

The **Hawai'i Chapter** of the **American Choral Directors Association**  
proudly presents

# Professional Development Day

*a day of learning for conductors, teachers, and singers*

Saturday, September 2, 2017  
The University of Hawai'i—West O'ahu



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Welcome,

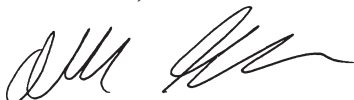
**Welcome.** I'm glad you've decided to join us today—today is a special day for our community and the only annual chance for choral musicians in Hawai'i to gather together for learning, growing, and socializing. Your presence indicates that you value our community, our choral art, and your own personal development and musical growth.

Today's Professional Development Day, a sort of choir camp for us choral geeks, is the third annual event. We started the event as an effort to provide hands-on resources to our choral community, to offer a platform for local talents, and to develop programs outside central Honolulu. This year's iteration, "Rehearsal Techniques and Methods," promises to be an exciting, helpful, and worthwhile day.

When you see them today, please thank your HI-ACDA board members (listed on page 12 of this booklet) and our generous hosts here at UH West O'ahu, especially Dr. Jon Magnussen. Without them, today would not be possible.

Welcome, again, and thank you for being a part of this exciting day.

With aloha,



Dr. Alec Schumacker  
President, Hawai'i Chapter of  
The American Choral Directors Association

Director of Choral Activities &  
Assistant Professor of Music  
Hawai'i Pacific University



# About ACDA

## The American Choral Directors Association

Founded in 1959, the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) is a nonprofit music-education organization whose central purpose is to **promote excellence in choral music through performance, composition, publication, research, and teaching**. In addition, ACDA strives through arts advocacy to elevate choral music's position in American society.

Membership consists of choral directors who represent more than one million singers across the United States. Members teach choral music in public and private schools—kindergarten through senior high school—and at the college and university levels. They conduct a variety of choral groups, including boychoirs, children's choirs, men's and women's choruses, junior and senior high school choirs, college and university choruses, ethnic choirs, vocal-jazz ensembles, and symphony choruses. They also conduct choirs in their communities and in their places of worship.

The Association is divided into seven geographic regions/divisions, as well as fifty state chapters, each with its own conferences, newsletters, festivals, clinics, and workshops. Whether at the National, Division, or State level, ACDA is structured so that its members can easily involve themselves in the organization's activities.

AMERICAN  
CHORAL  
DIRECTORS

ASSOCIATION



## ACDA in Hawai'i

The Hawai'i state chapter of ACDA was founded in 1975 and serves as an invaluable resource for our choral community. We sponsor events like today as well as workshops, clinics, and membership meetings throughout the year. HI-ACDA exists as the only organization in the state that serves the *choral community* directly. Together we foster and promote choral singing which will provide artistic, cultural, and spiritual experiences for the participants. We advocate for the finest types of choral music to make these experiences possible. We also promote the organization and development of choral groups of all types in schools and colleges, houses of worship, and throughout our cities and communities. We recognize choral music as an important medium of contemporary artistic expression and we cooperate with other organizations dedicated to the development of musical culture in Hawai'i and America.

Here at home, HI-ACDA is proud to work through informal partnerships with our colleagues in the state chapters of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME or, locally, HMEA) and the American Guild of Organists (AGO).

For more information, visit [ACDA.org](http://ACDA.org) and [HawaiiACDA.org](http://HawaiiACDA.org).

