

AMY J. BRANAHL

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EDUCATION

Northeastern Illinois University 2018-2022

Masters in School Leadership with the Principal Endorsement

University of Illinois; Champaign-Urbana 2006-2009

Masters of Music Education (MME) Choral Conducting

University of Illinois; Champaign-Urbana 1999-2003

Bachelor of Music Education (BME) Choral Conducting

Major Instruments: Voice and Piano, Minor Instrument: Organ

CERTIFICATION

Professional Educator License License ID: #1866177

Endorsements Music Grade K-12: IEIN # 684660

Endorsements Secondary Education Grades 6-12

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

New Trier High School • D203

Winnetka, Illinois

2016– Present Director of Choirs/Adviser/ Coach

Director of Choirs

- Organize activities for the Choral Strand in the Music & Theatre department Manages membership of choral ensembles totaling 300 registrations including recruitment of new members
- Articulates with and supports six sender school choral programs and visits my choral colleagues and work with future Trevisians.
 - Attend choral concerts at the sender schools and assist with the program.
 - Organize the Feeder Tour to the six sender school districts.
- Coordinates a minimum of eight choral concerts
- Acts as Festival Coordinator for Junior High Choral Festival and Township Fine Arts Festival
- Coordinates and directs the Graduation Choir
- Coordinates field trips for various dress rehearsals and off-campus festivals, activities. and trips.
- Coordinates annual choral placement auditions.
- Collaborates with other Directors in the department and assists the Department Chair in planning programs and events.
- Plans and leads choral team meetings.
- Oversees and innovates choral curriculum.
- Oversees and connects private voice teachers and students within the program.
- Manages inventory of equipment for choral program
- Manages choral/vocal music library of over 6,000 titles.
- Serve on committees to assist department chair on the hiring process for private voice staff and accompanists.

Choral Director/Music Teacher

- Teach three curricular high school choirs: Northfield Chorus (Grade 9). Help students prepare for Frosh/Soph musicals and be a catalyst for the Freshman experience as well as a bridge to the Winnetka campus. Teach Trevian Glee Club for the 2019-2020 and the 2023-2024 school year. Teach Choir-Opera one of our capstone ensembles. Collaborate with my colleagues on literature for the Winter Music Festival and Spring Music Festival. I am a commuter, at Northfield for 8 years and at Winnetka for 4 years.
- Music Director for the Frosh-Soph Musical Workshop. Duties include casting, preparing the score, collaborating with the Production Staff, particularly the Director and the Pit Conductor. Teach leads and the ensemble their vocal parts. Collaborate with Sound Engineers during tech week. During the pandemic, build tracks in Soundtrap for all songs in the score. Learn new software programs for editing including iMovie, Garageband, Soundtrap, and Logic Pro X.
- Assist Music Director for the Choir-Opera Musical. Duties include sharing additional thoughts on casting, preparing the score, collaborating with the Music Director to run sectional rehearsals as needed. For *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, I auditioned township children and created a double cast children's choir that was featured in all performances of the production. The children's choir was composed of students from all six sender schools and elementary districts.
 - Past shows include: *The Wedding Singer*, *Emma: The Musical*, *Working*, *Songs for A New World*, & *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, & *Footloose*.
- Developed curriculum and taught Guitar 1 & 2 incorporating music literacy, lead guitar, chords, and differentiating for the varied levels of ability from beginner to advanced.
- Coordinate tour opportunities for students to: Chicago (ACDA Central), Minneapolis (ACDA National), and Spain (2024).
- Cooperating Teacher and Mentor for Northwestern students.

Adviser

- Teach in the Advisery Program for incoming Freshman for seven years. Duties include academic advising, social-emotional support, and relationship with families and parents on all facets of an incoming freshman. Transition to being an Adviser twice at Winnetka for a three-year cycle. Work closely with Grade Class Team Leadership, Adviser Chairs, Post High School Counselors, Case Managers, and Social Work.

Coach

- Varsity Badminton Coach at the Winnetka Campus. Create plans for each practice, collaborate with other coaches for tryouts, cuts, lineups for dual meets and tournaments, collaborate on facility usage within Athletics and KW, manage tournaments, order equipment and uniform attire, interview captains, and work with the head coach to create a community of women athletes who will strive for excellence.
- Communicate with parents and mobilize a Parent Volunteer Group for the Annual Banquet.
 - CPR Certified & IHSA compliant.
 - Concussion Test compliant.
 - Hate Speech & Harassment compliant.
 - Performance-Enhancing Substance Testing compliant.

Niles West High School • D219

Skokie, Illinois

2007– 2016 Choral Director/Arranger/Producer/Music Director

Choral Director

- Teach five curricular high school choirs: Women's Ensemble, Men's Ensemble, Advanced Women's Ensemble, Mixed Intermediate, and Advanced Mixed Choir (Grades 9-12).
- Founder of competitive extracurricular Vocal Jazz, Clubs, and A cappella program.
- Teach Digital Piano 1 & 2, Guitar 1 & 2, and Special Education Music Appreciation.
- Teach Music Theory and Aural Skills.
- Coordinate, Supervise, and Evaluate extra-curricular Assistants and Jazz Combo.
- Oversee the hiring, progress, and retention of Private Voice Studios (7 teachers)
- Fundraiser and organizer of donations.
- Develop and maintain website and individual student fundraising accounts.
- Coordinate tour opportunities for students to: Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Los Angeles, San Diego, Hawaii, and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.
- Cooperating Teacher and Mentor for Northwestern, DePaul, and Illinois State University students.

