

The Pershing Middle School Treble Chorale

PRESENTS

*be* THE  
*change*

2020 - 2021







# be THE change

PRESENTED BY  
The Pershing Middle School Treble Chorale



*To the following choir directors, theatre teachers,  
and professors, thank you for pouring into me  
so I could do the same for others:*

Bill Bradley, Woody Schober, Mike King, Marla Maletic,  
Al Cope, Frederica Braidfoot, Mary Tickle, Beth Carlon,  
Kitty Kennedy, Dan Gelber, Dick McKean, Jaime Perez,  
John Wayman, Kent Piacenti, Dr. Will Andress,  
Dr. Julia Thorn, Dr. Gale Odom, Dr. Horace English, Dr.  
Gay Grosz, Dr. Todd Gabriel, Ms. Joy Ratcliff,  
Dr. Ron Bukoff, Dr. Dave Hobson, Nikki Hollingsworth,  
Jenny Stone, Andrea Hobson, Jason Solis, Sharon Gross,  
Dr. Vicki Baker, Dr. Joni Jensen, Dr. Danielle Woolery,  
Mischa Brinkmeyer, Anne Guess, Kristin Likos, Dr.  
Eunice Marrero, Sara Proodian, and Elizabeth Tait

By invitation from the Texas Music Educators Association  
The Houston Independent School District

P R E S E N T S

The Pershing Middle School Treble Chorale

be THE  
change

***Concert Recording***

Friday, January 15, 2021  
Bellaire United Methodist Church  
Bellaire, Texas  
6:30 PM

***TMEA Concert via Live Stream***

Saturday, February 13, 2021  
3:00 PM

# From the Director

I remember the first time a middle school TMEA Choir took my breath away. It was the Walnut Grove Middle School Varsity Tenor-Bass Choir in 2013. The entire program was stunning, but as they premiered Victor Johnson's *Kuimba*, the connection the singers had with each other and with the one and only Cliff Carbone moved me to tears in the most beautiful and cathartic way. I was a third year choir director, and it was that moment that put the TMEA dream in my heart. I have watched in awe, year after year, as the outstanding directors throughout our great state have left us speechless, each performance more beautiful than the last. My soul is fed every time I recall the powerfully reverent moment of racial harmony during the Mansfield High School Varsity Men's Choir's performance of *Glory* from *Selma* under the direction of Reginal Wright. I'll also never forget Kristin Likos and the magnificent Seven Lakes Junior High Varsity Treble Choir debuting Laura Farnell's *i thank You God for most this amazing day* - pure magic! During their final piece, the girls took hands while singing Jacob Narverud's *Sisi Ni Moja*, and the experience was nothing short of holy. These are just a few iconic moments from the last decade that remind me how grateful I am to be part of this great tradition and part of an organization that sets the standard for quality music education in our public schools.

As I was planning our TMEA program, we were in month five of a global pandemic, swirling in the anxiousness of indefinite uncertainty and national unrest. America, who believed its wounds of racial inequality were long healed, collectively woke up to realize the pain was as fresh and present as it ever was. I knew I wanted to create a program that would speak to the feelings of upheaval we'd all been trudging through in 2020, but my true task was to dream up a program that would honor the movement for racial justice without making it too heavy for 38 middle schoolers to carry to the finish line.

My initial search lead me to Jacob Narverud's *Be the Change*, and I was instantly moved by the chorus, which sings, "fighting out loud for peace, for justice, for hope, for love, for change." I sat with this piece for a few days, discerning where it fit in the program. When I finally decided to use it as our closer, a framework fell into place. I would choose one piece to embody each word of Narverud's chorus - a song about hope, which leads to love, that leads to justice, then peace, and ultimately change. I planned the entire program and decided to use the commissioned piece to fill a void in the canon.

Moses Hogan gives us hope with six simple words: "there must be a God somewhere." Mark Miller's simple yet stunning anthem written in response to the shooting at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina inspires us to love. *Ukuthula*, a song that originated in churches in the townships of pre-democratic South Africa, would help us find peace. The void I needed to fill in this program ultimately mirrored the void felt throughout our country - a need for justice.

Dr. Sally Ride, the first American woman to travel in space said, "Young girls need to see role models in whatever careers they may choose... You can't be what you can't see." For our commissioned piece, I was determined to find a female composer because I am a firm believer that verbs, not words, are what matter. I can say to my girls that they can be whatever they want, but it doesn't mean anything when I turn around and program a concert of music written entirely by white men. My dear friend and fellow choir director Dr. Eunice Marrero pointed me in the direction that led to Spelman grad and Atlanta-based composer, B.E. Boykin. Using a text penned by Pershing's own creative writing teacher and fellow Spelman grad, Brittney Ray Crowell, Ms. Boykin's setting of *Stardust* is an earnest offering that pulls from Virginia Hamilton's collection of folktales *The People Could Fly*. In a story passed down through generations, we learn that African people once had wings to fly, but enslavement took away their magic. By saying the words, "Kum buba yali, kum buba tambe," the enslaved people were able to fly to freedom. In Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*, he describes negative peace as the "absence of tension" and positive peace as the "presence of justice." It is my hope that *Stardust* fills a void, not only in the choral canon, but in the hearts of all who hear it and might be stirred to call for justice in America... not only for Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, but for all the people of color taken from this world before their time and without concern for their humanity.



