

NJ-ACDA Summer Conference: August 7 & 8

Wednesday August 7 - Day 1



[NJACDA Summer HS Honors Choir Schedule Link](#)

8:00	Registration & Continental Breakfast – NICHOLAS STAGE RIGHT LOBBY: Rehearsal Room 104		30 mins
8:30	Welcome & Introductions – SHINDELL HALL		10 mins
8:40 - 9:25	READING SESSION Community Choirs NICHOLAS HALL Kahlil Gunther Collaborative Pianist: James Lubrano	READING SESSION S/A & WORLD MUSIC SHINDELL HALL Chaequan Anderson Collaborative Pianist: David Malyszko	45 mins
9:25 - 9:35	BREAK		10 mins
9:35 - 10:20	INTEREST SESSION Incorporating Sight Reading Techniques Into the Choral Rehearsal NICHOLAS HALL Dr. Rachel Carlson <i>Description:</i> How do we teach our students to become more independent musicians and sight-readers? This session explores sight-reading and ear-training exercises that can be incorporated into the choral rehearsal to build our singers' musicianship skills and overall independence.	INTEREST SESSION Collegiate Chapter Consortium SHINDELL HALL Dr. Stephanie Tubiolo Collaborative Pianist: David Malyszko <i>Description:</i> Each of our NJ-ACDA collegiate chapters will nominate a conductor to lead our collegiate singers in a communal sing. While each conductor is welcome to request feedback from the facilitator and their peers, the primary goal of this session is to provide an opportunity for collegiate conductors to receive podium time, to build upon connections between the collegiate chapters, and to celebrate New Jersey's vibrant collegiate choral community.	45 mins
10:20 - 10:30	BREAK		10 mins
10:30 - 12:00	HEADLINER SESSION #1 JEN SENGIN Leading with the Gesture: Conducting Strategies to Enhance Musicality SHINDELL HALL Collaborative Pianist: James Lubrano		90 mins

	<i>Description:</i> We often use our physical conducting gesture to guide the ensemble and indicate an array of musical ideas. Using the repertoire as our guide, this interactive session will offer participants a variety of strategies and techniques to help enhance musical expressivity within the ensemble.			
12:00 - 1:30	LUNCH: Traves Hall B, Douglass Student Center			
1:40 - 2:25	READING SESSION High School & TTBB REHEARSAL ROOM 104 Dan Malloy Collaborative Pianist: David Malyszko	INTEREST SESSION Navigating Your First Years of Teaching Choir NICHOLAS HALL Kason Jackson <i>Description:</i> Equip yourself with the knowledge and confidence needed to excel in your first year and beyond. This roundtable session offers valuable guidance on effective rehearsal strategies, student engagement, repertoire selection, and classroom management. Discover practical tools to ensure a smooth and successful start to your teaching journey by sharing and absorbing the challenge and successes of your first few years as a choir director.	READING SESSION Children's Choirs SHINDELL HALL Dr. Lynnel Joy Jenkins Collaborative Pianist: James Lubrano	45 mins
2:25 - 2:35	BREAK			10 mins
2:35 - 3:35	INTEREST SESSION Our Thanks to Thee: Julia Perry at 100 NICHOLAS HALL Vinroy Brown Collaborative Pianist: David Malyszko <i>Description:</i> This session will explore the choral works of composer Julia Perry, who is being celebrated around the musical world during the 100th year of her birth. While most of her choral works are extant, participants will view, listen and sing through her found choral works, many of which were unheard for decades until this year.	INTEREST SESSION Cultivating the Choral Community: An Interactive Roundtable for Upper Elementary & Middle Schools SHINDELL HALL Lisa Rotondi & Tony Sgro <i>Description:</i> Join teaching team Lisa Rotondi and Tony Sgro as they model strategies and facilitate discussion of best practices working with their 450 choristers within the infrastructure of the elementary public school. Participants will leave with an invigorated perspective on teaching and learning, focused on increasing the reach of your program and ensuring that students love singing as they grow in their musical skills.		60 mins
3:35 - 3:45	BREAK			10 mins
3:45 - 5:15	HEADLINER SESSION #2 JEN SENGIN			90 mins

	<i>Empowering Our Singers: Incorporating Non-Hierarchical Rehearsal Strategies to Encourage Singer Engagement</i> SHINDELL HALL Collaborative Pianist: James Lubrano <i>Description:</i> As choral directors, we can encourage individual artistry within the choral rehearsal and inspire singers to make musical decisions. To achieve a high level of excellence and singer engagement, we can implement an array of non-hierarchical rehearsal strategies designed to empower the singers to make creative choices and to contribute their own ideas to the collective music-making. This interactive session will explore a variety of techniques that encourage singers to conceptualize and share their ideas, all of which inform the performance. The clinician will share strategies to promote a musical, collaborative, and energized rehearsal environment.	
5:30-7:00	HOULIHAN'S – 55 US Route 1 - New Brunswick NJACDA will pay for the appetizers – You pay for your drinks!	

