

Paul W. Stewart

Choral Conductor/Singer

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PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE SUMMARY

I am a creative and skilled choral musician who is eager to begin the next chapter of my career, having taught excellent middle school choirs for the last 10 years, preceded by 6 years of experience directing excellent high school and middle school choirs, all while performing solo and choral music at the professional level with multiple ensembles in a variety of styles and genres.

SKILLS

In addition to my skills as a singer and choral conductor, I am skilled at choral arranging, audio recording/mixing, video editing, and am fluent in many different computer programs and applications. I also have extensive instrumental experience, playing trumpet in concert bands, marching bands, pep bands, jazz ensembles, jazz combos, and musical pit orchestras.

EDUCATION

The University of Akron, Akron, OH - *Master of Music: Choral Conducting*

AUGUST 2007 - AUGUST 2009

The University of Akron, Akron, OH - *Bachelor of Music: Music Education (Magna Cum Laude)*

AUGUST 2001 - MAY 2007

Cuyahoga Falls High School, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - *Honors Diploma*

AUGUST 1997 - JUNE 2001

CONDUCTING TEACHERS

Dr. Samuel Gordon - *The University of Akron*

Dr. Ann Usher - *The University of Akron*

Dr. Galen Karriker - *The University of Akron*

VOICE TEACHERS

Dr. Samuel Gordon - *The University of Akron*

Dr. Laurie Lashbrook - *The University of Akron*

Mr. Alfred Anderson - *The University of Akron*

Mrs. Sue Loucks - *Grandview United Methodist Church*

MASTERCLASSES AND ADVANCED TRAINING

Vocal and Choral - *John Humphrey, Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt, Dr. Lisa Wong, Dr. Betsy Burleigh, Dr. Scott MacPherson, Robert Porco, Chanticleer, Cantus, Kevin Mahogany, Weston Noble, Dr. Samuel Gordon, Dr. Christopher M. Cock, Dr. Karen Kennedy, Jon Hendricks, Brody McDonald, Linda Spevacek, Dr. Russell Robinson, Krista Anderson, Lawrence Brownlee, Eric Owens, Dr. Dean Southern, Dr. Scott Edgar, Dr. Gregory Ristow*

Instrumental - *Wynton Marsalis, Arturo Sandoval, Conrad Herwig, Carl Allen, Terrell Stafford, Jack Schantz, Frederick Fennell, Michael Spiro, Bob Brookmeyer, Scott Johnston, Rock Wehrmann, Cecil Bridgewater, Tucker Jolly, Dr. Galen Karriker, Bob Jorgenson, Valerie Thorson, Jeff Jarvis, Dr. Christina Tan, Dave Morgan*

Conferences and Workshops - *OMEA State Conference, IMEA State Conference, Nordonia A Cappella Festival, Kettering National A Cappella Festival, OCDA Summer Conference, ACDA Regional Conference, ACDA National Conference, Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA)

National Association for Music Education (NAfME)

Ohio Choral Directors Association (OCDA)

American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)

Chorus America

CONDUCTING AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, Akron, OH - *Vocal Music Teacher*

AUGUST 2015 - PRESENT

- Responsible for 5 choirs and 2 “exploratory” vocal music classes in a conservatory-like arts school setting
 - Rising Stars
 - 4th and 5th Grade Mixed Children’s Choir
 - Unison and 2-Part choral music
 - Performances with the Akron Symphony Orchestra in 2015 and 2016, and a performance at the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) 2016 Student Achievement Fair
 - Concert Choir
 - 6th Grade Mixed Choir
 - 2-Part and 3-Part choral music
 - Performances with Singers Companye
 - “Superior” rating at 2017 OMEA Middle School Large Group Adjudicated Event
 - Symphonic Choir
 - 7th and 8th Grade Mixed Choir
 - SAB and SATB choral music
 - Performances and Workshops at Disney World in 2017
 - “Superior” rating at 2019 OMEA Middle School Large Group Adjudicated Event
 - 1st Place Middle School Choir and Best Middle School Choir Overall at HersheyPark “Music in the Parks” in 2019
 - Invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in April 2020 by Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY)
 - Concert was canceled due to COVID-19
 - Chamber Choir
 - 6th-8th Grade Auditioned Mixed A Cappella Choir
 - SATB/SSA A Cappella choral music and SATB/SSA Pop A Cappella music
 - “Superior” ratings at multiple OMEA Middle School Solo & Ensemble Adjudicated Events
 - Performance at OCDA Virtual Summer Conference in 2020
 - 1st Place Middle School Choir at Six Flags Great America “Music in the Parks” in 2023
 - Performances at the 2024 Nordonia A Cappella Festival and the 2024 Kettering National A Cappella Festival
 - Show Choir
 - 5th-8th Grade Auditioned Mixed Show Choir
 - 2-Part, SAB, SATB, SSA, and TTB show choir music
 - Performances and Workshops at Disney World in 2017
 - Winner “Best Middle School Vocals” at 2018 Solon Show Choir Invitational