Hawai'i

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



# Schedule of Events

**8:00 AM**

**Registration, Refreshments**

**8:30**

**Welcome**, Dr. Alec Schumacker

**Warm-up**, Ms. Vanessa Maldonado

**9:00**

**“Taka... What!? Takadimi in the Choral Classroom,”** Ms. Becky Marsh

**10:00 BREAK**

**10:15**

Option A

**“Mind the Gap: Strategies and Tools for Middle School Singers,”** Dr. Alyssa Cossey

Option B

**“Rehearsal Hacks: Practical Choral Rehearsal Techniques,”** Mr. Christopher Harris

**11:15 BREAK**

**11:30**

**Reading Session**

**12:30 PM LUNCH**

**1:30**

Option A

**“Effective Leadership: Conducting Mastery,”** Dr. David Means

Option B

**“Composition in the Choral Classroom,”** Mr. Evan Eliason

**2:30 BREAK**

**2:45**

Option A

**“Effective Leadership: Conducting Mastery,”** Dr. David Means

Option B

**“Learning to Listen: Empowering the Individual and the Ensemble,”** Dr. Alyssa Cossey and Ms. Becky Marsh

**3:45 BREAK**

**4:00**

**“Teaching for Transfer: Making Every Moment Count,”** Dr. Robert Sinclair

**5:00 BREAK**

**5:15**

**Closing Panel** with all Presenters

**6:15**

**Evaluations**

**6:30**

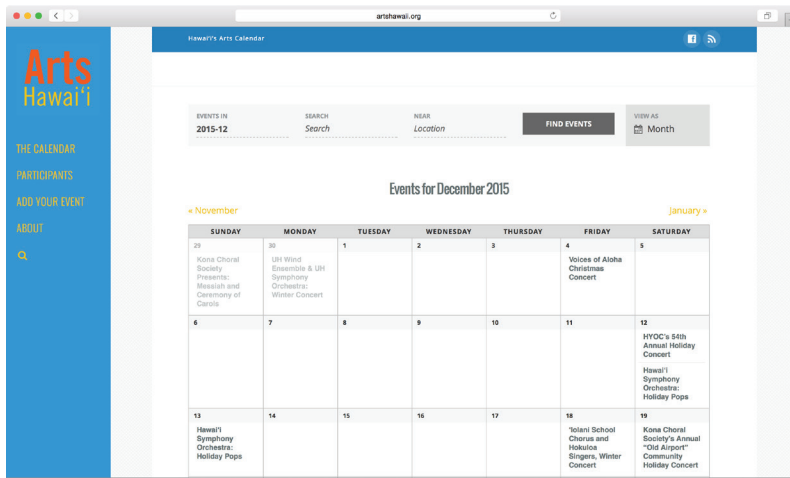
No-host **Dinner**, *optional*, at Kapolei Chili's, Kapolei Shopping Center, 590 Farrington Hwy, Kapolei

# Arts Hawai'i

## Hawai'i's Arts Calendar

completely free  
all arts events welcome  
simple web calendar  
and monthly emails  
by artists in Hawai'i  
for artists in Hawai'i

visit today to add your events  
[www.ArtsHawaii.org](http://www.ArtsHawaii.org)



Visit [ArtsHawaii.org](http://ArtsHawaii.org) to see what's happening & to let others know what you're presenting.

It's **free** to list events and free to browse events.

# Interest Session Descriptions

## Taka... What!?

### Takadimi in the Choral Classroom

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In the past two decades, the Takadimi rhythm system has emerged as both a popular and effective tool for teaching young musicians how to internalize and read rhythms. As a beat-oriented system, Takadimi eliminates some of the challenges of traditional rhythm systems while building upon the best pedagogical practices for teaching rhythmic fluency, which makes it an effective tool for ensembles in a variety of contexts. This participatory session serves as an introduction to the Takadimi system and techniques to incorporate it into every day instruction and rehearsals. Together, we will explore many aspects of this teaching tool: What is

Takadimi? Why might Takadimi be a good fit for me and my singers? How do I teach and use Takadimi? Where do I go to find more information and resources as I begin to use Takadimi? Because of its relatively new existence, Takadimi has not been a part of the formative music experiences or teacher training programs for many music educators and conductors. The goal of this session is to equip its participants with a foundational understanding of the Takadimi rhythm system and to empower them to use it with music learners of all ages and skill levels.

## Mind the Gap

### Strategies and Tools for Middle School Singers

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Many teachers who find themselves in middle school settings feel they have a gap in their teacher training as middle school students embody the space between elementary general and high school choral classrooms. However, middle school students are not simply an “in between” group of students; they are a unique population with their own strengths and needs. With the help of some core strategies and techniques, teachers of middle school singers can build classroom environments where singers feel safe and affirmed and can build their musicianship. In this session, participants

will explore research on the middle school brain and strategies for applying it in the choral classroom. Attendees will also gain tools for voicing changed and unchanged voices, repertoire suggestions for both single-gender and mixed ensembles, recommended seating arrangements for effective rehearsals and performances, fun skill-building and motivational activities to use every day, and ideas for how to create a classroom that welcomes and celebrates all students and voice parts.

