

TCDA Winter Conference
UT-Arlington Fine Arts Building
January 15, 2022

9:30-10:00 am - Room 148

Opening Keynote Address:

Being Human Together: Discovering Your Inner Super-Hero

Coty Raven Morris, Portland State University

10:00-10:50 am - Room 148

Addressing Mental Health in the Music Classroom

Jessica Walls, UME Preparatory Academy

Choral and elementary music have a profound effect on our students who struggle with mental health disorders. Walls will outline common mental health disorders, give practical advice on how to support these students, and give examples of coping skills and opportunities to learn to self-regulate.

11:00-11:50 am - Room 148

The UIL Road Map: Tips for Navigating UIL Processes and Procedures

Jodi Coke, Hollywood Middle School

Dinah Menger, Director of Vocal & Elementary Music, Fort Worth ISD

Amy Triggs, Ellison High School

Preparing for UIL can be a daunting task, especially for new teachers. In addition to selecting repertoire and teaching their choirs, directors must be versed in UIL procedures and rules and clearly communicate those to their choirs as well. Our round table of experienced choral directors will discuss their methods for planning and preparing their choirs and themselves for the UIL Concert & Sightreading process.

11:00-11:50 am - Room 258

Utilizing Falsetto to Develop the Adolescent Male Head Voice

Brian Downen, University of Texas at El Paso

We all know young male singers struggle with high notes. Downen will demonstrate how to help them find their head voice through a sequential set of exercises utilizing falsetto and blending the falsetto voice into the modal voice. Utilizing falsetto as a tool in choral warm-ups can help improve intonation, increase beauty of tone, expand range, and heighten confidence.

11:00-11:50 am - Room 303

Workstations for the Elementary Music Room

Julie Boettiger, Coordinator of Elementary Music, Fort Bend ISD

Boettiger will share ideas for how to incorporate workstations in to the music room. Now that we are back together in class, use the tools learned in this session to create a set up that fits your campus, your students and your lessons. Boettiger will share ideas of how you can move from teacher to facilitator of your classroom! Join in the fun, and don't miss this session!

1:00-1:25 pm - Lone Star Auditorium, MAC (Maverick Activity Center)

Performance: VOICES of Fort Worth

Dr. Jerome M. Bierschenk, conductor

1:40-2:30 pm - Room 148

The ABCs of Vocal Pedagogy for Choral Ensembles

Cody Parrott, Doctoral Student in Choral Conducting, University of Texas at Austin

Why are you using that vocal exercise or warm-up? What do you think you're achieving? More than anything, the most common skills lacking among Choir Directors are the skills of diagnosing and correcting vocal issues with their singers in groups. Throughout this demonstration, Parrott will provide a step by step guide to the basic ABCs of Vocal Pedagogy, What to listen for in your singers, and How to address common issues with any age group of choral singer. Many issues such as intonation, phrasing, and blend can be handled by giving sufficient and efficient attention to building the vocal skills of your singers every day during rehearsal.

1:40-2:30 pm - Room 258

Finding Joy While Preparing for UIL (and Everything Else!)

Christian De La Cruz, Reagan High School

Greg Haugen, Lamar High School

Eunice Marrero, Wilson Middle School

Stress can run high during the school year, especially as we prepare for UIL Contest, and it can deteriorate our love for singing and the joy it brings us and our students. Our panel will discuss how they find and maintain joy, even during the most demanding times of the year.

1:40-2:30 pm - Room 303

Grants, Donations and Funding: Don't Wish For It, Write For It!

Beth Duhon, Travis Elementary

Wish your music room had more technology, classroom sets of instruments and movement props? Don't wish for it. Write for it! Duhon has received thousands of dollars in grant funding

for technology, a piano lab, manipulatives, instruments and travel. She will lead you through some of the simple and effective ways to get the classroom of your dreams even if your budget is small or nonexistent. How do you get streamers for a full grade level for pennies? How do you turn your school open house or concert into a fundraising opportunity? What does the Polar Express or a free dress day have to do with your classroom budget? What do your classroom and NASCAR have in common besides being crazy and loud? Did you know that rubrics are not just for students? Join us for scrappy, real world solutions to benefit you and your students without it becoming a part time job. Let's turn words into money!

2:40-3:30 pm - Room 148

UIL Sightreading Roundtable Discussion: Best Practices

Alex Carr, Hebron High School

Jimmy Garrett, Brennan High School

Kristin Likos, Seven Lakes Junior High

Emily Saenz, Benbrook Middle High School

This roundtable will answer questions from the TCDA membership on best practices in preparation for UIL Sightreading.

2:40-3:30 pm - Room 258

Understanding the Role of Clinicians in Preparing Choral Repertoire

Derrick Brookins, Klein Oak High School

Joel Duarte, Grand Prairie ISD Fine Arts Academy

Cheryl Wilson, Retired (formerly Garland HS)

All choir directors know that it is wise and beneficial to have “fresh ears” listen to their choirs as they prepare for upcoming performances, but how do we ensure that our choirs get the most out of their time with a guest clinician? This roundtable, featuring three experienced master teachers and clinicians, will discuss how to prepare your choir for the clinic process as well as what each choir should hope to gain from a clinician. They will also examine what clinicians should do to prepare before they arrive at a clinic and what to prioritize once the clinic begins.

2:40-3:30 pm - Room 303

Elementary/Beginning MS Reading Session

Contest & Festival Selections

Clinician: Stephen Hawthorne Hill, Timberview Middle School

Accompanist: Tracy Hall, Summers Middle School

3:40-4:30 pm - Room 148

MS/JH Reading Session

Plan B-Z: Rep Possibilities for Your UIL Emergencies

Clinicians: Jennifer Portele, Jobe Middle School & Kelly Moss, Lake Highlands Junior High
Accompanist: Tracy Hall, Summers Middle School

3:40-4:30 pm - Room 258

HS Reading Session

Rep to the Rescue: HS Repertoire for Limited Rehearsal Schedules

Clinicians: Adrian Kirtley, Timber Creek High School & Ryan Forkner, North Mesquite High School
Accompanist: Nathan Ratliff, Hebron High School

3:40-4:30 pm - Room 303

MS/JH All-State & Elementary Honor Choir Audition Preparation

Olivia Lane, Trinity Springs MS & Jennifer Logan, Trinity Meadows Intermediate School

4:30-5:00 pm - Room 148

Closing Keynote Address:

Re-Claim, Re-Frame, Re-Name: *Why Our Why Matters!*

Dinah Menger, Director of Vocal & Elementary Music, Fort Worth ISD

In these tenuous times, it is imperative that our choral profession continues to sing the story of strength, of our grand history and oral traditions, and the positive effects that the choral art form has on generations of children. This discussion will encourage directors in being seen, being heard, and being valued within their campus community, as well as within our discipline state-wide.