

Omaha



CODA COLLEGE ORCHESTRA
DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



National Conference
January 16-18, 2025
Omaha, Nebraska

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Omaha for the 2025 CODA National Conference! As a native Nebraskan, it is a joy to get to bring you all to one of my favorite cities in the country as well as one of its best kept secrets.

We have an exciting three days of sessions, concerts, and social time planned for you all this week. Thanks to all of the presenters and performers for what is sure to be an informative event. Thanks also to the Omaha Symphony and their staff – not only have they been a joy to work with, but they donated our keynote speaker and masterclass clinician AND the masterclass orchestra for our conference.

Very special thanks to Dr. Matthew Brooks, Maxwell Berry, Dr. Karen Fannin, Jesse McBee, and all of the faculty and staff at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) for welcoming us to their beautiful facilities. UNO has been so easy to work with and this is an excellent conference venue for us!

Finally, thanks to each of you. It has been one of the greatest highlights of my professional life to serve as your president. Thank you for placing your trust in me years ago in electing me Vice-President. Thanks to the National Board for entertaining my sometimes crazy ideas and being so supportive in putting this conference together. Thanks especially to recent Past Presidents Jim Holleman, Marguerite Richardson, and Kimcherie Lloyd for your help and guidance. My CODA family is very near and dear to my heart, and it has been my pleasure to give back as best I could as your president. I tell people with regularity that I might not always be a conductor, but I'll always be a CODA member, and that's all because of each of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Enjoy this wonderful conference in what is sure to become your new favorite city!

Chris Dobbins
President
College Orchestra Directors Association

SPECIAL THANKS

CODA Executive Committee of the Board

CODA National Board

Dr. Brad Jopek, CODA Executive Administrator

Dr. Naomi Fanshier, CODA Website Content Manager

Dr. Karen Fannin, University of Nebraska at Omaha School of Music Director

Dr. Matthew Brooks, University of Nebraska at Omaha Host

Maxwell Barry, University of Nebraska at Omaha Orchestra Teaching Assistant

Jesse McBee, Strauss Performing Arts Center Operations Manager

Michelle Bourque, Courtyard/Residence Inn Sales Manager

Omaha Symphony Orchestra

Max & Mary Helen Fairley, Crown Trophy

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**2025 National Conference
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Omaha, Nebraska**

All times listed as Central Standard Time (CST)

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Registration

Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village Lobby
1625 S 67th Street, Omaha, NE

ST = Student Track

Thursday, January 16, 2025

7:00 – 8:30 am

Registration

Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village Lobby
1625 S 67th Street, Omaha, NE

8:45 am

Shuttle

Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village to
Strauss Performing Arts Center
6305 S University Drive Road North
Omaha, NE

9:00 am

Coffee & Conversation

Strauss Performing Arts Center Lobby
6305 S University Drive Road North
Omaha, NE

9:30 – 11:45 am

CODA Member Presentations

9:30 – 10:30 am

*A 'Masterclass from Mahler': Using Historical
Reorchestration to Inspire Student Interpretation*

Nathan Haines

Brigham Young University
Room 105

D'un printemps triste:

Preserving Lili Boulanger's Legacy

Silas Huff

Northern Illinois University
Recital Hall

*There is no playbook. - How intentional
routine and a solid understanding of self
can lead to a fulfilling success after grad
school. (ST)*

Kimberly Souther
Clemson University
Room 160

10:45 – 11:45 am

Music Director as Chief Music Executive

Louis Menchaca

Concordia University Wisconsin

Room 105

*The Power of Small: Enhancing Pedagogy and
Engagement Through Versatility and
Collaborative Programming*

Heather Dobbins

Washington & Lee University

Jakob Hofer

Southern Virginia University

Recital Hall

*Interpret, Improvise, Inspire! Saying “Yes” for
Stronger Connections Between Conductor,
Ensemble, Score, and Audience (ST)*

Robert Baldwin

University of Utah

Room 160

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Lunch

**Shuttle to Aksarben Village departs the Strauss
Center at 11:55am and will return at 1:20pm*

1:30 – 2:30 pm

CODA Opening Meeting

Recital Hall

2:45 – 5:00 pm

CODA Member Presentations

2:45 – 3:45 pm

*Balancing Act: Navigating College
Orchestra Programs Through Times of*

Scarcity Robert Baldwin

University of Utah

Germán Augusto Gutiérrez

Texas Christian University

Alexander Jiménez

Florida State University

Joel Neves

Michigan Technological University

Room 105

*The Fulbright: A Conductor's Experience
and Application Tips and Suggestions*

Kira Omelchenko

James Madison University

Recital Hall

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Vintage Radio As You've Never Seen It!

Marguerite Richardson

Jacksonville University

Scott Watkins

Jacksonville University

Room 105

*The 1874 Project: A Commissioning Initiative
at the University of Illinois*

Carolyn Watson

University of Illinois

Recital Hall

5:00 pm

Shuttle & Dinner

Strauss Performing Arts Center to
Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village
1625 S 67th Street, Omaha, NE

7:00 pm

Shuttle

Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village to
Strauss Performing Arts Center
6305 S University Drive Road North
Omaha, NE

7:30 pm

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Andrés Felipe Jaime, *Director*

Strauss Concert Hall
6305 S University Drive Road North
Omaha, NE

9:00 pm

Shuttle

Strauss Performing Arts Center to
Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village
1625 S 67th Street, Omaha, NE

Friday, January 17, 2025

7:00 – 8:30 am

Registration

Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village Lobby
1625 S 67th Street, Omaha, NE

