gesture, and develops new skills that can directly impact your next rehearsal or concert. This fully active and participatory session will discuss and demonstrate exercises and conducting puzzles that address each facet of our gesture, including: beat patterns, preparations, syncopations, articulations, dynamics, subdivisions, superdivisions, and tempo. The conducting exercises presented will range from the basic level, to the most complex. Finally, the session will present how these conducting exercises are directly and immediately relevant to choral repertoire of all kinds.

Work Hard- PLAY HARDER!

Amber Holden – Sylvan Hills Middle School – Sherwood

Monday, July 18 – 4:30pm – Enterprise A, B

Tuesday, July 19 – 1:30pm – Enterprise A, B

Kids just wanna have fun! It is possible to have a fabulous sounding ensemble and do the fun stuff too. Find out how to put fun and excitement back into your choral program with new activities and incentives.

You are 15 Going on 16

Rhonday Hawley – Springdale High School

Terri Whitworth – Alma High School

Wednesday, July 20 – 9:30am – Kittyhawk Ballroom

Wednesday, July 20 – 1:00pm – Kittyhawk Ballroom

This session will focus on the challenges and considerations when choosing literature for the freshman and sophomore mixed choirs. Attendees will be presented with a database of tried and true pieces for this type of choir.