

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)

Current Positions

Fall 2022-present

Assistant Professor

Berklee College of Music

- Teach 2-3 orchestral conducting classes per semester (COND 211 and COND 212)
- Teach private lessons in conducting

Fall 2022-present

Music Director

Convivium Musicum, Renaissance vocal ensemble

- Program, rehearse, and direct three programs per year
- Work with board and members on recordings, publicity, budget

Fall 2022-present

Choral Director

Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus and Chamber Singers

- Work with artistic and administrative staff to plan four programs per year
- Rehearse and direct Chorus and Chamber Singers in four concerts per year, plus run-out performances with Chamber Singers

(Current Positions, cont.)

Fall 2022-present

Music Director

First Unitarian Worcester

- Interim for Fall 2022-Spring 2023; hired to permanent position in Spring 2023
- Direct adult choir and children's choir
- Manage Assistant Music Director and professional guest artists
- Work with staff to plan worship services and events
- Play organ and piano for 1-2 services per month
- Maintain instruments and music library
- Other duties as necessary

Previous Collegiate Experience

Conducting

Fall 2017-Spring 2022

Director of College Choirs

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

- Directed 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)
- Organized and led **Choir Week**, annual week-long choir camp
 - Sole organizer of housing, food, off-campus activities (hikes, concerts) transportation, etc.
 - Acted as point of contact for students; coordinate between Student Affairs, Housing, Dining, etc.
 - Performed at Fall Convocation and Mass of the Holy Spirit (annual first-year welcome Mass) annually
 - Used Choir Week to promote membership in College Choir and Chamber Singers, leading to major recruiting successes
- Arranged tours and off-campus performances
- Managed choral library of over 500 titles
- Ran choir student mentor program for first-years
- Coached Student Conductor and Student Composer
- Regularly commissioned and/or premiered works, including:
 - Spring 2022, untitled by Patrick Murray
 - 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 2022-present

Conducting 1 and Conducting 2

Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA

- Introduction to orchestral conducting course for music students
- Work through four pieces in each course; learn patterns, dynamics, fermatas, cuing, orchestra seating, transposing instruments, etc.

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, Thomas Cunningham

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 175th 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.
 - November 2018, Black Student Union Convocation
 - Celebration of 50th 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**

- o Joint concert in Spring 2018 at First Lutheran Church, Worcester with Chamber Singers
- o Performed “Kyrie” from Palestrina’s *Missa Papae Marcelli* and Victoria’s *Ave Maria* à 8 together

Publications, Conferences, and Presentations

- July 2023 Workshop co-presenter with New York Times bestselling author Dr. Amelia Nagoski, AUUMM (Association of Unitarian Universalist Music Ministers)
- o Presented on avoiding burnout in choral rehearsals
- Spring 2022 Literature session presenter, National Collegiate Choral Organization
- o “Major Works by Black American Women”
 - o Will present works by Bonds, Barnwell, Johnson Reagon, León, Powell, Smith Moore
- Pub. January 2022 “Ten Black composers to program this year.” Article in *The Collective*, Jan/Feb 2022. Available at: <https://thecollectiveis.us/?p=1397>
- October 2021 Guest clinician at Western University, London, Ontario. Invited by Dr. Patrick Murray. Taught undergraduate conducting course, rehearsed Chorale.
- June 2021 Conference presenter, Oxford Conducting Institute International Conducting Studies Conference at Oxford University
- o Presented “‘To Fling My Arms Wide’ – How Diversity in Programming Can Benefit Your Ensemble”
 - o Presented research on benefits of diverse curricula
- May 2021 Workshop presenter, Follen Church (Unitarian Universalist)
- o Presented “Food For Thought: Towards an Anti-Racist Music Future”
- Pub. May 2020 Review of *The Oxford Handbook of Choral Pedagogy*, in *The Choral Scholar*, Vol. 9, No. 1, Spring 2020.
- March 2020 Guest lecturer for University of Illinois Chamber Singers
Invited by Dr. Andrew Megill
- February 2020 Conference presenter, Eastern Division ACDA Conference, Rochester, NY
- o Presented “‘The Right Kind of Propaganda’: The Cantatas of Margaret Bonds and Langston Hughes”
- July 2019 Conference presenter, MassACDA Annual Conference
- o Presented “The Cantatas of Margaret Bonds and Langston Hughes”

