



Standing In The Gap:

The Power of Connection

Wyndham Riverfront
2 Riverfront Pl., North Little Rock, AR 72114
July 27 - 30, 2025

Arkansas Division of Elementary & Secondary Education
Approved Professional Development Provider



The Arkansas Chapter of ACDA (AR ACDA) is affiliated with the American Choral Directors Association, a nonprofit music-education organization whose central purpose is to promote excellence in choral music through performance, composition, publication, research, and teaching. In addition, ACDA strives through arts advocacy to elevate choral music's position in American society.

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Tenor/Bass Choirs Chair	CamRyn Stillman	Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School	camryn.stillman@lrzd.org
Treble Choirs Chair	Marcia McConkie	Mount Saint Mary Academy	mmconkie@mtstmary.edu
Industry	Layton Reeves	J & B Music Sales	layton@jandbmusicsales.com



The Arkansas Music Educators Association (ArkMEA) is committed to being the leading advocate for high-quality and accessible music education across the state. Its purpose is to promote and advance music education in all its forms, supporting both educators and students. Through meaningful professional development opportunities, ArkMEA equips current and future music educators while fostering a lifelong love of music and music-making.

Office	Officer	Organization	Email
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*"Connection is why we're here; it is what gives purpose
and meaning to our lives."*

Brené Brown

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Connection is the heartbeat of our choral community. It bridges generations, unites unique voices, and strengthens our artistry. As we gather for the 2025 Arkansas ACDA/ArkMEA Summer Joint Conference, *Standing in the Gap: The Power of Connection*, we celebrate the relationships that inspire, support, and sustain us.

Music thrives when we come together—to share ideas, uplift each other, and create something greater than ourselves. Connection not only enhances our artistry but also elevates our practice, strengthens our advocacy, and enriches our students with opportunities beyond what we once thought possible. When we stand together, we open doors to new collaborations, deepen our impact, and ensure that the transformative power of music reaches every student in our care.

Let us stand in the gap for one another, forging bonds that strengthen our profession and our music. I look forward to seeing you in Little Rock as we unite in purpose, passion, and song.

With anticipation,



Larry Dunn
President
Arkansas Chapter, American Choral Directors Association

Meet Our Headliners

Adrian Maclin is in his 13th year as Director of Choirs at Cordova High School and 19th year in music education. A proud product of Memphis City Schools, he was inspired by his own choral directors to pursue music education. He earned his B.A. in Music with a vocal performance emphasis from Philander Smith University and was recently named the 2025 Grammy Music Educator of the Year.

Under his leadership, Cordova choirs have performed at ACDA Southern Division, TMEA, Carnegie Hall, and across the country, earning recognition for their inspiring and impactful performances. Beyond the stage, Maclin is passionate about cultivating well-rounded musicians and students.

He serves on the Memphis-Shelby County Schools Music Leadership Team, supporting choral educators through mentoring and professional development. He is Past-President of the West Tennessee Vocal Music Educators Association, State Choral Chair for TMEA, and has served on the Tennessee ACDA board.

Maclin is also Minister of Music at Mount Moriah-East Baptist Church, Assistant Artistic Director for Memphis Choral Arts, and conductor of the Memphis Men's Chorale. He is a sought-after clinician and adjudicator across the region. He is most proud of being "Dad" to daughters Madison and McKenzie.



Adrian Maclin
Cordova High School
Secondary Headliner

Grammy Award Nominated music educator, **Dr. Alice Hammel** (elementary headliner), was the 2023 National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Lowell Mason Fellow, Virginia (USA) Outstanding Music Educator of the Year (2018) and current Past-President of the Virginia Music Educators Association (USA), is a widely known music educator, author, and clinician whose experience in music is extraordinarily diverse. She is a Disabilities Specialist and has many years of experience teaching instrumental and choral music in public and private schools. She also teaches online courses through many institutions throughout the United States. Dr. Hammel maintained a large, independent flute studio for over 35 years.

