

JOHN C. HUGHES

847-894-7214

www.johnchughes.com
john.charles.hughes@gmail.com

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

DEGREES

- 2014 **D.M.A. Choral Conducting and Pedagogy, University of Iowa**
Essay: "Leonhard Lechner's Passion (1593): Cultural Contexts, Musical Analysis, Historical Implications"
Advisor: David Puderbaugh
Timothy Stalter, William LaRue Jones (conducting); John Muriello (voice)
- 2010 **M.M. Choral Conducting, Northern Illinois University**
Eric Johnson, Lucia Matos (conducting); Diane Ragains-Slawin (voice)
- 2007 **B.A. Vocal Music Education, Augustana College**
Jon Hurty, Michael Zemek (conducting); John Pfautz (voice)

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCTING APPOINTMENTS

- 2020– **Music Director**
Chicago Master Singers
- 2015– **Conductor**
Green Lake Festival of Music, WI
- Director of Choral Programs, 2021–**
 Founding Conductor, Composer Residency, 2018–
 Assistant Conductor, Choral Institute, 2015–18

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

- 2014–20 **Director of Choral Activities**
Ripon College
- Associate Professor, 2020; awarded tenure and promotion**
 Music Department Chair, 2019–20
 Assistant Professor, 2014–20

- 2011–13 **Choral Teaching Assistant**
University of Iowa
- 2012 **Summer Honors Program Instructor**
University of Iowa
- 2009–10 **Choral Graduate Assistant**
Northern Illinois University
- 2009–11 **Music Teacher**
DeKalb Community School District, IL
- 2007–09 **Choir Director**
Rochelle Township High School, IL

CHURCH MUSIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2019–20 **Choir Director**
St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Ripon, WI
- 2017–19 **Director of Adult Choirs**
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie, WI
- 2011–14 **Music Director**
The Congregational United Church of Christ, Iowa City, IA
- 2009–11 **Chancel Choir Director**
First Congregational Church, DeKalb, IL
- 2005–07 **Assistant Conductor, High School Youth Choir**
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Davenport, IA

OTHER RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2011–15 **Repertoire Forum Editor**
Choral Director magazine, Timeless Communications

ADDITIONAL STUDIES

- 2012 **Masterclass Participant (by selection)**
The Complete Conductor: Orchestral Conducting for the Choral Director
Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY), New York, NY

- 2010 **Masterclass Participant (by selection)**
Summer Choral Conducting Symposium
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2006 **Choral Scholar (by application)**
Berkshire Choral Festival, Sheffield, MA

CREATIVE ACTIVITY

SELECTED MAJOR PERFORMANCES

For a complete repertoire list, visit: <http://www.johnchughes.com/repertoire>.

- 2023 ***Hemispheres Uniting: The Music of Reena Esmail***
Composer Residency, Green Lake Festival of Music
- 2023 **Orff, *Carmina Burana***
Choral Institute, Green Lake Festival of Music
- 2023 **Vaughan Williams, *Dona Nobis Pacem, Serenade to Music, Five Mystical Songs***
Chicago Master Singers
- 2022 **McDowall, *Christus Natus Est***
Chicago Master Singers
- 2022 **Mozart, *Requiem, Ave Verum Corpus, Solemn Vespers***
Chicago Master Singers
- 2022 ***Through Love to Light: The Music of Elaine Hagenberg***
Composer Residency, Green Lake Festival of Music
- 2022 **Schubert, *Mass in G***
Choral Institute, Green Lake Festival of Music
- 2022 **Bernstein, *Chichester Psalms***
Chicago Master Singers
- 2021 ***Hearts All Whole: The Music of Morten Lauridsen***
Composer Residency, Green Lake Festival of Music
- 2019 **Wisconsin State Music Conference**
Ripon College Chamber Singers; *selected by competitive review*
- 2019 ***Voicing Our Humanity: The Music of Shawn Kirchner***

- Composer Residency, Green Lake Festival of Music
- 2019 **Haydn, *Kleine Orgelsolomesse***
Ripon College Choral Union
- 2018 ***Inaugural Composer Residency Featuring Ola Gjeilo***
Composer Residency, Green Lake Festival of Music
- 2018 **Fauré, *Requiem***
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie, WI
- 2017 **J.S. Bach, *Christ lag in Todesbanden***
Ripon College Chamber Singers
- 2015 **Van, *A Procession Winding Around Me***
Ripon College Choral Union
- 2014 **Brahms, *Schicksalslied***
Ripon College Choral Union
- 2014 **Händel, *O Come Let Us Sing Unto the Lord***
The Congregational United Church of Christ, Iowa City, IA
- 2013 **Pinkham, *Christmas Cantata***
The Congregational United Church of Christ, Iowa City, IA
- 2013 **J.S. Bach, *Ich habe genug***
University of Iowa
- 2012 **J.C.F. Bach, *Wachet auf ruft uns die Stimme***
The Congregational United Church of Christ, Iowa City, IA
- 2011 **Händel, *Messiah***
The Congregational United Church of Christ, Iowa City, IA; *Part One and Hallelujah only*
- 2009 **Vivaldi, *Gloria***
First Congregational Church, DeKalb, IL