**Marcus J. Jauregui**

Fine Arts Dept. Chair & Head Director of Choirs

John J. Pershing Middle School  
Houston Independent School District





*the pershing middle school*  
TREBLE CHORALE





*soprano 1*

Carolina Perez  
Addison Berger

Willow Brown  
Eden Lester

Victoria Martinez  
SECTION LEADER



*alto 1*

Kailyn Clymer  
Lauren Magid  
Raven Anderson

Amelia Perry  
Sinai Johnson  
Kendell Diaz

Ellie Nelson  
SECTION LEADER  
Victoria Wakefield



*soprano 2*

Caroline Pettigrew  
SECTION LEADER  
Zoe Dypiangco  
Maya Menefield  
Andrea Robledo

Blythe Peel  
Veronica Irby  
Becca Wise  
Charlotte Stone

Ellie Zacharia  
Arabella Gonzalez  
Hayley Mejia  
Diara Overton-Bivins



*alto 2*

Lilliana Williams  
Talyah Hearne  
SECTION LEADER

Karen Trawvitz  
Genesis Esquivel

Riya Hari  
Addison Pacheco



CONCERT PROGRAM

hope

Music Down In My Soul.....Moses Hogan

Victoria Martinez & Carolina Perez, Sopranos

...

I hear music in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head I hear music in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head I hear singing in the air.  
There must be a God, there must be a God,  
there must be a God somewhere.

I got this music down in my soul;  
and it fills my heart with the joy of the Lord!  
I've got joy! I've got it joy, everlasting.  
I've got peace! I've got it peace, everlasting.  
I've got love! I've got it love, everlasting.  
I've got joy! I've got it joy, everlasting.

Love in my heart.  
Oh yes, I got peace in my soul.  
Oh yes, I got joy in my heart, joy today!

Do you love the Lord? I love the Lord!

Well! I've got joy! I've got it joy, everlasting.  
I've got joy! I've got it joy, everlasting.  
Peace! I've got it peace, everlasting.  
Peace! I've got it peace, everlasting.  
Love! I've got it love, everlasting.

I got joy! I got peace! I got love! In my soul!

love

I Choose Love.....Mark Miller

Caroline Pettigrew, Soloist

...

In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,  
I await the sun again, I choose love. I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.  
In the midst of war, I choose peace.  
In the midst of war,  
hate and anger keeping score,  
I will seek the good once more,  
I choose peace. I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.  
When my world falls down, I will rise.

When my world falls down,  
explanations can't be found,  
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise. I will rise

In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,  
I await the sun again, I choose love. I choose love.

justice

Stardust .....B.E. Boykin / Poem by Brittny Ray Crowell

Commissioned by the Pershing Middle School Treble Choral for their 2021 TMEA Convention performance.

Michael Jarboe, Percussionist

...

If we are only stardust  
Let your name reach to the sky above us  
Like petals wafting on a breeze  
We lift you up beyond our reach

Kum Buba Yali  
Kum Buba Tambe  
Kum Buba Yali  
Kum Buba Tambe Amen!  
We say your names.

If we are only stardust  
May your blood never be in vain  
Like petals wafting on a breeze  
We lift you up beyond our reach

Kum Buba Yali  
Kum Buba Tambe  
Kum Buba Yali  
Kum Buba Tambe  
Kum Buba Yali  
Kum Buba Tambe Amen!  
We say your names.

Each day we grieve another face  
Maybe all this stardust will carry us home one day  
To a home where we can run  
A home where we can pray  
A home where we can breathe  
A home where we can pray  
to sleep and dream without fear is justice this far away

We cry your names  
We cry your names  
With the strength to keep on fighting  
With the hope that you are flying  
We cry your names  
We cry your names  
With the strength to keep on fighting  
With the hope that you are flying  
Your names, your names, your names, your names

Kum Buba Yali  
Kum Buba Tambe  
Kum Buba Yali  
Stardust

If we are, if we are, if we are  
If we are, if we are, if we are



peace

*Ukuthula (An African Prayer for Peace)..... André van der Merwe*

Victoria Martinez, Soloist

...

