

Dr. Justin Smith



Dr. Justin Smith is a conductor, teacher and singer based in the Portland, Oregon area. For six years he was the Director of Choral Activities and holder of the Joseph Naumes Endowed Chair in Music at Marylhurst University, where he conducted three choirs, taught music history and conducting, and administered the music core. He was director of the Marylhurst Chorale and founder of the Marylhurst Choral Union and Marylhurst Chamber Choir. Under his leadership, Marylhurst choirs grew from eighteen to a hundred singers, from one to three choirs.

Under Dr. Smith's leadership, the Portland Phoenix Chamber Choir has achieved international recognition, winning awards at the Cork Festival (2016), the European Choir Games (2017) and the Leonardo Da Vinci International Choral Festival (2018).

Dr. Smith is in demand as a judge and clinician throughout the Pacific Northwest and internationally. Before taking up his present position, he served as Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Houston Moores School of Music, where he conducted the Concert Women's Chorus and the University Men's Chorus. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in April of 2012, conducting the Fauré Requiem for MidAmerica Productions, again in 2015, conducting the Randall Thompson Testament of Freedom. He conducted the Mozart Missa Brevis in Vienna, Austria in the summer of 2016.

He holds the DMA in Choral Conducting from the Moores School of Music, where he studied with Charles Hausmann and Betsy Cook Weber. He is a scholar of American choral music, having been published twice in Choral Journal on neglected choral works of Marc Blitzstein and Vincent Persichetti.

He holds additional degrees in music from Wesleyan University and the University of Oregon.

Dr. Smith is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Collegiate Choral Organization and the Oregon Music Educators Association. He presently serves as Collegiate R & S Chair on the board of the Oregon ACDA chapter.

John Eisemann



John Eisemann started as the Director of Choral Activities at Grant High School in the Fall of 2012 and is beginning his 7th year at Grant. John is an alum of Grant High School and graduated in 2006. He sang with the choir program for three years, two of which he was a member of the Royal Blues. John holds a BA in Music/Education from Knox College, Galesburg Illinois, and an MA in Educational Leadership/Curriculum Design from Concordia University.

Aside from his work at Grant, John is an active member in the NW choral community and currently serves as the President and co-member of the Artistic Consortium for the Portland Symphonic Choir. John is an avid cyclist, amateur chef, wearer of Toms, gardener, and lover of renaissance polyphony.

Judge #3 TBA