



2026|CoACDA Summer CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



KEY TO WORKSHOPS

A = All, E = Elementary/Children's, M = Middle School/Junior High, H = High School, U = College/Community, W = Church/Worship

Updated 07/17/26

MONDAY, JULY 20TH

8:30 am	REGISTRATION OPEN <i>Light breakfast available for your enjoyment in the HERITAGE CENTER sponsored by BOB RODGERS TRAVEL</i>	FOYER
8:45 am	WELCOME & MORNING SING Julia Dale, CoACDA President & Dr. Derrick Fox, CoACDA Clinician	MILLER CENTER (A)
9:00 am	HEADLINER SESSION: LEADERSHIP IN ACTION – BUILDING CONFIDENCE, COMMUNICATION & CULTURE Dr. Derrick Fox, CoACDA Clinician <i>This session focuses on practical strategies choral directors can use to cultivate confidence, strengthen communication, and foster a healthy, productive rehearsal culture. Participants will explore rehearsal-based leadership tools that promote trust, clarity, and musical growth across ensembles and learning contexts.</i>	MILLER CENTER (A)
10:10 am	HEADLINER SESSION: THE CHORAL DIRECTOR AS THE VOICE TEACHER Dr. Derrick Fox, CoACDA Clinician <i>Choral directors function as voice teachers every day, shaping technique, tone, and vocal health within the ensemble setting. This session offers practical strategies for teaching healthy, expressive singing through intentional rehearsal design, effective diagnostic listening, and clear, inclusive rehearsal language that supports singers at all levels.</i>	MILLER CENTER (A)
11:20 am	HEADLINER SESSION: THE P.A.S.S.I.O.N.A.T.E CHORAL DIRECTOR'S GUIDE TO LONGEVITY IN THE CLASSROOM Dr. Derrick Fox, CoACDA Clinician <i>As the years go by, we assume many roles in our programs as director, choreographer, set builder, costume designer, caregiver, and counselor - losing ourselves in the many tasks that are required to keep our choral programs afloat. The strategies in this session will outline ways to protect your passion and manage your work/life responsibilities.</i>	MILLER CENTER (A)
	READING SESSION: CHURCH/COMMUNITY Adam Waite, CoACDA R&R Chair	SANCTUARY (W/U)
12:15 pm	LUNCH WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES ONSITE LUNCH – Meet in the FELLOWSHIP HALL (Pre-Registration Required)	
1:15 pm	HEADLINER SESSION: DEVELOPING RELEVANT, RESPONSIVE AND PURPOSEFUL PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES Dr. Derrick Fox, CoACDA Clinician <i>This session will explore ways choral teachers can create meaningful and effective teaching practices that connect with today's students. We'll look at how to make our teaching more relevant to students' lives, responsive to their needs, and focused on clear goals.</i>	MILLER CENTER (A)
2:25 pm	INTEREST SESSION: THE WHY BEHIND THE WHAT – MOTIVATION-INFORMED STRATEGIES FOR THE CHORAL CLASSROOM Dr. Seth Pendergast, CoACDA Presenter <i>Leading a choral program is a complex mix of artistry, pedagogy, and people — and it can feel overwhelming. In this session, we'll draw on concepts from motivation research to better understand what truly fosters choral environments where students learn, grow, and thrive together. Whether you're looking for a reset or a refresh, this session offers tried-and-true approaches grounded in what research tells us actually moves students toward the intrinsic rewards of music-making.</i>	MILLER CENTER (A)
	INTEREST SESSION: JEWISH CHORAL MUSIC – HOW TO PROGRAM IT, AND WHY IT MATTERS Dr. Coreen Duffy, CoACDA Presenter <i>This session will equip choral conductors with an understanding of how to find and program quality, ethically-sourced Jewish choral music suitable for a wide range of performing ensembles, concert themes, and voicings. We will address how to align repertoire from the Jewish liturgical year, we will highlight diasporic, secular musical traditions in Ladino, Yiddish, Hebrew, and English, which are often perfect for year-round programming and are linked to Judaism culturally, not religiously. Finally, we will focus on why it is especially critical to embrace Jewish music programming now, in the face of false claims that music with ancient liturgical texts promotes a current political standpoint. All of the music presented in the session is politically neutral and curated to offer ideas and starting points for a programming journey in the rich beauty of Jewish choral music.</i>	CHOIR ROOM (A)



1.0 Graduate Credit Available! *

University of Northern Colorado is planning to offer 1.0 Graduate Credit Option for attending this Workshop.
[Click here](#) or Scan the QR Code to register. See Dr. Cleelyn Chapin with questions.



***Note: Graduate Credit is separate from the Recertification Hours Certificate.**
If you have purchased a recertification certificate, please grab a paper packet from the Registration Desk.
Please be sure you verify the correct process before starting. Thank you.