Dr. Hammel travels widely to universities during the school year to serve as in-residence scholar in the area of students with differences and disabilities. This travel, combined with state, national, and international conference headlines and keynote presentations, keeps Dr. Hammel well informed of the needs of both pre-service and in-service music educators. During summer months, Dr. Hammel teaches in graduate programs for music educators around the United States. Her expertise in those teaching situations ranges from musicianship, pedagogy, and teaching students who learn differently. This wide demand places her in close collaboration with PK-12 music educators who are seeking to become better teachers and musicians.



Dr. Alice Hammel
Elementary Headliner

Meet Our Clinicians



Dr. Frank Eychaner
University of Central Arkansas
Symposium Clinician

Dr. Frank Eychaner is an internationally recognized conductor, educator, and communicator known for his engaging teaching style, collaborative spirit, and artistic leadership. He serves as Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Central Arkansas, where he leads the Concert Choir and award-winning Chamber Singers, and directs the MA in Choral Conducting program.

Under his direction, UCA choirs regularly tour, collaborate, and perform—most recently touring Arkansas high schools and preparing for a Carnegie Hall performance in May 2025. A passionate mentor, Eychaner especially values working alongside student conductors to help shape their musical artistry.

As a guest conductor, he will premiere *Xantoló Requiem* by Julio Morales at Carnegie Hall and work this fall with Promotora de las Belles Artes in Tijuana, MX—an organization supporting at-risk young women through music. An active clinician, Eychaner has presented over 150 sessions across the U.S., Mexico, Cuba, and Korea, and is the author of *Foundations of Conducting Technique* (GIA Publications).



Clorese Porter
Richland High School
7-9 Honor Choir Clinician

Clorese Porter is in her seventh year as the head choral director at Plano Senior High School and is in her 19th year of teaching choral music. Prior to PSHS, she was the head choral director at Grapevine High School. Choirs under Clorese's direction have consistently received sweepstakes awards at UIL Concert and Sight-Reading, and she served as music director of multiple musicals on campus. Prior to Grapevine high school, she was the associate choral director at Newman Smith High School where she co-directed the 2010 A Cappella Choir invited performance at TMEA.

A graduate of Paul Dunbar High School in Fort Worth, Clorese attended Texas Christian University, earning a Bachelor of Music in Education degree. While at TCU, she was a member of the Women's Chorus, Choral Union, and Concert Chorale and participated in performances for the TMEA and SWACDA conventions and at Carnegie Hall. Clorese holds a Master of Music in Music Education from UNT. Clorese is a member of TMEA, TCDA, and TMAA, and she is the 2010 recipient of TCDA's Distinguished Young Director Award. Clorese is excited to join the Prosper ISD fine arts team as the Director of Choirs at Richland High School for the 2025-2026 school year. She resides in Lewisville with her wonderfully patient husband, Patrick Porter.

Clinicians cont'd...



Rebecca Lakes
Eisenhower Middle School
ArkMEA
Honor Choir Clinician

Rebecca Lakes is the Assistant Choral Director at Eisenhower Middle School in North East ISD. Rebecca is the Past-President of the Kodály Educators of Texas and also serves on the board for the Organization of American Kodály Educators. She has presented workshops for school districts across the country and at state and national music education conferences.

Rebecca earned her B.A. and B.M.E. from Cedarville University, an M.M. from Belmont University, and her Principal certification from Schreiner University. She is fully certified in both the Kodály and Orff approaches to music education and serves on the national board of the Organization of American Kodály Educators.

In the summers, she instructs music teachers in Kodály certification programs at Midwestern State University and the Rio Grande Valley.

Immersion Day (7/27)

Designed for students and novice directors to explore organizational facets and acquire essential tools for success as choral directors and music educators

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Location</u>
1:30-1:50 PM	Registration & Welcome	AR ACDA Board	Foyer West
2:00-2:50 PM	Starting Strong: Connecting Early with Arkansas ACDA	AR ACDA Board	Silver City 1 & 2
3:00-3:50 PM	Sight-reading Do's and Don'ts	Ellen Wiles Westerman, Maumelle High School	Silver City 1 & 2
4:00-5:15 PM	Journey-Ready: Logistics, Links, and Lessons for Choral Travel	AR ACDA Board	Silver City 1 & 2
6:00-8:00 PM	AR ACDA Board Dinner Meeting	AR ACDA Board	*TBD
8:00-10:00 PM	Conference Registration	AR ACDA Board	Silver City 5 & 6