8:45 am

Shuttle

Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village to
Strauss Performing Arts Center
6305 S University Drive Road North
Omaha, NE

9:00 am

Coffee & Conversation

Strauss Performing Arts Center Lobby
6305 S University Drive Road North
Omaha, NE

9:30 – 10:30 am

CODA Member Presentations

Community Volunteer Recruitment Strategies

Brandon Derfler

Westminster University

Room 105

Happy Birthday, Anton Bruckner:

A College Orchestra Director's Guide to

One of His Lesser-Known Symphonies

Thomas Taylor Dickey

Oklahoma State University

Recital Hall

Practical Guide for Orchestra Conductors

when Collaborating with Choirs (ST)

James Holleman

Hillsdale College

Room 160

10:45 am

*New Directions at the National Music Museum:
Bringing Historic Playable Instruments to the
Performance & Academic Settings*

Dwight Vaught
National Music Museum
Recital Hall

Non-Academic Conducting Careers

- Where to Begin? (ST)

Serena Reuten
Omaha Symphony Orchestra
Room 160

11:45 am – 1:30 pm

Lunch

**Shuttle to Aksarben Village departs the Strauss
Center at 11:55am and will return at 1:20pm*

1:45 pm

CODA Member Presentation

*Buxtehude's Chaconne in E Minor
Through the Eyes of Carlos Chavez*

Chun-Ming Chen
University of South Dakota
Strauss Concert Hall

3:00 pm

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Chun-Ming Chen, Director

Strauss Concert Hall
6305 S University Drive Road North
Omaha, NE

4:30 pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Recital Hall

ANKUSH KUMAR BAHL

Music Director, Omaha Symphony Orchestra

6:00 pm

Banquet*

Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom

**Conference attendees and registered guests*

8:00 pm

Shuttle

Strauss Performing Arts Center to
Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village
1625 S 67th Street, Omaha, NE

Saturday, January 18, 2025

7:00 – 8:30 am

Registration

Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village Lobby
1625 S 67th Street, Omaha, NE

8:45 am

Shuttle

Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village to
Strauss Performing Arts Center
6305 S University Drive Road North
Omaha, NE

9:00 am

Women's Advocacy Initiative of CODA (WAIOC) – Breakfast Mixer

Naomi Fanshier
Northwest University
Strauss Performing Arts Center Room 105
6305 S University Drive Road North
Omaha, NE

9:30 am

Shuttle

Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village to
Strauss Performing Arts Center
6305 S University Drive Road North
Omaha, NE

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Conducting Masterclass

Ankush Kumar Bahl, clinician
Strauss Concert Hall

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Lunch

**Shuttle to Aksarben Village departs the Strauss
Center at 12:10pm and will return at 1:20pm*

1:45 – 2:45 pm

CODA Member Presentations

Traveling Through Time–Conceptualizing Tempo

James A. Holleman

Hillsdale College

Room 105

*Introduction, Presentation and Familiarization
to Music Conductors of African Descent*

Darryl Harris

Jackson State University

Recital Hall

Conducting with Clarity & Beauty:

The Embodiment of Gesture (ST)

Alexander Jiménez

Florida State University

Room 160

3:00 pm

CODA Regional Meetings

Western – Recital Hall

South Central – Room 105

North Central – Room 109

Southeast – Conference Room

Northeast – Strauss Lobby

Students – Room 160

3:45 pm

CODA Closing Meeting

4:30 pm

CODA Board Meeting

Location TBD

**Shuttle for Board to Aksarben Village to
depart at 5:45pm.*

4:40 pm

Shuttle

**Shuttle to Aksarben Village, will continue to Omaha's Old Market (downtown).*

NOTE: If selecting this option, a shuttle will not be available to the Holland Center and the Omaha Symphony concert in the evening.

7:15 pm

Shuttle

*Departure location TBD

8:00 pm

OMAHA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Holland Performing Arts Center

1200 Douglas Street, Omaha, NE

9:30 pm

Shuttle

Holland Center to

Courtyard Omaha Askarben Village

1625 S 67th Street, Omaha, NE

**Keynote Address &
Conducting Masterclass Clinician**
ANKUSH KUMAR BAHL



Music Director, Omaha Symphony Orchestra

Friday, January 17, 2025, 4:30pm, Strauss Performing Arts Center Recital Hall

Saturday, January 18, 2025, 10:00am, Strauss Performing Arts Center Concert Hall

Photo by Fernando Diaz Vidaurri



Currently in his fourth season as Music Director of the Omaha Symphony, Ankush Kumar Bahl has delivered resonant performances of masterworks (new and old) and continues to champion American composers and artists while pursuing innovative, community-based concert design. Committed to expanding the American repertoire, the Omaha symphony and Maestro Bahl have commissioned seven new works in their first four seasons together and in 2023, their live recording of Andy Akiho's *Sculptures* garnered the Omaha Symphony its first Grammy nominations in the orchestra's history. On the

podium, Bahl is recognized by orchestras and audiences alike for his impressive conducting technique, thoughtful interpretations, innovative concert experiences, and engaging presence. In concert, he has left the *Washington Post* "wanting to hear more" and has been praised by the *New York Times* for his "clear authority and enthusiasm" and "ability to inspire."