COMPOSER COLLABORATIONS

Commissions

Dale Trumbore, *upcoming in 2024, 2015*

Reena Esmail, 2023
Elaine Hagenberg, 2022, 2018

Residencies

Jake Runestad, *upcoming in 2025*
Dale Trumbore, *upcoming in 2024*, 2015
Elaine Hagenberg, *upcoming in 2024*, 2022, 2018
Reena Esmail, 2023
Morten Lauridsen, 2021
Shawn Kirchner, 2019
Moiria Smiley, 2018
Ola Gjeilo, 2018

CLINICS AND GUEST CONDUCTING

2023	Clinician, Southwest Suburban Conference Choral Festival, IL, <i>upcoming</i> Guest Conductor, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, IL, <i>upcoming</i> Guest Conductor, Glenview Community Church, IL Clinician, Maine East High School, IL Clinician, Fremd High School, IL Clinician, Conant High School, IL
2022	Conductor, ILMEA District 8 Senior Chorus, IL Clinician, I8 Choral Festival, IL
2021	Clinician, Fremd High School, IL
2019	Conductor, Badger Boys State Choir, WI Clinician, Fond du Lac High School, WI Clinician, Greenville Middle School, WI Clinician, Winnebago Lutheran Academy, WI Clinician, St. Lawrence Seminary, WI Clinician, Wisconsin Dells High School, WI Clinician, MacFarland High School, WI Clinician, Sheboygan Lutheran High School, WI
2018	Honor Choir Conductor, Singing in Wisconsin Festival, WI Honor Choir Conductor, Trailways North Conference Honor Choir, WI Guest conductor, Badger Boys State Choir, WI Clinician, Greenville Middle School, WI Clinician, Green Lake Middle School, WI Clinician, Fond du Lac High School, WI

- 2017 Honor Choir Conductor, East Central Conference Honors Choir, WI
 Clinician, Ripon High School, WI
 Clinician, Greenville Middle School, WI
 Clinician, Hortonville Middle School, WI
 Clinician, Round Lake High School, IL
 Clinician, Hortonville School District, WI
 Clinician, Green Lake Middle School, WI
- 2016 Honor Choir Conductor, Singing in Wisconsin Festival, WI
 Clinician, Ripon Middle School, WI
 Clinician, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Choir, Ripon, WI
 Clinician, Madison Diocesan Choir, WI
 Clinician, Green Lake Festival of Music Chamber Music Camp, WI
 Clinician, Greenville Middle School, WI
 Clinician, Brookfield Central High School, WI
 Clinician, Sycamore High School, IL
- 2015 Honor Choir Conductor, Northern Illinois Big XII Conference Choral Festival, IL
 Honor Choir Conductor, Eastern Valley Conference Honors Choir, WI
- 2014 Clinician, Ripon Middle School, WI
 Clinician, Berlin High School, WI
 Clinician, Lasalle-Peru High School, IL
- 2013 Honor Choir Conductor, Maine South High School, IL
- 2012 Guest Conductor, Lasalle-Peru High School, IL

ADJUDICATION

- 2022 Solo-Ensemble Contest Adjudicator, Lake Zurich High School, IL
- 2018 Adjudicator, Festivals of Music, IL
 Adjudicator, Ripon High School, WI
 Adjudicator, St. Mary's High School, WI
 Adjudicator/Clinician, Berlin High School, WI
 Adjudicator/Clinician, West Bend School District, WI
- 2016 Adjudicator, Omro High School, WI
- 2013 Solo-Ensemble Contest Adjudicator, Pleasant Valley Middle School, IA
- 2011 District Choir Contest Adjudicator, DeKalb High School, IL

- Solo-Ensemble Contest Adjudicator, Clinton Rosette Middle School, IL
- 2009 All-State Audition Adjudicator, Sterling High School, IL
Solo-Ensemble Contest Adjudicator, Geneseo High School, IL
Solo-Ensemble Contest Adjudicator, Lasalle-Peru High School, IL
- 2008 Solo-Ensemble Contest Adjudicator, Richmond-Burton High School, IL
- 2007 Solo-Ensemble Festival Adjudicator, Morrison High School, IL

SCHOLARSHIP

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Hughes, John C., *Letters to a Young Conductor: Thoughts on Music and Life*, 2023. Self published. Available in print and on Apple Books.