Kulomhlabawezono.      In this sinful world.  
Igazi likaJesu Linyenyez':      Through the blood of Jesus:

Ukathula!      We find peace!  
Usindiso!      We are saved!  
Ukunqoba!      We will conquer!  
Ukuthula!      We find peace!



change

*Be the Change..... Jacob Narverud*

...

In the quiet of the night  
I wake to a tune in my ear (Oh-ey-oh).  
I feel the rhythm of a drum begin to beat  
to a song that's loud and clear:

of a place where happiness  
and love are all around.  
of a land where selfishness  
and greed cannot be found.

And my heart raced as  
I wondered what to do;  
If this mad world that we care about  
could strive toward something new.

Though a fit of darkness came  
and clouded up my mind,  
Still, I saw a world where hope  
and light was ours to find.

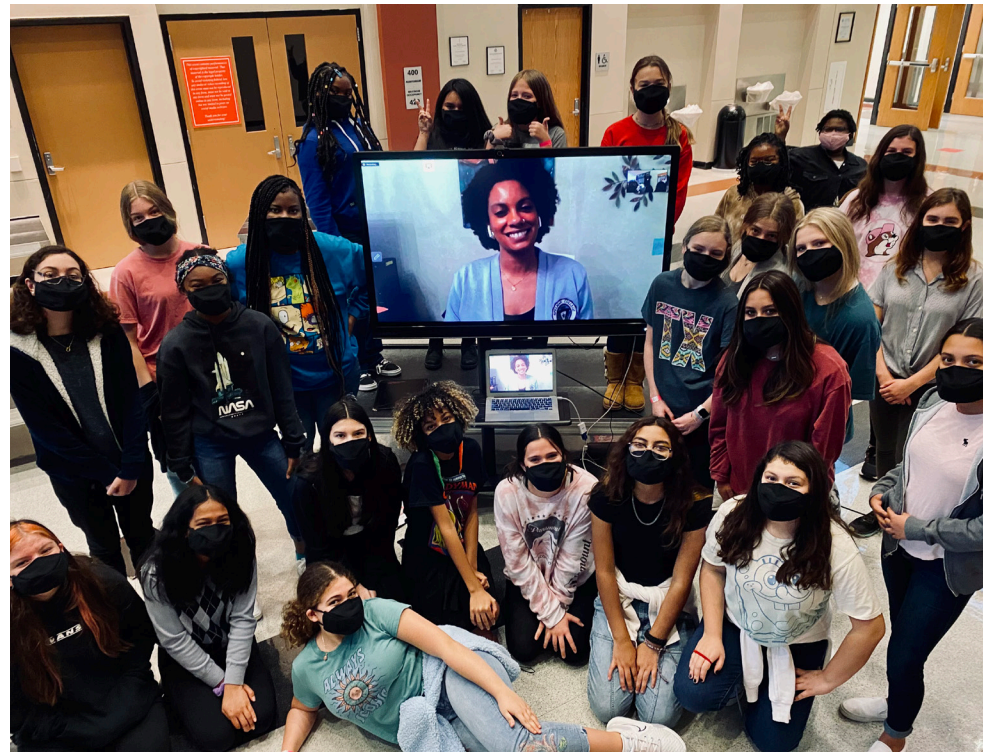
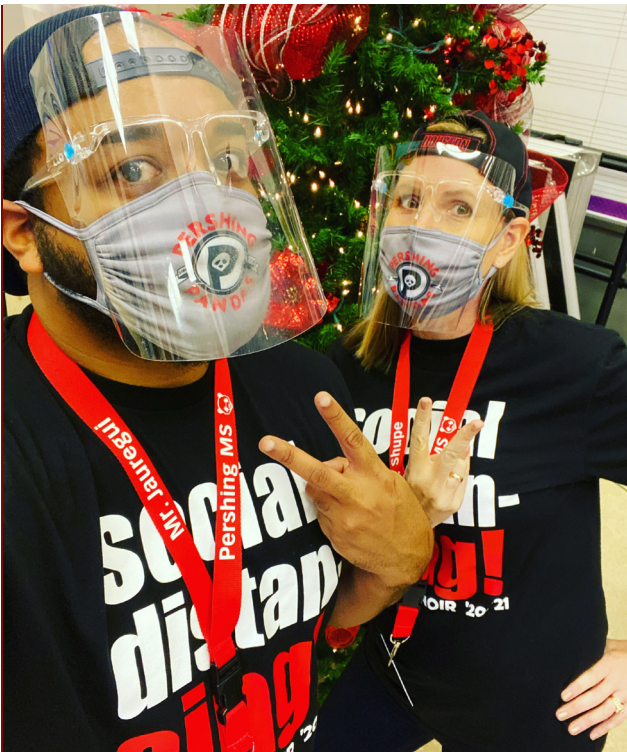
Now I'm crying out loud for peace, for justice,  
for hope, for love, for change.

Then the promise of the dawning day  
shines a light upon my face.  
A new beginning for a world stained by hate;  
hope for all the human race.

And I find the strength within  
to rise just like the sun;  
Like a soldier standing guard until the war is won.

Now I'm fighting out loud for peace, for justice,  
for hope, for love, for change.

So I'll take charge, be brave, work hard,  
have faith, stand strong for what is good,  
I'll be the change.  
Be the change.





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# ABOUT THE HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Houston ISD is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest school district in the United States. It consists of 280 schools including 8 Early Childhood Schools, 160 Elementary Schools, 38 Middle Schools, 37 High Schools, and 37 Combined Grade Level Schools. Houston ISD is proud of its cultural diversity with over 100 languages spoken by our students and families.

# ABOUT PERSHING MIDDLE SCHOOL

Pershing is the largest middle school in Houston ISD. With over 1,800 students in grades 6-8, approximately 75% of Pershing’s student body resides within the campus’s attendance zone. The remaining 25% come from all over the city by auditioning for one of Pershing’s 11 fine arts magnet areas, which include band, choir, creative writing, dance, guitar, gymnastics, orchestra, piano, theatre, technical theatre, and visual art.

Pershing first opened its doors in the fall of 1928, moving to a new campus in 1949, and later to its current state-of-the-art facility in the fall of 2007. Our student body is 40% Hispanic, 33% Black, 20% White, and 7% Asian with 50% of the campus qualifying for free or reduced lunch. We are proud that our student body reflects the diversity of Houston.

# ABOUT THE PERSHING MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL DEPARTMENT

In the fall of 2016, the Pershing Choral Department consisted of one director, five choirs, and 105 singers. By the fall of 2020, the program has grown to two directors, 225 voices, and seven ensembles. We offer beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels organized by treble voices and tenor/bass voices. Beginning and intermediate ensembles are open to any interested Pershing student. Experienced students may audition for a seat in Treble Chorale or Tenor/Bass Chorale. All advanced choir students participate in Mixed Chorale. In the spring of 2017, Treble Chorale earned the first UIL Sweepstakes in school history, and by 2020, all four UIL choirs earned Sweepstakes.

Treble Chorale is a diverse ensemble of seventh and eighth grade singers who audition for a seat in our campus’s premier treble ensemble. Long phrases, tall vowels, and perfect pitches are wonderful, but music means nothing without connection. More than anything, this is a group of young people who fiercely care for each other. We begin each rehearsal by sharing weekend stories or “new and goods” to build community. We applaud each other, mourn for one another, share our ever-changing crushes, and hold fast to the idea that Room 413 is our safe space. What happens in the choir room stays in the choir room because trust is the foundation of the work we do together. Our TMEA journey has been nothing like we pictured, but even in masks, even spaced out, even simultaneously online and in-person, we have persevered. We stand here today, not for the prestige of this invitation but because we want to remind you what it sounds like when a group of people who love each other join together and sing from the bottom of their hearts.

# THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING GROUP TEXTS FOR KEEPING MR. J. AFLOAT:

**CYB Crew:** If anyone ever finds our texts, Region 23 is going to be short a few choir directors. Thank you for all that you are and all that you do.

**Sanity Support Group:** Thank you for doing exactly what our group text is titled. Remember: Look both ways.

**TAGM:** If there’s a meme on the internet, I know I can trust y’all to find and send.

**#SchottsFired:** We ARE Olivia Pope & Associates . . . or B613. Either way, we’re getting stuff done.

**Anti-Charles Club:** What started as Baby Williams’ Aunties has evolved into so many other dumb things, and I love this daily sisterhood. (Also, Prince Charles was a victim of his circumstance, and I stand by that.)

**Boiling 88:** Is it crawfish season yet? Thank you for being my people.

**EHH:** To many more years of Thursday night specials!

**Inner Sanctum:** I’m glad y’all are here, but where is Paulina?

**The Trinity:** You’ve seen every moment of this experience unfold from the first phone call to the final note. Thank you for walking this with me. Love you.

## From Dr. Steven Shetzer

Dear Texas Music Educators Association,

On behalf of the Houston Independent School District, I would like to extend a sincere thanks for the honor of selecting Pershing Middle School's Treble Chorale to perform at the 2021 TMEA Clinic/Convention. We are the first choir in Pershing's 92-year history to receive this invitation, and I know our young ladies are excited to share their love of our choir program with all who are attending this year.

Under the leadership of our Director of Choirs, Mr. Marcus Jauregui, Pershing's choir program has more than doubled in the last four years and now includes seven different choral ensembles. This year, Mrs. Katherine Shupe joined our team as Assistant Director of Choirs. Together Mr. Jauregui and Mrs. Shupe have committed themselves to continuing to build a program that performs at the highest levels and provides opportunities for students to showcase their talents. I have had the honor to watch our choirs perform many times over the last four years, and each time I watch them, I see the passion of not only our phenomenal directors, but also the comradery amongst the students that are performing. Together they have earned numerous UIL Sweepstakes, including four in 2020.

