



2017 National Conference

Interest Sessions (each time open to both tracks)

How a Conductor Thinks: Real-Time Decision Making in the Rehearsal

Wednesday 2:45pm - 3:35pm and
Thursday 2:45pm - 3:35pm

Minneapolis Convention Center
Main Auditorium

Do I stop for that? What are the most effective techniques to “fix” things? Are first rehearsals different from second rehearsals? What are the roles of the conductor’s energy, high expectations, humor, and improvisation in creating efficient and productive rehearsals? Using an ensemble composed of volunteer singers from the audience, the clinician will demonstrate and reflect on the conductor’s preparation and decision-making process as he leads a live rehearsal.



Jerry Blackstone is a Grammy Award-winning conductor and director of choirs and chair of the conducting department at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance, where he leads the graduate program in choral conducting and administers a choral program of eleven choirs. He has appeared as festival guest conductor and workshop presenter in thirty states and New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, and Shanghai. In 2006 he received the Maynard Klein Life-

time Achievement Award for significant contributions to choral music from Michigan ACDA.

Interfaith/Multicultural Programming: Jewish Choral Music from the Sephardic and Ashkenazic Traditions

Thursday 10:00am - 10:50am and
Thursday 11:10am - 12:00pm

Hilton Minneapolis, 2nd floor
Marquette Ballroom 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9

Sephardic Jews are descendants of Spain where Ladino was the spoken language. Ashkenazi Jews come from the “Pale of Settlement” in Eastern Europe where Yiddish was the vernacular. This session will introduce and explore a sampling of the choral repertoire available in these two languages, each a hybrid language of its own. Ladino is similar to Spanish with Latin roots, and Yiddish is similar to German. Music selected will be appropriate for any high school, college, church, or community choir. The session will introduce conductors to music that can be programmed to help break down cultural barriers by focusing on our similarities rather than differences.

Noreen Green is an internationally renowned conductor and lecturer on Jewish Music. She founded the LA Jewish Symphony in 1994 and



the American Jewish University Choir in 2014. Green received her doctorate in choral music from USC. For seven years, she was conductor of the CSU-Northridge Women’s Chorale; for five years she conducted the theater department’s main stage musical; and for one year, the Chamber Singers. She now serves as music scholar in residence at Valley Beth Shalom in Encino, California.

I Want to Sing Pentatonix Songs! How to Authentically Arrange Pop Music for Your Choirs

Friday 2:45pm - 3:35pm and
Saturday 10:45am - 11:35am

Hilton Minneapolis, 2nd floor
Marquette Ballroom 1, 2, 3, 8, and 9

My middle and high school singers constantly told me, “I want to sing Pentatonix songs!” We are fortunate to live in an era where group singing is actually cool again, and it is our job to capitalize on this trend. This session will provide information on how to select and arrange pop music for your ensemble. You will leave with a step-by-step arranging template that can be applied to many songs, methodology for helping your students select appropriate songs both in tone and musical level.