



HONOR CHOIR | BJÖRLING MUSIC FESTIVAL | GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE



This year we have the great pleasure to welcome nationally renowned composer [Dr. Joshua Shank](#) as our artist-in-residence. In 2002, he became the youngest recipient ever of the Raymond W. Brock Composition Award by the American Choral Directors Association. A native of Minnesota, Dr. Shank currently lives in Spokane, Washington where he teaches music theory, composition, music history and conducts the Men's Chorus at Gonzaga University.

Mr. Jim Cox, conductor of the Eagan High School Concert Choir, is now in his nineteenth year of teaching. At Eagan, Jim directs two curricular choirs, two co-curricular choirs, and teaches voice lessons. In addition to ensembles, Jim is producer for Eagan's annual musical, vocal director for the summer community theatre musical, and co-director and vocal director for the school musical extravaganza, ENCORE!

Nebraska native, [Dr. Anna DeGraff](#), serves as Assistant Professor of Music at Gustavus Adolphus College. A frequent recitalist and a strong proponent of contemporary music, she has participated in several workshops and premiers of operatic and art song works by contemporary composers such as Robert Aldridge, Herschel Garfein, Robert Owes, Kurt Knecht, and Jocelyn Hagen.

[Dr. Elisabeth Cherland](#) is a fourth-generation choral conductor as well as singer, song leader, violinist, music educator, and Lutheran church musician. She lives out these callings as Assistant Professor of Music at Gustavus Adolphus College. In addition to teaching choral methods, conducting, and music theory, she conducts the Choir of Christ Chapel and Lucia Singers.

[Dr. Brandon Dean](#) serves as the Jon and Anita Thomsen Young Distinguished Chair in Music and Conductor of the Gustavus Choir. In addition to his conducting duties, he also teaches beginning and advanced conducting, coordinates the choral music education program, and serves as music director for *Christmas in Christ Chapel*. Dr. Dean received the 2014 Swenson-Bunn Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence.