

Previous Directors/Accompanist

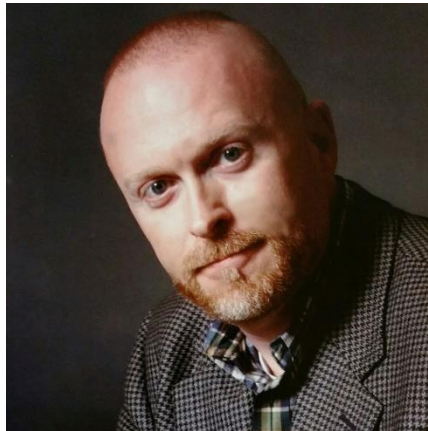
1. Fall 2001-Spring 2003 William Carswell, Director; Jerrold Tidwell with/Kay C. Padgett in 2001, Accompanists.
2. Fall 2003-Spring 2007 Nancy Gibbons, Director; Sandra Lindler with Mary Lou Haddox 2003-2004 & Amos Goldie 2007, Accompanists.
3. Fall 2007-Fall 2009 Marjorie Turner, Director; Frances Webb, Sandra Lindler, and Robbin Moss, Accompanists.
4. Fall 2010-Spring 2012 Andrew Robinette, Director; Sandra Lindler and Jolene Flory, Accompanists.
5. Fall 2012-Spring 2014 Dr. Matthew Caine, Director; Patrick Ashley & Jason Hawes, Asst. Directors; Susan Ritchey and Blade Boulware, Accompanists.
6. Fall 2014-Spring 2015 Lawrence Abernathy, Director; William Douglas and Yonie Penev, Accompanists.
7. Fall 2015-Spring 2018 Suzanne Ringer, Director; William Douglas, Susan Ritchey, and Frances Webb, Accompanists.
8. Fall 2018-Winter 2020 Kirstina Collins, Director; Bradley Fuller, Accompanist.
9. Spring 2020-Winter 2022 Covid-19 DFCS was Shutdown
10. Winter 2022-present Sarah High, Director; Bradley Fuller, Accompanist.

The biographies below reflect generally their lives before and at the time of working with DFCS.

September 2001 to May 2003



Will Carswell



Jerrold Tidwell, organist

Jerrold Tidwell received the Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance and Sacred Music from the University of Montevallo, Birmingham, Alabama. While at the University of Montevallo, Jerrold was a conducting student of Dr. Steven Bolstad and Dr. P. Bradley Logan. Active as an accompanist, Jerrold has performed in recitals throughout the southeast, including appearances with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra. Prior to coming to South Carolina, Jerrold taught instrumental and choral music at Shelby Academy, Birmingham, Alabama, was a member of the adjunct Music Faculty at Jacksonville

State University, and served as organist and choirmaster for Historic Church of St. Michael and All Angel's.

Since then: Jerrold Tidwell, worked at The Basilica of Saint Peter in Columbia, SC (2002-2005). Jerrold made historic strides with the parish's music ministry on multiple fronts: he hired the parish's first professional cantor; installed top-quality wooden chairs and risers in the church's gallery; he sewed seeds of future glory by rehearsing the Gallery Choir on their first major work (Rutter's "Requiem," which they would first sing a year after his departure); he vested the Gallery Choir in cassock and surplice. His hard-won victories became integral building blocks for the long-range growth and success of the parish's music ministry.

December 2003-May 2007



Nancy Gibbons, Artistic Director

She came from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and since August 1, 2021, she has worked at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Columbia, SC. Nancy lives in Lexington, South Carolina with husband Rick Gibbons. In the past, she has worked at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (September 1, 2019 - September 9, 2021) and at Pilgrim Lutheran Church (January 1, 2005 – 2019).

December 2003 to May 2004



Mary Lou Haddox, Accompanist



December 2004-April 2006, December 2009-2010

Sandra Lindler, Accompanist

Sandra is a retired music and second grade teacher from Lexington School District 2. A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Sandra has a BME with an emphasis on piano performance and an MME. She worked as a Graduate assistant under Dr. Arpad Darazs.

Sandra has served as choir director, organist/choir director, organist, children and youth music coordinator at area midlands churches including Platt Springs Methodist, Bethlehem Lutheran, The Lutheran Church of the Transfiguration, Redeemer Lutheran and Lexington United Methodist Church.