(Monday's schedule is continued on the next page →)

3:25 pm	HAPPY SNACK TIME! – Join us in the HERITAGE CENTER	
3:45 pm	INTEREST SESSION: BUILDING CHORAL ARTISTRY IN EVERY REHEARSAL Dr. Nathan Payant, CoACDA Presenter <i>Leading a choral program is a complex mix of artistry, pedagogy, and people — and it can feel overwhelming. In this session, we'll draw on concepts from motivation research to better understand what truly fosters choral environments where students learn, grow, and thrive together. Whether you're looking for a reset or a refresh, this session offers tried-and-true approaches grounded in what research tells us actually moves students toward the intrinsic rewards of music-making.</i>	MILLER CENTER (A)
	ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS: COMMUNITY, CHURCH CHOIR DIRECTORS & MORE! Adam Waite & Dr. Kevin Padworski, CoACDA R&R Chairs	FELLOWSHIP HALL/ CHAIR ROOM
4:35 pm	CLOSING SING Julia Dale, CoACDA President & Dr. Clelyn Chapin, CoACDA President-Elect	MILLER CENTER (A)

TUESDAY, JULY 21ST

8:30 am	REGISTRATION OPEN <i>Light breakfast available for your enjoyment in the HERITAGE CENTER sponsored by AMERICAN INT'L TRAVEL</i>	FOYER																					
8:45 am	WELCOME & MORNING SING Julia Dale, CoACDA President & Dr. Roger David, CoACDA Clinician	MILLER CENTER (A)																					
9:00 am	HEADLINER SESSION: CONNECTING WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP – WHAT TED LASSO GETS RIGHT ABOUT LEADING PEOPLE Dr. Roger David, CoACDA Clinician <i>This session explores leadership examples from the Apple TV series Ted Lasso, and how different leadership styles play out as ensemble directors and classroom teachers. Attendees will reflect on their own leadership roles and consider how authenticity, consistency, and people-first decision-making can strengthen their impact with those they lead.</i>	MILLER CENTER (A)																					
	INTEREST SESSION: DEFINE, ALIGN, DESIGN – MARKET YOUR CHOIR WITH MEANING Faith Kirkland, CoACDA Presenter <i>This session provides a digital roadmap for communicating your program's value to students, families, and the broader community. Walk away with practical branding tools, templates, and new ideas to help your choir stand out, strengthen recruitment, and share your story with the outside world!</i>	CHOIR ROOM (A)																					
10:10 am	READING SESSION: MIDDLE SCHOOL Abby Martinez, CoACDA R&R Chair	MILLER CENTER (M)																					
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11:20 am	READING SESSION: TREBLE CHOIR Rebecca Hubbard, CoACDA R&R Chair	MILLER CENTER (A)																					
	INTEREST SESSION: NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY Sophia Miller, CoACDA Presenter <i>In this interest session, we'll explore how artistry begins with repertoire: choosing music that is accessible *and* profound, simple *and* stunning — music that makes artistry and excellence feel possible for every voice in the room. This is for directors who want it all: heart-centered music-making, communal energy, and a truly fantastic sound.</i>	FELLOWSHIP HALL (A)																					
12:20 pm	LUNCH WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES																						

1:45 pm	INTEREST SESSION: STUDENT-LED LEARNING IN THE CHORAL CLASSROOM – A SOCRATIC APPROACH Westin Sorrell, CoACDA Presenter <i>This interactive session demonstrates how Socratic questioning can meaningfully increase student engagement, deepen musical literacy, and cultivate a stronger sense of ownership in ensemble singing. Through hands-on activities, attendees will explore questioning techniques that can be scaled for middle school through collegiate ensembles and tailored to diverse musical contexts. Everyone will leave with ready-to-use tools, sample prompts, and planning frameworks designed to foster student agency and create a more collaborative, reflective rehearsal environment.</i>	MILLER CENTER (A)
	READING SESSION: TENOR-BASS CHOIR Jimmy Howe, CoACDA R&R Chair	FELLOWSHIP HALL (M/H/U/C/W)
	READING SESSION: ELEMENTARY/CHILDREN'S CHOIR Vicki Bailey, CoACDA R&R Chair	CHOIR ROOM (E/M/W)
2:45 pm	INTEREST SESSION: FIGHT, FLIGHT & FORTE Dr. Clelyn Chapin, CoACDA President-Elect <i>Have you noticed that it is harder than ever to help students "put themselves out there?" Risk-taking is integral to vocal development, and yet students are more risk-verse than ever. In this interactive session, teachers will learn what is going on in students' brains and bodies during risk-taking, how we got here, and what we can do to help our choirs sing better and live bravely.</i>	MILLER CENTER (A)
	READING SESSION: JAZZ CHOIR Paul Falk, CoACDA R&R Chair	CHOIR ROOM (A)
3:50 pm	INTEREST SESSION: TEACH TO THE TEST – PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ALL STATE AUDITION AND A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR Abby Martinez & Vicki Bailey, CoACDA R&R Chairs <i>In this session, directors will learn about the decision-making that went into the original creation of the MS All State Audition, how to prep students for those audition elements, and how to use the preparation for the AS audition season to ensure a more literate and musical school year for your program. Session will also include tips for recording the best possible quality of recordings, practice resources, and the latest updates from the CMASC Board's Audition Committee.</i>	MILLER CENTER (E/M)
	INTEREST SESSION: PERCUSSION TECHNIQUES FOR CHOIR DIRECTORS Alyssa McCollum, CoACDA Presenter <i>Most choir directors have found themselves handed a djembe, shaker, or cajón part and thought, "I have no idea if I'm doing this correctly." This session is designed to help! We'll explore common percussion instruments used in choral repertoire and learn the rhythmic patterns and techniques that percussionists consider standard practice. Participants will get hands-on experience playing basic grooves, adapting percussion parts for their ensembles, and gaining the confidence to teach and model these parts effectively. No percussion background is required—just a willingness to try something new and maybe laugh at yourself a little along the way.</i>	FELLOWSHIP HALL (A)
4:45 pm	BEER CHOIR (Pre-Registration Required) Dr. Kevin Padworski, CoACDA R&R Chair <i>Snacks provided by VISTAR. Join us at one of the patios nearby!</i>	LOCATION TBA