Conference Day 1 (7/28)

Focus: All Conference Attendees

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Location</u>
7:30-10:00 AM	Conference Registration	AR ACDA Board	Foyer West
8:30-9:00 AM	Opening Session/Welcome	Larry Dunn, Cherie Collins, Nick Farr, AR ACDA Presidents	Silver City 5 & 6
9:00-9:50 AM	Interest Session: Choral Rehearsal in Real Time (Part I)	Larry Dunn, AR ACDA President	Silver City 5 & 6
9:00-11:50 AM	Professional Headshots with Chris Brown	Chris Brown, Rogers Heritage High School	Blue Dog Room
10:00-10:50 AM	Interest Session: Choral Rehearsal in Real Time (Part II)	Dr. Nick Farr, AR ACDA President-Elect	Silver City 5 & 6
11:00-11:50 AM	Connecting from the Ground Up: Building Community vs. Teaching a Class	Adrian Maclin, Cordova High School (TN)	Silver City 5 & 6
12:00-1:30 PM	LUNCH		<i>*at attendee discretion*</i>
1:30-2:20 PM	Beyond Fundamentals & Technique: Shaping Identity, Culture & Purpose Through Music	Adrian Maclin, Cordova High School (TN)	Silver City 5 & 6
1:30-5:20 PM	Professional Headshots with Chris Brown	Chris Brown, Rogers Heritage High School	Blue Dog Room
2:30-3:20 PM	Embody Your Music: Conducting Health Masterclass	Dr. Ryan Sullivan, Arkansas State University	Silver City 5 & 6
3:30-4:20 PM	Insight Session: Tenor-Bass Choirs	CamRyn Stillman, Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School	Silver City 5 & 6
4:30-5:20 PM	In Sync: Strengthening the Director - Collaborative Pianist Partnership	Dr. Mary Chung, Ouachita Baptist University	Silver City 5 & 6
5:30-6:45 PM	DINNER		<i>*at attendee discretion*</i>
8:00-UNTIL	After 8, A Night of Networking		Fassler Hall 311 E. Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202

Conference Day 2 (7/29)

Focus: Secondary Attendees

Time	Session	Presenter	Location
8:00-10:00 AM	Conference Registration	AR ACDA Board	Foyer West
8:00-8:50 AM	Insight Session: SAB/SATB I- Beginner/Intermediate	Andrey Wright, Camden Fairview High School	Silver City 5 & 6
9:00-9:50 AM	Insight Session: Treble Choirs	Marcia McConkie, Mt. Saint Mary Academy	Silver City 5 & 6
9:00-11:50 AM	Professional Headshots with Chris Brown	Chris Brown, Rogers Heritage High School	Blue Dog Room
10:00-10:50 AM	Insight Session: SAB/SATB II- Intermediate/Advanced	Dr. Justin Nelson, Southern Arkansas University	Silver City 5 & 6
11:00-11:50 AM	Can They Do This Without Me? Building Leadership, Ownership & a Sustainable Community	Adrian Maclin, Cordova High School (TN)	Silver City 5 & 6
12:00-1:30 PM	LUNCH		<i>*at attendee discretion*</i>
1:30-2:20 PM	Echoes of Experience: Guiding the Next Generation of Choral Leaders	Cherie Collins, Arkansas ACDA Past-President & Rhonda Hawley	Silver City 5 & 6
2:30-3:20 PM	Echoes of Experience: Cont'd PLUS AR ACDA & SWACDA Updates	Cherie Collins, Arkansas ACDA Past-President & Rhonda Hawley	Silver City 5 & 6
3:30-4:20 PM	Conducting Masterclass w/Symposium Chorus	Dr. Frank Eychaner, University of Central Arkansas	Cathedral of St. Andrew
4:30-5:20 PM	Conducting Masterclass w/Symposium Chorus	Dr. Frank Eychaner, University of Central Arkansas	617 S. Louisiana Street, Little Rock, AR 72201
5:30 PM-until	DINNER		<i>*at attendee discretion*</i>
7:00-8:00 PM	Arkansas ACDA Honor Choir Concert	Clorese Porter-Gray, Richland High School (TX)	Cathedral of St. Andrew
8:00 PM-10:00 PM	Conference Soirée		Huntersville 1005