Sandra served as a member of the staff for Lutheridge Music Week. She is a former accompanist for the Arpad Darazs Singers. Sandra has served as organist/children's choir director at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, and as a part-time tutor for reading in grades 3 and 5 at Congaree Elementary School.

May 2007



AMOS GOLDIE, Accompanist

Amos Goldie, a highly accomplished musician conversant in multiple instruments including piano, organ and violin, hails from Columbia, South Carolina. He is also a choir director and composer/arranger. He studied at the University of Georgia, the Graduate Theological Foundation, and Shenandoah Conservatory, serving in both Episcopal (ECUSA) and Lutheran (ELCA) churches for the past 20+ years.

In the recent past, he worked for four years with Marjorie Turner as accompanist for the chorus program at Dutch Fork High School including their highly acclaimed and traveled Dutch Fork Chamber Choir. He also served two seasons as the accompanist for the Dutch Fork Choral Society under its previous director Nancy Gibbons.

He moved to the Atlanta area in 2007 and currently lives in Brunswick, Georgia with his wife Sandy, golden retriever Sammy and cocker spaniel Gizmo. Since then, Amos and his wife Sandy have lived in their Museum District home on Hanover Avenue since 2016, where they enjoy reading, photography, and taking care of Eli the dog and Charlie the cat.



August 2007-May 2009
Marjorie Turner, Artistic Director

Marjorie Turner is a graduate of Newberry College with post-graduate work from the University of South Carolina, Furman University, and Columbia College. For 34 years, students at Irmo Middle and Dutch Fork High Schools have studied, rehearsed, and performed under the guidance of this gifted chorus teacher. Her high school choirs have performed in Carnegie Hall on three occasions. In addition, her choirs have performed in the Disney Candlelight at Epcot and recently, the Chamber Choir participated in the ETV Choral Project performing the Mozart Requiem, under the artistic direction of Nicholas Smith. The Showstoppers, under Mrs. Turner's direction have delighted audiences for years with their outstanding musical offerings, including "Roar," "Broadway Our Way," and "Bernstein and Sondheim-Center Stage."

Mrs. Turner's gift of teaching has been recognized by awards such as Teacher of the Year, Irmo Middle School; Outstanding Young Women in America; Intern, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts; Teacher of the Year, Dutch Fork High School; Teacher of the Month, Irmo Greater Chamber of Commerce; WOLO-TV Teacher of the Month; and multiple recognition as Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Mrs. Turner is a member of the Music Educator's National Conference, American Choral Director's Association, and the South Carolina Music Educators Association. In August 2007, Mrs. Turner was selected as Artistic Director for The Dutch Fork Choral Society, a community choir serving the Irmo/Chapin area.

Aside from teaching, Mrs. Turner has had numerous performance experiences. She has performed with many choral groups including the Columbia Choral Society, The Guthrie Darr Chorale and The Sandlapper Singers. Her talents have been showcased in musicals and opera as well as the occasional radio jingle.

August 2007, April 2008



Frances Webb, Accompanist

Mrs. Frances Webb, accompanist, recently returned to her home state of South Carolina after 36 years of collegiate teaching at Texas State University. In addition to teaching piano, she served as organist and music director of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Her degrees in piano performance are from Coker College and Indiana University.

December 2008-May 2009



Robbin Moss, Accompanist

Robin is from Lexington, South Carolina and attended High school at Lexington High School. She studied Music education and earned her Bachelor of Music from Columbia College, Columbia, SC. She is a former Choral Director and worked at School District Five of Lexington/Richland Counties from August 1988 to May 2010. Robbin retired as a Choral Director at a local middle school and as a church pianist. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Lexington County Gamecock Club.

December 2009, December 2012



Matthew T. Caine, Interim Artistic Director

Matthew Caine serves as Artistic Director for the Dutch Fork Choral Society. He is also Director of Music at Lyttleton Street United Church, Camden, SC, where he oversees a comprehensive music program consisting of eight choral and handbell ensembles. Prior to his appointment in Camden, Matt served as Director of Music Mistry at The Episcopal Church of Our Savior, where he conducted such works as Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, Rutter's Requiem, and Vivaldi's Gloria.