Thursday August 8 - Day 2

8:00	Coffee – NICHOLAS STAGE RIGHT LOBBY: Rehearsal Room 104	Encumenical Service NICHOLAS HALL Sarah Michal		25 minutes
8:30 - 9:15	READING SESSION Middle School & High School SCHARRE RECITAL HALL (Marryott Music Building) Jeron Stephens Collaborative Pianist: James Lubrano	INTEREST SESSION There's Just Not Enough Time! Making the most of your elementary choir rehearsal SHINDELL HALL Kaitlyn Reiser <i>Description:</i> We have such a limited amount of time with our students, how do we make the most of it? In this session I will present how I touch on healthy vocal production, breathing for singing, following the score, singing in parts, expressive qualities, and more in just 40 minutes once a week with 9-year-olds! I will also share some of my tried-and-true warm-ups, some of my favorite two-part repertoire, ways that I modify music for weak or non-readers, and how I honor the cultures represented in my community through the music that I choose. Most importantly, I'll share how we have FUN doing all of it!	READING SESSION Music in Worship REHEARSAL HALL 104 Sarah Michal Collaborative Pianist: David Malyszko	45 mins
9:15 - 9:25	BREAK			10 mins
9:25 - 10:10	INTEREST SESSION Middle & High School Choral Rehearsal Techniques That Work! SHINDELL HALL John Wilson <i>Description:</i> Are you a new teacher looking to add to your bag of tricks? Are you a veteran to find a new angle for common rehearsal challenges? This session has something for everyone! We will cover everything from building foundational ensemble skills to refining a piece for performance. Join us!	INTEREST SESSION Accessible Sacred Music for Church Choirs Rehearsal Room 104 Norma Jean Hughes Collaborative Pianist: David Malyszko <i>Description:</i> This session will explore examples of accessible sacred music that is available and attainable for all choir levels. It will also provide methods on how to select appropriate repertoire for small or large ensembles.		45 mins

10:10 - 10:20	BREAK: HONOR CHOIR MOVES TO NICHOLAS HALL @ 10:30		10 mins
10:20 - 11:20	HEADLINER SESSION #3 JEN SENGIN <i>Creating Community and Belonging in the Choral Ensemble</i> SHINDELL HALL Collaborative Pianist: James Lubrano <i>Description:</i> How do we, as choral directors, provide a space that both honors the individual while also working to create a cohesive community? With concerts and performances on the horizon, it can be challenging to balance both the social and the musical engagement within the choral rehearsal, especially in the digital age where technology intentionally holds our singers' attention. This session will focus on activities that build community and encourage individuals through engaging activities, careful repertoire selection, and collaborative rehearsal strategies.		60 mins
11:20 - 11:35	Raffle and give-aways: SHINDELL HALL		15 mins
11:35 - 1:00	Lunch on your own/Observe the Honors Choir, NICHOLAS HALL		85 mins
1:00 - 1:45	INTEREST SESSION <i>Progress and Pushback: LGBTQ+ affirming practices in divisive times</i> SHINDELL HALL Dr. Nick McBride & Dr. William Sauerland <i>Description:</i> This session will focus on LGBTQ+ and queer inclusion in choral music classrooms amidst a landscape marked by political polarization, censorship, book bans, and "anti-woke" cultural pushback. Participants will explore the current challenges posed by restrictive policies and societal attitudes, emphasizing the importance of fostering inclusive environments that support and affirm all students. Our session aims to provide strategies for understanding these complex issues while equipping participants with the tools needed to advocate for LGBTQ+ students and colleagues in challenging times. Participants will engage in discussions about effective strategies for integrating LGBTQ+ content into the choral/general music curriculum, highlighting best practices for addressing potential backlash from parents and administration, navigating difficult conversations and developing resilient responses. As a call to action, we aim to emphasize collaboration and allyship among choral music educators to create a	INTEREST SESSION <i>Is It Game Time Yet? Games & Activities to Engage Elementary & Middle School Choral Learners</i> Rehearsal Room 104 Allyssa Jurgens <i>Description:</i> This session explores innovative and interactive ways to enhance the choral music experience for elementary and middle school students through games and activities. Recognizing the importance of fostering a love for music and developing fundamental skills at a young age, this session provides practical strategies for educators to engage their students in meaningful musical exploration.	45 mins

	united front in support of marginalized students, reinforcing the idea that inclusive education benefits the entire school community.		
1:45 - 2:00	BREAK		15 mins
2:00 - 2:45	INTEREST SESSION Part Celebration, Part Protest: Spinifex Gum & Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy SHINDELL HALL Dr. Jason Vodicka <i>Description:</i> Music teachers around the country are called to teach in ways that are culturally relevant and responsive, but many educators do not feel adequately prepared to teach in this manner. This session examines the Spinifex Gum project, a collaboration between Marliya, an indigenous female youth choir, and some of Australia's most famous popular musicians, and describes the ways it adheres to the tenets of culturally relevant, responsive, and sustaining pedagogy. Musical and video examples will be used to demonstrate the singers' high level of achievement, their growing cultural competencies, and their socio-political engagement through the medium of music.	INTEREST SESSION Interview Success 101: Techniques & Tips for Landing the Job Rehearsal Room 104 Libby Gopal <i>Description:</i> Are you trying to unravel the mysteries on how to land that first (or next) music teacher job? This session will focus on (1) how to find potential jobs; (2) how to prepare for the interview; (3) the Do's and Don'ts of the Interview Process; and (4) keys to a successful demo lesson.	45 mins
2:45 - 3:00	Break		
3:00 - 4:00	HEADLINER #4 JEN SENGIN Conducting Masterclass SHINDELL HALL Collaborative Pianist: James Lubrano <i>Description:</i> 4 participants will conduct one of two pieces during the masterclass.		60 mins
4:00 - 4:30	NJ-ACDA HS Summer Honors Choir Performance Dr. Brandon Williams, Conductor NICHOLAS HALL Collaborative Pianist: Paul Conrad The NJ-ACDA High School Summer Honors Ensemble will perform with a Community Sing for the final piece.		30 mins?

End of Concert	Thank You's...Clean Up...Have a GREAT Year!	
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