

Dr. Julie Ford

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Objective

Choral and Orchestral conducting, teaching, and vocal performance to compliment my current professional activities and utilize my enthusiasm for classical and jazz integration.

Experience

2010-Current

Associate Professor of Music, Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA
Director of *Chamber Singers* and *Glee Club* each honored at the Reno International Interkultur Choral Fest ("Silver" & "Gold" diplomas for Chamber Singers & Glee), & at the 2012 World Choir Games ("Silver diploma"/open competition: Chamber; "Silver medal"/champions competition for Glee). Other courses offered: Lyric Diction, Jazz Choir, Sight-Singing, Conducting, Beginning & Intermediate Piano.

2009-Current

Soprano/Soloist, *Eli*, Women's Vocal Quartet

- Pop, lite-Classical; accompanied and a cappella; sacred & secular repertoire
- Selected to compete in the San Francisco Bay Area Harmony Sweepstakes, March 2013.
- Appears regularly as guest artists at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, CA in worship and concert

2005-Current

Soprano/Soloist, *Moodswing*, Professional Vocal Jazz Ensemble, San Francisco Bay Area, CA

- San Francisco Bay Area Champions of Harmony Sweepstakes, 2005.
- CD *Laughing All the Way* Released in December, 2008.
- Appears regularly as guest artists at LOPC in worship and concert

2009-June 2013

Repertoire and Standards Chair for Music in Worship, CA ACDA, State Board

- Appointed; two terms: served as expert on issues regarding choral music in worship services
- Led/Designed annual Interfaith Worship: plenary session at state ACDA conference (ECCO)
- Presented sessions at the state ACDA conference (ECCO):
 - 2013: Challenges & Opportunities facing Music in Worship in the 21st Century
 - 2011: Round Table Discussion, *Challenges of Church Choirs*
 - 2010: (1) Seminar, *Creative Integration of Classical and Contemporary Styles in Worship*, and (2) Round-Table, *Nuts-and-Bolts of Music and Worship*

2002-May 2013

Director of Worship and Music, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, CA
2000 member congregation. Over an eleven-year period, implemented church directive to expand a traditional musical program to include integration of modern musical styles (jazz, gospel, pop, and folk), and implemented a new multi-choir approach, growing the program and attracting many singers with degrees in music.

- Conducted four ensembles, increased from one *Chancel Choir*: new are two advanced, *Chamber Singers* (Adults, est. 2003) and *Cantemus* (ages 11-14, est. 2011; received a "Gold" rating at the Form Music Festival), and two intermediate level ensembles, *Festival Choir* (est. 2004 to perform major works) and *Chancel Choir* (choir in place upon hire).
- Conducted bi-annual choral-orchestral works, many with *Jubilate Baroque Orchestra* to nurture interest in early music
- Performed as soprano soloist and keyboardist weekly in worship
- Received National honor: *Chamber Singers* toured to Oklahoma City to sing in the National ACDA Convention (March 2009).
- Recruited/hired a Composer in Residence to create customized compositions for congregation and choirs (jazz, gospel, pop, and classical styles)
- Established a seasonal *Gospel Choir*; oversaw expansion from 3 to 6 of children's choirs
- Established an annual Interfaith Choral Event with *Temple Isaiah* in Lafayette
- Presented four collaborative worship events with *Company C Contemporary Ballet*
- Co-Founded with former President of the CA American Choral Directors Association an annual Sacred Choral Festival for advanced church choirs in the San Francisco Bay Area.

- 2002-2005 **Director of Jazz Choir**, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA
As part of the college's summer camp faculty, directed a 14-20 member vocal jazz ensemble with customized arrangements and professional rhythm section
- 1998-2002 **Director of Oakland Jazz Choir**, Rhythmic Concepts, Inc., Oakland, CA
- Artistic/musical direction for 30-member community choir with professional rhythm section dedicated to the study and performance of jazz; activities included concerts, performances in jazz festivals and various gigs including three engagements at *Yoshi's Jazz House* in Oakland.
- 1997-2002 **Director of Music**, First United Methodist Church, San José, CA
200-member church including a Vietnamese-speaking congregation; hired to grow a music program "from scratch" with a wide variety of styles
- Recruited and hired Composer in Residence to create customized compositions for congregation and choirs (jazz, gospel, pop, and classical styles)
 - Established a 15-member choir, a 6-member classical/jazz vocal group, an internship program for college students (music majors) to develop a free after school band program
- 1996-1997 **Interim Director of Choral Activities**, San José State University, San José, CA
- Director of *Concert Choir* and Internationally-acclaimed *Choraliers*
 - Taught choral methods, beginning and advanced conducting, graduate seminar; summer workshop on score study and interpretation
 - Planned and executed two tours: a Spring recruiting tour to bay area high schools, and a 4-day tour on a Caribbean cruise ship
- 1995-1996 **Assistant Director**, *Canterbury Choral Society*, OKC Philharmonic Choir, Oklahoma City, OK
- As part of the orchestra's spring season, conducted Philharmonic orchestra and chorus (*Alto Rhapsody* – Johannes Brahms)
 - Directed the choir in nationally televised memorial service for the victims of the 1995 bombing of the Murrah Federal building in Oklahoma City.
- Instructor of Music Appreciation & World Music**, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
- 1992-1995 **Director of Music**, Suffield Academy, Suffield, CT
300 student preparatory school; 18% International students; Directed choirs, Chamber Instrumental Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, and Musicals (e.g. *Man of La Mancha*, *Boyz n the City*)
- 1988-1991 **Various Music Positions**, Regional Catholic Churches, San Francisco Bay Area, CA
Director/Cantor/Pianist (St. Lawrence O'Toole, Mission San José, & St. Edwards in Newark).

Education

D.M.A. in Choral Conducting, University of Oklahoma, 2006; primary teacher, Dr. Dennis Shrock; Dissertation: *A Comparison of Related Performance Practices of Late Renaissance Italian Madrigals and 20th Century Choral Jazz Ballads*

M.M. in Conducting, The Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY
(1992; primary teachers, Donald Neuen & Samuel Adler)

B.A. in Vocal Performance, San José State University, San José, CA
(1991; primary teachers, Jeanne Garson, Dr. Charlene Archibeque)

American River College, Sacramento (undergrad work & jazz studies, primary teacher, Perla Warren)

De Anza College, Cupertino (jazz studies, primary teacher, Roger Letson)

Recordings

Available online at www.julieford.org