# Rehearsal Hacks

## Practical Choral Rehearsal Techniques

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This session identifies engaging yet simple, practical, and immediately implementable approaches to choral rehearsal that help build independent, literate, responsive, thoughtful musicians. These highly effective rehearsal strategies have been employed by great conductors for decades. Many of these techniques that have proven successful have been borrowed by the presenter, and can be tweaked to fit the needs of any conductor at any level of musical

instruction. The presenter will use members of the audience to demonstrate these rehearsal techniques in real time.

Points of interest for the session:

- Relevant warm-up exercises
- Daily music literacy exercises
- Daily vocal technique
- Strategies and exercises for more effective rehearsal management and engagement

## Reading Session

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**Elementary School** selection presented by Bryce-William Irvine

*E Nana Kakou I Na Manu*, Herb Mahelona

**Middle School** selection presented by Molly Schad

*A la Media Noche*, Puerto Rican Carol, arr. Greg Gilpin

**High School** selection presented by Pam DeBoard

*In Dulci Jubilo*, traditional, arr. Matthew Culloton

**Community** selection presented by Jeremy Wong

*When Memory Fades*, Jayne Southwick Cool, text: Mary Louise Bringle, arr. Eric Nelson

**Treble Octave** selection presented by Julianne Hiu

*Bandyrowe*, Traditional Irish Folk Song arr. Susan Brumfield

**Bass Octave** selection presented by Bryce-William Irvine

*I Love That Old Barbershop Style*, Einar Pedersen, arr. Val Hicks

**Sacred** selection presented by Todd Beckam

*Evening Hymn*, Henry Balfour Gardiner

**Musical Theater** selection presented by Pam DeBoard

*Children Will Listen*, Stephen Sondheim, arr. Mark Brymer

**Solo Art Song** selection presented by Jeremy Wong

*Lov'st Thou For Beauty?*, Clara Schumann

**Pop/Commercial** selection presented by Alec Schumacker

*Quiet*, Connie Lim, arr. John Guarente



# Effective Leadership

## Conducting Mastery

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This workshop will focus on conducting technique as it relates to rehearsal technique. Attendees will be asked to participate in group

conducting examples and 3-4 volunteers will be asked to conduct in a master-class type setting. Note: This session will be offered two times.

# Composition in the Choral Classroom

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Participants will be led through techniques for seamlessly incorporating composition activities that their students will truly enjoy! The goal of these activities is to not only motivate young composers, but also deepen all students aware-

ness of musical elements in any music they sing. By reversing the reading process and transcribing what the student is hearing as they compose, they will also make great gains in their musical literacy, intonation, and tonal memory.

# Learning to Listen

## Empowering the Individual and the Ensemble

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Imagine a rehearsal in which ensemble members can both self-assess and contribute to the ensemble using a tool they have had their entire lives: their ears. Because “ear training” and “aural skills” often focus on isolated tasks outside the context of a choral rehearsal, singers may struggle to connect these tasks in the choral setting. Additionally, many directors are challenged with finding strategies that support

singers in developing their abilities to listen to themselves, within sections, and across the ensemble. By reexamining the art of listening, directors can empower singers to be active participants in the choral music-making process. This session will explore various ways in which directors can design rehearsals to foster different types of listening required for successful ensemble singing.

# Teaching for Transfer

## Making Every Moment Count

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Why can't they remember stuff from one rehearsal to the next? Maybe it is that we have assumed that the fact that the group sounds better, each individual understands the concept or skill being taught. We will explore teaching methods specifically designed to help students

take skills or concepts from one moment in rehearsal and intentionally develop it in another. We will discuss warm-up or technique time, skill building like sight reading or count singing, and look at ways to apply those skills into your daily rehearsal schedule.

# Speaker Biographies

## Dr. Alyssa Cossey

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Alyssa Cossey recently earned her doctorate in choral conducting at Michigan State University, where she studied with Dr. David Rayl, Dr. Sandra Snow, and Dr. Jonathan Reed. She received her MM in Choral Conducting at California State University, Fullerton and her BA at California State Polytechnic

University, Pomona. Prior to pursuing her doctorate, Dr. Cossey was the choral director at San Dimas High School and Lone Hill Middle School in the Los Angeles area. In her eight-year tenure the Choral Department grew from 19 to more than 300 singers.

## Mr. Evan Eliason

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Evan Eliason has been directing the choral program at Maryknoll High School for the past year here in Honolulu, prior to that, he directed choral programs at La Mirada High School in Los Angeles four years. In addition to his work as a conductor, Evan has created many compositions and arrangements for

both his school and professional choral groups. In an effort to prepare his students for future musical endeavors, Evan has a keen interest in developing his students' knowledge of music theory, compositional ability, and use of music production software as will be demonstrated in the clinic session.