Scholarly Edition

Hughes, John C. ed., *Historia der Passion und Leidens unsers einigen Erlösers und Seligmachers Jesu Christi by Leonhard Lechner (c. 1553–1606)*. <http://www.johnchughes.com/leonhard-lechners-passion>

Refereed Articles

Hughes, John C. "Organ and Choral Collaborations in the Worship Setting: Issues and Solutions." *The Diapason* (April 2021): 21.

Hughes, John C. and Steven A. Miller. "Habitualizing Excellence: Methods for Developing Practice Habits Within Choral Programs at Small Liberal Arts Institutions." *The Choral Scholar* 8, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 3-16.

Hughes, John C. and Jon Hurty. "A Life of Song: Considerations for the Collegiate-Based Town and Gown Choir." *Choral Journal* 57, no. 7 (February 2017): 51-59.

Hughes, John C. "'Art That Hides Art': The Craft of Randall Thompson, Robert Frost, and Frostiana." *The Choral Scholar* 5, no. 1 (October 2015): 3-29.

Hughes, John C. "Leonhard Lechner's Passion (1593): Origins, Importance, and Dramatic Meaning." *Choral Journal* 56, no. 1 (September 2015): 45-54.

Non-Refereed Articles

Hughes, John C. "Separating Achievement from Self-Worth." *Choral Net* (blog). American Choral Directors Association. October 20, 2021. <https://choralnet.org/>

[2021/10/separating-achievement-from-self-worth/](#)

Hughes, John C. "Saying Goodbye." *The Voice* (Spring 2020): 4.

Hughes, John C. "Equilibrium." *The Voice* (July 2018): 3.

Hughes, John C. "Interview with Barney Smith of VOCES8 (audio interview)." *Melisma* 35, no. 3 (February 2016): 5.

Hughes, John C. "Repertoire for Honor Choirs and Choral Festivals." *Choral Director* (August 2015): 24-25.

Hughes, John C. "Musical and Historical Anniversaries in 2015." *Choral Director* (January 2015): 16-17.

Hughes, John C. "Blessed Cecilia: Living Women Composers." *Choral Director* (November/December 2014): 18-19.

Hughes, John C. "Multicultural Music: Expressing Diversity Through Song." *Choral Director* (October 2014): 18-19.

Hughes, John C. "The Choral Music of Tim Blickhan." *Choral Director* (August 2014): 24-25.

Hughes, John C. "Distinctive Repertoire for Treble Voices." *Choral Director* (May 2014): 14-15.

Hughes, John C. "Music for Men's Voices." *Choral Director* (March 2014): 18-19.

Hughes, John C. "2014 Anniversaries: Connecting Repertoire to Historical Context." *Choral Director* (January 2014): 18-19.

Hughes, John C. "Living Minnesota Composers." *Choral Director* (November 2013): 25-26.

Hughes, John C. "Music for Madrigal Dinners." *Choral Director* (October 2013): 22-23.

Hughes, John C. "Choral Settings Of Shakespearean Texts." *Choral Director* (August 2013): 24-26.

Hughes, John C. "Sing, Sing, Sing...Vocal Jazz." *Choral Director* (May 2013): 16-18.

Hughes, John C. "Choral Works with French Texts." *Choral Director* (March 2013): 32-33.

Hughes, John C. "Distinctive Pieces to Begin and Conclude Concerts." *Choral Director* (January 2013): 27-29.

Hughes, John C. "Selected Spiritual Arrangements For All Choirs." *Choral Director* (November 2012): 32-34.

Hughes, John C. "Musical & Historical Anniversaries in 2013." *Choral Director* (September 2012): 34-36.

Hughes, John C. "New Choral Music for 2012-2013." *Choral Director* (August 2012): 24-27.

Hughes, John C. "Choral Settings of Emily Dickinson's Poetry." *Choral Director* (May 2012): 12-13.

Hughes, John C. "American Choral Music, 1940-1960." *Choral Director* (March 2012): 19-21.

Hughes, John C. "Baroque Music for All Levels." *Choral Director* (January 2012): 28-30.

Hughes, John C. "Taking a Leap: Deciding to Go to Graduate School Full-Time." *The Podium (Newsletter of IL-ACDA)* 36, no. 1 (Fall 2009): 5.