Highlights of previous classical series guest engagements include performances with the New York Philharmonic, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Buffalo Philharmonic, Florida Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre National de France, Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de México, Orquesta Sinfonica Municipal (São Paulo), Richmond Symphony, Virginia Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, and the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington, D.C.). Summer festival appearances engagements include the Copenhagen Philharmonic at Tivoli, Sun Valley Summer Symphony, Wintergreen Summer Music Festival, Chautauqua Institute, Wolf Trap with the NSO, the Brevard Music Center, and the Mostly Modern Festival. An experienced collaborator, Bahl has worked with many prominent soloists, among them Daniil Trifonov, Lang Lang, Emanuel Ax, Sarah Chang, Lara St. John, Karen Gomyo, Stella Chen, Aaron Diehl, Bhezod Abduraimov, Benjamin Grosvenor, Orion Weiss, Conrad Tao, Charlie Albright, Anthony McGill, Kelley O'Connor, Philadelphia Orchestra Concertmaster David Kim, and Vesko Eschkenazy, concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

A protégé of former New York Philharmonic Music Director Kurt Masur, he served as his assistant conductor at the Orchestre National de France, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. From 2011 to 2015, he was assistant conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra under Christoph Eschenbach, leading a variety of concerts with the orchestra in over 100 performances. Bahl has been fortunate to also count Maestros Jaap van Zweden, Zdenek Macal, David Zinman, and Gianandrea Noseda among his mentors.

American born and of Indian descent, Ankush Kumar Bahl is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area and received a double degree in music and rhetoric from the University of California at Berkeley. He was a conducting fellow at the Aspen Music Festival with David Zinman and completed his master's degree in Orchestral Conducting at the Manhattan School of Music with Zdenek Macal, David Gilbert, and George Manahan. Bahl was also a frequent collaborator with jazz legend Wayne Shorter, conducting his quartet with orchestra in concerts at the Kennedy Center and Detroit Free Jazz Festival.

CODA Member Presentations



Dr. NATHAN HAINES

Brigham Young University, Assistant Professor



A 'Masterclass from Mahler': Using Historical Reorchestration to Inspire Student Interpretation
Thursday, January 16, 2025, 9:30am
Room 105

Nathan Haines is the director of orchestras at Brigham Young University's School of Music and holds a Ph.D. in Orchestral Conducting and Music Education from Florida State University. He is a passionate advocate for the orchestral arts, particularly through innovative projects. In addition to his teaching and performances at BYU, he has guest-conducted for organizations like Ballet West. His dissertation, "Conducting with Multimedia in Live Performance," explores techniques and technologies for the modern concert stage.

This presentation examines Gustav Mahler's reorchestration of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 through the case study of a recent performance at BYU. Mahler's reorchestration includes dynamic adjustments, modifications to wind and brass parts, bowing indications, and refined articulations, offering a "masterclass from Mahler" on interpreting Beethoven and other landmark works. The presentation features side-by-side comparisons of Beethoven's original orchestration and Mahler's reorchestration, performed as a preview to the full symphony. By engaging with Mahler's revisions, conductors and students cultivate an openness to creative adaptation that can inspire their own approaches to classical repertoire and deepen their understanding of performance tradition.

Dr. SILAS HUFF

Northern Illinois University, Associate Professor



D'un printemps triste: Preserving Lili Boulanger's Legacy
Thursday, January 16, 2025, 9:30am
Recital Hall

Dr. Silas Huff is Director of Orchestras at Northern Illinois University and Director of Maestri Series Workshops and the International Conducting Institute. Huff's past positions include Director of Orchestras at Washburn University (KS), Music Director of the Astoria Symphony (NYC), U.S. Army Orchestra (DC), and Round Rock Symphony (TX). In his earlier career as a military music

officer (U.S. Army and Air Force), Major Huff conducted concerts at the White House, U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, Pentagon, other landmarks in Washington, D.C., and across the USA. Huff holds degrees from Texas State University, UCLA, and CU Boulder.

Lili Boulanger (1893-1918) was a composer with a unique and compelling musical language, and the first woman to win the Grand Prix de Rome. Were it not for her tragic death at the age of twenty-four, she could have been the most influential female composer of the twentieth century. Boulanger's output includes a set of orchestral tone poems that her sister Nadia Boulanger (1887-1979) transcribed during Lili's final months. This session will explore the mysterious circumstance surrounding the composition, dictation, and transcription of *D'un soir triste* and *D'un matin du printemps*, the various discrepancies, inconsistencies, and presumed errors in the scores, and the history of recent editions.

Dr. KIMBERLY SOUTHER

Clemson University, Visiting Associate Professor



There is no playbook. - How intentional routine and a solid understanding of self can lead to a fulfilling success after grad school. (ST)

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 9:30am
Room 160

Recently appointed as Visiting Associate Professor of Orchestras at Clemson University, Souther enjoys incorporating her research in audience engagement with thriving university orchestras as they seek to improve their connection with their community. Prior to her move to South Carolina, she conducted numerous symphonic

works, operas, and musical collaborations with the James Madison Symphony Orchestra, Opera Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Musical Pit Orchestra and earned her doctorate in Orchestral Conducting in December 2023. During her time in Virginia, Souther served as music director for both the Nelson County Community Orchestra and Shenandoah Valley Youth Concert Orchestra and was the Director of Shenandoah Valley Preparatory Music and instructor of music at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She currently serves as Festival Director for the Heifetz International Music Festival in Staunton, Virginia.

