

## 2013 MTVA Elementary & Middle School Choral Festival

### Adjudicator Bios

#### **Dr. Tucker Biddlecombe**

Tucker Biddlecombe serves as Director of Choral Activities at Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music. His duties include conducting the Vanderbilt Symphonic Choir and the Blair Chamber Choir, teaching choral conducting, and serving as Artistic Director for the Blair Children's Chorus program. A National Board Certified teacher, Dr. Biddlecombe taught for ten years as a public school choral director in New York and Florida. He is sought-after as a clinician and adjudicator, and will conduct the Tennessee All-West Junior High Honor Choir in 2013, as well as the Florida All-State Men's Chorus in 2014. Professor Biddlecombe holds a PhD in Music Education and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Florida State University.

#### **Lisa Bitzas**

**Lisa Bitzas** received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Tennessee School of Music and Masters degree in Administration and Supervision from Lincoln Memorial University. Currently, she is in her thirteenth year as director of choral activities at Seymour Middle School.

Bitzas's choral experience and work includes conducting elementary, junior high, and high school honor choirs. Her Eagle Ensemble has performed for the American Choral Directors Association national and southern division conventions, Piccolo Spoleto, and the NAFME multicultural symposium. She has served as conductor and clinician for Tennessee and North Carolina Honor Choirs, Campinas State University, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Children's Choral Festival.

Professional affiliations include ACDA, MENC, TMEA, and ETVA.

#### **Brian Russell**

Brian Russell is choral director at Oakland High School in Murfreesboro, where he teaches four choirs, general music, and musical theatre. Prior to teaching at Oakland, Dr. Russell taught at Illinois Wesleyan University, Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY, White House High School in Sumner County, and Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro. He received his Bachelor's degree from MTSU and his graduate degrees in conducting from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY.

## **Jeanette MacCallum**

Jeanette MacCallum is an Adjunct Professor in music theory and history at Belmont and Lipscomb Universities in Nashville, TN and founder and Artistic Director of *Vox Grata*, a Nashville community women's chorus. Prior to that, she served as the Director of Choral Activities at Saint Cecilia Academy in Nashville, TN, from 2002 to 2012, where she conducted various ensembles and taught AP Music Theory. During her tenure at Saint Cecilia, the Advanced Choir received superior ratings at all regional and state adjudication festivals in which it participated. In addition, the St. Cecilia Advanced Choir performed at ACDA and TMEA state conferences. Mrs. MacCallum led the St. Cecilia Choir on performance tours to Carnegie Hall, Canada and Italy. In 2007, the Saint Cecilia Choir performed by invitation at the *Ospedale della Pietà* and the *Ospedale dei Derelitti* in Venice. Her students earned positions in numerous All State and ACDA Honor Choirs.

Reared in Princeton, New Jersey, Mrs. MacCallum's passion for choral music began as a member of the distinguished Princeton High School Choir. She received her musical education at the Eastman School of Music and Belmont University, and received the Master of Church Music degree from Belmont. A singer, pianist and conductor, Mrs. MacCallum has directed choirs at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University, as well as at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN. She currently serves as the ACDA Tennessee Chair for Women's Choir Repertoire and Standards. Mrs. MacCallum is the current Treasurer and Past-President of the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association. She is also the author of "*The Sacred Choral Works of the Venetian Ospedali*," recently published by GIA in "*Conducting Women's Choirs: Strategies for Success*," Debra Spurgeon, Editor and Compiler. (2012)