Reviews

Hughes, John C. "Multitude of Voyces: Anthology of Sacred Music by Women Composers, Volume 3: Advent to Candlemas, Mixed Voices Anthems (score review)." *The Choral Scholar* 59, no. 1 (Spring 2021): 90-91.

Hughes, John C. "Build the Sky (score review)." *The Choral Scholar* 58, no. 3 (Fall 2020): 75-76.

Hughes, John C. "I Hope You're Doing Well & A Way to Be With You (score review)." *The Choral Scholar* 58, no. 3 (Fall 2020): 76-77.

Hughes, John C. "Francesco Durante: Requiem Mass in C minor, Organ Concerto in B flat major (CD review)." *Choral Journal* 58, no. 9 (April 2018): 85-86.

Hughes, John C. "Helper and Protector: Italian Maestri in Poland (CD review)." *Choral Journal* 58, no. 1 (August 2017): 73-74.

Hughes, John C. "Pietà (score review)." *The Choral Scholar* 6, no. 1 (Spring 2017): 40-47.

Hughes, John C. "Bach: Lutheran Masses I (CD review)." *Choral Journal* 57, no. 11 (June/July 2017): 79-80.

Hughes, John C. "J.S. Bach: Mass in B Minor (CD review)." *Choral Journal* 57, no. 2 (September 2016): 70-73.

Hughes, John C. "Missa Charles Darwin (score review)." *The Choral Scholar* 5, no. 2 (Spring 2016): 98-101.

Hughes, John C. "James D'Angelo: The Holy City (CD review)." *Choral Journal* 56, no. 8 (March 2016): 85-86.

Hughes, John C. "Leonhard Lechner—Mein süße Freud auf Erden: Sacred Choral Music (CD Review)." *Choral Journal* 55, no. 8 (March 2015): 55-56.

Hughes, John C. "Bach: Music in the Castle of Heaven (Book Review)." *Choral Journal*, 55, no. 3 (October 2014): 90-91.

Hughes, John C. "Note Grouping: A Method for Achieving Expression and Style in Musical Performance (Book Review)." *Choral Journal*, 54, no. 8 (March 2014): 65-67.

Hughes, John C. "Conscience of a Profession: Howard Swan, Choral Director and Teacher (Book Review)." *Choral Journal*, 54, no. 8 (March 2014): 67.

Hughes, John C. "John Ireland—My Song is Love Unknown: Church Music (CD Review)." *Choral Journal*, 54, no. 8 (March 2014): 70-71.

Hughes, John C. "Songs of Smaller Creatures and Other American Choral Works (CD Review)." *Choral Journal*, 54, no. 3 (October 2013): 65-66.

Hughes, John C. "The Art & Science of Planning a Choral Concert (Book Review)." *Choral Journal*, 53, no. 2 (September 2012): 75.

Hughes, John C. "Heiligste Nacht: Choral Music for Advent and Christmas (CD Review)." *Choral Journal*, 53 no. 1 (August 2012): 67-68.

Hughes, John C. "Vidi Aquam (New Music Review)." *Choral Journal*, 52, no. 5 (December 2011): 69.

Hughes, John C. "That Easter Day (New Music Review)." *Choral Journal*, 52, no. 5 (December 2011): 70.

Hughes, John C. "All Through the Night (New Music Review)." *Choral Journal*, 52, no. 4 (November 2011): 67.

Hughes, John C. "Anthem for Transfiguration (New Music Review)." *Choral Journal*, 52, no. 4 (November 2011): 68.

Hughes, John C. "Benedictus (New Music Review)." *Choral Journal*, 52, no. 4 (November 2011): 69-70.

Podcast

Interviewed over 120 leading choral conductors and composers from across the United States and Europe. *All episodes are available at <http://www.johnchughes.com/choir-chat>.*

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed

"New Music for the Rest of Us," State Conference, Wisconsin Choral Directors Association, February 2018

"Respect Their Time: Tips for Highly Efficient Rehearsals," State Conference, Wisconsin State Music Conference, Madison, WI, October 2017

"Choral Podcasts (panel)," National Conference, Chorus America, Los Angeles, CA, June 2017

"The Cultural-Liturgical Context of and Expressive Devices in Leonhard Lechner's 1593 Passion," National Conference, National Collegiate Choral Organization, College of Charleston, SC, November 2013

"Texture as a Dramatic and Hermeneutic Device in Leonhard Lechner's St. John Passion (1593)," James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference, University of Iowa, April 2013

"The Musical Implications of the Lutheran Reformation," James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference, University of Iowa, March 2012