Guest conducting engagements and workshops include instruction from Joshua Weilerstein, Carl Topilow, Donald Schleicher, Larry Rachleff, Carl St. Claire, Erin Freeman, Michelle Merrill, Tom Newall, Chris Zimmerman, Matthias Elmer, Kevin Sütterlin and Foster Beyers. Past guest conducting performances include the Florida State University Philharmonia, Meredith College Philharmonic, Kalamata Music Festival, Wintergreen Music Festival, Hampton Roads Chamber Players, Sinfonietta Memphis, and Peninsula Players as well as numerous regional and statewide orchestra events.

Souther looks forward with great anticipation to her upcoming season with the Clemson University Orchestra program and multiple projects featuring a silent film collaboration with Warner Brothers Recording Studios in Los Angeles, California.

The playbook is an essential part of any sports team. It is the roadmap for success, outlining strategies, formations, and plays to execute on the field. What is your playbook? How do you weave the "plays" that worked in your training with your own flair and creativity in a new environment? What are the key components of taking both risks and responsibility? We will explore practical application of intentional routine, goals, inspiration, and all that is the first year or two after grad school. We'll also leave room for you to guide the conversation wherever it needs to go so that you all can best benefit from the time together.

Dr. LOUIS MENCHACA

Concordia University Wisconsin, Professor



Music Director as Chief Music Executive

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 10:45am
Room 105

Dr. Louis A Menchaca has coordinated all aspects of the instrumental music division-ensembles, instruction and administration. He actively engages in teaching conducting and performance of wind band, orchestral and jazz ensembles.

Dr. Menchaca has led music concert tours and scholarly presentations in 38 states and on 6 European tours. His ensembles have been featured in local, state, regional and international media outlets including telecasts, radio, print, and webcasts. He has served as music department chair for the past 27 years.

Most music directors are not trained in non-music administrative leadership. We as music directors can utilize our musical organization aptitude into tangible leadership skills serving both our departments and schools. By utilizing the “soft skills” we teach our ensemble members, we can create and implement a managing style that is inclusive as well as engaging. The ability to frame challenges into categories that deserve unique attention will help to ensure an appropriate outcome. Because the department head is tasked with daily and long-term demands, with variable timeline deadlines, categorizing similar tasks will create a more manageable process.

Dr. HEATHER DOBBINS
Washington & Lee University, Lecturer

Dr. JAKOB HOFER

Southern Virginia University, Assistant Professor



*The Power of Small: Enhancing Pedagogy
and Engagement Through Versatility
and Collaborative Programming*

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 10:45am
Recital Hall

Heather Dobbins is the Internship Coordinator for the Department of Journalism and teaches applied double reed lessons for the Department of Music at Washington and Lee University. She is an active freelance bassoonist and performs regularly with area orchestras.

Previously, Heather served as the Visiting Director of Instrumental Activities at W&L, Director of Bands at Southern Virginia University, Director of Woodwind Studies and Co-Director of the Sul Ross Marching Band at Sul Ross University, Director of Bands at Marfa ISD, and was a busy freelancer and studio teacher in Texas. An avid marching junkie, she also worked with numerous high school marching bands throughout Texas, Utah, and California and took a few summers to follow the drum corps beat.

Heather received her Master of Music degree from the University of Utah, where she studied Bassoon Performance with Lori Wike. While at Utah, she was a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Utah Bands, working with the Marching Utes and the Wind Ensemble. Heather received her Bachelor in Music degree from Texas State University where she studied Bassoon Performance with Daris Hale and Ian Davidson.

When she's not trying to climb all the local mountains, she happily resides in Lexington with husband, Chris, daughter, Ginny, and numerous furry children.



Jakob Hofer is the director of the Camerata Orchestra and the violin instructor at Southern Virginia University. He recently studied with Kenneth Kiesler at the Conductor's Retreat at Medomak, and studied conducting as a secondary emphasis with Robert Baldwin at the University of Utah during his doctoral degree. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in violin performance from the Peabody Conservatory. As a founding member of the Rosco String Quartet Jakob won first place in the MTNA National Competition, was a finalist for the American Prize, and has

performed with the Utah Symphony and the Ballet West Orchestra.

Many ensembles in smaller music programs struggle with instrumentation imbalances and a disparity in ability levels which can result in programming difficulties. Hofer and Dobbins will draw from their considerable experience with small ensembles to explore programming ideas that allow small string or chamber orchestras to thrive. Collaboration can create transformative experiences for our students and contribute significantly to their education. While we can, with some creative legwork, provide large symphonic experiences for our students, we can also help them discover that a smaller ensemble means more versatility and therefore more opportunity. Participation in a small ensemble can be rewarding, fun, and engaging. Through creative programming and collaboration, we can offer a unique and beneficial experience and help prepare our students for successful and innovative musical careers.

Dr. ROBERT BALDWIN
University of Utah, Professor



Interpret, Improvise, Inspire!
*Saying "Yes" for Stronger Connections Between
Conductor, Ensemble, Score, and Audience (ST)*
Thursday, January 16, 2025, 10:45am
Room 160

Robert Baldwin is Director of Orchestras and Professor of Conducting at the University of Utah and is in his 20th season as Music Director and Conductor for the Salt Lake Symphony. He also is the founding conductor of Sinfonia Salt Lake, a professional chamber orchestra in

Salt Lake City, and holds a visiting faculty appointment at the Wuhan University Center for the Arts in China.

Many of us have left the podium at one time or another exclaiming, "Wow, I didn't expect that to happen!" From the mundane to the dramatic, conductors need to adjust, adapt, and often "improvise their way" through rehearsals and performances. This session will discuss the theatrical improvisation techniques developed by Viola Spolin made relevant to the practice of conducting. A short history and philosophy of the method will be followed by concepts, mindsets, and specific exercises tailored for conductors at any stage of development.

