

# Dr. Allegra Martin

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## Education

May 2019

### **DMA in Choral Conducting**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL

- Dissertation topic: ***African-American Identity in the Choral Cantatas of Margaret Bonds and Langston Hughes***
- Cognate: Renaissance and Baroque Performance Practice
- Primary teachers: Andrew Megill, Andrea Solya, Ollie Watts Davis

May 2006

### **MM in Choral Conducting**

Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ

- Primary teachers: Joseph Flummerfelt, Andrew Megill, Sun Min Lee

June 1999

### **BA in Music and Physics**

Williams College, Williamstown, MA

- Member of Choral Society, Chamber Singers, Kusika, IMP (Independent Music Project), Elizabethans a cappella group (director 1997-1999)

## Collegiate Experience

### Conducting

Fall 2017-present

### **Director of College Choirs**

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

- Direct College Choir of 60 singers with 2 full-length performances per semester and Chamber Singers of 16 singers with 1 full-length performance per semester
- Doubled size of College Choir in three years (25 to 60)
  - Annually send individual e-mails to incoming students who indicated interest in singing during admissions process
- Organize and lead **Choir Week**, annual week-long choir camp
  - Sole organizer of housing, food, off-campus activities (hikes, concerts) transportation, etc.
  - Act as point of contact for students; coordinate between Student Affairs, Housing, Dining, etc.
  - Perform at Fall Convocation and Mass of the Holy Spirit (annual first-year welcome Mass) annually
  - Use Choir Week to promote membership in College Choir and Chamber Singers, leading to major recruiting successes
- Arrange tours and off-campus performances
- Manage choral library of over 500 titles

**(Director of College Choirs, cont.)**

- Run choir student mentor program for first-years
  - Solicit volunteers from older students, pair each incoming first-year with an older student, and follow up regularly to ensure success of student-mentor match; organize a final dinner at end of fall.
- Coach Student Conductor and Student Composer
- Regularly commission and premiere works, including:
  - Spring 2022, untitled by Patrick Murray (in progress)
  - November 2021, “Seo-Si” by Chong Jong-Yeoul
  - November 2021, “Le Cicale” by Katherine Saxon
  - April 2021, “When Voices Spiral Through the Mind” by Matthew Jaskot
  - October 2019, “Softly” by B.E. Boykin
- Regularly invite guest conductors to work with ensembles, including:
  - Dr. Won Joo Ahn, University of Louisville, KY, with the Chamber Singers and College Choir, in October 2021
  - Dr. Joshua Rohde, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, with the College Choir, in November 2019 and February 2020
  - Dr. Michael Barrett, Amherst Early Music, MA, with the Chamber Singers, in March 2018
- Maintained robust remote participation during Covid (46 total) including recruiting 14 first-year singers
- 2020-2021 during Covid-19 pandemic:
  - Ran Zoom and hybrid rehearsals
  - Held virtual and outdoor performances each semester
  - Gave individual feedback on recordings to each musician on a weekly basis
  - Worked with audio engineer to create virtual performances and live-streamed outdoor events
  - Worked with students to create social bonding online events

August 2020-May 2021

**Interim Director of the College Orchestra**

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

- One-year position as Director of College Orchestra
- Recruited/auditioned musicians
  - Sent individual e-mails to students who indicated interest during admissions process
  - Organized student volunteers to follow up with possible first-year students
- Ran 3 rehearsals per week
- Created and managed student board based on structure and guiding principles of choir student board
- 2020-2021 during Covid:
  - Ran three Zoom and/or hybrid rehearsals weekly
  - Gave individual feedback on recordings on a weekly basis
  - Worked with audio engineer to create virtual performances and live-streamed outdoor events
  - Worked with students to create social bonding online events

- August 2015-May 2016      **Director, University Mixed Chorus**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL
- Founded chorus aimed at first- and second-year music majors
  - Participated in department auditions, chose repertoire, led twice-weekly rehearsals
  - Coordinated and conducted two performances per semester
  - Under supervision of DCA Dr. Andrew Megill
- August 2014-May 2015      **Teaching Assistant, Women's Glee Club**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL
- Founded a cappella group Surround Sound
    - Recruiting and retention tactic for larger ensemble
    - Oversaw rehearsals and coached student leaders
    - Commissioned and researched new arrangements
  - Conducted one piece per concert with Glee Club
  - Under supervision of Dr. Andrea Solya
- August 2009-May 2014      **Director of Lasell College Chorus**  
Lasell College, Newton, MA
- Tripled size of chorus from six to twenty
  - Expanded music offerings by convincing Humanities department to hire musical theater/vocal pedagogy instructor to faculty
- Spring 2005      **Choral Assistant** to Dale Warland for Symphonic Choir  
Westminster Choir College, Princeton, MA
- Helped guest conductor organize chorus of 250 singers

## **Courses**

- Fall 2019, 2021      **Music Fundamentals**  
College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA
- Introductory course for non-majors with no background in music
  - Music literacy and basic piano skills, culminating in final analysis and presentation of a piece of their choosing (usually contemporary pop)
- Fall 2016, Spring 2017      **Theory 101 and Aural Skills 207** (Teaching Assistant)  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL
- Taught two weekly aural skills labs and one weekly theory lab
  - Graded all work for students in my labs
  - Attended large lectures weekly
- Fall 2012, 2013      **Music Appreciation**  
Lasell College, Newton, MA
- Designed course, focused on musical forms and concert attendance
- Fall 2004-Spring 2006      **Undergraduate Conducting** (Teaching Assistant)  
Westminster Choir College, Princeton, MA
- Assisted Sun Min Lee, Andrew Megill, James Jordan, and Thomas Cunningham

## **Related Teaching Activities (College of the Holy Cross)**

- **Select and coach Student Conductor of College Choir**
  - Audition applicants in spring for following year
  - Give student conductor weekly lesson and weekly rehearsal time
- **Select and coach Student Composer for Lessons & Carols anthem**
  - Audition applicants in spring for following fall
  - Coach composer in text selection and give detailed feedback on multiple drafts of an anthem for Lessons & Carols
- **Manage ten-member student choir board**
  - Support and guide two co-chairs in holding monthly meetings, organizing social events, publicity, and social media, and helping to organize concerts and tours
  - Provide guidance to each student in fulfillment of duties, including mentoring and advising on specific tasks, such as newsletter, press releases, social media, etc.
  - Empower students to have ownership and voice in ensemble management
- **Guest lecturer**
  - From Blues to Rap: annually teach students gospel song during one class
  - Song Class: annually teach students to sing National Anthem during one class
  - Rock History: in November 2019, with instructor, organized a Rock Jam in the Student Union, rehearsed students in class, recruited a small rock band, taught and led “Bohemian Rhapsody” by Queen and “She Loves You” by the Beatles

## **Service and On-Campus Outreach (College of the Holy Cross)**

- **Conduct ensembles at major campus events**
  - Annually in August, Fall Convocation, College Choir
  - Annually in August, Mass of the Holy Spirit, College Choir
  - Annually in August, President’s Banquet, Chamber Singers
  - Annually in December, Lessons & Carols, College Choir, Chamber Singers, and Orchestra. **Most attended event on campus after Commencement.**
  - Annually in June, Commencement, direct volunteers from senior class
  - March 2020, Tania León Portrait Concert
    - Hosted Pulitzer-Prize-winning composer Tania León. Worked closely with department chair to set up this visit. León worked with College Choir, Wind Ensemble, and composition classes, and music department produced a Portrait Concert of her work.
    - Hosted León on-campus for three days, during which she worked with choirs.
    - Conducted the premiere of the mixed-chorus arrangement of her *Rimas Tropicales*.
  - March 2019, Music & the Jesuits
    - Helped to organize a large concert in celebration of the College’s 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary called “Music and the Jesuits”
    - College Choir, Chamber Singers, Chapel Choir, Orchestra, Marching Band
  - March 2019, “Music and Child Welfare in a Jesuit Institution – Mozart’s Mass for the Vienna Orphanage (1768)”
    - College Choir performed at a lecture by visiting scholar Dr. Adeline Muller; prepared Mozart’s K. 139 “Dona Nobis Pacem” specifically for her lecture.

### **(Service and On-Campus Outreach, cont.)**

- November 2018, Black Student Union Convocation
  - Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Black Student Union
- November 2018, David Lang's *little match girl passion*
  - Collaborated with Arts Transcending Borders office
  - Collaborated with visiting puppet theater group Figures Of Speech
  - Conducted this work while coordinating with puppet staging; Chamber Singers sang and played percussion
- September 2017, Phil Woodmore's *Antigone in Ferguson*
  - Collaborated with Arts Transcending Borders office
  - Collaborated with *Theater of War* productions and Phil Woodmore, composer and conductor
  - Prepared choir in standard gospel repertoire and newly composed material
- **Serve on campus committees**
  - Concert Committee, ongoing
    - Chooses guest artists to come to campus
  - Brooks Scholarship Committee, ongoing
    - Chooses music students each year for a full scholarship
    - Evaluate all vocal applicants
  - Organ Scholarship Committee, ongoing
    - Choose an organist every other year for a full scholarship
    - Evaluate all applicants
  - Spring 2021, Organ Scholars Program Committee
    - Committee formed to save organ scholarship after department reorganization
    - Successfully persuaded administration to keep organ scholarship in perpetuity
- **Served on numerous search committees**
  - April 2018, Professor of Practice in Musical Theatre search
  - May 2018, Band Director search
  - August 2019, Sound Engineer and Lecturer search
  - August 2021, Wind Ensemble Interim Director search
  - August 2021, Orchestra Interim Director search
- **Organize and participate in on-campus events**
  - Annually in spring semester, organize Art Song concert for department
    - Contact professional singers and pianists in Boston, oversee contracts
    - Singers include: Sophie Michaux, Thea Lobo, and Brian Church
  - Annually in fall semester, participate in Festival of the Arts at Holy Cross
    - High school students from the area are bused in to campus
    - Teach three "chorus rehearsals" to different school groups
  - Annually in June, sing at Baccalaureate Mass
  - Annually in June, participate in Gateways orientation for incoming first-year students
  - Member of GSWS, Gender Studies & Women's Studies group
  - Member of AAUP, American Association of University Professors

## **Tours and Off-Campus Outreach (College of the Holy Cross)**

- **Organized national tour Spring 2019 with College Choir and Chamber Singers**
  - Organized students in fundraising efforts; reached out to alumni
  - Researched tour companies and contracted with Peter's Way tour company
  - Reached out to Jesuit schools and churches on the route to set up concerts
  - Seven performances in six days down East Coast
  - Venues included St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC, Hartford Cathedral in CT, Gonzaga High School in DC, and the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in DC
- **MassACDA Collegiate Festival**
  - February 2020, attended with Chamber Singers
- **Collaborated with Worcester Polytechnic Institute Festival Chorus**
  - Joint concert in Fall 2018 at First Lutheran Church, Worcester with College Choir
  - Planned joint performance of Haydn's *Missa in Angustiis* and *Te Deum*
    - Held joint rehearsals and a retreat
    - Held joint solo auditions
    - Awarded a grant from Worcester Cultural Commission for \$5,000 for orchestra
    - Planned performance in March 2020; cancelled and not yet rescheduled
- **Performance at Worcester Art Museum**
  - Organized and conducted concert in November 2019 with Chamber Singers
- **Collaboration with Boston's Convivium Musicum**
  - Joint concert in Spring 2018 at First Lutheran Church, Worcester with Chamber Singers
  - Performed "Kyrie" from Palestrina's *Missa Papae Marcelli* and Victoria's *Ave Maria à 8* together

## **Covid-19 and Technology**

- Created two virtual projects in Spring 2020 after college shut down, including "My Heart Be Brave" by Marques Garrett who spoke to our students about the piece via Zoom
- Taught all of Fall 2020 and half of Spring 2021 on Zoom, ten rehearsals per week between three ensembles, including sectionals
- Held Zoom auditions, coachings, office hours, etc.
- Used SoundTrap for all recordings; taught students in use of software and hardware
  - Listened to every student's recordings every week and gave personalized feedback
- Conceived and spearheaded music department effort to send a Fifine USB microphone to every music ensemble student's home
- Created virtual performances of eight pieces with College Choir; six pieces with Chamber Singers; and four pieces with Orchestra, on YouTube. Worked closely with audio engineer.
- Second half of Spring 2021, worked to set up outdoor rehearsal space
- Worked closely with audio engineer to set up outdoor concerts in April 2021 where each student was individually mic'ed; performance was live-streamed on YouTube
- Directed premiere of commissioned piece "When Voices Spiral Through the Mind" by faculty composer Matthew Jaskot
  - Originally scheduled for April 2020, live, with organ four-hands and choir
  - Pivoted to online premiere in April 2021, including working with video artist Todd Davis: available at: <https://bit.ly/3149JPc>

