

Alexander High School Choir

Douglasville, Georgia www.musicofahs.com

About the Director

Sandra Chandler is Director of Choral Activities at Alexander High School, Douglasville, GA and the conductor of *Georgia Canto*, a multigenerational community choir. Sandra has been a choral music educator in the Georgia and Texas public school systems for over thirty years, and is currently responsible for teaching Mastery Choir, Advanced Chorus, multiple beginning choral classes, Show Choir and musical theater productions at Alexander. She is the Douglas County Choral Resource teacher responsible for staff development and mentoring middle and high school choral directors in her county. She is an accomplished conductor, adjudicator and remains active as a performing pianist.

Sandra's choirs have performed at Carnegie Hall and the Cathedral of St. John Divine, New York City, have participated in international concert tours throughout Italy, England and Ireland, and have performed in festivals in Hawaii, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Nashville, Orlando and additional locations. Her choirs and productions have received superior ratings and critical acclaim including nominations in the Shuler Awards. In 2018, she lectured and adjudicated at the "China International Chorus Festival" in Beijing and lectured at the 2019 Xi'an International Choral Festival in Xi'an, China. Sandra was chosen by her peers as "Teacher of the Year" for 2011-2012 and system winner Star Teacher in 2006.

Prior to teaching at Alexander, Sandra taught at schools on all levels in Georgia and Texas. Sandra graduated from Shorter College, Rome, Georgia with a Bachelor degree in Music Education, studied at the State University of West Georgia, and received her Master of Arts Education degree from Central Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. She is an active participant and holds professional membership in the American Choral Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education, and the Georgia Music Educators Association. Her writing is currently featured in the Choral Reviews section of the Choral Journal. Sandra resides in Lithia Springs, Georgia with her husband Keith.



About the Accompanist

LeAndra Douds currently lives in Winston, Georgia. She is in 12th grade and attends Alexander High School. She thoroughly enjoys music of all kinds, classical, pop and rock. She plays the piano and harp and is a member of Alexander High School chorus. She has played the piano for eleven years and has



played the concert pedal harp for seven years.

LeAndra toured Ireland with the Alexander High School Chorus and was the featured soloist and accompanist. She toured Mexico with the Buckhead Youth Orchestra during June of 2016. She is currently Co-Principal harpist of the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra. She also plays for the Atlanta Harp Ensemble which performs two concerts. In

addition, LeAndra performs for weddings, church and other private events. LeAndra hopes to attend a music conservatory for college to become a concert harpist and also teach music.

About the Accompanist

Wayne Gilreath is an active performer, teacher, and church musician. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance (2005) from the University of West Georgia where he studied with Professor George Mann. His Master of Music degree in Piano Performance (2007) is from the University of Tennessee where his teachers included Dr. David Northington (principal teacher), Dr. Christy Lee (collaborative piano), and Mr. John Brock (organ). Wayne continues his organ studies with Ms. Sarah Hawbecker, organist at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta.



A member of the Music Teachers' National Association, Wayne recently presented a lecture-recital at the 2015 Georgia Music Teachers' Conference entitled "Listening for the bells: teaching the piano music of Arvo Pärt". In 2014, he was guest artist with the University of West Georgia Wind Ensemble performing Edward Grieg's famous Piano Concerto in A minor. Wayne is also a member of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

About the Alexander Choir

Alexander High School is located just west of Atlanta. The choral de-

partment is thriving with six unique choirs that perform often in school, throughout the community, out of state and internationally. In the 2018 - 2019 year they were featured on the stage of Carnegie Hall, lead in a worship service at The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in NYC, featured choir at Geor-



gia Music Educators Conference, received superior ratings at adjudicated festivals, performed at Oglethorpe University, Truett McConnell University and Berry College, held master classes with Paul Phoenix (formally of The King's Singers), master class with Joseph Lattanzi (opera), multiple performances with Dr. Tim Sharp (ED ACDA) including his "Come Away to the Skies: A High Lonesome Mass", performed at Disney World Disney Springs and were featured in many local concerts and events.

Their repertoire includes Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols, Madrigals, Sacred songs including "introitus and Kyrie" from W.A. Mozart Requiem, "Glory Be to God" from Rachmaninov *Vespers*, "Credo" from J.S. Bach *Mass in B Minor*, "Amen" from G.F. Handel *Messiah*, *Come Away to the Skies" A High Lonesome Mass* by Wes Ramsay and Tim Sharp, Spirituals, and other contemporary composers such as Ēriks Ešenvalds, Jake Runestad, Ola Gjeilo.