This past year has been a challenge for all educators and since being chosen to perform at the 2021 TMEA Clinic/Convention, Mr. Jauregui had to find innovative ways to get the young ladies of our Treble Chorale together for rehearsal. He started with a few virtual rehearsals and over time found creative ways to bring the girls in after school for face-to-face rehearsals, all while maintaining social distancing and safety. Despite the challenges, our young ladies rose to the challenge and have poured their hearts and souls into this performance.

I hope you enjoy the performance of the Pershing Middle School Treble Chorale. I know they are excited to share this beautiful performance with you. Please enjoy the show!



**Dr. Steven Shetzer**  
Principal, Pershing Middle School

## From Pat Bonner

To the Members of the Texas Music Educators Association

Congratulations to the Pershing Middle School Treble Chorale, directed by Mr. Marcus Jauregui, on its selection as an invited performing choir at the 2021 TMEA Clinic/Convention. This historical appearance by the Pershing Treble Chorale marks the first time in Pershing's 92-year history, as well as the first time in thirty-eight years that a middle school choir from the Houston Independent School District has received such an honor, the other choirs being a mixed choir from Cullen Middle School and a tenor/bass choir from Welch Middle School. And Congratulations also to the Pershing Administration and Faculty for their support of the appearance by this illustrious Chorale.

In what has been a most challenging school year, Mr. Jauregui has worked tirelessly to program a very meaningful performance for this diverse ensemble. Meeting with some of the students during the school day, with some virtually, and scheduling some approved after-school rehearsals following the pandemic safety protocols, he and these young ladies have persevered and were determined to achieve a standard of excellence not seen in most choral organizations this year. A big "shout out" is due to the parents who allowed the process to proceed in order for their students to receive the recognition which they so dearly deserve. They all are truly Pershing Proud!

Gratitude is extended to Vocal Division Vice-President Jed Ragsdale for this very special invitation to perform. I invite the TMEA members to sit back and enjoy this performance—a true work of art. You will be very impressed with Mr. Jauregui and the young ladies of the Pershing Middle School Treble Chorale.



**Patricia Bonner**  
HSPVA Vocal Music Department (ret.)



## MARCUS J. JAUREGUI

### DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS



My path to becoming a music educator began in Bill Bradley’s music room at Townley Elementary School. His decor changed with the seasons, he had a puppet who lived inside his piano, and to this day, I cannot hear Beethoven’s *Moonlight Sonata* without thinking of Mr. Bradley. He encouraged me to audition for the Irving Boys’ Choir, and that was when I learned that music could literally take me anywhere. Every summer, we took our voices on the road, and I was hooked. As a member of my church youth choir, my love of music and travel continued to grow, and finding myself in San Antonio as a member of the 2004 Texas All-State Mixed Choir cemented music as an integral part of my story. When my journey took me to a tiny liberal arts college in Shreveport, Louisiana, becoming a music educator was the end game. As a member of both the Centenary College Choir and Centenary Camerata, I performed at Carnegie Hall and at the White House for President and Mrs. Bush. I was also lucky enough to take three international trips, performing in Australia, England, France, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Wales. Folks, if you’ve never sung a solo in the Sydney Opera House, I highly recommend it. Five stars. Will definitely be back.

Music changed my life in ways I never could have imagined. Just as Mr. Bradley inspired me, I hoped to follow in his footsteps as an elementary music teacher. After 36 fast and furious weeks, I decided to leave elementary music to the professionals and jumped into the zany world of middle school choir for four of the happiest years of my life. I eventually transitioned to the hustle and bustle of high school choir and enjoyed another two years of shenanigans with my favorite former middle schoolers!

After seven years of teaching in North Texas, I moved to Houston where I knew exactly two people. Five years later, I survived a few hurricanes, I finished my master’s degree from Texas Woman’s University, Houston is home, and the Pershing Choir has grown in all the ways a choir can grow. After years of watching TMEA choirs, I always imagined them as perfect programs. They might be, but in Room 413, sometimes I lose my temper, sometimes I teach wrong rhythms, and some days I invent competitions that only last 10 minutes so I can reward the kids with a movie because I just can’t. We’re not a perfect program, and I’m not a perfect teacher, but I love my kids deep down in my bones. It is my prayer each and every day that I am able to use music as the vehicle that inspires them to change the world.

