

# 2008 Tennessee-ACDA State Choral Festival Adjudicators

April 9 - Jackson, TN   April 10 - Nashville   April 11 - Knoxville

## Amy Aucoin, Murray State University

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Amy Aucoin completed her DMA in choral conducting at Louisiana State University. She finished an MM in choral conducting in 2004 at the University of Mississippi and a BA in vocal music in 1998 at Nicholls State University. Additionally, she worked for several years as a choral music director at the high school and junior high level in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes in Louisiana.



Ms. Aucoin has had the opportunity to conduct the LSU A Cappella Choir, the LSU Philharmonia, the LSU Chamber Singers, the Ole Miss Concert Singers, and the Ole Miss Women's Chorus. She also performed the role of Euridice in a concert production of Gluck's *Orfeo and Euridice* and has performed roles in community productions of the musicals *Hello Dolly!* and *Brigadoon*. She is a member of the American Choral Director's Association and Membership Advisor of the Murray State Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota.

## Debra Spurgeon, University Mississippi

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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 where she was a recipient of the Benton Schmidt Voice Award; the master of music education from the University of Arkansas; and the bachelor of music education from Truman State University.

## Tom Yackley, Alpharetta (GA) High School

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Thomas Yackley has taught for twenty-six years including twenty years at Milton High School and three years at Alpharetta High School. He serves Fulton County as the department chair for high school choruses. He sang with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus under Robert Shaw for five seasons. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Bowling Green State University, where he studied with Richard Mathey; and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from The Florida State University, where he was a student of Dr. Colleen Kirk and Clayton Krehbiel. He also has studied choral conducting privately with Dr. Ann Howard Jones.



Yackley is a member of the Professional Association of Georgia Educators. He is a member of the Georgia Music Educators Association, which he has served as District Vice-Chairman, District Choral Chairman, and District Festival Chairman. He has been a life member of the American Choral Directors Association since 1979. He has served Georgia ACDA as R&S chair for male choruses, membership chairman, and President. He is currently serving as webmaster. Mr. Yackley has recently been appointed R&S Chair for High School Choruses in the Southern Division of ACDA.