

Dr. Julie Ford

www.julieford.org julieford@hotmail.com julie@lopc.org

Objective

Choral and Orchestral conducting, teaching, and performing as a vocalist to compliment my current professional activities and utilize my enthusiasm for integrating classical and jazz styles.

Experience

2002-Current

Director of Music and Worship, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, CA

2000 member congregation. Over the course of eight years, implemented church directive to expand a purely traditional musical program to include integration of modern musical styles (jazz, gospel, pop, and folk), and doubled the size of the choral program, attracting many singers with degrees in music. Highlights of my current & past activities :

- Conducting bi-annual choral-orchestral works, many with *Jubilate Baroque Orchestra* to nurture interest in early music
- Presenting choral works in worship representing a wide range of style-periods
- Performing as soprano soloist and keyboardist weekly in worship, and periodically, in two professional vocal-instrumental ensembles, *Without Measure*, and *Everyday Wisdom* which appear as guest artists; *Everyday Wisdom* CD, *Unveiling a Song*, released in 2004.
- Serving as Repertoire and Standards Chair for Music and Worship for California American Choral Directors Association; article published in CA ACDA newsletter, *Cantate* (Spr. '10)
- Presenting three offerings in July 2010 at the state ACDA conference: a seminar, *Creative Integration of Classical and Contemporary Styles in Worship*; a Round-Table discussion, *Nuts-and-Bolts of Music and Worship*; and designing/leading an *Interfaith Worship Service*
- Received National honor: *Chamber Singers* toured to Oklahoma City to sing in the National ACDA Convention (March 2009).
- Recruited and hired a Composer in Residence to create customized compositions for congregation and choirs (jazz, gospel, pop, and classical styles)
- Recruited and hired an internationally-recognized organist (S F Symphony organist)
- Formed a new auditioned choir, *LOPC Chamber Singers*
- Modified program to create seasonal *Festival Choir* to perform major works
- Promoted establishment of a seasonal *Gospel Choir*, and expanded children's choral offerings from 3 to 5 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 President of the CA American Choral Directors Association an annual Sacred Choral Festival for advanced church choirs in the San Francisco Bay Area.

2010-Current

Lecturer in Choral Directing, St. Mary's College, Moraga, CA

Director of *NightenGaels*, 30-voice mixed choir of music majors and majors from other disciplines.

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

2002-2005

Director of Vocal 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

- Provided artistic/musical direction for a 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.

- Founded *In the Name of Love*, annual concert honoring Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy

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 seasonal choir and a 6-member professional classical & jazz vocal ensemble for worship, *Without Measure*
- Established an internship program for college students (music majors); students supported the choir, sang choir, solos, duets, and trios (both classical and jazz styles), and taught a free after school band program in downtown San José

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 World Music, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Taught music of various cultures as part of the university's general education offerings; 70% of the enrollment in this course represented International students

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 of Music, Choral Director, Cantor, Accompanist, at St. Lawrence O'Toole in Oakland, Mission San José, & St. Edwards in Newark.

Education

DMA 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*

MM in Conducting, The Eastman School of Music, Rochester, NY

(1992; primary teachers, Donald Neuen & Samuel Adler)

BA 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 (Marenzio, Bach, Charpentier, Antes, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Vaughan Williams, Matthias, Carillo, Membly, Winter, Spirituals, various Jazz arr.)