## KATHERINE SHUPE

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS



After spending the past 17 years raising her three children, Mrs. Shupe is thrilled to be joining Pershing Middle this year as Assistant Director of Choirs. Mrs. Shupe is no stranger to our program, having accompanied the Pershing choirs for the past five years. During her time off as a full-time music educator, she always maintained a private piano studio as well in addition to freelance accompanying for middle and high school choral and instrumental programs. Mrs. Shupe graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with her bachelor’s degree in music education in 1997. After college, she served as a K-6 music specialist in Clark County and Fairfax County while also earning her Orff Schulwerk certification.

Mrs. Shupe knew in the seventh grade that she would pursue music education as her career when she was asked to accompany her middle school choir for the first time. During High School she participated in both band and choral

programs at her school and was honored to accompany her district’s All-City Choral Concert her senior year of high school.

Katherine and her husband Paul reside in Houston, Texas after many moves with his career in the U.S. Navy. They are the proud parents of Chloe (18), Ryan (16), Callista (14), and their two fluffy Huskies.

## B.E. BOYKIN

### COMPOSER



Brittney Boykin (B.E. Boykin) is a native of Alexandria, Virginia and comes from a musical family. At the age of seven, she began piano lessons and continued her studies through high school under the tutelage of Mrs. Alma Sanford. Mrs. Sanford guided her through various competitions, such as the NAACP’s ACT-SO competition where she garnered 1st place for three consecutive years in the local competition. Also, in the spring of 2007, Ms. Boykin was awarded The Washington Post “Music and Dance Award.”

Ms. Boykin then pursued her classical piano studies at Spelman College under the leadership of Dr. Rachel Chung. After graduating Spelman College in 2011 with a B.A. in Music, Ms. Boykin continued her studies at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, New Jersey. During her time at Westminster, she was awarded the R and R Young Composition Prize just a few months shy of graduating with her M.M. in Sacred Music with a concentration

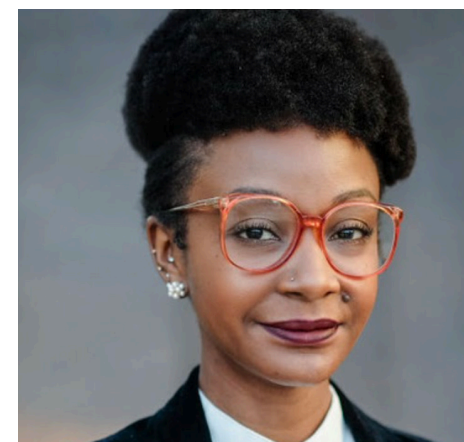
in choral studies in May 2013.

Ms. Boykin’s choral piece, “We Sing as One,” was commissioned to celebrate Spelman College’s 133rd Anniversary of its founding at the 2014 Founders Day Convocation under the direction of Dr. Kevin Johnson. She has also been featured as the conductor/composer-in-residence for the 2017 Harry T. Burleigh Commemorative Spiritual Festival at Tennessee State University. Ms. Boykin’s instrumental and choral works are currently being published and distributed through her own publishing company, Klavia Press.

She is currently the Associate Director of the Spelman College Glee Club as well as the Director of the Treble Choir at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Additionally, Ms. Boykin is the newly appointed Interim Director of Choral Activities at Agnes Scott College. She is currently a PhD candidate at Georgia State University with an emphasis in Music Education.

## BRITTNY RAY CROWELL

### POET



A native of Texarkana, Texas, Brittny Ray Crowell earned a B.A. in English from Spelman College and an M.A. in English from Texas A&M-Texarkana. She is the recipient of a Donald Barthelme Prize in Poetry and the Lucy Terry Prince Prize, judged by Major Jackson. Her poems have been published or are forthcoming in *Ploughshares*, *Frontier*, *The West Review*, *Mount Island*, *Aunt Chloe*, *Glass Poetry*, *Cosmonauts Avenue*, *The Journal*, and the anthology *Black Lives Have Always Mattered*. In addition to teaching creative writing at Pershing Middle School, she is a teaching assistant and PhD candidate in Creative Writing and Literature at the University of Houston.

Biographies



ELIZABETH TAIT  
SOPRANO



Elizabeth is in her second year as the assistant choir director at Seven Lakes High School in Katy ISD. She previously taught at Beckendorff Junior High School in Katy ISD for four years as the head choir director. Elizabeth received a double bachelor degree in Choral Education and Vocal Performance from Utah State University in 2015. She enjoys singing regularly with the Palmer Memorial Episcopal Choir under the direction of Brady Knapp and has sung with various choral groups in Houston, such as the Houston Chamber Choir, Cantare Vocal Ensemble, and various jazz venues in the city of Houston. Elizabeth created the practice recordings that assisted both at-home and in-person learners in learning their TMEA music during this unprecedented school year.