Conference Day 2 (7/29)

Focus: Elementary Attendees

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Location</u>
8:00-10:00 AM	Conference Registration	AR ACDA Board	Foyer West
9:00-9:50 AM	Welcome Elementary Attendees!	Jann Knighten, ArkMEA President	Silver City 1 & 2
9:00-11:50 AM	Professional Headshots with Chris Brown	Chris Brown, Rogers Heritage High School	Blue Dog Room
10:00-10:50 AM	Teaching Music to Students with Autism	Dr. Alice Hammel, Elementary Headliner	Silver City 1 & 2
11:00-11:50 AM	Organizing the Chaos of Creativity in the Music Classroom	Stephanie Williams, Mountain View Elementary, Benton	Silver City 1 & 2
12:00-1:30 PM	LUNCH		<i>*at attendee discretion*</i>
1:30-2:20 PM	Creative Movement and Kinesthetic Experiences that Demonstrate Understanding	Dr. Alice Hammel, Elementary Headliner	Silver City 1 & 2
2:30-3:20 PM	Folk Dance & Game Hour (*Teachers, students, and families are invited)	Dr. Alice Hammel, Elementary Headliner & Rebecca Lakes	Mosaic Templars Cultural Center 501 W. 9th Street Little Rock, AR 72201
5:30 PM-until	DINNER		<i>*at attendee discretion*</i>
6:00-7:00 PM	ArkMEA Honor Choir Concert	Rebecca Lakes, Eisenhower MS (TX)	Cathedral of St. Andrew 617 S. Louisiana Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
8:00 PM-10:00 PM	Conference Soirée		Huntersville 1005

Conference Day 3 (7/30)

Focus: Secondary Attendees

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Location</u>
7:30-7:50 AM	AR ACDA General Business Meeting	Larry Dunn, AR ACDA President	Silver City 5 & 6
8:00-8:50 AM	<i>Insight Session: Christmas/Winter Music</i>	Kaitlyn Mahaffey-McGee, Elmwood Middle School	Silver City 5 & 6
9:00-9:50 AM	Tales to Tell, Songs to Sing: Building Community through Co-operative Song Collecting	Melissa Roth Young, University of North Texas	Silver City 5 & 6
10:00-10:50 AM	Meditations & Mediations: Bridging the Gap Between Singers and Song	Dr. Jonathan Barranco, Henderson State University	Silver City 5 & 6
11:00-11:50 AM	<i>Insight Session: Unison/2-Part</i>	Carla Summers, University of Arkansas	Silver City 5 & 6
12:00-1:30 PM	LUNCH/Checkout with J & B Music		
12:00-1:30 PM	AR ACDA Board Lunch Meeting	AR ACDA Board	Razorback East

Conference Day 3 (7/30)

Focus: Elementary Attendees

<u>Time</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Location</u>
7:30-7:50 AM	ArkMEA General Business Meeting	ArkMEA Board	Silver City 1 & 2
8:00-8:50 AM	Why Can't They Just Sit Still and Listen? Myths and Realities about ADHD	Dr. Alice Hammel, Elementary Headliner	Silver City 1 & 2
9:00-9:50 AM	Tales to Tell, Songs to Sing: Building Community through Co-operative Song Collecting	Melissa Roth, University of North Texas	Silver City 5 & 6
10:00-10:50 AM	Adaptations and Winding in the Inclusion Classroom	Dr. Alice Hammel, Elementary Headliner	Silver City 1 & 2
11:00-11:50 AM	**Unison/2-Part for ArkMEA Only**	CamRyn Stillman, Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High	Silver City 1 & 2
12:00-1:30 PM	LUNCH/Checkout with J & B Music		

Interest/Insight Sessions

THE CHORAL REHEARSAL IN REAL TIME: BEST PRACTICES (PART I)