## Mr. Christopher H. Harris

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Christopher H. Harris, a native of Fort Worth, Texas, is a conductor, singer, and choral composer. He received his Master's in Choral Conducting from Ithaca College and his Bachelor's in Music Education from Texas Southern University. Prior to entering graduate school, Harris taught in Houston,

Texas. His groups received numerous sweepstakes awards at state UIL Concert and Sightreading Competition as well as honors to perform with the Bay Area Chorus and an invitation to perform as a demonstration group at the Texas Choral Directors Convention.

## Ms. Becky Marsh

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Becky Marsh is a native of Irmo, South Carolina. After earning her Bachelors degree in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, she served as the choral director at East Gaston High School in Mt. Holly, North Carolina. While there, Ms. Marsh's ensembles consistently re-

ceived superior ratings at the North Carolina Music Performance Adjudication, and the Chamber Choir was selected to participate in the National Youth Choir at Carnegie Hall. Additionally, East Gaston's male and female a cappella groups were invited regularly to perform at school and community events.

## Dr. David Means

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Dr. David Means is director of choral studies at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg, Texas, and the conductor of the Valley Symphony Chorale. He is also organist at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Edinburg and Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in McAllen, and recently founded Rio Grande Valley's premier chamber choir, the Valley Choral Artists. Dr. Means came to south Texas from Austin where he was head choral director of the Grammy-award winning Fine Arts Academy of Westwood High School in the Round Rock ISD. Means has also taught at the University of Southern California, Christopher Newport University, Hill College and has more than twenty years experience successfully teaching public school choirs in Texas and California, including teaching high school and middle school choir in his home town of Cuero, Texas.

Dr. Means earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree in piano and voice from Howard Payne University (teachers included John Ratledge, Elem Ely, Linda Hibbs Dougherty, Alan Smith, Betsy Dunn Curtis), a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from Baylor University (teachers included

Hugh Sanders, Robert Young, Karen Peeler, Joyce Farwell, Joyce Jones), and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Music from the University of Southern California (teachers included William Dehning, James Vail, Morten Lauridsen, Bard Suverkrop, Hans Beer). He was awarded the prestigious USC Outstanding Choral Student Award and at that time was the first doctoral student in history to completely finish the degree in three years.

Means is active as a guest conductor, adjudicator and clinician, having taught, judged, and performed across Texas, the United States, Europe, Mexico, Canada, and Japan. In addition to TMEA and UIL adjudication, he also regularly leads workshops for music teachers and conducts workshops for singers. Last July he served on the prestigious jury of the Preveza International Choral Festival in Preveza, Greece, and next March he will adjudicate the popular American Classic Madrigal Festival in San Antonio, Texas. Next season's engagements include being a featured clinician for the TCDA summer convention in San Antonio and his Carnegie Hall conducting debut in 2018.

## Dr. Robert L. Sinclair

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Dr. Sinclair serves as director of choral activities for VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. His educational background includes three years at Luther College, where he sang in the Nordic Choir under the direction of Weston Noble. After transferring to Sam Houston State University, he completed his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Music degrees with B. R. Henson. In December of 2000, Sinclair completed a Ph. D. in Curriculum and Instruction (Music Education) at the University of Missouri-Co-

lumbia where he worked with Drs. David Rayl and Wendy Sims. He is an active clinician for junior high and high school students across the nation and abroad including Japan, the Bahamas, and Australia. Dr. Sinclair has presented sessions for the Illinois, Missouri, Ohio and Texas Music Educators Associations as well as the Central, Southern and Southwest divisions of the American Choral Directors Association.