Dr. ROBERT BALDWIN
University of Utah, Professor

Dr. GERMÁN AUGUSTO GUTIÉRREZ

Texas Christian University, Professor

Dr. ALEXANDER JIMÉNEZ

Florida State University, Professor

Dr. JOEL NEVES

Michigan Technological University, Assistant Professor



Balancing Act: Navigating College Orchestra Programs Through Times of Scarcity
Thursday, January 16, 2025, 2:45pm
Room 105



Robert Baldwin is Director of Orchestras and Professor of Conducting at the University of Utah and is in his 20th season as Music Director and Conductor for the Salt Lake Symphony. He also is the founding conductor of Sinfonia Salt Lake, a professional chamber orchestra in Salt Lake City, and holds a visiting faculty appointment at the Wuhan University Center for the Arts in China.



Dr. Germán Augusto Gutiérrez has been the Director of Orchestras and Professor of Orchestral Studies at Texas Christian University (TCU) in Fort Worth since 1996, where he also leads the Latin American Music Center and the biennial Latin American Music Festival. Since 2000, he has served as Music Director of the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra (FWYO). Additionally, from 1997 to 2009, he was a guest conductor for the Dallas Symphony Hispanic Festival. Dr. Gutiérrez has collaborated with professional orchestras across the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Oceania. In recognition of

his achievements, he received TCU's prestigious Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Research and Creative Activity in 2003.



Alexander Jiménez serves as professor of conducting and director of orchestral studies at the Florida State University College of Music, a position he has held since 2000.

In addition to his work at FSU, Jiménez has appeared with a wide variety of orchestras throughout the United States, Europe, and the Middle East including engagements with leading orchestras such as the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Brno Philharmonic, and the Israeli-Natanya Chamber Orchestra. Dr. Jiménez appears regularly with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra and the Tallahassee Ballet Orchestra. Under his direction the FSU orchestras have championed new music and collaborated with many of today's leading composers. Jiménez has recorded with the Naxos, Navona, Mark, CBC/Ovation, Col Legno, and Neos labels to critical acclaim.

Navona, Mark, CBC/Ovation, Col Legno, and Neos labels to critical acclaim.

A highly respected educator, Jiménez is in demand as a guest conductor, teacher, and adjudicator with youth orchestras and adjudication panels throughout the United States and Europe, including the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, Festival Disney, and the European Festival of Music for Young People in Belgium. From 2010-2012 he served as president of the College Orchestra Directors Association and served as music director of the Tallahassee Youth Orchestras from 2000-2017. Jiménez is the recipient of numerous Florida State University teaching awards.



Joel Neves is Director of Orchestral Activities at Michigan Tech where he conducts the Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra. The KSO was awarded 2nd Place nationally in the American Prize in Orchestral Performance for its recordings of *Jupiter* and *Sinfonia antartica*. The orchestra's recent "Season of Premieres" included Joel's arrangement of Black Sabbath's *She's Gone* for strings, rhythm section, and solo flugelhorn and his new symphonic tone poem—*Kalaupapa*—about his ohana's imprisonment in Molokai's leper colony.

Joel is a regular guest conductor of professional, college, and all-state orchestras. He has conducted the Hubei Symphony Orchestra (Wuhan, China) and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Entre Ríos (Argentina) and is currently Artistic Director and Conductor of the Pine Mountain Music Festival, a professional opera music festival in Michigan. For 2024, Joel has conducted the Idaho All-State Orchestra, the Foster Orchestra Camp (Kentucky), the Filarmonica de Stat Sibiu (Romania), and the UH-Manoa Symphony Orchestra (Hawaii). He served as President of CODA in 2018-2019.

Joel studied conducting with Kory Katseanes, Timothy Russell, and William Reber. He received his Doctor of Musical Arts in orchestral, choral, and opera conducting from Arizona State University and bachelors and masters degrees from Brigham Young University. He resides in Houghton, Michigan with his wife (mezzo-soprano, Lara Neves) and dog, Puccini.

A roundtable discussion led by four senior CODA members with experience in developing and sustaining college orchestra programs, this session will foster a space for discussing the unique demands faced by college orchestra directors. Topics will delve into key challenges, including the workload of conductors, recruitment and retention, management of resources, and increasing competition for students' time. The discussion will also explore diversifying programming, audience engagement, navigating departmental relationships, and encouraging cross-discipline collaboration. Through this dynamic exchange, participants will gain insights and actionable strategies for workload management, building program visibility, and promoting inclusivity and audience connection.

Dr. KIRA OMELCHENKO
James Madison University, Associate Professor



*The Fulbright: A Conductor's Experience
and Application Tips and Suggestions*
Thursday, January 16, 2025, 2:45pm
Recital Hall

Dr. Kira Omelchenko is an Associate Professor and the Director of Orchestras at James Madison University School of Music. She received a prestigious Fulbright Scholar Award in 2024 where she resided in New Zealand for five months conducting, teaching, and mentoring students, collaborated with local composers, and conducted research in the National Library. She has guest conducted at Carnegie Hall, at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg,

Russia, and with the Vienna Opera Academy, and has held conducting residencies in Spain, Italy, Portugal, Bulgaria, Thailand, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. Upcoming conducting invitations include concerts in Maryland, Virginia, Florida, leading the 2025 *ASTA* National Conference Director's Orchestra, and residencies in Beijing, Greece, Papua New Guinea, and Sofia, Bulgaria.