Larry Dunn, Arkansas ACDA President

Monday, July 28, 9:00 - 9:50 AM - Silver City 5 & 6

Choral Methods Master Class I. This session will focus on the best practices for introducing new literature. There will be a pedagogical rationale discussion on how we introduce high school-level literature and why we employ these methods. This literature will be targeted in the conducting master class led by Dr. Frank Eychaner.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

THE CHORAL REHEARSAL IN REAL TIME: BEST PRACTICES (PART II)

Dr. Nick Farr, Arkansas ACDA President-Elect

Monday, July 28, 10:00 - 10:50 AM - Silver City 5 & 6

In this session, directors will engage in an in-depth reading of Rosephanye Powell's *The Word Was God*, with a focus on stylistic interpretation, vocal color, and expressive nuance. Participants will examine the score's rhythmic vitality, textual shaping, and dynamic contrasts to better understand how to bring Powell's distinct musical voice to life with clarity, authenticity, and artistry.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

INSIGHT SESSION: MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS/WINTER

Kaitlyn Mahaffey-McGee, Elmwood Middle School

Wednesday, July 30, 8:00 - 8:50 AM - Silver City 5 & 6

This session presents new choral literature that supports both musical and educational goals in the classroom. Participants will consider current issues and trends associated with the specific repertoire and resources area.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

INSIGHT SESSION: MUSIC FOR SAB/SATB I (BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE)

Andrey Wright, Camden Fairview High School

Tuesday, July 29, 8:00 - 8:50 AM - Silver City 5 & 6

This session presents new choral literature that supports both musical and educational goals in the classroom. Participants will consider current issues and trends associated with the specific repertoire and resources area.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

INSIGHT SESSION: MUSIC FOR SAB/SATB II (INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED)

Dr. Justin Nelson, Southern Arkansas University

Tuesday, July 29, 10:00 - 10:50 AM - Silver City 5 & 6

This session presents new choral literature that supports both musical and educational goals in the classroom. Participants will consider current issues and trends associated with the specific repertoire and resources area.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1



INSIGHT SESSION: MUSIC FOR TENOR/BASS CHOIRS

CamRyn Stillman, Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School

Monday, July 28, 3:30 - 4:20 PM – Silver City 5 & 6

This session presents new choral literature that supports both musical and educational goals in the classroom. Participants will consider current issues and trends associated with the specific repertoire and resources area.

ADE ID: 0243052400000

Hours Offered: 1

INSIGHT SESSION: MUSIC FOR TREBLE CHOIRS

Marcia McConkie, Mt. Saint Mary Academy

Tuesday, July 29, 9:00 - 9:50 AM – Silver City 5 & 6

This session presents new choral literature that supports both musical and educational goals in the classroom. Participants will consider current issues and trends associated with the specific repertoire and resources area.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

INSIGHT SESSION: MUSIC FOR UNISON/2-PART CHOIRS

Carla Summers, University of Arkansas

Wednesday, July 30, 11:00 - 11:50 AM – Silver City 5 & 6

This session presents new choral literature that supports both musical and educational goals in the classroom. Participants will consider current issues and trends associated with the specific repertoire and resources area.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

INSIGHT SESSION: MUSIC FOR UNISON/2-PART CHOIRS **ARKMEA ONLY******

CamRyn Stillman, Parkview Arts/Science Magnet High School

Wednesday, July 30, 11:00 - 11:50 AM – Silver City 1 & 2

This session presents new choral literature that supports both musical and educational goals in the classroom. Participants will consider current issues and trends associated with the specific repertoire and resources area.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1



Immersion Day Sessions

STARTING STRONG: CONNECTING EARLY WITH ARKANSAS ACDA

Arkansas ACDA Board

Sunday, July 27, 2:00 - 2:50 PM - Silver City 1 & 2

Discover the many benefits of membership in Arkansas ACDA in this informative session designed for both new and prospective members. Participants will learn how Arkansas ACDA supports their professional growth through valuable resources, networking opportunities, and advocacy efforts. The session will also provide clear guidance on how to get involved—whether through committees, leadership roles, events, or community initiatives—empowering attendees to make the most of their membership and contribute meaningfully to the Arkansas choral community.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