Arranger

- Arrange music for SATB, TTBB, and SSAA in various styles: a cappella, gospel, theatre, and choral.
- Proficient in Sibelius.

Producer

- Produced two CD's for A cappella Extra-curricular groups.
- Track chosen for the BOHSA (Best of High School A cappella) Compilation Album in 2014-2015.
- Coordinate and Produce Variety Show. Responsibilities include hosting auditions, choosing acts, composing original music, organizing Tech rehearsal, and Accompanying.

Musical Theatre: Music Director

- Past shows include: *The King & I*, *Oklahoma*, *The Music Man*, *Crazy for You*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Cinderella*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Honk!*, *A New Brain*, *Once on this Island*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Urinetown*, *Fame*, *Xanadu*, *Chicago*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, [title of show], *Avenue Q*, and *Annie*.

Jack London Middle School • CCSD21

Wheeling, Illinois

2003– 2007 Choral Director/General Music Teacher

Teach multiple junior high school choirs (Grades 6-8), General Music, Music Technology 1 & 2, Guitar 1 & 2, Show Choir, founder and director of a cappella group, and Variety Show director.

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT AT NEW TRIER

School Wide Initiatives

- After the Academics night
- Prepared materials and performances for rising freshmen and their families.
 - Met with students over zoom during the pandemic to share about the choral program.
 - Critical Thinking Workshop
 - Academic Life Nights
- Talked with rising freshmen and their families about chorus offerings at NT.
- Schoolwide initiative performances annually.

- Spirit Week Fight Song Recordings for the new class intro video
- Veterans Day Performance
- Winter Holiday Luncheon
- Spring Teachers Luncheon
- Spring Service-Learning Initiative(SSLI)-Northfield Campus 5 years.
 - Planning and preparing music for the school wide assembly with NF Leadership.
 - Coordinate with Dance Division Coordinator to produce event.
 - Spring Service-Learning Initiative(SSLI)- formally Music and Muffins/Can Jam Music Festival and Food Drive/Treviapalooza
 - Coordinate and rehearse students for the Music Festival.
 - Play and coordinate pieces.
 - Learning Cohorts
 - Unconscious Bias
 - Fine Arts Festival
 - Musical Theater Workshop
 - 4th year teachers cohort
 - 3rd year teachers cohort
 - 2nd year teachers cohort
 - 1st year teachers cohort

Committees

- NTEA Union Social Committee
- Equity Team Committee
- NTEA Union Benefits Committee
- NTEA Union Ethics Committee
- Take Your Kids to Work Committee
- Mobile Device Evaluation Committee
- Spring Service-Learning Initiative Committee

Leadership Roles

- Director of Choirs
- D211 Guest Conductor (2023)
- ILMEA D7 Junior High Chorus Clinician
- NT Junior High Choral Festival Guest Conductor (2022 and 2016)
- Avoca School District 37 Choral Festival Conductor. Accompany their orchestral and choral programs.
- Junior High Resource. Duties include helping the junior high schools and supporting their choral program. Teach their choruses and workshop with future Trevians.
- Junior High Recruitment. Duties include coordinated Junior High Recruitment tour to District 28, District 29, District 35, District 36, District 38, and District 39.

Curriculum Development

- Guitar 1 & 2
- Choral Strand Sequence

Summer Grants and/or Projects of Excellence

- Guitar 1 & 2
- Choral Strand Sequence

- Equity Audit of the Choral Music Library

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annually	ACDA NC/Central/National Conference
Annually	IMEC State Music Conference
2021	Finding the Keys: Antiracist Approaches to Radical Recruitment in the Arts
2017-2021	Northern Illinois University Comprehensive Musicianship Through Performance (CMP) Workshop
2020	Strengthen Student Learning in a Block Schedule
2020	Unconscious Bias Training
2018	Yonex U.S. Open (Badminton)
2017	New Trier High School ▪ Critical Thinking Workshop
2014	Beyond Diversity I
2013-present	ACDA Summer Retreat
2011	Rider University; Westminster Choir College Choral Conducting Institute Intensive.

SERVICE AND/OR LEADERSHIP OUTSIDE OF NEW TRIER

2015-present American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Board

Illinois ACDA State Podium Editor (2023-present)

- Create the podium editions of articles from the Board.
- Articles are published tri-annually.

Illinois ACDA Children's Choir Chair (2019-2023)

- Lead the division of Children's Choir(R&R) Literature
- Choose and conduct music at the Choral Reading Session hosted at the ILMEA IMEC Allstate Convention.
- Write articles for the professions to be published in our tri-annual newsletter *The Podium*.
- Choose, conduct, or accompany music at the Illinois ACDA Summer Re-Treat for reading sessions when applicable.
- During the pandemic, connect with and host meetings with children's choirs directors.

