



NJYC'S ARTISTIC STAFF

PATRICIA JOYCE

Founder and Artistic Director, Coriste Director

Patricia Joyce, Founder and Artistic Director of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, received her Bachelor of Music degree, magna cum laude, in Music Education from Marywood College in Scranton, PA, and her Master of Music degree, With Distinction, in Music Education from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ. She completed certification in Kodály Methodology from the Kodály Musical Training Institute, Hartford, Connecticut.

Trish began her teaching career in the Pennsylvania schools, and taught in the Bernardsville schools in New Jersey. She has served as an adjunct teacher in the Music Education Department of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, and at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. Trish has presented workshops, reading sessions, and adjudicated festivals for the New Jersey American Choral Directors Association and the New Jersey Music Educators Association. She has conducted the New Jersey All-State Women's Choir, the Central New Jersey Junior High Honors Choir, the Central New Jersey Elementary Honors Choir, the North Jersey Junior High Women's Honors Choir, the Colorado All-State Middle School Treble Choir, and Children's Choir Festivals in Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Virginia.

Trish has served on the Board of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association as President, Vice President, and as the Repertoire and Standards Chair for Children's Choirs. She was the Co-Chair for the American Choral Directors Association's National Children's Choirs Conductors Retreat, held in New Jersey in January, 2016. She received Marywood University's 2016 Award of Excellence in Creative and Performing Arts. In addition, she has served as Associate Organist and Choirmaster at St. Bernard's Church in Bernardsville, NJ, Interim Director of Music at Christ Church in Summit, NJ, and continues freelance work at many other churches in northern and central NJ.

MATTHEW J. LAPINE

Camerata Director

Matthew J. LaPine is an active performer, educator, conductor, and composer in central New Jersey. He received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music in Choral Conducting and Music Education degrees from Westminster Choir College of Rider University, where he studied voice and graduated with distinction.

Mr. LaPine is the Founder and Artistic Director of *Rise Up Chorus*, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to enrich lives through human interaction using music as our commonality. He is Choral Director at Bernards High School, where his choral ensembles have received national acclaim and have performed in various locations along the East Coast. He is Director of *Education for Music* in the Somerset Hills, a community organization whose mission is to provide musical experiences of the highest quality to those who live and work in the Somerset Hills and the surrounding communities. He is Director of Early Childhood Music Camps at Westminster Conservatory of Music, and sings professionally for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen (NJ) where he is a soloist, section leader, and guest conductor with the Festival and Chamber Choirs.

TARA POSTIGO

Sola Voce Director

Tara Postigo received her Bachelor of Music from The College of NJ and her Master of Arts in Music and Music Education from Teacher's College, Columbia University. At Teacher's College, Tara had the honor of working with Dino Anagnost, the conductor of NYC's Little Orchestra Society and Metropolitan Singers. While at TC, Tara performed with the Metropolitan Singers in many NYC locations including Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center.

For the last nineteen years she has taught Choral, General and Instrumental Music as a Music Educator for the Washington Township School District in Long Valley, NJ. Tara was also the conductor of the 2008 North Jersey Junior High School Region Treble Choir. Tara is currently pursuing her Kodály Levels at Westminster Choir College. She is a proud member of ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) and has served on the local NJSMA (North Jersey School Music Association) Executive Board as Treasurer.

GYASI J. BLANTON

Coro Vivo Director

Gyasi J. Blanton is an active musician, music director, music educator and composer/arranger. He studied at the first Historically Black College/University, The Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education (magna cum laude) as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Vocal Performance (magna cum laude). He is currently pursuing a Master of Music Education degree (Choral track) at Florida State University.

A tenor, Gyasi has performed a variety of noted roles including: Andy (*Treemonisha*), The Witch (*Hansel and Gretel*), Sancho (*Man of La Mancha*), The Caliph (*Kismet*), and Toby (*The Medium*). As a composer and arranger, Blanton's *Invictus* and *Entreat Me Not to Leave You* were performed in recitals and master classes. Blanton also served as music director for the school productions of *A Christmas Carol*, *Pippin*, and *Little Women*.

As a music teacher in the Hackensack Public Schools, Blanton is a passionate choral conductor who loves working and developing young voices. The varied repertoire choice reflects his belief of what students should gain while studying music. Gyasi is committed to using his God-given talents to empower young musicians.

Blanton is affiliated with Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society, American Choral Director's Association (ACDA), National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM), New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA), National Association for Music Educators (NaFME), Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

JODIE ADESSA

Primo Coro Director

Jodie is an enthusiastic performer educator who began her career as a musician working in opera and musical theatre. After graduating from The College of New Jersey with a Bachelor of Music degree in voice and music education, Jodie began pounding the pavement in New York City. She has performed in regional theater, light opera, and Off-Broadway shows including *Vincent*, *A...My Name is Alice*, *Nun-crackers*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and *Children of Children*, and is a member of Actor's Equity Association. In addition to operas and musicals, Jodie has also performed in regional plays such as *Kindertransport* and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, been seen in films such as *Last Rites*, *Hot Tomatoes*, and *The Chorus Girl* and played Donna Leonte in a season finale episode of *Law and Order: SVU*.

Jodie earned a Masters of Education in Educational Leadership degree from the College of New Jersey, is

working towards her Kodály Certification at Westminster Choir College, and is currently teaching vocal, instrumental, and general music at Copeland Middle School in Rockaway, New Jersey. Besides teaching in the classroom, Jodie teaches private vocal and piano lessons and continues to perform. She is an active member of NAFME, NJSMA, AOSA and serves on the board of the NNJOSA. She is thrilled to be a part of the NJYC family and is grateful for the opportunity to work with such talented and enthusiastic singers.

PHILLIP STEFFANI

Coriste, Sola Voce & Primo Coro Accompanist

Phillip Steffani graduated magna cum laude from Westminster Choir College with a B.M. in Theory and Composition, with organ and voice concentrations. Phillip has performed with the great orchestras of the world, including the New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra and London Philharmonic. Before attending Westminster, Phillip studied piano with Peter Takacs at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. He currently teaches Choral and General music at St. James School in Woodbridge, NJ and is the Organist and Choirmaster at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Spotswood, NJ. Phillip also teaches piano and theory privately. Phillip has been the recipient of Papermill Playhouse's *Rising Star* award for best musical director. As a composer, Phillip receives commissions from numerous schools, churches, and other organizations. He serves as accompanist for several choral groups and has accompanied numerous choral festivals and competitions. In addition to accompanying and teaching piano privately, Phillip is a violinist and singer.

THOMAS DELESSIO

Coro Vivo & Camerata Accompanist

Thomas DeLessio has been Director of Liturgical Music for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen and the Cathedral of St. Francis of Assisi since February 2001. Under his direction are the Cathedral Choir, three Parish choirs for children in grades K-12, the Diocesan Festival Choir and the Diocesan Chamber Choir, of which he is the founding director. He coordinates and directs combined choirs for major Diocesan Liturgies, and has conducted choirs on pilgrimages to St. Peter's Basilica, Rome and the Basilica of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Washington DC.

Mr. DeLessio is organist and pianist for nearly 400 liturgies each year. He is an occasional organ recitalist, has given two organ dedication recitals, and has performed *Symphony No. 3 (Organ)* by Camille Saint-Saëns on three occasions with the Tim Keyes Consort and the Young Players Philharmonic.

Mr. DeLessio has his undergraduate degree in Music Education and Organ from Westminster Choir College, and his graduate degree in Liturgical Studies from LaSalle University. He maintains a private piano and organ studio in Whitehouse and is also accompanist for the Somerset Hills School District.