The Choir in Action





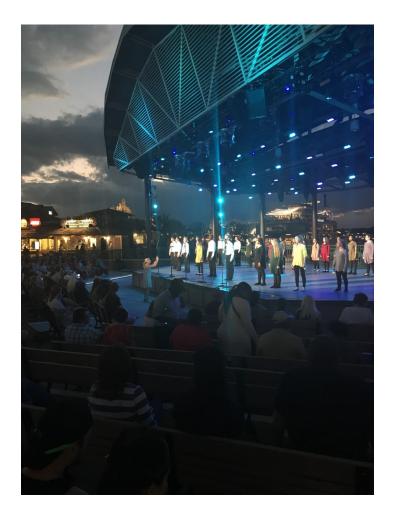




















In the News

AHS on tour in Ireland Choral students sing across country while on winter breat BY LIZ MARINO

horal students from Alexander High School experienced the trip of a ne during their winter break ey shared their talents while sipating in a total cultural immersion during a tour of Ireland. According to



e they performed a dive ram, which included the sic of Tim Sharp, executive ector of the American Choral

sector of the American Choral ociation. The tour included a group of tudents and 13 adults, some ning from different choirs. Also ing with the group was Kevin bard, professor of music and r and director of choirs at the resity of West Georgia. ternationally known in choral circles. Shan, who toured test conductor through dwith Alexander's choral p, has become a locally-known nece as well for his bosition "Come Away to the so the has conducted during noral group's performances. 20 stu

SEE TOUR/PAGE A10



Above: Pictured inside St. Pat-rick's Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland which was founded in 1191 and is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, are Alexander High School choral students, from left, Colby Davis, Emma Brackett, Emily Waters, LeAndra Douds and Kate Mitcham. Left LeAndra Douds a sonbornore a eAndra Douds, a sophomore a Alexander High School and the arpist for the Atlanta Symphor Orchestra, toured choir, performing as well as sin ing, during their trip to Ireland during winter break. She is pic ell as sinc performing at Ch. h in Dublin.



WORLD on a STRING

of research, determination and earching,

metimes, it follows a stroke of

LeAndra Douds, it was the latter. At the of 11, she simply got up one morning the inspiration was there.

twoke up and was like, 'I want to play app''' says Douds. "I don't know where the from; I just of I wanted to CTORY BY

At first, her parents were understandably skeptical. Of course, they thought, a pre-teen wants to take up some obscure hobby they must have seen on TV or Instagram. Surely it won't last, they thought, But Douds persisted, asking over and over when she could finally take harp lessons. After a full year of asking, they relented.

Today, Douds is an accomplished harp player, securing gigs with the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Atlanta Harp Ensemble, Buckhead Youth Orchestra and

recently, playing at a teacher retiremen luncheon. STORY BY HAISTEN WILLIS PHOTOS BY NADAY SOROKER

LeAndra Douds has a bright future as a classical harpist

September/ October 2018 West Georgia Living 53

AHS' Chandler embarks on trip to China

Choral director shares expertise at July music festival in Beijing

BY LIZ MARINO STAFF WRITER

STAFF WRITER A Choral Director Sandra Choral Director Sandra arare opportunity this summer to share her expertise and knowledge globally as a judge and lecturer at the 14th International Chorus Festival and International Federation for Choral Music Conference for Choral Music Conference in Beijing, China from July

19-25. The festival and conference drew 308 choruses from 59 countries, Chandler said. Representatives from China reached out to the International Federation for Choral Music (IFCM), asking that they send people with

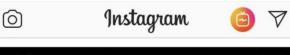
SEE CHINA/PAGE A2

Sandra Chandler, center, choral director ar Alexander High School, is pictured with two School, is pictured with two global musical colleagues, Donka Miteva, a conductor in Bergin, and Rainar Held, a con-ductor from Switzerland, dur-ing an excursion to the Great Wall of China during her partic-pation as a judge and lecturer at the 14th China International Chorus Festival and Interna-tional Federation for Choral Music (IFCM) conference in Bei-jing from JUS 19-25. Submitte



Congratulations to Sandra Maloney

Chandler for being featured as Eric Whitacre's teacher of the week!!!! 🙌 Way to go!!!





Repertoire of the Alexander High School Chorus



Alexander Mastery Choir

at Carnegie Hall

Women's Mastery March 2019

<u>Alexander Mastery at</u> <u>GMEA Conference</u>

Recordings of the Alexander Choirs