## **Publications, Conferences, and Presentations**

January 2022 (planned)	<p>Literature session presenter, National Collegiate Choral Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Major Works by Black American Women”</li> <li>○ Will present works by Bonds, Barnwell, Johnson Reagon, León, Powell, Smith Moore</li> </ul>
October 2021	<p>Guest clinician at Western University, London, Ontario. Invited by Dr. Patrick Murray. Taught undergraduate conducting course, rehearsed Chorale.</p>
June 2021	<p>Conference presenter, Oxford Conducting Institute International Conducting Studies Conference at Oxford University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presented “‘To Fling My Arms Wide’ – How Diversity in Programming Can Benefit Your Ensemble”</li> <li>○ Presented research on benefits of diverse curricula</li> </ul>
Pub. 2020	<p>Review of <i>The Oxford Handbook of Choral Pedagogy</i>, in <i>The Choral Scholar</i>, Vol. 9, No. 1, Spring 2020.</p>
March 2020	<p>Guest lecturer for University of Illinois Chamber Singers Invited by Dr. Andrew Megill</p>
February 2020	<p>Conference presenter, Eastern Division ACDA Conference, Rochester, NY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presented “‘The Right Kind of Propaganda’: The Cantatas of Margaret Bonds and Langston Hughes”</li> </ul>
July 2019	<p>Conference presenter, MassACDA Annual Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presented “The Cantatas of Margaret Bonds and Langston Hughes”</li> </ul>
January 2019	<p>Workshop presenter, AGO Conference, Worcester Chapter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presented “Choral Repertoire: Broaden Your Horizons”</li> </ul>
Pub. 2006	<p>“Women: Mimetics and Self-Perception.” Essay in <i>The Musician’s Walk</i>, James Jordan. GIA Publications.</p>
Pub. 1998	<p>A Birthday. SSAA score, text by Emily Dickinson. Edward B. Marks Publishing Co.</p>

## Other Experience

### Church Music Experience

- October 2016-May 2017      **Children's Choir Director**, First Presbyterian Church of Champaign, Champaign, IL
- August 2015-May 2016      **Interim Music Director**, Community UCC, Champaign, IL
- Directed adult choir, hired and supervised organist
- Feb 2008-June 2014      **Music Director**, First Parish Cohasset, Cohasset, MA
- Directed adult choir, hired and supervised organist, hired instrumentalists, planned all musical events
  - Founded successful monthly concert series in 2008
  - Organized bell choir in 2009
  - Founded children's choir in 2012

### Community and Opera Chorus Experience

- August 2021-Dec 2021  
June 2009-May 2014;      **Director**, Cantilena, Arlington, MA  
(**Interim Director** for fall 2021)
- Direct an auditioned women's chorale
  - Recorded CD 2011-2012
  - Commissioned two works in 2010 and 2013
  - Started summer Community Sings for women's voices
  - [www.cantilena.org](http://www.cantilena.org)
- Oct 2004-Feb 2011      **Choral conductor**, AMC Mountains and Music retreat, Pinkham's Notch, NH
- Conducted four weekend retreats, various years
  - Rehearsed chorus, conducted chorus and orchestra
  - Most recent work: Bach *Magnificat* in Feb 2011
- Summer 2010      **Assistant conductor**, Boston Opera Collaborative, Boston, MA
- Led rehearsals, played percussion, conducted back-stage choir for Bizet's *Carmen*
- June 2009-Dec 2010      **Artistic director**, The Notables, Wellesley, MA
- Auditioned women's a cappella ensemble
  - Performed weekly at senior centers in the area
- Fall 2007, Spring 2009      **Orchestra conductor**, MIT G&S Players, Cambridge, MA
- Conducted six performances and all rehearsals for each production
  - Conducted operettas *Iolanthe* and *H.M.S. Pinafore*
  - Semi-professional soloists, volunteer orchestra and chorus
- Oct 2008-Feb 2009      **Chorus master**, Harvard Lowell House Opera, Cambridge, MA
- Led all chorus rehearsals for Verdi's *Otello*

## **Community and Opera Chorus Experience (cont.)**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Jan 2005-May 2006  | <b>Founder and director</b> , Roseae Feminae, Princeton, NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Premiered several works of Westminster composers</li><li>• Performed at Westminster Convocation, Spring 2005</li></ul> |
| Sept 2003-May 2004 | <b>Founder and Director</b> , New Century Voices, Boston, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New music chorus; participated in the 2004 annual <i>Composers in Red Sneakers Choralfest</i> for new music</li></ul> |

## **Primary and Secondary School Teaching Experience**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Oct 2008-June 2012 | <b>Choral Teacher</b> , Urban Voices, Metropolitan Opera Guild, Boston, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Taught K-5, 1 day/week, at urban school with no music program</li></ul>                            |
| Oct 2006-June 2007 | <b>Assistant Choral Director</b> , Winchester High School, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducted Freshman Chorus and After-School Chorus</li><li>• Music director for musical <i>Cabaret</i></li></ul> |
| Nov 2006-June 2007 | <b>Accompanist</b> , Winchester Boys' and Girls' Choruses, MA   |

