

Brian Kilian

Brian Kilian has served as Professor of music and director of the choral program at Cumberland University since 2002.

Kilian has degrees in music education, musicology, church music, and a DMA in choral conducting, and teaches the Saito Method of conducting.

He has studied conducting with Lucy Carroll, and is a current Saito conducting student of Wayne Toews. Piano studies with Anthony Wiegand, vocal pedagogy with Dolores Ferraro and Louis Nicholas and harmony/counterpoint with the esteemed American composer, Romeo Cascarino.

CU choral groups regularly tour internationally, and have sung in Italy to critical acclaim.

Jamila McWhirter

Dr. Jamila L. McWhirter serves as Associate Professor of Choral Music Education and Coordinator of Music Education Studies at Middle Tennessee State University where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in choral music education and music education methods. She holds degrees from Southwest Baptist University (B.M.E.), Central Missouri State University (M.A.) and the University of Missouri (Ph.D.). Before coming to Murfreesboro, Dr. McWhirter taught choral music and served as a fine arts department chair in the public schools of Missouri and served as adjunct faculty for Central Missouri State University, Stephens College, and Missouri Baptist University. She was also awarded a position as a doctoral teaching assistant at the University of Missouri – Columbia.

Dr. McWhirter currently serves as the SMTE State Chair, TMEA Higher Education Chair, and MTVA Collegiate Chair. She has also served as the TMEA CMENC Faculty Advisor through which she founded/organized the first Tennessee CMENC State Wide Fall Kick-Off. As TMEA Higher Education Chair, she has also initiated and organized the first Tennessee All-Collegiate Choir and All-Collegiate Band performances. In the past, she has served on the boards of the Missouri Choral Directors Association, Missouri Music Educators Association, Missouri Fine Arts Academy, and festival rating committees for the Missouri State High School Activities Association.

Dr. McWhirter serves as a presenter, clinician, guest conductor, and adjudicator throughout the United States. Her music education research has been published in the *Journal of Research in Music Education* and presented nationally including the National MENC Conventions in Salt Lake City and Anaheim, the MTNA National Group Piano and Piano Pedagogy Symposium in Oklahoma City, the Society of Music Teacher Education National Symposium in Greensboro. Recently she had served as a guest conductor, adjudicator, or clinician in Alabama, California, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. Over the years her choirs and voice students have been selected for many honors, including the ACDA National High School Honor Choir, ACDA National Women's Honor Choir, Missouri All-State Choirs, and MMEA State Convention. In 2009, the MTSU Women's Chorale was selected by audition to perform at Carnegie Hall for the *70th Anniversary Gala Celebration of Shawnee Press* and also was invited to sing at St. Malachy's The Actor's Church while in New York. McWhirter also founded the MTSU Bel Canto, which performed in 2010 at the TMEA State Convention. She has been named numerous times to Who's Who in America, Who's Who Among American Women, Who's Who Among America's Teachers, Who's Who in American Education and the National Chancellor's List. She was recently honored as one of the *100 Most Beautiful People of Murfreesboro* by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. McWhirter's memberships include *Pi Kappa Lambda*, ACDA, MENC, SMTE, TMEA, MTVA, CMS and patroness member of *Sigma Alpha Iota*. She is in her 22nd year of teaching and 6th year at MTSU.

Dr. Gene Peterson

Dr. Gene Peterson is the Associate Director of Choral Activities and is the conductor of the UT Concert Choir and UT Men's Chorale. He also teaches courses in undergraduate choral conducting and secondary choral methods.

Beyond his duties at the university, Peterson serves as the Director of Choirs at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church in Knoxville.

Prior to his arrival to Tennessee, Dr. Peterson has held posts as music director and conductor for college, high school, church, and community choirs in California and Washington. Ensembles under his leadership have performed in venues throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, including the Sistine Chapel, the Sydney (Australia) Opera House, and Chicago Symphony Hall.

Dr. Peterson regularly appears as a clinician and adjudicator for local, regional, and international choral festivals. He holds membership in many professional organizations including the American Choral Directors Association, National Collegiate Choral Organization, and East Tennessee Vocal Association. He has served in professional leadership roles such as High School Standards and Repertoire Chair for the California American Choral Directors Association and as Bay Area Choral Representative for the California Music Educators Association.

Dr. Peterson has had the pleasure to be mentored by and to study with Geoffrey Boers, William Hall, Jane Hardester, and Weston Noble. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Choral Conducting and a Masters of Arts in Education from Chapman University in Orange, California and the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington, Seattle.

Margaret Campbell-Holman

Margaret Campbell-Holman is an educator, composer and music education consultant with 39 years experience. Currently teaching Musical Beginnings at The W. O. Smith Nashville Community Music School, she is also conductor and founder of The MET Singers, a performing arts education program of **Choral Arts Link** (Nonprofit).

Her guidance as artistic director has provided choral arts mentoring for music educators, pre-service music education and elementary education majors, as well as choral performance training for elementary, middle and high school singers. Under her tutelage, participants have premiered commissioned works with The Nashville Symphony (2001 & 2004) and, for the biennial MENC convention (2002). The MET Singers have performed as Nashville Symphony's Celebration Youth Chorus during *Let Freedom Sing!* for fourteen seasons. In this capacity, her work has been an advocacy tool for hundreds of middle Tennessee singers to perform under the baton of four nationally and internationally recognized conductors: Karen Lynne Deal, Byung Hun-Rhee, Kay George Roberts and Kelly Corcoran.

She is author of the 2010 eBook, *Spotlight on Georgia*, for the 2005 *Spotlight On Music* series and the 1995 *Share the Music* series by Macmillan/McGraw-Hill and Glencoe Pub. Her compositions are found in multiple publications for music educators, social studies and preschool teachers. She is co-lyricist for the Official Tennessee School Song, *My Home Will Always Be in Tennessee*, set by composer, Shirley McRae. Campbelle-Holman's choral literature for treble and mixed voices is widely used in choral camps/clinics and by classroom music educators and choral directors.

Although she is officially 'retired', she continues and values her membership in MENC: The National Association for Music Education, American Orff Schulwerk Association, Middle Tennessee Vocal Association and American Choral Directors Association.