

# TEXAS SINGING!

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## 54th Annual Convention



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## PERFORMING GROUPS

at Azle Christian Church, St Matthew UMC, and St Barnabas UMC. Mr Jordan is currently serving as Associate Choirmaster at University Christian Church in Fort Worth under Ron Shirey of UCC and Texas Christian University.

During his tenure at Martin HS, Randy's choirs performed at the TMEA Convention in 1995, and again in 2005. Martin also appeared as honor choir at the 1997 National Convention of ACDA in San Diego CA, and again at the 2005 National ACDA Convention in Los Angeles CA. His Chamber Singers were one of three US choirs invited to sing at the International Fringe Festival in Edinburg, Scotland in 1999. Under his direction the Arlington Master Chorale

made their first appearance at Carnegie Hall in New York in March of 2007, and at Bass Hall that same year with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra performing Beethoven's *9th Symphony*. Other performances include Brahms's *Requiem*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, and Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

Mr Jordan earned his BME from Texas Tech University, his MME from North Texas State University (now The University of North Texas) in 1981, and his degree in music supervision from The University of Texas at Arlington in 1994. He has studied with Gene Kenny, Frank McKinley, Hal Gibbons, done post graduate studies with Kenneth Davis, and recently completed a two-week master

conducting class at the Oregon Bach Festival under Helmut Rilling. In 2000 Mr Jordan was one of 15 teachers of extracurricular activities in the State of Texas to receive the "UIL Sponsor of the Year Award", and in 2007 Mr Jordan was selected to conduct the Mississippi All-State Choir. His professional affiliations include TMEA, TCDA, ACDA, and TMAA. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda, *Who's Who Among American Teachers*, and Honorary Lifetime Member of the Parent Teachers Association. He and his wife, Debra Duncan, have two altos, a tenor, and a baritone as well as seven grandsons, voices yet to be determined. They reside in Arlington. ♣

## First United Methodist Church Chancel Choir – Midland



Thomas Vozzella

The Chancel Choir of First United Methodist Church, Midland made history in 2008 with two performances at the White House. At the invitation of then President George W and Mrs Laura Bush they were the first choir in history to have sung at the White House for a presidential party. Mrs Bush is a former member of the Chancel Choir, and the Bushes' daughters, Barbara and Jenna, sang in the children's choirs. The choir also had the privilege of performing for the Bush Homecoming Celebration, at which they sang the national anthem with country headliners Lee Greenwood and The Gatlin Brothers. Opera divas Susan Graham and Luretta Bybee were members of First Church Choirs. The

Chancel Choir has also sung at Carnegie Hall, and will again in June 2010, under the direction of their director, Dr Thomas Vozzella. This is their first TCDA performance.

Thomas R Vozzella is currently in his fourth year as the Director of Worship Arts at FUMC, Midland, where he is also the Headmaster of the Dollye Neal Worship Arts Academy. Dr Vozzella has taught at institutions of higher education in Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, South Carolina, Alabama, and Kansas. In addition to his teaching positions, he has served as a music director/organist around the country since the age of 15.

Choirs under his direction have

consistently received superior ratings and have performed for the Kansas MEA, the Tennessee CDA, and now have the honor of performing for TCDA.

Thomas has toured as a conductor and organist in 26 states, Washington DC, and in Italy, Austria, Germany, France, England, Holland, The Netherlands, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, and the Ukraine. During his tenure at FUMC El Dorado AR, the adult and youth choirs were heard on NPR's "Performance Today". Dr Vozzella earned his DMA from the University of South Carolina, MM from Northeast Louisiana University (University of Louisiana, Monroe), and his BM from Eastern Nazarene College. Additional work was complet-

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ed at Oxford University, England, the Royal School of Church Music, England, Nazarene Theological Seminary, and the University of Missouri, Kansas City Conservatory of Music. Thomas is also an active member in the ACDA, TCDA, AGO, Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts, Association of Anglican Musicians, MENC, TMEA, and ASCAP. He has served as a choral mentor for MENC, and is active as a choral judge/clinician. Alliance, Augsburg, Abingdon, Selah, and CanticaNOVA publish his compositions and arrangements. Dr Vozzella resides in Midland with his wife, Cathy, and daughter, Ashley.

Assistant Director **Beth Garza** is in



Beth Garza

Chancel Choir. Beth is currently in her eighth year as director at Alamo JH, Midland, and co-director of the Lee Freshman HS Choirs. During her tenure at Alamo, the choir earned its first Sweepstakes award in 30 years, and both schools have consistently earned

her third year as the Assistant Choral Director at FUMC in Midland where she directs children's choirs and is the assistant director of the youth and

ratings of Excellent and Superior at UIL competitions, DC Festivals competitions, and the Greater Southwest Music Festival. Beth is a 1997 graduate of Robert E Lee HS, where she was a member of Chorale and Origin, under the direction of Paula Edwards. In 2001 she graduated *summa cum laude* from Hardin-Simmons University with her degree in Music Education. While at HSU she was a member of Sigma Alpha Iota, Pi Kappa Lambda, and the HSU Concert Choir under the direction of Dr Loyd Hawthorne. Mrs Garza graduated *magna cum laude* from Texas Tech University with an MME, studying with Dr Janice Killian. She lives in Midland with her husband, Beau. ♣

## First Presbyterian Church Choir – Houston



John Yarrington



**The First Presbyterian Choir of Houston** is directed by **Dr John Yarrington**, accompanied by organist Rhonda Furr. The choir has a long tradition of providing music for a variety of worship services, as well as singing masterworks with orchestra. A highlight of every year is the Sing-a-Long-Messiah which draws over 1,000 singers to the church. The choir takes a mission tour every four years, most recently singing in Hungary and Romania. In addition to the concerts, the choir always provides funding for churches or areas where they sing, including the purchase of a grand piano for one such church.

**Dr Yarrington** is Director of the School of Music and Chair of Choral Studies at Houston Baptist University and Director of the Chancel Choir at the First Presbyterian Church of Houston.

Former churches include McFarlin UMC Norman OK, FUMC, Dallas, and the Pulaski Heights UMC, Little Rock AR. In Arkansas, Dr Yarrington founded the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Chorus which he directed for five seasons, and was interim conductor of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra for one season. He was also Artistic Director of the Arkansas Chamber Singers.

After graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a BME, Yarrington completed the Master of Sacred Music degree at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City, studying with Sergius Kagen, Madeleine Marshall, Abraham Kaplan, and William Gephart. Continuing graduate studies at the University of Oklahoma under Dr B R Henson and Dr Dennis Shrock led to completion of a DMA.

An active contributor to professional journals, his writings on choral techniques, organization, and philosophy of church music are well known. His published choral compositions are with Augsburg-Fortress, Choristers Guild, Abingdon Press, MorningStar, and GIA. Published books include *Building Youth Choir*, *Somebody's Got My Robe*, *Somebody's Got My Hymnal*, and *Choir Crackups*.

Yarrington is active in ACDA and served as Southwest Division President. He has been featured conductor for numerous honor choruses and all-state events. His workshop schedule takes him throughout the United States and Canada.

Dr Yarrington and his wife, Diane, have six children and four grandchildren. ♣