"Expanding Our View of Martin Luther," Graduate Student Forum, Northern Illinois University, April 2010

“Developing a Model for a Cross-Curricular Unit,” All-State Convention, Illinois Music Educators Association, January 2010

Invited

“Reinforcing Healthy Vocal Pedagogy Through Gesture,” Western Illinois University, *upcoming November 2023*

“Choral Intonation,” Chicago Master Singers, Lake Forest, IL, June 2019

“Getting Things Done: Innovating and Thriving in Changing Times (panel),” WAICU Department Chair Workshop, Marquette University, May 2019

“Active and Passive Conducting Gestures,” Next Direction Conference, Carthage College, June 2018

“Why Study Music History?,” Augustana College, October 2013

“Approaching Pop Music as a Choral Musician,” Augustana College, March 2012

Guest Speaking

University of Illinois Chicago, April 2023

Northern Illinois University, March 2023

Augustana College, April 2022

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT

Ripon College (2014–20)

MUS 111	Foundations in Music	4 times
MUS 121	Music Theory I	5 times
MUS 260.06	Choral Techniques	2 times
MUS 334	Conducting I	3 times
MUS 335	Conducting II	2 times
MUS 360	General Music Methods	2 times
MUS 050/150/250:16	Applied Voice Lessons	8 times
MUS 190:03/04	Choral Ensembles	24 times
CTL 110.04	Music and Masculinities	1 time

University of Iowa (2011–13)

MUS 3170/3172	Choral Ensembles	4 times
Honors	Singing and Examining Poetry	1 time

DeKalb Community School District (2009–11)

Enharmonic Fusion, auditioned pop a cappella ensemble (assistant conductor)
 Varsity Choir, advanced mixed ensemble (assistant conductor)
 Pit conductor, *The Pirates of Penzance*
 Twelve sections of K-5 music

Northern Illinois University (2009–10)

MUSC 394	University Choir	2 times
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Rochelle Township High School (2007–09)

After Hours, auditioned vocal jazz ensemble
 Chamber Choir, advanced treble ensemble
 Concert Choir, advanced mixed ensemble
 Men’s Voice Class, beginning bass-clef ensemble

CERTIFICATIONS

Iowa Standard Teaching Certificate: K-8 Music, 5-12 Music; issued February 2012

Illinois Special Teaching Certificate: Vocal/Choral Music: Type 12; issued June 2007

SERVICE

SERVICE TO PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 2023– **Community Choirs Repertoire and Research Chair**, Midwestern Division,
American Choral Directors Association
- 2015–22 **Associate Editor of Score Reviews**, *The Choral Scholar*, National Collegiate Choral
Organization
- 2021 **Performing Choirs Selection Committee Member**, Midwestern Division,
American Choral Directors Association
- 2018 **Liberal Arts College Task Force Member**, National Collegiate Choral Organization
- 2017 **Interest Session Selection Committee Member**, National Collegiate Choral
Organization
- 2017–19 **Repertoire and Resources State Chair**, Wisconsin Choral Directors Association

- 2017–18 **Collegiate All-State Choir Coordinator**, Wisconsin Choral Directors Association
- 2015–19 **Wisconsin State Representative**, National Collegiate Choral Organization
- 2015–17 **Associate Editor**, *Melisma*, North Central Division, American Choral Directors Association

SERVICE TO RIPON COLLEGE

- Continuous Planned, led, and conducted annual choir tours
 Provided music for several campus events per year
 Represented Music Department at professional conferences and recruiting fairs
 Faculty advisor for NAFME and Mu Phi Epsilon chapters
- 2019–20 Music Department Chair
 Member of Strategic Planning task force
 Member of assessment task force for general education curriculum
- 2018–19 Music Department Chair (effective second semester)
 Member of Faculty Handbook Revision task force
 Search Committee chair for two tenure-track Music positions
 Academic Standards Committee secretary
- 2017–18 Academic Standards Committee member
 Member of planning task force for general education curriculum
- 2016–17 Senior Showcase Committee Co-Chair
 Faculty Co-Director of 314: A Ripon College Project Space
 Search Committee member for two tenure-track Educational Studies positions
 Academic Standards Committee member
- 2015–16 Senior Showcase Committee Co-Chair
 Faculty Co-Director of 314: A Ripon College Project Space
 Search Committee member for tenure-track Exercise Science position
 Music Director, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*
 Martin Luther King Jr. Week Planning Committee
- 2014–15 Senior Showcase Committee
 Martin Luther King Jr. Week Planning Committee
 Ceremonials Committee

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Choral Directors Association
Chorus America
College Music Society
Pi Kappa Lambda