SIGHT-READING DO'S AND DON'TS

Ellen Wiles Westerman, Maumelle High School

Sunday, July 27, 3:00 - 3:50 PM - Silver City 1 & 2

This session will guide directors through essential principles and practical strategies for effective everyday sight-reading that builds strong musical literacy. Participants will learn how to identify appropriate parameters for classroom and rehearsal sight-reading and explore ways to develop these skills to prepare ensembles for independent sight-reading at various events. Practical tips and common pitfalls will help directors foster confident, adaptable musicianship in their choirs.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

JOURNEY READY: LOGISTICS, LINKS, AND LESSONS FOR CHORAL TRAVEL

Arkansas ACDA Board

Sunday, July 27, 4:00 - 5:15 PM - Silver City 1 & 2

This session provides directors with practical guidance on planning in-state and out-of-state choral travel. Participants will learn key logistics, feasibility considerations, and strategies for presenting travel plans to administration to gain support. Attendees will leave equipped with tools and insights to confidently organize successful trips that enhance their programs.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1.5



Interest Sessions

All Attendees & Secondary Specific

CONNECTING FROM THE GROUND UP: BUILDING COMMUNITY VS. TEACHING A CLASS

Adrian Maclin, Cordova High School (Memphis, TN)

Monday, July 28, 11:00 - 11:50 AM – Silver City 5 & 6

This session explores the distinction between simply teaching music and intentionally building a strong, supportive community within the ensemble. Participants will examine strategies to foster connection, trust, and shared purpose among singers—creating an environment where music-making goes beyond technique to become a meaningful group experience. Directors will leave with practical approaches to nurture ensemble culture that supports both musical growth and lasting relationships.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

BEYOND FUNDAMENTALS & TECHNIQUE: SHAPING IDENTITY, CULTURE & PURPOSE THROUGH MUSIC

Adrian Maclin, Cordova High School (Memphis, TN)

Monday, July 28, 1:30 - 2:20 PM – Silver City 5 & 6

This session invites directors to explore how music education extends beyond basic skills to actively shape ensemble identity, culture, and purpose. Participants will discuss ways to cultivate a meaningful artistic vision that reflects the values and goals of their choir, fostering a sense of belonging and motivation. Practical strategies will be shared to help directors lead with intention, creating ensembles that resonate both musically and personally.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

EMBODY YOUR MUSIC: CONDUCTING HEALTH MASTERCLASS

Dr. Ryan Sullivan, Arkansas State University

Monday, July 28, 2:30 - 3:20 PM – Silver City 5 & 6

In a masterclass setting, we explore how injury-adapted conducting gestures affect ensemble sound and artistic expression. Based on collaborative research with Arkansas State University and NYIT's School of Osteopathic Medicine, this masterclass spotlights two conductors who have experienced disability and/or conducting-related injuries. They will demonstrate practical modifications using stretching, yoga, and Dalcroze Eurhythmics methods—tools that not only alleviate pain but also promote inter-personal connection and a healthy connection to conductors' profession. Attendees will learn to identify injury risks, apply preventive strategies, and embrace a new paradigm of accessible, empowered choral leadership.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

IN SYNC: STRENGTHENING THE DIRECTOR - COLLABORATIVE PIANIST PARTNERSHIP

Dr. Mary Chung, Ouachita Baptist University

Monday, July 28, 4:30 - 5:20 PM - Silver City 5 & 6

This session focuses on building a strong, effective partnership between directors and collaborative pianists. Participants will explore communication strategies, rehearsal techniques, and shared responsibilities that enhance musical preparation and performance. By fostering collaboration and mutual understanding, directors and pianists can create a more cohesive and responsive ensemble experience.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

CAN THEY DO THIS WITHOUT ME? BUILDING LEADERSHIP, OWNERSHIP & A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

Adrian Maclin, Cordova High School (Memphis, TN)

Tuesday, July 29, 11:00 - 11:50 AM - Silver City 5 & 6

This session explores strategies for empowering students to take active leadership roles within the choral rehearsal. Directors will learn how to cultivate a sense of ownership and responsibility among singers, encouraging peer mentorship and collaborative decision-making. By fostering student leadership, ensembles become more self-sustaining, engaged, and resilient—allowing directors to focus on guiding artistry while students support the community's growth.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

