

Beaver Valley Choral Society Summer Academy Teacher/Directors Listing

Craig G. Cannon, Choral Director

Craig G. Cannon earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA, and his Master of Music Degree in Choral and Conducting from Arizona State University. Craig assumed the role of Assisting Conductor of the Santa Fe Dessert Chorale in New Mexico during its premiere season (1983) under the leadership of the Chorale's first director and founder, the late Maestro Lawrence Bandfield. After his summer work in Santa Fe, Cannon returned to Pittsburgh to assume the role of Director of Choral Activities at Fox Chapel Area High School (FCAHS) in Pittsburgh. Then over the next 30 years, he worked diligently to develop one of the most outstanding high school choral programs in Pennsylvania, which is also recognized nationally as being among the best.

Craig G. Cannon has been the Director of Choral Activities at Fox Chapel Area High School for the last 34 years and also serves on the adjunct faculty of the Mary Pappert School of Music at Duquesne University. Under Cannon's direction, the FCAHS choral ensembles have been selected to sing at PMEA state conventions, the ACDA-PA Summer Conference, St. Patrick's Cathedral (NYC), The Cathedral of St. John the Divine (NYC), Notre Dame Cathedral (Paris) and the ACDA Eastern Division Convention in Baltimore. Enjoying an active career as a conductor, singer, teacher, and adjudicator, Craig frequently appears as a festival director, music clinician, and oratorio soloist for schools and churches throughout the country.

Craig's professional affiliations include the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Music Educators National Conference (MENC) and the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA). Mr. Cannon is a life member of ACDA and has served both as President and Treasurer of the Pennsylvania chapter. He also completed a term as President of ACDA's Eastern Division from 2002-2004.

Bruce A. Lauffer, Band / Symphony Music Director/Conductor

Maestro Lauffer has conducted over 80 concerts throughout the United States, this past year. Maestro Lauffer earned his Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from West Virginia University. He received his Master of Music Degree in 1987 from Baylor University. Maestro Lauffer is the conductor of the Latshaw Pops Orchestra for the past twelve years and has conducted over 500 concerts throughout the Eastern United States. Since the fall of 2009, Maestro Lauffer has also served as a frequent guest conductor for the world renowned River City Brass Band. Lauffer is a frequent guest conductor and cover conductor on the campus of Wheeling Jesuit College in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Maestro Lauffer was the Music Director and Conductor for the Orchestra of the Alleghenies from 2003-2015. The OA has also commissioned two new works for orchestra and under Lauffer's direction performed the world premieres. Maestro Lauffer was the Music Director and Conductor of the Beaver Valley Philharmonic from 2006-2009. He has served as Music Director of The Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra (fourteen seasons), the Mon-Valley Youth Orchestra, and the North Pittsburgh Civic Symphony. He has been a popular Guest Conductor with The Butler County Symphony Orchestra, The Edgewood Symphony Orchestra and the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra.

In the fall of 2002, Maestro Lauffer was appointed the General Director and Music Director of the Royal Sylvan Philharmonic. Mr. Lauffer is one of ten conductors in the country invited to serve as a conducting intern with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Jorge Mester.

With almost thirty years of experience in both university settings and public schools. Mr. Lauffer has taught on the faculties at Indiana State University and at Washington and Jefferson College, and online at Argosy University. Mr. Lauffer served as the Chairman of the Music Department and Director of Bands for the East Allegheny School District. During his tenure, the ensembles received state and national recognition for their excellence. Mr. Lauffer has also taught on the faculty at Jeannette School District and was the Director of Music and Dean of Arts for the Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School.

The Giambelli String Quartet

The Giambelli String Quartet is Pittsburgh's premier string quartet. A versatile, professional ensemble., Established in 1998, the Giambelli String Quartet is known for its vast and diverse repertoire. The quartet, named after a famous NYC Italian restaurant, is comfortable performing everything from classical favorites and popular music. The GSQ performs together on an average of 40 time a year.

In addition, as musicians outside of the quartet, members play with the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Ballet Orchestra, the Civic Light Opera Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. All four performers are active music educators in the Pittsburgh community.

The Giambelli musicians have years of professional experiences, are great friends and are committed to music.

Gabe D'Abruzzo, Piano Accompanist

Gabe D'Abruzzo has progressed to become one of the Pittsburgh area's leading pianists. He has been the winner in numerous local piano auditions and competitions including the *Duquesne Young Artist's Competition*, the *Musician's Club of Pittsburgh Competition*, the *Tuesday Musical Club Audition*, and the *Duquesne Women's Advisory Board Scholarship Competition for Duquesne University Seniors*. Mr. D'Abruzzo's education includes a Bachelor of Music degree from Duquesne University and a Master of Arts degree from SUNY, the State University of New York, where he studied with world renowned pianist, *Vladimir Feltsman*. Mr. D'Abruzzo's musical positions include organist/choir director with various Pittsburgh area churches and is currently Assistant Director at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, adjunct professor of piano at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, PA, staff accompanist at the Duquesne University School of Music, current accompanist for the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh, accompanist for Fox Chapel and Moon Area High Schools and accompanist for Masterworks Chorale, an amateur choir based in Murrysville, PA. In addition, Gabe has had the opportunity to present solo performances with the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra on several occasions including Mozart's Piano Concertos No. 9 and No. 11. Mr. D'Abruzzo is also a Steinway Artist. He was awarded through the society and performed a solo piano recital through the society.