## **Other Teaching Experience**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| May 2011-August 2014 | Lecturer in Music, Lasell Village Retirement Home, Newton, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presented multiple 10-lecture series</li><li>• Topics: Gilbert &amp; Sullivan; Benjamin Britten; The Ten Greatest Choral Works; Why Modern Music is Not That Horrible; etc.</li></ul> |
| June 2011-2016       | Private music theory tutor, Boston, MA and Champaign, IL  |

## **Music Administration experience**

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|---------------------|---|
| June 2016-June 2017 | Cataloguing Assistant, UIUC Music Library, Champaign, IL    |
| Oct 2006-Feb 2008   | Operations Manager, The Boston Cecilia, Boston, MA          |
| July 2003-July 2004 | Development Assistant, Longy School of Music, Cambridge, MA |

## Vocal Performance Experience (Mezzo-soprano)

Sept 2006-present	Schola Cantorum, Boston, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renaissance ensemble directed by Fred Jodry</li> <li>• Guest conductor in Winter 2013</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.scholacantorumboston.com">www.scholacantorumboston.com</a></li> </ul>
January 2018-present	St. John's Catholic Church, Worcester, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Regularly substitute at evening mass with professional Schola choir</li> </ul>
Sept 2019-March 2020	Choir of All-Saints Parish, Worcester, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alto section-leader under Graeme McCullough</li> </ul>
Winter 2008-present	King's Chapel Choir, Boston, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular sub</li> </ul>
June 2016	Montreal Symphony Choir, Montreal, QC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performed Britten <i>War Requiem</i> with Kent Nagano</li> </ul>
August 2014-June 2017	UIUC Chamber Singers and Oratorio Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performed <i>Acis and Galatea</i> with Mark Morris and conductor Nicholas McGegan</li> <li>• Performed <i>Anthracite Fields</i> by Julia Wolfe with Bang on a Can ensemble</li> <li>• Performed <i>Juditha Triumphans</i> by Vivaldi with Venice Baroque Orchestra</li> </ul>
March 2007-August 2014	Founding member, Anthology, Somerville, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low alto in professional vocal quartet</li> <li>• Styles included classical, jazz, folk, and world</li> <li>• Commissioned 22 works for SSAA</li> <li>• Released CD in 2012</li> </ul>
Spring 2012, Fall 2012	Video Game Orchestra, Boston, MA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recorded music for various video games, including: <i>God Eater 2</i>; <i>Ace Combat: Assault Horizon Legacy</i></li> <li>• Performed at Symphony Hall, Boston</li> </ul>
Fall 2006-Spring 2008	Cappella Clausura <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early music ensemble focusing on works by women</li> <li>• Guest conductor May 2007</li> </ul>

## **(Vocal Performance Experience, cont.)**

Sept 2004-June 2006	Westminster Symphonic Choir and Westminster Choir, Princeton, NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Performed with New York Philharmonic, Dresden Philharmonic, and New Jersey Symphony Orchestra with conductors Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Charles Dutoit, Alan Gilbert, Neeme Järvi, and Lorin Maazel</li><li>Participated in Spoleto Festivals 2005 and 2006; performed in opera choruses of <i>Die Vögel</i>, <i>Don Giovanni</i>, and <i>Roméo et Juliette</i> with conductors Emmanuel Villaume and Julius Rudel</li></ul>
Spring 2006-Spring 2010	Private vocal study with Emily Romney, Cambridge, MA
Fall 2014-Spring 2016	Private vocal study with Ollie Watts Davis, Urbana, IL
Summer 2021	Private Alexander Technique study with Karen Marshall, Stockbridge, MA

## **Awards/Other**

### **Grants/Awards**

2020	Worcester Arts Council grant through the MA Cultural Council \$5,000 for joint WPI/Holy Cross Haydn choral-orchestral concert (Concert had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic, grant returned)
2016	Van Pappelendam scholarship, University of Illinois
2005	Ainslee D. Cox fellowship, Westminster Choir College
1998	1 <sup>st</sup> prize in the Elizabeth and Michel Sorel Choral Composition Competition (prize piece published with Edward B. Marks)

### **Professional Affiliations**

American Choral Directors Association (ACDA); Chorus America; NCCO.