A scholar of Bulgarian choral music, Matt's article, "A Biography and Conductor's Analysis of Todor Popov's Cycles." Was the featured cover article in the December 2010 issue of the Choral Journal. Matt has conducted the US premiers of many Bulgarian choral works with Ensemble Mir, a professional chamber choir he established in 2010. Previously, Matt has served as Adjunct Professor of Music at Claflin University and Allen University, as well as director of music in several churches.

Matt holds the Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the University of South Carolina, the Master of Music in Choral Conducting and Vocal Performance from the University of South Florida, the Master of Music Education in Instrumental Music from Samford University, and the Bachelor of Music in Church from Birmingham-Southern College.



December 2010-May 2012

Andrew Robinette, Artistic Director

Artistic Direction is provided by Mr. Andrew Robinette, was a doctoral student and graduate instructor at the University of South Carolina. Accompaniment is provided by Mrs. Sandra Lindler, also a musician and educator. The DFCS is most fortunate to have these talented and experienced leaders.

He holds a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Temple University (Philadelphia, PA) and a Bachelor of Music from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with additional study at Westminster Choir College.

He previously served as the Director of Choral Music at Philadelphia University and on the Music Studies Faculty at Temple University. His conducting highlights include the Faure *Requiem* with baritone David Arnold (Metropolitan Opera), premiering and recording *A Christmas Celebration* by James Kimball (Shawnee Press) and a televised performance of the Vivaldi *Gloria*.

In addition to his college teaching, Andrew has worked as a church musician since 1994. He has served large membership churches in North Carolina, New Jersey and Delaware and is currently the Music Director at Grace United Methodist Church in Columbia. He regularly works as a choral clinician and adjudicator with the Festivals of Music and Music in the Parks and is published with Shawnee Press.

November 2011-May 2012

Jolene Flory, Accompanist and was a doctoral student student at USC.

Dr. Alicia Walker, Guest Conductor



Dr. Walker is Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at USC, where she directs the University Chorus, teaches Conducting and Choral Methods, and supervises student teachers. She holds degrees from Florida State University, (BME), the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (MCM) and the University of Georgia (DMA). Her conducting teachers have included Andre Thomas, John Dickson, and Allen Crowell. An experienced music educator, Dr. Walker taught at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in Florida and Georgia prior to joining the music education faculty at the University of Georgia.

In addition to teaching responsibilities, Dr. Walker is a leader in professional music organizations. An active church musician and advocate for sacred choral music, Walker is in demand as a writer, liturgist, lecturer, and conductor. She has directed church music ministries in Kentucky, Florida, and Georgia, including twelve years at Atlanta's historic Peachtree Baptist Church. Her recent articles appear in *Choral Journal*, *Georgia Music News*, and *Review and Expositor*.

December 2012-May 2013, February 2016



Susan Ritchey, Accompanist

Susan Carnes Ritchey has a master's degree in choral music education. Her primary instrument is the piano and secondary instrument is voice. Susan taught elementary music for 28 years in School District Richland-Lexington School District 5 of Richland and Lexington counties. She was music director and pianist at Grace Methodist Church for ten years. Currently, she and her husband, Joe, are members on Union Methodist Church where Susan directs the senior adult choir, Spirited Singers, plays hand bells and sings in the Chancel Choir. She is a member of the Columbia Philharmonic Symphony League and is chairperson of

the Arthur Fraser International Piano Competition Committee. Her extracurricular pursuits include Yoga, Pilates, Body Pump classes, reading, sewing and family genealogy. Susan and her husband Joe have two daughters and a son-in-law.

Patrick Ashley, a Choral Conducting student at USC serves as Assistant Artistic Director.

December 2013, May 2014



Jaston Hawes, Assistant Artistic Director

Jaston Hawes, a native of Spartanburg, SC, graduated from Spartanburg high school in 2008. He began to further his higher education at the University of South Carolina in 2008 where he studied Music Education and Vocal Performance. Jaston's primary instructors were Dr. Larry Wyatt, Dr. Alicia Walker, Dr. Wendy Valerio, Mr. John Modica and Mrs. Janet Hopkins of the Metropolitan Opera.

During his studies Jaston was involved in various choirs and organizations including the University Choir, USC Concert Choir, Carolina Alive, ACDA and various Graduate vocal ensembles. He began his Master of Music (MM) in the Summer of 2012 then in Fall of 2012 he was awarded a graduate assistantship under Dr. Larry Wyatt where he served as assistant administrator of the library. Amidst his studies, he was hired as a Voice Instructor at the Columbia Arts Academy and as the Assistant Choral Director on the Dutch Fork Choral Society. Jaston also aspires to working for Film and Game Music industries, his latest venture was to compose a short piece for an Indie film.



Blade Boulware, Accompanist

Blade Boulware, a native of Columbia, SC, has been studying music for over ten years. His primary studies include piano, violin, and organ. In recent years, he has started composing music. Some of his work has been used by Celestial Stars Dance company. In addition, Blade teaches dance classes for Celestial Stars, has a small studio of six teaching violin and piano lessons. He also plays piano and violin for weekend Masses at Our Lady of the Lake

Catholic Church in Chapin. Although he is trained classically, Blade enjoys jamming and improvising with friends. Blade is currently at Midlands Technical College and plans on transferring to the University of South Carolina in the near future where he will major in music education.

Honored to be the accompanist for the Dutch Fork Choral Society, Blade would like to send out a special thanks to Matthew and Jaston. "It is a pleasure working with them."

November 2014, May 2015



Lawrence Abernathy, Artistic Director

Joining the group in June 2014, Lawrence holds a Bachelor of the Arts in Music from Columbus State University (Columbus, Georgia) and is currently pursuing a Masters of Choral Conducting at the University of South Carolina.

Lawrence Abernathy is a Master Candidate at the University of South Carolina in Choral Conducting and the Director of Music at Northeast United Methodist Church in Columbia, South Carolina. A native of Irmo, he attended Dutch Fork High School where he sang with Marjorie Turner and in the choir program at Union United Methodist church.

He holds the Bachelor of Arts in Music from the Schwob School of Music at Columbus State University where he studied voice with Michelle DeBruyn and choral conducting with Constantina Tsolainou. As a choral conductor he participated in the 2010 ACDA Student Conducting Competition, attended the 2013 University of Georgia Choral Conducting Workshop and the 2014 University of Michigan Choral Conducting Symposium.

He has appeared in masterclasses with Jerry Blackstone, Eugene Rogers, and Julie Sadskem (University of Michigan), Eric Nelson (Emory University and the Atlanta Master Chorale) Alexander Solovyev (Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Music), Paul Spicer (Oxford University), Daniel Bara (University of Georgia) and more. As a vocalist, Lawrence sings with The Celia Ensemble, a professional early-music ensemble based out of Augusta, GA, Colla Voce out of Columbia, SC and is a founding member of the guitar and voice duo, The Votive Ensemble. Lawrence's primary conducting teachers include Larry Wyatt, Alicia Walker, and Constantina Tsolainou.

August 2015-August 2018



Suzanne Ringer, Assistant (2015) and Artistic Director

Suzanne Ringer's 40 plus year musical career began singing solos and playing piano in her church at the age of 8. Suzanne pursued a Bachelor of Music with emphasis in Church Music, Piano and Voice at Wingate University and obtained a Masters of Church Music with emphasis in Choral Conducting at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky where she studied with John Dickson and piano with Maurice Hinson.

Suzanne moved to the Irmo community in 1991 and acted as the Director of Music Ministries at Union United Methodist Church for 21 years. While there she conducted various major works with members of the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra, including the *Brahms's Ein Duetches Requiem*, *Mozart Requiem*, *Handel's Messiah*, *Faure's Requiem*, the *Vivaldi Gloria*, the *Rutter Requiem* and *Gloria*, and various works by Bach, Haydn, and others.

In 2006, her choirs performed at the Koger Center for the Performing Arts and embarked on a tour of and traveled to Austria and the Czech Republic to participate in the 250th Birthday Celebrations for Mozart, performing the *Mozart Requiem* with the University of South Carolina Concert Choir, and stand-alone performances in at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Austria, and the St. Nicolas Church in Prague, which included stops at St. Stephens Cathedral in Vienna, Austria, Melk Abbey, and Prague. During this tour, they also joined the University of South Carolina Concert Choir to performing the *Mozart Requiem*, under the direction of Larry Wyatt in honor of the composer's 250th birthday.

