

National Presidents' Day Choral Festival

Dr. William Skoog Artistic Director



William Skoog is Professor of Music, Chair of the Department of Music, and director of choral studies at Rhodes College, in Memphis Tennessee, where he conducts the Rhodes Singers (Concert Choir), and the MasterSingers Chorale with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. He most recently served as Associate Professor and Director of Choral Activities at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where he directed the University Men's Chorus, University Choral Society, A Cappella Choir, and the Collegiate Chorale, and taught courses in undergraduate and graduate conducting and choral literature.

Choral ensembles under his direction have distinguished themselves at ACDA, MENC and IMC (Intercollegiate Men's Chorus) conferences, and have performed at special events honoring William F. Buckley Jr., and Generals Colin Powell and Norman Schwartzkopf.

Skoog has conducted various university choirs with the Toledo Symphony (OH), the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Orchestra (IN), the Elkhart Symphony and Chorus (IN), the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Moravian Symphony Orchestra. He served as a featured artistic director and conductor of the distinguished Lucerne Choral Festival, Switzerland, in 2008, conducting 11 choirs from throughout the United States with the Santa Maria Orchestra from Lucerne. He has conducted European premieres of works by Dave Brubeck, and has prepared choruses for Dmitry Sitkovetsky, Edvard Tschizhel, Stephan Sanderling and Giordano Bellincampi.

His publishing credits include the Music Educators National Journal, The Choral Journal and the Cambridge Scholars Press (UK). He has presented at respected scholarly conferences including the International Conference on the Literature of War, Durrell School, Corfu, Greece, and at MENC and ACDA Conferences. Skoog is a champion of new music, and choral ensembles under his direction have performed and premiered numerous pieces as part of the renowned New Music and Art Festival for Mid American Center for Contemporary Music, an international festival held at BGSU. For this festival they performed compositions by Dave Brubeck, Samuel Adler, Chen Yi, John Harbison and Michael Cox, among others.

Skoog directs choral festivals at the regional, state and national level, including the states of Wyoming, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, New York (NY) and Iowa. His additional conducting credits include Indiana Opera North, the Arvada Center Theatre Company, the Golden Youth Symphony, Littleton Chamber Orchestra, and the Elkhart (Indiana) and Longmont (Colorado) symphonies and choruses.

As a singer, he has participated by select audition in the Robert Shaw Festival and Institute Singers under Robert Shaw, and performed with Sir Neville Marriner, Andre' Previn and Peter Schreier at Carnegie Hall.

Skoog holds a Doctor of Arts Degree in music from the University of Northern Colorado, master's degrees from Denver University Lamont School of Music in vocal pedagogy and performance and conducting, and a bachelor's degree from Gustavus Adolphus College. In addition to serving at Bowling Green, Skoog served at Indiana/Purdue University in Fort Wayne, Ind., Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac, Michigan, and the University of Northern Colorado. He is a proud member of Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.



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