COTY RAVEN MORRIS  
CLINICIAN



Coty Raven Morris is a proud alumnus of Texas State University-San Marcos where she studied with Drs. Lynn Brinckmeyer, Jonathan Bacock, and Joey Martin. She received her Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University in the Spring of 2020 under Drs. David Rayl, Jonathan Reed, and Sandra Snow. She is currently the Director of Choirs at Crosby High School in the Houston area. Prior to this, she was the Outreach Choir Director at the MSU Community Music School, Assistant Director of the MSU State Singers, and Music Director at Grand Ledge United Methodist Church. Her choirs received consistent Sweepstakes & Division I ratings at UIL and choral festivals. Coty is the Founder of Being Human Together, a budding music education community striving to normalize difficult topics in our field through conversation and connection. BHT seeks to discuss traditionally taboo topics like mental health, systemic oppression, diversity, and inclusivity.

MICHAEL JARBOE  
PERCUSSIONIST



Beat enthusiast Michael Jarboe is delighted to play alongside The Pershing Middle School Treble Chorale. Michael has long accompanied the Panda Choirs, including two sweepstakes-earning UIL concerts. A former member of the early-2000s cover-band, Three Day Weekend, his music has been defined as “savory and soulful” by several listeners. The name djembe, according to the Bambara people of Mali in West Africa, comes from the saying, “Anke djé, anke bé” which translates to “everyone gather together in peace.” This embodies the spirit of this choir and the goal of Michael’s music every time he plays. Beyond his musical musings, Michael serves as the Senior Associate Pastor at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church in Houston. He married his middle-school sweetheart, Lesley, a talented hairstylist and champion for social justice. Michael is thankful for his best friend, Mr. J, for giving him another opportunity to do what he loves.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS  
FOR MAKING THIS EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE

- |                        |                              |                         |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lisa Allen             | Lesley & Rev. Michael Jarboe | Ashley Ramsey           |
| Amber Arnold           | Parker Jarnigan              | Kelley Rodriguez        |
| Dr. Lizzy Asbury       | Diana & Armando Jauregui     | Phillip Sammons         |
| Dustin Barksdale       | Kathy Jolly                  | Dr. Russell Sarre       |
| Lindsay Barlett        | Valerie Jones                | Stephanie Scanlan       |
| Katherine & Mark Beebe | Lacey Cunningham             | Leanne Seabright        |
| Julie Bennett          | Kathryn Kennedy              | Debbie Sharp            |
| Sonya Bishop           | Evan Key                     | Chloe Shupe             |
| Patricia Bonner        | Jo King                      | The Shupe Troop         |
| Kristen Buabin         | Beth Lane                    | Chris & Melissa Simmons |
| John Cannon            | Janet Christine Le           | Jason Solis             |
| Sarissa Coffey         | Laura Louis                  | Melanie Stapleton       |
| Susan Comeaux          | Wendy Magid                  | Christina Stone         |
| Debbie Deas            | Dr. Eunice Marrero           | Jim & Jenny Stone       |
| Amber Dent             | Denisse Mazziotti            | Sarah Stone             |
| Denise Eaton           | Rebekah Metcalf              | Yvonne Stubbins         |
| Neala Fogarty          | Connie Monette               | Elizabeth Tait          |
| Jimmy Garrett          | Monique Nathan               | Jan Taylor              |
| Stephanie & Dan Gelber | Carole Nelson                | The Tones Family        |
| Susan Graham           | Travis Orr                   | Kimberly Thomas         |
| Sara Gaur              | Andy Osborn                  | Sarah Tichenor          |
| Sharon Gross           | Shelley Park                 | Orit Trawvitz           |
| Julia Hall             | Susan Parsons Lopez          | Carrie Turner           |
| Terri Hamilton         | Gwen Patterson               | Ana Wakefield           |
| Ajai Hari              | Mandie Peel                  | Matthew Walace          |
| Mimi Harrington        | Sydney Peltier               | Paige Ward              |
| Deborah Hasou          | Alyssa Pera                  | Ralph Weaver            |
| Sam Hinman             | Allison Perry                | Brady Weldon            |
| Andrea Hobson          | Angela and Robert Pettigrew  | Ryan Williams           |
| Ellen Hoyle            | Christene Pham               | Rev. Emma Williams      |
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- |                                                                                                      |                                                      |
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# Dialogue of the Day

## REAL THINGS SAID BY REAL JJP CHOIR STUDENTS

### \*speaking to a student on screen who is visible to the entire class\*

MJ: [Student], why are you online today?  
Student: My mom is in Mexico, so my cousin is watching me.  
MJ: She went on vacation without you?  
Student: No she went to have a surgery because...  
MJ: Ok... Tellin' too much of your mama's business. Thank you!  
(Y'ALL COME AND GET THESE KIDS 🤪)

### The First 2019-20 DIALOGUE OF THE DAY

So, as I take roll the first week of school, each student answers a question of the day.  
Today's question was, "What's your bedtime, and do you actually go to sleep at that time?"  
MJ: \*calls name\*  
6th Grade Girl: Here!  
MJ: Ok, what's your bedtime, and do you follow it?  
6GG: 8:30!  
MJ: 🤔 That seems early, girl!  
6GG: It is... but I think it's really so my mom can drink wine and watch Real Housewives.