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22ND

8:30 am	REGISTRATION OPEN <i>Light breakfast available for your enjoyment in the HERITAGE CENTER sponsored by WHAT THE HECK PRESS</i>	FOYER
8:45 am	WELCOME & MORNING SING Julia Dale, CoACDA President & Dr. Nathan Payant, CoACDA Presenter	MILLER CENTER (A)
9:00 am	HEADLINER SESSION: CONNECTING YOUR TEAM – MAKING CULTURE A VERB Dr. Roger David, CoACDA Clinician <i>"Culture" is one of the most used and least defined words in both sports and music ensembles. This session pushes past the buzzword to examine how culture is created through everyday actions, expectations, and relationships. Drawing parallels between athletic teams and music ensembles, we will explore how shared goals, clear roles, accountability, and consistency turn values into lived experiences for our students. Participants will leave with practical, real-world strategies for building trust, fostering buy-in, and creating ensemble cultures that are felt, not just talked about.</i>	FELLOWSHIP HALL (A)
10:10 am	HEADLINER SESSION: CONNECTING TO THE UNFAMILIAR Dr. Roger David, CoACDA Clinician <i>This session presents the Choral Allyship Playbook as a practical set of strategies for conductors programming music outside of their own cultural competence, offering adaptable techniques for research, rehearsal design, and musical decision-making. Rather than treating unfamiliar repertoire as a risk to avoid, the session reframes it as an opportunity for intentional, informed engagement grounded in preparation and reflection. Drawing from real rehearsal contexts, participants will explore approaches to cultural and historical study that can realistically fit within the rehearsal and preparation process and consider how that learning can shape meaningful rehearsal experiences for singers. The playbook emphasizes collaboration, curiosity, and pacing, helping conductors make thoughtful choices while continuing to expand their understanding over time. Attendees will leave with concrete strategies they can apply immediately to support more informed and culturally grounded work with diverse repertoire.</i>	FELLOWSHIP HALL (A)

(Wednesday's schedule is continued on the next page →)

(10:10 am)	READING SESSION: MIXED CHOIR Taylor Rodgers, CoACDA R&R Chair	MILLER CENTER (M/H/U/C/W)
11:30 am	INTEREST SESSION: REHEARSING THROUGH GESTURE – USING CONDUCTING TO SHAPE SOUND & BUILD CONNECTION IN EVERY REHEARSAL Dr. Nathan Payant, CoACDA Presenter <i>Conducting can be one of our most powerful daily teaching tools. This session explores how intentional gesture shapes sound, strengthens precision, and builds meaningful connection in rehearsal. After a brief review of essential conducting fundamentals, participants will move beyond patterns to examine how daily conducting fosters ensemble responsiveness and musical clarity. Emphasis will be placed on teaching students to follow, reducing over-reliance on verbal instruction, and developing confidence and consistency through regular use. Through modeled repertoire and practical demonstration, directors will experience how conducting can elevate artistry and unify singers in real time. Attendees will leave with clear, applicable strategies for integrating gesture more intentionally into every rehearsal.</i>	MILLER CENTER (A)
	READING SESSION: WORLD MUSIC Phil Drozda, CoACDA R&R Chair	FELLOWSHIP HALL (A)
12:30 pm	LEGACY AWARD PRESENTATION Julia Dale, CoACDA President & Dr. Kevin Padworski, CoACDA R&R Chair	MILLER CENTER (A)
12:45 pm	LUNCH WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES	
2:15 pm	INTEREST SESSION: GAMES & TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES THAT DON'T SUCK Rosie O'Connor, CoACDA Presenter	FELLOWSHIP HALL (A)
	READING SESSION: SHOW CHOIR/A CAPPELLA John Richard, CoACDA R&R Chair	MILLER CENTER (M/H/U/C/W)
3:05 pm	BINGO AWARDS & CLOSING SING Julia Dale, CoACDA President & Dr. Elizabeth Swanson, CoACDA Guest Conductor	MILLER CENTER (A)



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