

MTVA Choral Festival Adjudicators

Sight-Reading Adjudicator

James Wells

James Wells serves as the Director of Choral Music at Brentwood United Methodist Church near Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Wells has spent the last 20 years in public school education and church music. He is the co-director of the Nashville Children's Choir at Belmont University along with his good friend and mentor Dr. Madeline Bridges. In his public school teaching experiences, Mr. Wells taught general music, treble and youth choirs, percussion ensembles, and directed musical theater productions. Mr. Wells is a frequent guest director for festivals, mass choirs, and honor choirs around the southeast. He received his music training at MTSU and Belmont with undergraduate degrees in Music Ed. and Voice Performance and a Masters Degree in Music Ed. At Brentwood UMC, Mr. Wells has recently moved from the role of Director of Youth and Children's Music, to now oversee all the choral programs of the church. Brentwood is a large congregation and has over 600 choir participants yearly. James has been married to his wife Amy for 21 years and has two daughters. Emily is 14 and a sophomore in high school. Molly is 18 and a sophomore at Mississippi State University.

High School Adjudicators

Dr. Michele Paise

Dr. Michele Paynter Paise is a general/vocal music specialist and teaches at Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN. Prior to teaching at Cumberland, she taught courses at Arizona State University, Middle Tennessee State University, and the University of Idaho. She has also taught general and choral music, K-12 in the public schools of Maryland, Tennessee, and Arizona. Dr. Paise regularly appears as a general and choral music clinician throughout the United States. She lives in Murfreesboro with her husband John and their dog, Victoria.

Dr. Raphael Bundage

Raphael Bundage is the Director of Choral activities at Middle Tennessee State University. He is the former Chorus Master of the Nashville Opera Association and Nashville Symphony Chorus. He holds

bachelor degrees from Texas Christian University and graduate degrees from the Eastman Conservatory of Music. Prior to his graduate study, he was supervisor of choral music in the Texas Public School System and while at Eastman, he was director of the Eastman Chamber Chorus and the assistant director of the Eastman-Rochester Symphony Chorus. He is a frequent clinician and adjudicator in the choral field. Dr. Bundage's Choral ensembles have toured extensively throughout the U.S and Europe. Most recently, the MTSU Schola Cantorum was honored sing at the Vatican. Bundage is the product of an extraordinary host of master teachers including Alfred Mann, Julius Herford, and Robert Shaw.

Kathryn E. May

Kathryn E. May is completing her thirty-second year as the Choral Director and Advanced Placement Music Theory teacher at Greeneville High School in Greeneville, Tennessee. She is completing her thirty-seventh year of teaching and will be retiring this May, 2017. She was just selected at the 2016-17 Greeneville High School, "Teacher of the Year." Under Mrs. May's direction, Greeneville High School Choirs have performed many places, notably the 1996, 2000, and 2006 American Choral Directors Southern Conventions. Her choirs have appeared on several TN Music Educators Convention programs. Mrs. May conducted GHS choir members and alumni in a choral tour of Italy in the summer of 2015, performing at notable venues such as St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. She is coordinating a concert tour of Ireland and Scotland this summer (2017.) She is the choir director at Salem Presbyterian Church and resides in Limestone, TN with her husband, a middle school band director. Her professional affiliations include ACDA, the National Association for Music Educators, Tennessee Music Educators Association and the East TN Vocal Association. She is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda and Delta Omicron. She served on the Executive Board of ETVA for six years and as ETVA President from 2002-2004. Mrs. May served on the Tennessee Executive Board of the American Choral Directors Association for six years and was President from 2010-2012. Her other leadership roles in TN ACDA were the Repertoire and Standards Chair for Women's Choirs (2 terms) and Men's Choirs (2 terms.) She has served as a clinician and adjudicator in Tennessee, Virginia and Kentucky and was adjunct professor at East Tennessee State University for three years. In addition to the GHS Choirs, Mrs. May also conducts the Tusculum College Community Chorus and is a faculty member at Tusculum College.

Elementary and Middle School Adjudicators

Dr. Jennifer Vannatta-Hall

Dr. Jennifer Vannatta-Hall is currently an Assistant Professor of Music Education at Middle Tennessee State University, a position she has held since August 2010. She received a Bachelor of Music degree from Middle Tennessee State University in 1998. She taught pre-K through eighth grade general music and directed choirs in Rutherford County for two years. She then served as middle school general music

teacher for the next three years in Franklin Special School District, where she conducted choirs and led the musical theatre program for fifth through eighth graders. She also served as associate director of the Tennessee Choral Academy, conducting five choirs ranging in age from eight to eighteen. After teaching in the public schools for five years, Vannatta-Hall returned to MTSU and graduated with a Master of Arts in Music Education in 2004. She was hired as full-time faculty for the MTSU School of Music for the 2004-2005 school year, where she taught music methods courses and conducted the MTSU Women's Chorale. She then completed her doctoral coursework in music education at the University of Illinois and graduated with a Doctor of Education degree in August 2010. She is certified through the master level of the Orff-Schulwerk approach to music education as well as the Smithsonian Institute's World Music Pedagogy. Vannatta-Hall has presented at workshops and conferences all over the United States. She conducts and adjudicates choral festivals. Her research interests include early childhood music teacher education and secondary general music. She and her husband Scott make their home in Murfreesboro with their son Preston and daughter Piper.

Dr. Brian Russell

Brian Russell is the Choral Director and Chair of Fine Arts at Stewarts Creek High School, where his responsibilities include teaching five choirs and music theory. Dr. Russell brings secondary teaching experience in Tennessee's Rutherford and Sumner Counties as well as collegiate teaching experience at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington and Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY. Dr. Russell holds his Bachelor of Music degree from Middle Tennessee State University and his Masters and Doctoral degrees in Conducting from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. He has served in many capacities in Tennessee music associations, including State High School Repertoire and Standards Chair for the American Choral Directors Association, Mid-State and Choral Festival Chair with the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association, and All-State Chair for the Tennessee Music Educators Association.

Jeanette MacCallum

Jeanette MacCallum is the Director of Music Ministries at Second Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN and founder and Artistic Director of Vox Grata Women's Choir, a Nashville community women's choir. Prior to that, she was an Adjunct Professor in music theory and history at Belmont and Lipscomb Universities. In addition, she served as the Director of Choral Activities at Saint Cecilia Academy in Nashville, TN, from 2002 to 2012, where she conducted various ensembles and taught AP Music Theory. During her tenure at Saint Cecilia, the Advanced Choir received superior ratings at all regional and state adjudication festivals in which it participated. In addition, the St. Cecilia Advanced Choir performed at ACDA and TMEA state conferences. Mrs. MacCallum led the St. Cecilia Choir on performance tours to Carnegie Hall, Canada and Italy. In 2007, the Saint Cecilia Choir performed by invitation at the Ospedale della Pietà and the Ospedale dei Derelitti in Venice. Her students earned positions in numerous All State

and ACDA Honor Choirs. Reared in Princeton, New Jersey, Mrs. MacCallum's passion for choral music began as a member of the distinguished Princeton High School Choir. She received her musical education at the Eastman School of Music and Belmont University, and received the Master of Church Music degree from Belmont. A frequent adjudicator and clinician, Mrs. MacCallum has directed choirs at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University, as well as at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN. She currently serves as the PresidentElect for Tennessee ACDA. Mrs. MacCallum is the Past President and Treasurer of the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association. She is also the author of "The Sacred Choral Works of the Venetian Ospedali," published by GIA in "Conducting Women's Choirs: Strategies for Success," Debra Spurgeon, Editor and Compiler. (2012)