Suzanne has been fortunate to work and study under the batons of conductors such as Ron Bostic, John Dickson, Larry Wyatt, Andre Thomas, Anton Armstrong, William Carroll, and many others. Presently, Suzanne is the Director of Music and Organist at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Chapin, SC. She also plays the piano and sings vocals with the Spirit Driven Band at St. Peter. Suzanne works as a Chaplain and Music Specialist with All Seasons Hospice in Irmo.

August 2014-August 2015, August 2016-August 2018



William Douglas, Accompanist

William Douglas is currently pursuing his studies for a master's degree in Organ performance from the University of South Carolina where he studies with Dr. Jared Johnson (Canon Organist/Choirmaster of Trinity Cathedral in Columbia, SC). William also serves as the Music Associate & Organist at Shandon United Methodist Church in Columbia, SC, and the accompanist for the Dutch Fork Choral Society in Chapin.

Previously, William has served the congregations of Trinity Presbyterian in Columbia, SC where he acted as the organist and choir director, and was the Music Intern at St. John Anglican Church in Florence, SC. As an organist, William has been featured as an accompanist at the 2013 Regional American Guild of Organist Convention; was an organ scholar at the 2013 Charlotte Royal School of Church Music where he accompanied the 120-voice choir; was the organist for the 2013 222nd Diocesan Convention for the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and participated in the Organ Institute at Westminster Choir College. William has performed in masterclasses with various organists, including Janette Fishbell (Chair Professor of Organ at Indiana University), Walden Moore (Professor of Liturgical Keyboard Skills at Yale), Alan Morrison, Eric Plutz, Matthew Lewis, and Paolo Bordignon.

William recently graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ Performance. His primary teachers included Dr. Jared Johnson and Ken Miller (Instructor of Church Music and Chapel Organist/Choirmaster for the School of Theology at Sewanee in Tennessee) for organ and Dr. Jerry Curry (Professor Emeritus of Music Theory and Harpsichord at the USC School of Music) for Harpsichord.

May 2015



Yonie Penev, Accompanist

An undergraduate student at USC majoring in Public Health and minoring in music with a performance certificate in piano performance.

August 2018-June 2020



Kirstina Collins, Artistic Director

Choral conductor, composer, and educator, **Dr. Kirstina Rasmussen Collins** grew up in the Midwest singing in school choirs and writing pop songs. She moved to Los Angeles to study music composition at the University of Southern California's School of Music. Studying with Morten Lauridsen, Kirstina further discovered her love for writing for the voice, while having transformative experiences singing with the USC Chamber Singers. Following her Bachelor of Music, Kirstina followed her passion for choral music to Boston University, where she studied Choral Conducting with Ann Howard Jones, receiving her Master in Music degree.

Kirstina had the privilege to teach for a year as a visiting instructor at Luther College, working with Tim Peter and the late Weston Noble, from whom she learned much about the communal impact of choral music. She carried this understanding to later teaching environments: Proctor Academy (a college prep boarding school) and Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire, Newport Center United Methodist Church back in California, and two West Los Angeles elementary schools, before returning to graduate work at the University of Southern California. After returning to school, she also directed a Los Angeles based women's choir, the Ebell Chorale, and taught choir and music appreciation courses at Ezra University, a small bible school in LA.

Through the years, Kirstina has had commissions, premieres, and performances of her choral works: by the Harvard Glee Club, San Francisco Choral Society, and Peninsula Women's Chorus, among other ensembles. As a vocalist, she enjoyed singing in the Tanglewood Symphony Chorus under Jon Oliver, and the Los Angeles Master Chorale under Grant Gershon. She currently has publications with Santa Barbara Music Publishing.

Kirstina came to South Carolina to complete her DMA in Choral Conducting at the University of South Carolina, which she earned in 2019. While there, she taught theory, aural skills, and enjoyed working with the Summer Choir at USC. She has enjoyed her work in the community as the co-director of Capella Pueri children's choir at The Basilica of St. Peter, as the music director at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, and especially as the artistic director of the Dutch Fork Choral Society. Kirstina and her husband Michael have two young sons, Orion and Skyler.