### Late to School Edition

\*8GB comes running into the auditorium out of breath with sopping wet hair\*  
MJ: Dude, you are two class periods late! You missed a performance already!  
8GB: My dad left early for his... \*whispers colonoscopy\*. There was no one to wake me up, and I ran here as soon as I woke up!  
MJ: 🤔  
8GB: \*tiptoeing to his spot\* Sooo... do you want me to bring his doctor's note... or.....? 🧑  
MJ: Go to your spot. NOW.  
(Y'all, I'm glad this guy is taking care of his male health, but this was one step past my business. 😏)

### \*five tardy students knocking at my door\*

MJ: I really don't know why they're knocking. I see them, and I hear them. I will open the door after I finish awarding points to the students who were here on time.  
\*seventh grade girl whispering like she's on safari\*  
7GG: We need to get quiet. I was in choir last year, and tardies are a major trigger for him.

### \*Love Potion No. 9 playing in the background\*

MJ: So would y'all ever use a love potion?  
Girls in unison: YESSSSS!  
MJ: Y'all don't want someone to love you because of a potion! You want to be loved for being you!  
6GG: Actually, my personality is really a lot to handle, so I'm gonna need this love potion.  
\*all control lost\*  
MJ [internal dialogue]: Same, girl. SAME.

### \*Mr. J. steps into the supply closet to grab a mic stand\*

Virtual Learner: Mr. J., we can't see you on screen.  
MJ: \*using a microphone\* Just a sec, darlin. I'm in the closet.  
VL1: I thought you were out? 🤔  
VL2: Yea, I thought his celebrity crush was Justin Timberlake? 🤔  
MJ: GIRLS!!! I was in a physical closet, not a metaphorical closet. 🧑🤪  
\*all. control. lost.\*

### Failing Grades Edition

MJ: Honey, you had 14 math assignments. I want you to take a guess at how many you did.  
8th Grade Girl: I would probably guess... actually, yea, I think 14.  
MJ: Ok, so you think you did all of your assignments for this grading cycle?  
8GG: I do.  
MJ: Ok, what if I told you the number was much lower? What would you say then?  
8GG: Ok..... I'd say 12.  
MJ: Lower...  
8GG: 10.  
MJ: You know what? I will just give you the answer. Four. You turned in four assignments, and you failed two of those. Does this surprise you?  
\*awkward silence\*  
8GG: Could you repeat the question?  
MJ: Please leave my office.

### Post-Spring Break Edition

Mr. J: Ladies, I am going to remind you once since it's our first rehearsal after spring break. What are the two things that really push my buttons?  
Student 1: Being late to class.  
MJ: Yes. 🙌  
Student 2: Talking back.  
MJ: Thank you. 🙌  
Student 3: When girls wear shirts so big and shorts so short that it looks like they aren't wearing pants.  
MJ: That does not apply at this moment, but yes.  
\*all control lost\*

### Dialogue of the Day: Lost In Translation

MJ: Where's my Topo Chico?  
6th Grade Girl A: \*taps girl next to her\* Turn off the lights!  
6th Grade Girl B: Huh?  
6th Grade Girl A: He said "TOPO. CHICO." That means turn off the lights.  
MJ: 🤔  
6th Grade Girl A: \*smug grin\* I speak some Italian.  
(Y'ALL. I'm done. I have nothing left to give this world today. 🤪)

### Clinician Edition

Clinician: Do you ever feel like the song you dislike the most, often becomes your favorite in the end? Why do you think that is?  
Eighth Grade Girl: Stockholm Syndrome?  
Mr. J: 🧠🧠🧠





## Dear Treble Chorale,

Conducting a TMEA invited choir has been a dream of mine for a very long time. Each of you stands on the shoulders of the 2019 and 2020 Treble Chorale members whose recordings helped us earn this invitation to perform for the members of the Texas Music Educators Association. In my wildest dreams, I never could have imagined the journey we took to get here. For me, most of 2020 felt like being buried alive by layer after layer of canceled plans, and missed experiences, and solitude. The one thing I managed to keep above the rubble was this choir. From the moment you picked up folders in September, all the way to concert day, I have been proud of your commitment to this group and to the work we set out to do. Friends, we have all fought our own battles to get here today, but we made it. Years from now, you may not remember every moment of this experience, but I hope our music propels you forward in your own fight for peace, for justice, for hope, for love, for change. I believe with every fiber of my being that one day you will change the world. I can't wait to watch it happen!

Mr. J.







2021



2020



2019