Illinois ACDA Diversity Initiatives Committee Member (2022-present)

ACDA Fall Convention- "Diversity in Singing" Chicago, IL (2021)

- Presenter for children's choir reading session
- Co-chair of the Elementary Honors Chorus for the festival at DePaul University canceled due to Covid limitations.
- Equity work for the Diversity Chairs for ACDA.

ACDA Combined Central & North Central Region Conferences "Joining Voices" Milwaukee, WI (2020)

- Connected my colleague to have our ensemble, High Five Choir, be a part of the headlining choir Joining Voices.
- This is the first time a choir of all abilities was able to be featured on an ACDA Central Conference session, highlighting accessibility in the choral arts.

Illinois ACDA Treasurer & Executive Board Member (2015-2017)

- Knowledge of QuickBooks, operational budget, procedure for services rendered such as W9's and managing incoming deposits and bills.

- Collaborated with Past President, President, and President Elect on financial matters for the organization.

ACDA Combined Central & North Central Division Conference “Unite in Song” Chicago, IL (2018)

- Rehearsal Sectional Leader for the Central ACDA Conference for Joe Miller.

2023 District 211 High School and Junior High Chorus Festival Clinician

2022 District 207 High School and Junior High Chorus Festival Clinician

2016-2023 Youth Choral Theater of Chicago (YCT)

Artistic Director & President

- Manage the organizational and vision for the choir. Including organizational structure, programming, and leadership for Executive Boards and an Advisory Board.
- Teach five chorus ensembles: Concertina and Winnetka Children’s Chorus (Grades PreK-1), Treble Ensemble (Grades 2-5), Concert Choir (Grades 5-8), Chamber Chorale (Grades 9- 12), and Impact.
- Hire talented staff for various positions.
 - Goal setting and evaluating staff positions.
 - Hire professional musicians for 5 concerts a year.
 - Prepare Impact for the annual ICHSA Competition.
 - Manage the Budget and Finances for the organization.
- Includes Quickbooks management and reconciliation of P-cards for the organization
 - Grant writing for the not-for-profit.
 - Creating reports for annual giving and donor giving.
 - Creating an annual budget for board approval.
 - Execution of the annual budget and creative management of budget funds in both the pre-pandemic and pandemic budgets.
- Co-presenting a Social Justice through music curriculum for equity and inclusion.

2021/2011 ILMEA District 7 Junior High Chorus

- Guest Conductor for the entire District 7 region of junior high schools. Conducted an honor’s choir of approximately 200 students.

2011-Present Varsity Vocals International Championship of Collegiate A cappella

Vocal Judge

- Adjudicate for the original competition that led to the creation of the Pitch Perfect movies for both the collegiate and high school levels. Served as a judge for both Quarterfinal and Semifinal regions in the country.

2011-2016, 2018, 2023 Cooperating Teacher

- Served as a cooperating teacher for students from Northwestern, DePaul, and Illinois State Universities.

2016-2017 Illinois High School Theater Festival Allstate Musical

- Vocal Director of the IHSTFA production of “*Sweeney Todd*.”

2013-2016 A cappella Education Association (AEA)

- Illinois State Representative.
- Elected position to coordinate and promote nationwide events as well as provide resources and assistance to choral directors about a cappella related concerns.

2012-2016 SingStrong Chicago A cappella Conference

- Co-Producer and Site Coordinator. Produce and organize the annual conference.

2014 District 300 Junior High Chorus Festivals

- Guest Conductor for a festival including three schools in D300.

2010 Rabbit Hole

- Composed original music for the Sound Design of this Theatre Performance

1998-2020 Music Coordinator (Vocals/Piano) • Northfield, IL

- Serve on Worship Teams and Choir at The Orchard, Lakeside Church, Harvest Community, and Calvary Pres. Church.

PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH, EXHIBITIONS, AND AWARDS

- 2022 The arrangement, [“Together,” published by Hal Leonard](#)
- 2022 Illinois ACDA Article “Continued Hope Through Networking after the Pandemic”
- 2021 Illinois ACDA Article “Supercharge and Restore your Soul through Music”
- 2020 Illinois ACDA Article “Children’s Choirs during the Pandemic”
- 2014 The arrangement, [“Sweater Weather” Self-Published](#)
- 2014 Presented a session called “Starting Contemporary A cappella Ensembles within Your Choir” at the ACDA Fall Convention
- 2014 DePaul University's College of Educations’ “Celebrating Teachers Initiative” Honoree
- 2014 Barnes & Noble’s Village Crossing ”My Favorite Teacher” Award
- 2007-2016 “Most Inspirational Teacher” Award

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Association for Music Education (NAFME)
 American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)
 League of Women Voters of Wilmette (LWV)
 Northwestern University Settlement House (NUSH) North Shore Board
 Member Jazz Education Network (JEN)
 Chorus America (CA)
 A cappella Education Association (AEA)