Interested in applying for a Fulbright and want to learn more about the application process?

Join US Fulbright Scholar and conductor, Dr. Kira Omelchenko as she shares her Fulbright research project which took her to New Zealand (Aotearoa) for five months to conduct orchestras, mentor music students, and conduct research on symphonic New Zealand composers. She will also highlight a new collaborative music project she performed with Māori composer, Philip Brownlee. The presenter will share the Fulbright application process and provide tips and suggestions for the Fulbright proposal. There will be a Q&A at the end of the session for anyone interested in learning more about the Fulbright program.

Dr. MARGUERITE RICHARDSON

Jacksonville University, Professor

Dr. SCOTT WATKINS

Jacksonville University, Professor



Vintage Radio As You've Never Seen It!

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 4:00pm

Room 105



Dr. Marguerite Richardson is Professor of Music at Jacksonville University (FL), Director of Orchestral Studies and violin/viola professor. An enthusiastic music educator, she has presented at CODA National Conferences, as well as Florida Music Educators Association (FMEA) and Florida Orchestra Association Conferences. Most recently, Dr. Richardson conducted the 9-12 Honors Orchestra at the 2025 FMEA Conference. She holds degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music, the University of South Carolina and The Florida State University.



Dr. Scott Watkins has transcribed music for vintage radio dramas for more than a decade, and has composed and conducted music for six feature-length films. He has also arranged music from “Downton Abbey” for piano trio which was published and licensed by Universal Music. He is a nationally recognized authority on the early piano music of American composer Howard Hanson, and his edition of Hanson’s “Symphonic Rhapsody, Op. 14” was published in 2018 by Carl Fischer.

Producing vintage radio drama offers the ultimate opportunity to collaborate with colleagues, engage with community partners, attract administrative support, all while meeting artistic and academic outcomes. For the past eight years, Jacksonville University has produced radio drama as it was originally broadcast by The Mercury Theater on the Air, and The Lux Radio Theatre. Our presentation provides a detailed look at how these radio re-enactments have been produced through production photos, videos, and sound clips from performances. Reference materials will be offered to attendees. Dial in to your favorite station for vintage radio as you've never *seen* it!

Presentation Handout Linked Here.

Dr. CAROLYN WATSON

University of Illinois, Associate Professor



The 1874 Project: A Commissioning Initiative at the University of Illinois

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 4:00pm

Recital Hall

Carolyn Watson is Principal Guest Conductor of the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra, Music Director of the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra in Indiana and Director of Orchestras at the University of Illinois. Originally from Australia, she has been based in the United States since 2013 and has led performances with Amarillo Opera, Austin Symphony, Cape Symphony, Catskill Symphony, Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, Dallas Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera,

Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra, Kansas City Ballet, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, South Bend Symphony, St. Joseph Symphony, Traverse Symphony Orchestra, Tulsa Opera and World Youth Symphony Orchestra. She holds a PhD in Performance (Conducting) from the University of Sydney. www.carolyn-watson.com

2024 marks 150 years since the first documented orchestral performance at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. To commemorate this auspicious anniversary is the 1874 Project, a commissioning and recording project aimed at expanding and diversifying the orchestral canon.

Six women composers will be commissioned to write works which the University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra will premiere during 2025-26. Works will be between 7-10 minutes long and will be of a level of difficulty such that they are playable by youth orchestras, high school honor orchestras, and most collegiate orchestras in the United States.

With application across all ensemble genres, this presentation will detail the processes involved in initiating and realizing a commissioning project such as the 1874 Project. Aspects covered include the inspiration and rationale for the project, identifying suitable and interested composers, the pitch, funding, documenting and recording the project, along with publicizing it and disseminating these new works.

For more detailed information on the 1874 Project, please see this recent Illinois Public Media [feature](#).

Dr. BRANDON DERFLER

Westminster University, Assistant Professor



Community Volunteer Recruitment Strategies

Friday, January 17, 2025, 9:30am

Room 105

Brandon Derfler is an Associate Professor at Westminster University (Salt Lake City) where he directs the Westminster Chamber Orchestra. In the last four years he has grown this hybrid university/community orchestra from 21 to 67 players while programming challenging and intriguing repertoire. His PhD (University of Washington) is in music theory. Outside of academia, Dr. Derfler enjoys hiking and backpacking in the canyon country of southern Utah and dissecting the minutiae of J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth.

This presentation offers a case study in staffing a college orchestra that is largely composed of community volunteers, and then discusses some of the strategies for recruiting players that have proven particularly helpful. Hopefully some of these strategies will be useful to those who direct hybrid “town-and-gown” orchestras and non-academic community ensembles, but general recruiting principles may also be helpful to CODA members at large.

Dr. THOMAS TAYLOR DICKEY
Oklahoma State University, Associate Professor



*Happy Birthday, Anton Bruckner:
A College Orchestra Director's Guide
to One of His Lesser-Known Symphonies*
Friday, January 17, 2025, 9:30am
Recital Hall

Dr. Thomas Dickey is the Director of Orchestral Studies at Oklahoma State University, where he conducts the OSU Symphony Orchestra and guides the orchestra and graduate orchestral conducting programs. Previously, he was the Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and Music Director & Conductor of the Dubuque Symphony Youth Orchestra (IA). Dr. Dickey holds degrees from the University of Georgia, LSU, and Eastern Illinois University.