# HI-ACDA Core Board

## Executive Committee

**Alec Schumacker**, President (2017–2019)

Director of Choral Activities & Assistant Professor of Music, Hawai'i Pacific University

**Miguel Felipe**, Vice/Past President (2017–2019)

Director of Choral Activities & Associate Professor of Music, University of Hawai'i–Mānoa  
Director of Choral Activities, *ad interim*, & Visiting Assoc. Prof of Music, Boston University

**Zachary Moore**, President-Elect (2017–2019)

Choir Teacher, Sacred Hearts Academy

**John Alexander**, Secretary (2017–2019)

Choir Director, 'Iolani School

**Wanda Gereben**, Treasurer (2017–2019)

Founder & Executive Director, *retired*, Pacific Rim Children's Chorus Festival

## At-Large Members

**Julianne Hiu** (2016–2018)

Choir Director, Maryknoll School  
Assistant Director, Honolulu Blend Show Chorus

**Bryce-William Irvine** (2017–2019)

Music Education, Choral/General, University of  
Hawai'i–Mānoa

**Justin Ka'upu** (2016–2018)

Choir Director, Kapolei High School

**Vanessa Maldonado** (2017–2019)

Choir Director, Radford High School

**Mia-Amor Porreca** (2016–2018)

Choir Director, Kamehameha School–Kapālama,  
Middle School

**Philip Steinbacher** (2016–2018)

Choir Director, The Island School (Kaua'i)

**Jeremy Wong** (2016–2018)

Choral Director, University of Hawai'i–Mānoa

Interested in serving? Let us know:  
[President@HawaiiACDA.org](mailto:President@HawaiiACDA.org).

# Mahalo — Thank You

## Thanks to those who made today possible

Our speakers, presenters, and reading session presenters

Dr. Alec Schumacker and Mr. Eric Tamayo for arranging today's food

Dr. Jon Magnussen, our host

Dr. Miguel Felipe, program

HYOC, Nola A. Nāhulu, demo choir for "Mind the Gap"

Kapolei High School Hurricane Singers, Justin Ka'upu, demo choir for "Conducting Mastery" and "Rehearsal Hacks"

Chancellor Maenette K. P. Ah Nee-Benham and her staff at **UHWO**

Our friends at **NAfME/HMEA**

Our friends at the Hawai'i chapter of the **AGO**

The Core Board of **HI-ACDA**



## An Evolution

Today represents HI-ACDA's third annual Professional Development Day in our community. We've worked hard to learn from local presenters like HMEA and from other choral presenters like ACDA state chapters. But, inevitably, we don't get everything perfect the first or even second time.

Like last year, we'll conclude the day with **an evaluation form**. Please take your time to complete this carefully and thoughtfully. Your **feedback will be the single strongest influence** in determining how Professional Development evolves for September 2018.

If you'd rather share your thoughts in person, by phone, or in another form, please email Julianne at [ProfDev@HawaiiACDA.org](mailto:ProfDev@HawaiiACDA.org) or grab a Core member. We want to hear from you.

Thank you for joining us.



February 15–17, 2018

In 2015 HI-ACDA teamed up with the Hawai'i Youth Opera Chorus (HYOC) to develop Nā Leo Hou. The festival brings together the best of HYOC's Lōkahi festival and HI-ACDA's Ho'olōkahi festival. The event premiered in 2016 and was a roaring success. It included individual school performances, a mass choir with expert clinician, non-ranked adjudication, and plenty of opportunities for students to have fun.

For more information, see the festival's producers, Zach Moore & Justin Ka'upu, by email at [nlh@hawaiiacda.org](mailto:nlh@hawaiiacda.org).



## e hīmeni kākou

The Annual Collegiate Choral Festival of Hawai'i

March 17, 2018

E Hīmeni Kākou is HI-ACDA's longest running festival and brings together about 200 collegiate singers each year. The fest features a guest clinician—Dr. Jeb Mueller from the University of Houston—for a series of on-campus clinics, mass choir rehearsals, and a public concert. Singers also enjoy the chance to hear each college's choirs sing several selections of their own.

For more information, see the festival's producers, Alec Schumacker & Jeremy Wong, at [ehk@hawaiiacda.org](mailto:ehk@hawaiiacda.org).

# CONDUCTOR CONNECTIONS

A project of the Hawai'i Chapter of the  
American Choral Directors Association

Conductor Connections is an ongoing endeavor of HI-ACDA designed to facilitate interaction between visiting choral directors and local choral directors. While there's seldom a shortage of visitors around Hawai'i, this program helps actually *connect* with them. Check your HI-ACDA e-newsletters to know when the next guest is coming. Then, just RSVP and join us for dinner, pūpū and drinks, or another social event. Past guests have included Rodney Eichenberger (FSU), Gabriel Crouch (Princeton), and Christian Grases (USC).

# Hawai'i

AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



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search **Hawai'i ACDA**

# **Professional Development Day**

*a day of learning for conductors, teachers, and singers*

[www.HawaiiACDA.org](http://www.HawaiiACDA.org)