

Dirk Johnson

Director of Vocal Ensembles
Instructor of Music, Interim
Colorado Mesa University

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Musical Arts August 2009

College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati
Choral Conducting with doctoral cognate in composition

Masters of Music August 2006

Brigham Young University
Music Education (Choral Emphasis)

Bachelor of Music, magna cum laude April 2002

Brigham Young University
Music Education (K-12 Choral Emphasis)
Mathematics Education Minor

Conducting Teachers:

Earl Rivers, College-Conservatory of Music
Ronald Staheli, Brigham Young University
Dale Warland, Director, Dale Warland Singers
Richard Sparks, University of North Texas
Richard Westenberg, Director, Musica Sacra, New York City
Mark Gibson, College-Conservatory of Music
Kory Katseanes, Brigham Young University

Level I Kodaly Certification June 2002

Brigham Young University InterMuse Academy, OAKE endorsed

UNIVERSITY TEACHING / CONDUCTING

Colorado Mesa University (Grand Junction, CO) August 2022–Present

Director of Vocal Ensembles, Instructor of Music, Interim

Teaching

- Conduct the CMU Vocal Arts Ensemble, Vocal Chords Chamber Ensemble, Soprano/Alto Choir, and Tenor/Bass Choir
- Teach Choral Conducting and Choral Literature
- Teach choral methods courses: Teaching Special Ensembles: Choral and Teaching Vocal Music K-12

Administration

- Budget and purchasing oversight of choral program
- Vocal music education major academic advising

- Oversee publicity, social media, and concert production tasks

West Virginia State University (Charleston, WV)

August 2009–July 2022

Music Dept. Chair, Director of Choral and Vocal Activities, Professor of Music (Tenured)

Teaching

- Conduct the WVSU Concert Choir and State Singers Vocal Ensemble
- Voice direct WVSU musical productions
- Routinely accompany voice students on recitals and juries
- Teach choral conducting and secondary choral methods
- Supervise student teachers (vocal emphasis)
- Teach applied voice, vocal pedagogy, and diction courses
- Teach choral arranging
- Additional courses taught regularly: History and Literature of Music I (through the Baroque), Music Theory (3rd and 4th semesters), Aural Skills 3 and 4 (3rd and 4th semesters)
- Other courses taught based on department need: Music Technology (2021), Music and Materials for Elementary Teachers, Elementary Music Methods (2017), Music Theory (first and second semesters, 2011–12), Orchestration and Arranging (Summer 2017), American Music (2015–2017), Music Appreciation (2010)

Administration

- Department program review, program assessment, class scheduling, budget and purchasing, degree audits, hire and coordinate adjunct voice instructors
- Annual tours: plan and oversee all aspects of the tour itinerary
- Budget and purchasing oversight of choral program
- Student academic advising (8–10 students per semester)
- Oversee publicity, social media, and concert production tasks

Highlighted Accomplishments

- State Singers performance with the HBCU Honor Choir at ACDA Southern Division Conference March 2020
- Established annual touring with the State Singers
- Established a collaborative relationship between WVSU choirs and the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra leading to annual performances on the WWSO Holiday Pops and Classical Series choral major works concerts
- Three-fold increase in the number of vocal music education majors

University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA)

January 2009–May 2009

Visiting Professor

Teaching

- Conducted the UVA University Singers and Chamber Choir
- Prepared and conducted a chamber orchestra in the Chamber Choir spring 2009 concert

Administration

- Oversee student-run board of choral officers
- Hire chamber orchestra for Chamber Choir performance

University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music

CCM Chamber Singers Conductor

Nov. 2006, April 2007, April 2008

CCM Chorale Assistant Conductor

Sept. 2006–May 2007

- assisted three distinguished visiting professors:
Dr. Dale Warland, Dr. Richard Sparks, and Mr. Richard Westenberg,
- rehearsed and conducted pieces in performance
- led sectionals and full rehearsals professor's absence

UC Men's Chorus Assistant Conductor

Sept. 2006–May 2007

- rehearsed and conducted pieces in performance
- led sectionals and led full rehearsals in conductor's absence