2024 marks the 200th birthday of Anton Bruckner (1824-1896), an Austrian composer whose symphonies embody late Austro-German Romanticism. Sadly, Bruckner's symphonies are not frequently performed by college orchestras. Bruckner's Symphony in D Minor, sometimes known as the "Nullte" Symphony, deserves reconsideration by college orchestra directors, since the performance time is not too lengthy, the orchestration is more conservative, and the technical demands of the string parts are within the capabilities of many student orchestras. This session will explore the life and times of Anton Bruckner and examine one of his symphonies that warrants performances by student orchestras.

Prof. JAMES A. HOLLEMAN
Hillsdale College, Professor



*A Practical Guide for Orchestra Conductors
when Collaborating with Choirs (ST)*

Friday, January 17, 2025, 9:30am

Room 160

James A. Holleman is currently in his 28th year as Music Director of Orchestras and Choirs at Hillsdale College where he served as Music Department Chairman for 25-years from 1997-2022. He is the current Music Director of the Hillsdale Arts Chorale and served as Music Director of the Jackson Chorale (MI) for 9-years. Currently the Immediate Past President of CODA, he previously served as President, Vice President, President Elect, and National Chair of Membership. The Hillsdale College Symphony Orchestra performed at the 2017

CODA National Conference at George Mason University. The orchestra was awarded Second Prize in the 2018 American Prize College Orchestra Division. Both the Hillsdale College Chamber Choir and the College Choir (the oldest established college choir in the state of Michigan) have performed in numerous venues across the country, recorded multiple CD recordings, and provided recordings for several Hillsdale College promotional videos.

Typically when orchestras and choirs collaborate for major works the orchestra conductor is on the podium for the performance and is the lead for coordinating the logistics of the collaboration often including multiple choirs of various technical skill levels. In this session we will discuss the logistics of engaging with choirs from the initial planning through to the performance including various choral/vocal techniques.

DWIGHT VAUGHT

National Music Museum, Director



*New Directions at the National Music Museum:
Bringing Historic Playable Instruments to the
Performance & Academic Settings*
Friday, January 17, 2025, 10:45am
Recital Hall

Dwight Vaught holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, a Master's degree in Music Theory/Composition, and a Master's degree in Nonprofit/Arts Administration. He has been a full-time college music instructor and also served as a guest lecturer in various capacities. As an arts administrator, Dwight has been the director of performing arts centers at four universities, overseeing guest artist bookings; coordinating fine arts activities across music, theatre, art, and dance programs; managing facilities; and, leading outreach and fundraising efforts. He came to the National Music Museum in late 2021 and is working with the staff and Board to fulfill the NMM's mission with its new buildings, renovated galleries, and rejuvenated educational programs.

SERENA REUTEN

Omaha Symphony Orchestra, Assistant Conductor



Non-Academic Conducting Careers – Where to Begin? (ST)

Friday, January 17, 2025, 10:45am
Room 160

Serena Reuten is a German-Canadian conductor currently serving as the Assistant Conductor of the Omaha Symphony. Between 2024-2026 she will also join the third cohort of the Orchestre Métropolitain's Orchestral Conducting Academy mentorship program under the guidance of Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Recent

activities include participating in the 2024 Järvi Conducting Academy in Pärnu, Estonia under the mentorship of Paavo Järvi, Neeme Järvi, and Leonid Grin. She has served as guest assistant conductor for the Toronto Symphony and National Arts Centre Orchestra, as well as guest conductor with the Winnipeg Symphony during their annual Winnipeg New Music Festival. In 2023, she was the inaugural recipient of the Bernhard Gueller Conducting Fellowship with Symphony Nova Scotia as well as one of CBC's 30 under 30 Classical Musicians. Over the past few summers she has also attended several international conducting masterclasses, studying under such conductors as Alexander Shelley and Cristian Măcelaru.

Serena recently completed her graduate studies in orchestral conducting at the Eastman School of Music with Neil Varon. Also active in Rochester's broader musical community, she served as the director of the New Horizons String Ensemble at the Eastman Community Music School and worked with ensembles such as OSSIA, the Eastman Chamber Orchestra, and the Eastman Graduate Composers Sinfonietta. Serena holds degrees in flute performance from the University of Ottawa and University of Montreal, and in her spare time enjoys learning languages and dancing.

Much of the focus on our conducting education can be on how to secure teaching positions at the middle school, high school, or college level. But what if you want to leave academia behind? Serena Reuten will talk about her journey in the non-academic conducting world, what the process is like to secure a position with a professional orchestra, how to navigate the guest conducting world, and much more.

Dr. CHUN-MING CHEN
University of South Dakota, Assistant Professor
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



Buxtehude's Chaconne in E Minor
Through the Eyes of Carlos Chavez
Friday, January 17, 2025, 1:45pm
Strauss Concert Hall

Taiwanese conductor and educator Chun-Ming Chen is currently the Director of Orchestral Activities at the University of South Dakota Music Department. Chen's conducting experience bridges the professional and academic worlds. Chen received his bachelor's degree in saxophone performance from Tunghai University, master's degrees in orchestral conducting from both The Boston Conservatory and Ithaca College, and a doctorate in orchestral conducting from the University of Iowa.

In 1937, the Mexican composer Carlos Chávez orchestrated Dietrich Buxtehude's Chaconne in E minor for a full orchestra. However, Chávez left no record of the occasion or reason he decided to orchestrate this Chaconne. In this presentation, I would like to compare the original work for the Organ and the Chávez version for orchestra with live performances during the presentation. It is a piece that is accessible to most of the college orchestras, and I would love to introduce it to my colleagues in CODA and how I incorporate it into my concert program.