ECHOES OF EXPERIENCE: GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHORAL LEADERS

Cherie Collins, Arkansas ACDA Past-President & Rhonda Hawley

Tuesday, July 29, 1:30 - 3:20 - Silver City 5 & 6

This panel discussion features retired Arkansas choral directors sharing their insights, wisdom, and reflections gained over years of teaching and leadership. Participants will hear valuable advice on navigating the challenges and rewards of a choral career, fostering artistic growth, and building lasting ensembles. This session offers a unique opportunity for emerging and current directors to learn from seasoned professionals dedicated to supporting the future of choral music in Arkansas.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 2

CONDUCTING MASTERCLASS WITH AR ACDA SYMPOSIUM CHORUS

Dr. Frank Eychaner, University of Central Arkansas

Tuesday, July 29, 3:30 - 4:20 PM - Cathedral of St. Andrew, 617 S. Louisiana Street, Little Rock

Focused on the art of conducting, this session will help conductors develop fluency in movement language as it impacts musical outcomes.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 2



HONOR CHOIR CONCERTS

Rebecca Lakes, Eisenhower Middle School (TX) & Clorese Porter-Gray, Richland High School (TX)

Tuesday, July 29, 6:00 - 8:00 PM – Cathedral of St. Andrew, 617 S. Louisiana Street, Little Rock

This session invites directors to attend the ArkMEA and AR-ACDA 7-9 Honor Choir Concert to observe exemplary choral performance and earn professional development credit. Participants will gain insight into high-level musicianship, effective repertoire choices, and ensemble leadership, supporting their continued growth as choral educators.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 2

TALES TO TELL, SONGS TO SING: BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH CO-OPERATIVE SONG COLLECTING

Melissa Roth Young, University of North Texas

Wednesday, July 30, 9:00 - 9:50 AM - Silver City 5 & 6

Every educator and student brings experiences shaped by the intersection of multiple cultures—family, community, and school. In this session, Melissa Young will share music from her own cultural background alongside songs contributed by her students from theirs. These shared pieces and activities serve as tools for team building and developing musical skills, helping ensembles create a unique culture while adding depth and meaning to their choral performances.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

MEDITATIONS & MEDIATIONS: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN SINGERS AND SONG

Dr. Jonathan Barranco, Henderson State University

Wednesday, July 30, 10:00 - 10:50 AM - Silver City 5 & 6

As choral music educators, we serve as the essential bridge between our students and the rich poetic and compositional depth of the repertoire they perform. By fostering creative thinking, integrating historical and artistic context, and equipping students with tools to explore compositional and poetic intent, we deepen their musical understanding and engagement. This session will highlight the educator's role in expanding students' access to meaning within the music and present practical methods for strengthening the connection between singer and song.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1



Interest Sessions

Elementary Specific

TEACHING MUSIC TO STUDENTS WITH AUTISM

Dr. Alice Hammel, Elementary Headliner

Tuesday, July 29, 10:00 - 10:50 AM - Silver City 1 & 2

This session offers practical, research-informed strategies for teaching music to students with autism, drawing on the work of Dr. Alice Hammel. Participants will explore how to adapt pacing, instruction, and classroom environment to support communication, sensory needs, and engagement. Emphasis will be placed on creating inclusive, student-centered experiences that foster meaningful participation and musical growth for all learners.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

ORGANIZING THE CHAOS OF CREATIVITY IN THE MUSIC CLASSROOM

Stephanie Williams, Mountainview Elementary, Benton Public Schools

Tuesday, July 29, 11:00 - 11:50 AM - Silver City 1 & 2

ICreativity is essential in the music classroom—but without structure, it can feel overwhelming or unfocused. This session explores practical strategies for balancing freedom and form, helping educators harness student creativity while maintaining clear instructional goals. Participants will leave with tools for designing lessons, projects, and classroom routines that encourage innovation, exploration, and artistic expression—within a framework that supports consistency and growth.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