BYU Summer Chorale Assistant Conductor (Provo, UT)

Summer 2002, 2003, 2004

- Non-auditioned university chorus
- rehearsed and conducted pieces in performance

COMMUNITY CHOIR CONDUCTING

Charleston Civic Chorus (Charleston, WV)

Fall 2016–Present

Artistic Director and Conductor

Gallus Veges Chamber Choir (Provo, UT)

July 2002–Dec. 2004

Co-Conductor – Chamber choir of highly trained college-level singers

SECONDARY TEACHING

Rock Lake Arts Camp, South Charleston, WV

Summers, 2013–2017

Choir Teacher

- Develop curriculum aligned with each summer's camp theme
- Teach three choirs: Grades K-2, 3-5, and 7-9
- Two one-week camp sessions each July, free for students, focused on serving underprivileged children

Timpanogos High School (Orem, UT)

August 2004–June 2006

Director of Choirs

Teaching

- Public high school, 1550 students, 200 choir students, 5 ensembles
- Conducted 3 auditioned choirs: Chamber, Concert Choir, Women's Chorus
- Conducted 2 non-auditioned choirs: Men's Chorus, Ladies' Ensemble
- Taught AP Music Theory: students all earned scores of 4 or higher
- Voice directed the school musicals

Highlighted Accomplishments

- The choirs were consistently awarded superior ratings at regional and state festivals, a significant improvement in scores from previous years
- A Cappella and Chamber Choir toured annually
- Two new choirs were created: Men's Chorus and Ladies Ensemble

Administrative

- Planned and directed annual Feast of Carols program
- Planned and oversaw all aspects of annual choir tours
- Budget and purchasing oversight of choral program
- Organized and performed 6-10 outreach performances during the holidays
- Reorganized and maintained choral library
- Planned and hosted invitational music festivals

Pleasant Grove Junior High School (Pleasant Grove, UT)

August 2002–June 2004

Director of Choirs

Teaching

- Public junior high school, 1300 students, 180 students, 5 ensembles
- 2 auditioned choirs: Mixed Chorus, Concert Chorus (women’s choir)
- 3 non-auditioned Choirs: Men’s, Beginning Girls, Beginning Boy Chorus
- Taught general music
- Voice directed school musicals

Highlighted Accomplishments

- Concert Choir (women) was 1 or 3 choirs from the Salt Lake City area invited to perform on *A Spring Garland of Song*, a women’s chorus festival sponsored by *Viva Voce* community women’s chorus
- Concert Choir was awarded a superior rating at the district festival in my second and final year, reflecting improved performance quality from before my tenure.
- Two new choirs were created: Men’s Chorus and Beginning Boy’s Chorus, significantly improving the program’s ability to train the male voice.

Administration

- Budget and purchasing oversight of choral program
- Festival participation oversight

The Waterford School (Sandy, UT)

August 2001–May 2002

Choral Teacher/Teaching Internship

- Private school with 500 secondary students
- Conducted 1 auditioned choir: Troubadors High School Men’s Ensemble
- Conducted 4 non-auditioned choirs: HS Men’s, 8th-grade Men’s, 7th-grade Men’s, 6th-grade Treble Mixed

VOCAL TEACHING

West Virginia State University

- Vocal Pedagogy and Diction instructor
- Private voice studio of up to 18 singers
- Studio class instructor

Private studio instruction in Charleston, WV

August 2009–August 2013

VOCAL PERFORMING

Paid-Professional Singer Dec. 2012–2018
Tennessee Chamber Chorus, Cameron LaBarr, Director

Paid-Professional Singer
Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati, Earl Rivers, Director Sept. 2007–Dec. 2008

Tenor Soloist, West Virginia Symphony Chorus (Charleston, WV)