Prof. JAMES A. HOLLEMAN
Hillsdale College, Professor



Traveling Through Time – Conceptualizing Tempo
Saturday, January 18, 2025, 1:45pm
Room 105

James A. Holleman is currently in his 28th year as Music Director of Orchestras and Choirs at Hillsdale College where he served as Music Department Chairman for 25-years from 1997-2022. He is the current Music Director of the Hillsdale Arts Chorale and served as Music Director of the Jackson Chorale (MI) for 9-years. Currently the Immediate Past President of CODA, he previously served as President, Vice President, President Elect, and National Chair of Membership. The Hillsdale College Symphony Orchestra performed at the 2017 CODA National Conference at George Mason University.

The orchestra was awarded Second Prize in the 2018 American Prize College Orchestra Division. Both the Hillsdale College Chamber Choir and the College Choir (the oldest established college choir in the state of Michigan) have performed in numerous venues across the country, recorded multiple CD recordings, and provided recordings for several Hillsdale College promotional videos.

The flow of time is constant and cannot be altered. Therefore, tempo is not a rate of speed but rather a distance traveled. This concept can elucidate our understanding of time/tempo, improve the execution of tempo changes, and inform baton technique. I will also present what I term as “justification in music,” both horizontally and vertically, and how recognizing structures of justification in the music helps our ensembles improve intonation, rhythmic execution, and balance.

Dr. DARRYL HARRIS
Jackson State University, Instructor



*Introduction, Presentation and Familiarization
to Music Conductors of African Descent*

Saturday, January 18, 2025, 1:45pm

Recital Hall

Darryl E. Harris, Sr., a native of Greenville, MS is Director of Orchestra at Jackson State University, Mississippi. He is formerly Adjunct Professor and Director of Orchestra at Jacksonville State University, Alabama, while also serving as Assistant Conductor and Instructor of Beginning Strings for the Etowah (AL) Youth Orchestras. He is former music director/conductor of the Chagrin Valley (OH) Chamber Orchestra, assistant conductor of the Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. His degrees include: Moody Bible Institute, Western Illinois University, Empire State College, Case Western Reserve University, The Cleveland Institute of Music and the University of Southern Mississippi.

A presentation of recognition and familiarization while introducing the important work and contributions of Conductors of African descent. Highlighting some of the obvious obstacles incurred as well as some achievements of success. Conductors to perhaps be presented would be: Joseph Bologne the Chevalier de Saint-George, Charles D. Dixon, W. Rudolph Dunbar, George Byrd, James Anderson DePreist, Jessica Rivero Altarriba to Kalena Bovell.

Dr. ALEXANDER JIMÉNEZ
Florida State University, Professor



*Conducting with Clarity & Beauty:
The Embodiment of Gesture (ST)*

Saturday, January 18, 2025, 1:45pm
Room 160

Alexander Jiménez serves as professor of conducting and director of orchestral studies at the Florida State University College of Music, a position he has held since 2000.

In addition to his work at FSU, Jiménez has appeared with a wide variety of orchestras throughout the United States, Europe, and the Middle East including engagements with leading orchestras such as the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Brno Philharmonic, and the Israeli-Natanya Chamber Orchestra. Dr. Jiménez appears regularly with the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra and the Tallahassee Ballet Orchestra. Under his direction the FSU orchestras have championed new music and collaborated with many of today's leading composers. Jiménez has recorded with the Naxos, Navona, Mark, CBC/Ovation, Col Legno, and Neos labels to critical acclaim.

A highly respected educator, Jiménez is in demand as a guest conductor, teacher, and adjudicator with youth orchestras and adjudication panels throughout the United States and Europe, including the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, Festival Disney, and the European Festival of Music for Young People in Belgium. From 2010-2012 he served as president of the College Orchestra Directors Association and served as music director of the Tallahassee Youth Orchestras from 2000-2017. Jiménez is the recipient of numerous Florida State University teaching awards.

Nicolai Malko once stated "The movements of a conductor's hands and arms serve as signals for musicians. These movements are the conductor's tools with which to construct [the musical] building. It is very difficult to create a beautiful structure if the tools are faulty and dull." This presentation will focus on fundamental gestures of conducting not merely as techniques, but as a logical extension of musical gesture in the score. An overview of the foundation of manual technique (ictus, rebound, plane, the left hand, etc.) will be discussed as it relates specifically to musical syntax and rhetoric without sacrificing clarity.

PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

To access the complete program for each performance, including program notes, artist biographies, and personnel, please click on the name of the orchestra.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Andrés Felipe Jaime, Director

Thursday, January 16, 2025

7:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Chun-Ming Chen, Director

Friday, January 17, 2025

3:00 p.m.



National Leadership

President	Christopher Dobbins
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Jeffrey Bell-Hanson	2019-2020
Joel Neves	2018-2019
Ricardo Averbach	2017-2018
Kevin Bartram	2016-2017
Daniel Sommerville	2015-2016
Anthony Holland	2014-2015
Alexander Jiménez	2013-2014
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David Daniels	2016
Robert McCashin	2017
Gustav Meier	In memoriam, 2017
Stephen Heyde	2018
Jon Mitchell	2019
Rebecca Burkhardt	2020
Dwight Oltman	2021
Victor Yampolsky	2022
Kory Katseanes	2023
Jeffrey Bell-Hanson	2023
Robert Gregg	2024



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