

2009 Tennessee ACDA State Choral Festivals

April 29 – WEST Tennessee Festival, Kingsway Christian Church (Germantown)

April 30 – MIDDLE Tennessee Festival, Lipscomb University (Nashville)

April 29 – EAST Tennessee Festival, Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church (Knoxville)

FESTIVAL JUDGES



Debra Spurgeon is associate professor of music at the University of Mississippi where she conducts the Women's Glee and teaches choral methods and conducting. She has conducted high school and collegiate honor choirs in Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. Prior to moving to Ole Miss she taught voice and conducted the women's choir and chamber choir at Southwestern Oklahoma State University for eighteen years. She and her husband, Alan, initiated a comprehensive junior and senior high choral program in Bentonville, Arkansas before moving into college teaching.

Dr. Spurgeon has been actively involved in leadership roles in the American Choral Directors Association, serving as president of the Oklahoma Choral Directors Association and president-elect of the Southwestern Division of ACDA. She is currently on the executive board of Mississippi Choral Directors.

Dr. Spurgeon's areas of research include voice building in the choral rehearsal and French melodiés. Her articles have appeared in the *Choral Journal*, *Teaching Music*, and *NATS Journal*. In 1999 she was named Oklahoma Director of Distinction. Her most recent publication is an edition of a choral work by the French composer Reynaldo Hahn entitled *Le Jour*, published by Alliance Music Corporation.

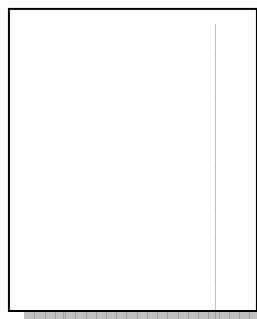
Dr. Spurgeon holds the doctor of musical arts degree in vocal performance from the University of Oklahoma; the master of music education from the University of Arkansas; and the bachelor of music education from Truman State University.



Don Trott received the Bachelor of Music Education degree *cum laude* from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. He obtained both the Master of Music degree and Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting from the University of Oklahoma under the guidance of Dr. Dennis Shrock, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities. Following degree work he taught at: Lawton Senior High School in Lawton, Oklahoma; Rogers State College, (now Rogers University), in Claremore, Oklahoma; and Longwood College, (now Longwood University), in Farmville, Virginia.

His research in performance practice of the late eighteenth century resulted in two articles published in the *Choral Journal* and two lectures at regional and national College Music Society conventions. More recently he produced a third article for the *Choral Journal* based on interviews with Alexander Bernstein, son of Leonard Bernstein.

Dr. Trott's choirs from Longwood College performed at VMEA conference and in the 1996 ACDA Southern Division Convention. His choirs toured annually to venues that include the Cathedral of St. Patrick, Cathedral of St. John, the National Cathedral and the White House. At Ole Miss, the Concert Singers under his direction appeared at the 2005 Mississippi State Convention of the MENC/ACDA. In 2006, the choir appeared at the ACDA Southern Division Convention, and in 2007, the singers performed for the ACDA National Convention in Miami, Florida.



Scott Whitfield is the Choral Director at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he directs 180 students in various choirs. Choirs from Central have performed with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, the Arkansas Chamber Singers, and at the 2007 inauguration of Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe. The Central High Madrigals were named 7A "Best in Class" at the 2007 State Festival, and in December 2008 the Concert Choir performed choruses from "Messiah" with the Arkansas Choral Society. He is active throughout the state as a clinician and adjudicator. In his 24th year of teaching, Mr. Whitfield held previous positions at Sylvan Hills Junior High in Sherwood, Arkansas, and North Pulaski High School in Jacksonville, Arkansas. During his career, hundreds of his students have made All Region and All State choirs and earned first division ratings at Regional and State Festivals.

A past president of the Arkansas Choral Directors Association, Mr. Whitfield served 16 years on the Executive Board of that organization. His peers in the Central Region have named him "Director of the Year" four times, and he was named "Fine Arts Teacher of the Year" by the Pulaski County Special School District in 1997. He received the Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees from the University of Central Arkansas and has done additional graduate work at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, Illinois.

Scott and Melissa Whitfield live in Little Rock with their two sons. He is an assisting organist at their church, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and is also on the music staff at Christ the King Catholic Church.