- *Messiah* parts 1 and 2, selected movements, G.F. Handel December 2015
- Evangelist, *Christmas Oratorio*, Cantatas I, II, and VI November 2014
- *Chichester Psalms*, Leonard Bernstein November 2013
- *Messiah* parts 2 and 3, G.F. Handel May 2012
- *Messiah* parts 1 and 3, G.F. Handel December 2010
- “For the Flowers are Great Blessings” from *Rejoice in the Lamb* by Benjamin Britten December 2009

Tenor Soloist, Opus Chorale (Charleston, WV)

- “Bewundert, O Menchen” from *Cantata no.62* by J.S Bach December 2011

Tenor Soloist, WVSU Annual Faculty Recital

- 4 English Art Songs March 2014
- 3 Mélodie by Renaldo Hahn February 2013
- 4 selections from Franz Schubert’s *Die Schöne Müllerin* February 2012

MUSIC THEORY TEACHING

West Virginia State University

- Second year music theory professor August 2021–present
- First year music theory professor January 2011–May 2012
- Aural skills professor Fall 2017, Spring 2020–present

Music Theory Graduate Teaching Assistant, CCM September 2007–May 2008

- Taught honors sight singing and dictation
- Assisted with undergraduate 2nd year tonal theory and 20th century theory, grading all assignments

AP Music Theory Teacher, Timpanogos High School January 2005–May 2006

- Students all scored 4 or higher on the AP exam

COMPOSING AND ARRANGING

*Preview scores and recordings are available for review at www.dirkjohnsonmusic.com

Awards and workshops

- Doctoral cognate in composition, CCM, Univ. of Cincinnati August 2009
- 2015 John Ness Beck Foundation Award for traditional April 2015

sacred choral composition

- John Ness Beck Foundation Composer's Workshop June 2015
- Melody Studies Workshop with Alice Parker July 2013
- ACDA/Lehigh University Choral Composers Forum June 20-27, 2010

Published works

- "If You Want To Go A-Courting" 2018 Catalog
Southern Appalachian Folk Song – TTBB (A Cappella)
Published by Walton Music

Commissions

- Demain, des l'aube Fall 2021
Original setting of the Victor Hugo poem – SATB and Piano
Written for the Cedar Valley High School Chamber Choir
Eagle Mountain, UT, Kyle Harper, Director
- "Whispering Hope" April 2017
Hymn arrangement – SATB, Piano, and Flute
Written for St. Marks UMC in honor of Jeanette Alexander
Charleston, WV, Julie Janisch, Director
- "What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor?" Spring 2016
Sea Shanty – SATB and Piano
Written for the College of Idaho Chamber Singers
Caldwell, ID, Brent Wells, Director
- "I Saw a Little Girl I Hate" Spring 2014
Original setting of an Arnold Spilka poem
Written for the men of the College of Idaho Chorale
Caldwell, ID, Brent Wells, Director
- "Mary of the Wild Moor" Spring 2013
Southern Appalachia Folk Song – SATB and Piano
Written for the WVU-Parkersburg College Chorale
Parkersburg, WV, H.G. Young III, Director
- "Sweet William" Fall 2012
Southern Appalachia Folk Song – SSAA and Piano
Written for WomanSong community women's chorus
Charleston, WV, Emily Capece, Director
- "Soldier Won't You Marry Me" Fall 2012
Southern Appalachia Folk Song – SATB and 4-hand Piano
Written for the College of Idaho Chamber Singers
Caldwell, ID, Brent Wells, Director
- "O Bone Jesu" Spring 2012

Original Composition in Latin – SATB and Piano
 Written for the Edgewood College Chamber Singers
 Madison, WI, Albert Pinnsonneault, Director

- “Now Is the Month of Maying” Spring 2012
 Based on Thomas Morley’s madrigal – SATB (A Cappella)
 Written for the Charleston Civic Chorus
 Charleston, WV, Truman Dalton, Director
- “That Which is of God is Light” Fall 2011
 Original Composition in English – for SATB and organ
 Written for the Charleston Civic Chorus
 Charleston, WV, Truman Dalton, Director

