

Middle and Elementary School Regional Festival Judges' Bios

Katie Baker is in her 12th year as Choral Director at White House High School in Sumner County, TN. She has her Bachelor's of Music Education and Master's of Science in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Prior to teaching at WHHS, she taught at Walton Ferry Elementary School in Hendersonville, TN.

She has served as clinician, adjudicator, and accompanist at honors choirs and festivals in the Middle Tennessee area. She has directed the Hendersonville Community Singers and the Gallatin Children's Choir. The White House Choirs, under her direction, have performed at the MTVA Regional Festival, the ACDA State Festival, and TMEA.

Amon Eady has just completed nine years teaching in the White Station community in Memphis, TN. He tirelessly dedicated that time to building two exemplary choir programs, one at the middle school level and one at the high school level. From 2005 -2010 he served as the director of choirs at White Station Middle School, growing the program to 300 students and performing at the Tennessee Music Educators Association Convention in April of 2008. After arriving at White Station High School in 2010, he doubled the choir program in size, while conducting performances by the White Station High School Chorale at the TMEA state convention and the WSHS Men's Choir at the American Choral Director's Association Southern Division Convention in Jacksonville, FL in March of 2014. He has appeared at state, regional, and national conventions of the American Choral Director's Association as a performer, presenter and conductor. He also served the Shelby County School system as a mentor to other music educators in teaching musical literacy and strategies for building comprehensive programs at the secondary level. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Music Education and Choral Conducting from The Florida State University.

Catherine Wilson is an adjunct faculty member at Middle Tennessee State University where she teaches Introduction to Music and music education courses. Formerly, she was a high-school vocal music director, elementary music specialist, organist, pastoral musician, and private teacher. Her choirs and students often received top honors at festivals and competitions. In 2013 she won a fellowship for her research on incarcerated men expressing emotion through songwriting, and in 2011 she was recognized for exceptional research in music education. She was nominated for Hastings Public Schools Teacher of the Year in 2009, and was a Nebraska Elementary Principal's Award of Excellence recipient in 2006. She has written choral music for Augsburg Fortress, and co-authored "Singin,' Sweatin' and Storytime," which is published through MENC and Rowman & Littlefield. In addition, Catherine has been an international, national and regional presenter. She holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from the University of Louisville, a master's degree in Music from Colorado State University, and a PhD in Music from The University of Iowa. In her spare time, Catherine enjoys distance running, writing and composing. She lives in middle TN with her husband Joe and their 4 musical children.