- 1st Place Middle School Show Choir at HersheyPark “Music in the Parks” in 2019
 - 1st Place Middle School Show Choir at Six Flags Great America “Music in the Parks” in 2023
 - Middle School Grand Champion, Best Vocals, and Best Choreography at the 2024 Solon Show Choir Invitational
- 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade Vocal “Exploratory” classes
 - An introduction to the basic principles and practices of vocal music for non-vocal students at Miller South
- Music director for the Spring Musicals
 - Once On This Island, 2016
 - The Tempest, 2018
 - The Wind In The Willows, 2019 (Ohio Premier School Performance)
 - You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown, 2021
 - The Wiz, 2022
 - Seussical, Jr., 2023
 - The Lion King, Jr., 2024

West Geauga Local Schools, Chesterland, OH - Vocal Music Teacher

AUGUST 2009 - JULY 2015

- Responsible for four high school choirs, 8th grade choir, middle school select choir, 7th and 8th Grade general music, and assisting with the 6th and 7th Grade choirs
 - Chorale
 - 10th-12th Grade Advanced Mixed Choir
 - SAB and SATB choral music
 - “Excellent” rating at 2015 OMEA High School Large Group Adjudicated Event
 - Performance at Cedar Point in 2015
 - Student selected for OMEA All-State Choir in 2014
 - Treble Choir
 - 9th-12th Grade Women’s Choir
 - SSA and SSAA choral music
 - Presented a clinic program for The University of Akron choral conducting and music education students in 2011
 - Men’s Chorus (Special Ensemble 2009-2013, Curricular Ensemble 2013-2015)
 - 9th-12th Grade Men’s Choir
 - TB, TTB, and TTBB choral music
 - Concert Choir (2009-2013)
 - 9th-12th Grade Beginning Mixed Choir
 - SAB choral music
 - Class Act

- 10th-12th Grade Auditioned Mixed A Cappella Choir
 - SATB A Cappella choral music and SATB Pop A Cappella music
 - “Superior” ratings at multiple OMEA High School Solo & Ensemble Adjudicated Events
 - Performance at Cedar Point in 2015
- 8th Grade Choir
 - 8th Grade Mixed Choir
 - SAB choral music
- 7th and 8th Grade General Music
 - 7th and 8th Grade students who were not enrolled in either band or choir
 - Basic Piano/Keyboard Skills and an overview of music history from the Medieval Period to the Modern Period
- Director for the Spring Musicals
 - You’re A Good Man, Charlie Brown, 2010
 - South Pacific, 2011
 - How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying, 2012
 - Camelot, 2013
 - Little Shop of Horrors, 2014

The University of Akron, Akron, OH - *Graduate Teaching Assistant in Choral Studies*

AUGUST 2007 - AUGUST 2009

- Assisted with the daily operations of the choral program including directing rehearsals and sectionals, organization of the choral library, holding auditions, recruitment, and clerical work
- Director of The University of Akron Men’s Chorus Fall 2008- Spring 2009
 - Men’s choir consisting of graduate and undergraduate students from all majors
 - Presented two full programs in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009
 - Dr. Samuel Gordon, supervising professor

Private Voice Instructor

AUGUST 2009 - PRESENT

- I have successfully taught many students over the past 12 years.
- Over 98% of my students have achieved either a “Superior” or “Excellent” rating at OMEA Solo & Ensemble Adjudicated Events
- One student was selected for the OMEA All-State Choir
- Several students have successfully auditioned for college music programs and scholarships and have gone on to successful careers in music and the fine arts

The University of Akron, Akron, OH - *Student Teacher*

JANUARY 2007 - MAY 2007

- March 12, 2007 - May 11, 2007, Brookview Elementary School, Brook Park, Ohio
 - Mrs. Tracy Gabrielsen, cooperating teacher

- January 16, 2007 - March 9, 2007, Chippewa Middle School and High School, Doylestown, Ohio
 - Mrs. Shauna Knight, cooperating teacher

Grandview United Methodist Church, Cuyahoga Falls, OH - *Children's and Youth Choir Director*

SEPTEMBER 2002 - MAY 2004

- Directed a PreK-5th Grade choir and a 6th Grade-High School choir
 - Once monthly performances during Sunday morning church services
- Mrs. Sue Loucks, Music Director

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Great Akron Beer Choir, Akron, Ohio - *Leader/Director*

November 2021 - Present

- Choral sing-along show that invites audiences at breweries, pubs, and other venues to become a choir for the night, singing traditional drinking songs, canons and rounds, sea shanties, and other varieties of vocal music.
- Promotes the idea that singing is a fundamental human experience that should be experienced by all, regardless of background, experience, or talent.

Vox Audio, Canton, OH - *Vocalist*

JANUARY 2024 - May 2024

- Mr. Mickey McGroarty, artistic director
- Newly formed mixed pop a cappella ensemble through Sing Stark

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Akron, OH - *Vocal Soloist/Choral Scholar*

SEPTEMBER 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2023

- Ms. Valerie Thorson, Dr. Abigail Haake, and Mr. Bob Carlyon, music directors
- Choral section leader and soloist for worship services throughout the church year

Cleveland Chamber Choir, Cleveland, OH - *Vocalist*

OCTOBER 2015 - PRESENT

- Dr. Scott MacPherson, founding artistic director
- Dr. Gregory Ristow, acting artistic director
- Professional chamber choir based in Cleveland, Ohio
- Performance at 2023 ACDA National Conference

First Congregational Church of Akron, Akron, OH - *Vocal Soloist*

OCTOBER 2005 - MAY 2019

- Ms. Valerie Thorson, Mr. David Foerster, Mr. Clif Cason, Mr. Mark Peterson, and Mrs. Julie Lehman, music directors
- Choral section leader and soloist for worship services throughout the church year

The Cabaret Project, Akron, OH - *Lead Vocalist and Ensemble Vocalist*

DECEMBER 2018

- Cabaret show at Akron's BLU Jazz+, directed by Alexandre Marr

[gruv], Akron, OH - *Lead Vocalist and Vocal Percussionist*

JANUARY 2010 - MAY 2012

- Mixed Pop A Cappella ensemble

Singers Companye, Akron, OH - *Vocalist*

JANUARY 2008 - PRESENT

- Dr. Samuel Gordon, artistic director
- Semi-Professional chamber choir
- Bass Section Leader 2008 – 2022
- Associate Director 2014 – 2022
- Frequent Soloist
- Performances at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. in 2009
- Performance at the 41st Tolosa Choral Contest (Spain) in 2009
- Performance tour of Sicily in 2013

Nuance, Akron, OH - *Lead Vocalist and Vocal Percussionist*

JANUARY 2004 - MAY 2008

- Founding member
- All-male Pop A Cappella ensemble at The University of Akron
- Winner of First Prize and "Judge's Choice" Awards in the Vocal Jazz category at the 45th C.A. Seghizzi International Choral Competition in Gorizia, Italy in 2006

Street Theory, Akron, OH - *Lead Vocalist, Background Vocalist, Keyboard, Auxiliary Percussion, and Trumpet*

JUNE 2002 - JUNE 2014

- Rock n' Roll Band

VOCI (Voices of Canton, Incorporated), Canron, OH - *Vocalist*

SEPTEMBER 2007 - MAY 2009

- Dr. Samuel Gordon, artistic director
- Mixed Community Choir
- Sang several of my choral arrangements for their performances
- Frequent soloist

The University of Akron Choirs, Akron, OH - *Vocalist*

AUGUST 2001 - MAY 2009

- Dr. Samuel Gordon, director
- Performances at the 45th C.A. Seghizzi International Choral Competition in Gorizia, Italy in 2006
- Performances at the Mozart Festival in Salzburg, Austria in 2006
- Baritone Soloist for Mozart's Coronation Mass at Salzburg Cathedral (Austria)
- Performance at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. in 2009 with the National Gallery of Art Orchestra
- Multiple performances at the OMEA State Conferences

The Cleveland Orchestra Blossom Festival Chorus, Cleveland, OH - *Vocalist*

SUMMER 2000 – 2002, 2007, and 2013

- Mr. Robert Porco, Dr. Betsy Burleigh, and Dr. Lisa Wong, directors
- Performances of major choral works, including a world premier, with the Cleveland Orchestra under the direction several noted conductors including Jahja Ling, Franz Welser-Möst, John Williams, and Howard Shore

Baritone Soloist on the following large works

- Oedipus Tex (P.D.Q. Bach), Mass of the Children (J. Rutter), Coronation Mass (W.A. Mozart), Harmoniemesse (F.J. Haydn), O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden (F. Mendelssohn), Bleib bei uns, denn es will Abend werden (J.S. Bach), Requiem (Linda Rice Beck), Les Sept Paroles du Christ (T. Dubois), The Hope of Loving (Jake Runestad)

AWARDS AND HONORS

University of Akron Vocal Music Scholarship - 2001 - 2007

Tuesday Musical Association Scholarship for Male Voice - 2003 and 2005

Student President of University of Akron Choirs - 2005 – 2006

Member of Student Chapters of OMEA/MENC and ACDA - 2001 – 2009

Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honors Fraternity - Inducted Spring 2005

University of Akron Outstanding Senior Choral Conductor - 2006

University of Akron Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Voice - 2006 – 2007

Founding President, Phi Tau Chi Honorary Choral Fraternity - 2008 – 2009

Akron Public Schools Ambassador Award - 2023

PRESENTATIONS

2019 Ohio Junior Thespians Conference - *The Amazing Vocal Instrument!*

2017 Ohio Junior Thespians Conference - *The Amazing Vocal Instrument!*

2023 Ohio Music Education Association Conference - *Choral Conducting for the Novice Pianist*

2024 Indiana Music Education Association Conference - *Choral Conducting for the Novice Pianist*

FUTURE PLANS AND ASPIRATIONS

As I continue my career, I hope to begin a doctoral program in either choral conducting, music education, or vocal performance. I also hope to continue singing professionally, both as a soloist and as a chorister, with the ensembles and artists I currently perform with, as well as new artists and ensembles. I also have plans to develop several conference session proposals and begin new choral projects in northeast Ohio.