Arrangements written for ensembles under the composer’s direction

- “The Rocking Carol” (Charleston Civic Chorus) Fall 2021
 Czech carol – SATB and Piano
- “Du, Du Liegst Mir im Herzen” Spring 2020
 German folk song – SATB and Piano
- “Siyahamba” (Charleston Civic Chorus) Fall 2018
 Zulu folk song – SATB and Piano
- “Farandine Moj” (WVSU State Singers) Spring 2018
 Croatian folk song – SATB and Piano
- “The Parting Glass” (Charleston Civic Chorus) Fall 2017
 Irish folk song – SATB and Piano
- “A Virgin Unspotted” (Charleston Civic Chorus) Fall 2016
 English carol – SATB and Piano
- “Jerusalem, My Happy Home” (Charleston Civic Chorus) Fall 2014
 Shape-note Folk Hymn – SATB and Piano
- “Blessed Be the Dear Uniting Love” (WVSU Concert Choir) Fall 2014
 Shape-note Folk Hymn – SATB and Piano
- “The Old Couple and the Pig” (Rock Lake Arts Camp) Summer 2014
 Southern Appalachia folk song – Unison Voices and Piano
- “John Henry” (WVSU Concert Choir) Fall 2013
 West Virginia Folk Song – SATB and 4-Piano
- “The Barnyard Song” (Rock Lake Arts Camp) Summer 2013
 Southern Appalachia folk song – Unison Voices and Piano
- “There is a Balm in Gilead” (WVSU State Singers) Fall 2010
 African American Spiritual – SATB and Piano
- “El Noi de la Mare” (WVSU Concert Choir) Fall 2010
 Spanish carol – SATB and Piano

- “Entre le Boeuf et l’Ane Gris” (WVSU Concert Choir) Fall 2009
French carol – SATB and Piano

Other Compositions and Arrangements

- “Rachel’s Carol” In Progress
Original music and text based on Matt. 2: 16-18 – SSA and Piano
- “Balow, My Babe” In Progress
Setting of the anon. “Lady Anne Bothwell’s Lament” – SSA and Piano
- “A Red, Red Rose” In Progress
Original setting of a Robert Burns poem – TTBB or SSA and Piano
- “How Humbly He Came” June 2019
Original hymn text and music – SATB (A Cappella)
- “For Christ Shall Grow Before the Lord” June 2019
Original hymn text and music – SATB (A Cappella)
- “Do the Thing that I Should Do” June 2019
Children’s sacred song text and arrangement – Unison Voices and Piano
- “I Will Trust In Heavenly Father’s Care” June 2019
Children’s sacred song text and music – Unison Voices and Piano
- Hymn of the Wise Men June 2018
Original Christmas hymn text, music, and arr. – TTBB (A Cappella)
- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Fall 2018
Carol setting for Baritone and Piano
- The Articles of Faith Summer 2018
A collection of 13 sacred songs – Unison Voices and Piano
- Corey’s Lament Fall 2017
Original composition – Solo Piano
- “A Stillness Falls Upon the Earth” Spring 2016
Original Christmas Hymn – SATB (A Cappella)
- “How Wondrous and Great” Spring 2015
Keyboard setting in Baroque style
- “Hear the Royal Proclamation” Fall 2014
Shape-note Folk Hymn – SATB and Piano
- “God is Love” July 2013
Contrapuntal motet – SATB (A Cappella)
- “Humbly, Meekly” (text incomplete) Summer 2011
Original sacred composition in English – SATB and Piano
- “Holy Father” Spring 2007

Original hymn text and music – SATB (A Cappella)

- “Myself” Spring 2006
Original setting of a nursery rhyme – SATB (A Cappella)

RESEARCH, PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

NCCO National Convention Research Poster November 2017
“Early Concert Spirituals: Origins and Arrangements”

University of Missouri-Kansas City Spring Choral Conducting Workshop April 2017
One of four conductors selected nationwide to attend a workshop
to study and conduct the Maurice Duruflé *Requiem*.