CREATIVE MOVEMENT AND KINESTHETIC EXPERIENCES THAT DEMONSTRATE UNDERSTANDING

Dr. Alice Hammel, Elementary Headliner

Tuesday, July 29, 1:30 - 2:20 PM - Silver City 1 & 2

This session explores how purposeful movement can deepen musical understanding and engagement in the classroom. Drawing on Dr. Alice Hammel's research in music education and inclusive practices, participants will experience kinesthetic activities that reinforce rhythmic, melodic, and structural concepts. Strategies such as gesture-based learning, tactile tools, and full-body movement will be shared to support diverse learners and bring abstract musical ideas to life. Educators will leave with practical, multimodal approaches to strengthen musical literacy through embodied learning.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1



FOLK DANCE & GAME HOUR (TEACHERS, STUDENTS & FAMILIES INVITED)

Dr. Alice Hammel, Elementary Headliner & Rebecca Lakes

Tuesday, July 29, 2:30 - 3:20 PM - Mosaic Templars Cultural Ctr., 501 W. 9th Street, Little Rock

Join Dr. Alice Hammel and Rebecca Lakes for an engaging, interactive hour of folk dances and musical games designed for all ages. This session invites teachers, students, and families to move, laugh, and learn together through accessible, community-building activities rooted in traditional music and movement. Participants will explore how folk dance and play-based learning can enhance musical understanding, coordination, and cultural awareness—all while having fun. Come ready to participate and take home ideas you can use in your own classroom or community!

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

WHY CAN'T THEY JUST SIT STILL AND LISTEN? MYTHS AND REALITIES ABOUT ADHD

Dr. Alice Hammel, Elementary Headliner

Wednesday, July 30, 8:00 - 8:50 AM - Silver City 1 & 2

This session, led by Dr. Alice Hammel, explores the myths and realities surrounding ADHD, particularly in the context of the music classroom. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how ADHD affects attention, movement, and engagement, while learning practical strategies to support focus and participation. Through research-based insight and real-world application, this session challenges common misconceptions and equips educators with tools to teach more effectively and compassionately.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1

ADAPTATIONS AND WINDING IN THE INCLUSION CLASSROOM

Dr. Alice Hammel, Elementary Headliner

Wednesday, July 30, 10:00 - 10:50 AM - Silver City 1 & 2

This session focuses on practical strategies for supporting students with disabilities in inclusive music classrooms. Dr. Alice Hammel will present adaptable teaching methods and techniques designed to address diverse learning needs while promoting meaningful participation. Participants will explore ways to modify materials, activities, and instruction to create a supportive environment that fosters musical growth and engagement for all students.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 1



Honor Choir Rehearsal Observations

SYMPOSIUM & 7-9 TREBLE HONOR CHOIR REHEARSAL OBSERVATIONS

Dr. Frank Eychaner & Clorese Porter

Monday, July 28 & Tuesday, July 29 – Cathedral of St. Andrew

617 S. Louisiana Street, Little Rock

Step inside the rehearsal room and experience master teachers at work. Participants will observe seasoned conductors in real time as they lead high-performing student ensembles using high-quality instructional materials (HQIM) anchored in foundational music literacy. Witness effective conducting techniques, purposeful sequencing, and engaging rehearsal strategies designed to maximize student growth. This immersive experience offers directors practical, high-yield tools they can immediately apply to elevate their own rehearsals and ensemble outcomes.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 3 (July 28, AM)

4 (July 28, PM)

3 (July 29, AM)

3.5 (July 29, PM)

ARKMEA 5-7 HONOR CHORUS

Rebecca Lakes

Tuesday, July 29 – Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

501 W. 9th Street, Little Rock

Join us for a unique, one-day opportunity to observe experienced clinicians working with young singers in grades 5–7. This session highlights developmentally appropriate rehearsal strategies designed to support the musical growth, vocal health, and engagement of younger students. Participants will gain insight into age-specific approaches to vocal technique, classroom management, and literacy-based instruction using high-quality instructional materials (HQIM). Walk away with practical, effective tools to bring energy, structure, and success to your own rehearsals with developing choirs.

ADE ID: 8784052500000

Hours Offered: 2.5 (July 29, AM)

2.5 (July 29, PM)



Conference Notes/Reflections

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