- January 2019 Workshop presenter, AGO Conference, Worcester Chapter
 o Presented “Choral Repertoire: Broaden Your Horizons”
- Pub. 2006 “Women: Mimetics and Self-Perception.” Essay in *The Musician’s Walk*, James Jordan. GIA Publications.
- Pub. 1998 A Birthday. SSAA score, text by Emily Dickinson. Edward B. Marks Publishing Co.

Other Experience

Previous 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 **Director**, Cantilena, Arlington, MA
 June 2009-May 2014; **(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
- 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*
- Jan 2005-May 2006 **Founder and director**, Roseae Feminae, Princeton, NJ
- Premiered several works of Westminster composers
 - Performed at Westminster Convocation, Spring 2005
- Sept 2003-May 2004 **Founder and Director**, New Century Voices, Boston, MA
- New music chorus ; participated in the 2004 annual *Composers in Red Sneakers Chorfest* for new music

Primary and Secondary School Teaching Experience

- Oct 2008-June 2012 **Choral Teacher**, Urban Voices, Metropolitan Opera Guild, Boston, MA
- Taught K-5, 1 day/week, at urban school with no music program
- Oct 2006-June 2007 **Assistant Choral Director**, Winchester High School, MA
- Conducted Freshman Chorus and After-School Chorus
 - Music director for musical *Cabaret*
- Nov 2006-June 2007 **Accompanist**, Winchester Boys' and Girls' Choruses, MA

Other Teaching Experience

- May 2011-August 2014 Lecturer in Music, Lasell Village Retirement Home, Newton, MA
- Presented multiple 10-lecture series
 - Topics: Gilbert & Sullivan; Benjamin Britten; The Ten Greatest Choral Works; Why Modern Music is Not That Horrible; etc.
- June 2011-2016 Private music theory tutor, Boston, MA and Champaign, IL

Music Administration experience

- 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
- Renaissance ensemble directed by Fred Jodry
 - Guest conductor in Winter 2013
 - www.scholacantorumboston.com
- January 2018-2022 St. John's Catholic Church, Worcester, MA
- Regularly substitute at evening mass with professional Schola choir
- Sept 2019-March 2020 Choir of All-Saints Parish, Worcester, MA
- Alto section-leader under Graeme McCullough
- Winter 2008-2022 King's Chapel Choir, Boston, MA
- Regular sub
- June 2016 Montreal Symphony Choir, Montreal, QC
- Performed Britten *War Requiem* with Kent Nagano
- August 2014-June 2017 UIUC Chamber Singers and Oratorio Society
- Performed *Acis and Galatea* with Mark Morris and conductor Nicholas McGegan
 - Performed *Anthracite Fields* by Julia Wolfe with Bang on a Can ensemble
 - Performed *Juditha Triumphans* by Vivaldi with Venice Baroque Orchestra
- March 2007-August 2014 Founding member, Anthology, Somerville, MA
- Low alto in professional vocal quartet
 - Styles included classical, jazz, folk, and world
 - Commissioned 22 works for SSAA
 - Released CD in 2012
- Spring 2012, Fall 2012 Video Game Orchestra, Boston, MA
- Recorded music for various video games, including: *God Eater 2*; *Ace Combat: Assault Horizon Legacy*
 - Performed at Symphony Hall, Boston
- Fall 2006-Spring 2008 Cappella Clausura
- Early music ensemble focusing on works by women
 - Guest conductor May 2007

(Vocal Performance Experience, cont.)

Sept 2004-June 2006	Westminster Symphonic Choir and Westminster Choir, Princeton, NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• 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
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 st 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; AUUMM; Worcester AGO.