ACDA National Convention Interest Session February 2015
“Tapping the Source: American Folksong Collections”

NCCO National Convention Research Poster and Mini Lecture November 2013
“English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians Collected by Sharp, Campbell, and Karpeles: Their Textual and Musical Characteristics and the Implication of These Characteristics on Choral Arranging”

WVACDA Interest Sessions

“Folk Songs from the West Virginia Hills: An Exploration of Patrick Gainer’s Published Folk Song Collection from a Choral Arranger’s Perspective.” January 2014

“Mining a Rich Musical Tradition: The Process of Selecting and Arranging Three Folk Songs from the Cecil Sharp and Olive Dame Campbell 1917 Collection, ‘English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians.’” January 2013

WVSU Faculty Development Grants

“Field Research on the Living Tradition of Shape-Note Singing as Preparation for Writing Three New Shape-Note Tune Arrangements” February 2014

“Accessing Source Material for Choral Arrangements of Three Appalachian Folk Songs” January 2012

CD Reviews, The Choral Journal

Requiem, A Thanksgiving for Life March 2011
Choral Works by Sir Philip Ledger, The Choir of Christ’s College
Directed by Sir Philip Ledger and David Rowland

Musica Sacra Hungarica August 2011
Sacred choral music from the 20th century
Budapesti Monteverdi Kórus, Éva Kollár, conductor

D.M.A Document, University of Cincinnati "A Conductor's Guide to the Masses of Charles Gounod"	August 2009
M.M. Professional Development Project, Brigham Young University "Teaching Pitch Awareness Strategies to Enhance Sight-singing Independence in the Choral Rehearsal"	August 2006

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

WV ACDA President	July 2021–present
Chair, WVSU Department of Music	August 2018–present
Liberal Arts School Task Force, National Collegiate Choral Org.	April 2018–Dec. 2018
WV ACDA Vice-President	July 2017–June 2019
WV ACDA President	July 2015–present
WV ACDA President-Elect	July 2014–June 2015
National Board Member, National Collegiate Choral Org.	Fall 2012–Dec. 2019
WV ACDA Collegiate Repertoire and Standards Chair/ WV ACDA Collegiate Honor Choir Chair	May 2011–Fall 2014
WVSU Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Secretary)	May 2017–present
WVSU Faculty Senator–College of Arts and Humanities	Spring 2012–present
WVSU Faculty Committees	
• Retention Committee	Fall 2021–present
• General Education Committee	Fall 2017–present
• Freshman Year Experience Committee	Spring 2015
• Cultural Activities Committee	Fall 2013–present
• Dean Search Committee, College of Arts and Humanities	Fall 2014
• Self-Study Criterion 3C Committee	Spring 2014
• Graduate Education Committee	Fall 2010–Spring 2011
• Teacher Education Committee	Fall 2009–Spring 2011
Rock Lake Summer Arts Camp Choral Teacher, Charleston, WV	July 2013–July 2017
WV Symphony Chorus Board Member	January 2011–present
WV Symphony Orchestra Education and Outreach Committee	Sept. 2009–Spring 2014
WV Department of Education Reaccreditation Reviewer	Fall 2010

ACCOMPANYING, ORCHESTRAL PLAYING, AND ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING

- Accompanist/Pianist, WVSU Vocal Area** Fall 2009–present
Routinely accompany voice students for recital, jury, and voice studio class to facilitate success and growth within the vocal area. Pianist for WVSU Musical Productions.
- Conductor, chamber orchestra at University of Virginia** Spring 2009
Conducted Monteverdi *Beatus Vir* and Vivaldi *Magnificat* with chamber orchestra and Chamber Choir
- Orchestral Conducting Instruction** September 2007–May 2008
CCM, Mark Gibson, Director of Orchestral Studies
- Orchestral Conducting Lessons** Summer 2006
BYU, Kory Katseanes, Director of Orchestras
- Admitted into BYU Violin Performance Degree** August 1995
Violinist, BYU Philharmonic Orchestra Fall 1995
- Violinist, Great Falls Symphony, Great Falls, MT** Fall 1993–Spring 1995

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Choral Directors Association**
National Collegiate Choral Organization
National Association for Music Education
American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP)