

Ryan W. Sullivan

EDUCATION

Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting	<i>University of North Texas</i>	2019
Cognate: Early Music Performance Practice		
Dissertation: <i>A Performance Edition of the Vespers Settings in Sacri e Festivi Concerti, Opera Nona by Giovanni Legrenzi.</i>		
Master of Music in Choral Conducting	<i>Texas Tech University</i>	2016
Bachelor of Music Education in Choral Music	<i>University of Missouri - Kansas City</i>	2009
Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance	<i>University of Missouri - Kansas City</i>	2009
Essentials of Performing Arts Medicine Certificate	<i>Performing Arts Medical Association</i>	2025
COVID-19 Contact Tracing Certificate	<i>Johns Hopkins School of Medicine</i>	2020
K-12 Music “Lifetime” Teaching Certificate	<i>Missouri DESE</i>	2009

TEACHING/CONDUCTING

ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Director of Choral Activities & Vocal Studies Coordinator

Tenured Associate Professor

2024 - current

Tenure-track Assistant Professor

2019 - 2024

- Lead and administer aspects of a comprehensive university choral program of undergraduate and graduate students, and community members, which includes four to five ensembles offered each semester.
- Recruit new and current students for Choral and Voice areas. Choral enrollment has increased from 109 in F19 to 186 in F25, with Applied Voice increasing from 38 in S20 to 68 in F25. The racial and gender diversity of students in the choral ensembles is richer than that of the university at large, and reflects diversity priorities of recruitment efforts.
- Taught courses in the Dept. of Music, Dept. of History, and College of Education as assigned:
 - MUS 1531 Concert Choir
 - MUS 1631 Singing Statesmen
 - MUS 3371 Chamber Singers
 - MUS 3361 Jonesboro Chorale
 - MUS 3441 Elementary Conducting
 - MUS 3552 Choral Conducting, Literature & Sequencing
 - MUSP 6112 Applied Conducting
 - TIMU 4826 Teaching Internship
 - MUED 4623 Methods & Materials for Teaching Vocal Music
 - HIST 3223 Worlds of Performance
- Administer a combined scholarship and operational budget of \$196,000 as well as chairing private scholarship committees ranging from \$10k-20k annually. During my first six years, over \$85,000 were raised for the choral program’s account at the ASU Foundation for special projects and student travel.
- Academic advisor for 15-20 undergraduate voice majors per year in all undergraduate music degrees (Music Education, Performance, Music Industry).

- Coordinated Vocal Studies area by establishing studio budgets, revising curriculum, making studio assignments, hiring adjunct faculty, and creating standards-based assessment for juries and other performances.
- Led initiative to begin a new and accredited Bachelor of Music degree in Music Industry, chiefly responsible for designing curriculum and writing proposal for university approval.
- Service to the university via committee work:

Department of Music

- Department Chair Search Committee, Member 2025
- Promotion, Retention, and Tenure Committee, Member 2024 -
- Professional Development Committee, Member 2024 -
- Interim Assoc. Director of Bands faculty search, Chair 2023
- COVID Safety Committee, Lead Researcher 2020 - 2022
- Program Viability Committee, Member 2021 - 2022
- Assoc. Director of Choral Activities faculty search, Chair 2021, 2024
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Member 2019 -
- Graduate Curriculum Committee, Member 2019 - 2025
- Graduate Assistant Selection/Duty Committee 2019 -
- Department Grievance Committee, Member 2019 - 2021
- Area Heads Committee, Member 2019 -

College of Liberal Arts & Communications

- Faculty Achievement Committee 2024 - 2026
- Curriculum Committee, Member 2022 - 2024
- Recruitment Committee, Member 2021

University

- Financial Aid & Scholarships Committee, Member 2021 - 2023
- Lecture-Concert Series Committee, Chair 2023 -

Composer Commissions and Consortiums

- Derek Jenkins - World Premiere and Commission of *These Are Enough* (2020), composer attended, Finalist for American Prize in Choral Composition, in memory of former A-State Choir student.
- James Eakin - World Premiere and Commission of *Altar of Night* (2022), composer attended rehearsal.
- Dana Wilson - CBDNA Consortium Commission of *Wild Nights* (2023) and performance with A-State Bands in April 2024.
- Jake Runestad - Residency in October 2023 that served A-State Choirs, Bands, Composition students, and was headliner for the Choral Invitational and featured in Lecture-Concert Series.
- Garth Drozin – Residency in October 2024 with regional Premiere of *Loveliest of Trees* (1976).
- Nell Shaw Cohen - World Premiere and Commission of *I Would Like* (2024), composer attended rehearsals virtually.
- ACDA Advanced Treble Choir Consortium (2025)
 - Ambrož Čopi - When Wistful Swings Forget to Dream...
 - Carlos Cordero - Thaima
 - Hyowon Woo - 슬래 돈다 (Sul-lae-don-da)
 - Jennifer Lucy Cook - Fair-Weather Friend
 - Kyle Pederson - Are You Listening?
 - Laura Jēkabsonsone - The Winds
 - Matthew Lyon Hazzard - The Redwood

- Melissa Dunphy - nymphs
- Reginal Wright - Songs for the People

External Professional Collaborations

- Delta Symphony Orchestra, *Gloria* by John Rutter, December 2019.
- Monroe Crossing band, *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass* by Carol Barnett, April 2022.
- A-State Theatre Department, Dr. Brian Graiser, A-State Instructor of Percussion, *Considering Matthew Shepard* by Craig Hella Johnson, October 2022.
- United States Air Force Singing Sergeants, Cnl. Don Schofield, Commander and Conductor, United States Air Force Band Live in Concert, October 2023.
- Isaac Cates of Ordained, resident artist to work with A-State Choirs and Choral Invitational, October 2024.
- Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, *Midsummer Night's Dream* by Felix Mendelssohn, April 2025.
- Aubrey Hawkinson, University of Millikin Voice Faculty, soloist for *Alto Rhapsody, Op. 52* by Johannes Brahms with A-State Choirs, April 2025.
- Bradbury Art Museum, concert with the *Stil/Leven, Still/Even Exhibit*, October 2025.
- Jasmine Fripp, Tennessee State University, resident artist to work with A-State Choirs, clinician for A-State Choral Invitational with guest high school choirs, October 2025.

DALLAS SYMPHONY CHORUS

Conducting Associate

2018 - 2019

- Assisted conductor in artistic vision and execution of the Chorus' preparation for concerts with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and during an international tour with the Swedish Radio Orchestra, Tallinn Filharmonie, and Lahti Symphony Orchestra.
- Chorus Master for two concert series including National Geographic's *Symphony for Our World*.
- Led all sound-building exercises for a 215-member chorus and rehearsals in Director's absence.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Teaching Fellow

2016 - 2019

- Assistant Conductor for A Cappella Choir (the university's flagship choir), Collegium Singers (a largely graduate early music ensemble), and Conductor of Men's Chorus.
- Coordinated logistics with Baroque Orchestra for performances with Collegium Singers.
- Conducted performances with the flagship A Cappella Choir, Men's Chorus, and Collegium Singers and Baroque Orchestra (including as sabbatical replacement for conductor).
- Organized travel to Boston Early Music Festival for 24-member Collegium Singers.
- Taught introductory undergraduate conducting course to Music majors of all disciplines.

LEE'S SUMMIT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2009 - 2014

- Co-led programs at Lee's Summit High School and Lee's Summit West High School in Kansas City, MO metro area. Spearheaded recruitment efforts at West HS to build enrollment from 225 to 325 in two years.
- Music-directed theatrical productions once or twice each school year.
- Planned travel and performances at Avery Fisher Hall and Kauffman Center.

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

CONDUCTOR/ADJUDICATOR

International Activity

Stunde der Kirchenmusik in der Stiftskirche, Stuttgart, Germany	2026
Hochschule für katholische Kirchenmusik & Musikpädagogik, Regensburg, Germany	2026
Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst, Stuttgart, Germany	2025
Lisbon International Music Festival, Lisbon/Batalha/Porto, Portugal	2023
Hochschule für Kirchenmusik, Tübingen, Germany	2023
<i>Coronide</i> opera, International Czech Music Festiva, Denton, TX (N. American premiere)	2018

National Activity

University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV	2025
A-State Concert Choir at the Music by Women Festival, Columbus, MS	2025
Michigan School Vocal Music Assoc. State Choral Festival, Saginaw, MI	2025
Colorado Elementary All-State Choir, Colorado Springs, CO	2024
MidAmerica Productions at Carnegie Hall, New York City, NY (Covid)	2022
Eastern Arizona Honor Music Festival, Thatcher, AZ	2022
Tabor College Choral Leadership Day, Hillsboro, KS	2021

Regional

St. Louis Suburban Treble Choir, St. Louis, MO	2026
SEMO Men's Choir Festival, Cape Girardeau, MO	2026
A Celebration of Excellence (American Classic), Houston, TX (Covid)	2020
University of Missouri - Kansas City Vocal Arts Festival, Kansas City, MO	2020
<i>Le Mariage d'Antonio</i> opera, Denton, TX (N. American premiere)	2018

State Activity

Arkansas Liberal Arts & Humanities Day, Arkansas Capitol Rotunda	2025
Arkansas Region 1 Senior High Mixed Choir, Jonesboro, AR	2025
Arkansas Region 5 Senior High Mixed Choir, Springdale, AR	2023
Arkansas Region 4 Senior High Mixed Choir, Russellville, AR	2023
Bentonville High School Residency, Bentonville, AR	2023
Arkansas ACDA All-Region Preparation Choir, Little Rock, AR	2023
Arkansas Choral Connection camp, Conway, AR	2022 - 2023
Arkansas Region 2 Senior High Mixed Choir, Maumelle, AR	2021
Arkansas Region 1 Senior High Treble Choir, Jonesboro, AR	2019

GUEST LECTURER

International Activity

Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Stuttgart - Zeitgenössische Chormusik aus dem U.S.A.	2025
Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Stuttgart - Conducting	2023
Hochschule für Kirchenmusik in Rottenburg-Stuttgart - US-amerikanische Musikausbildungssysteme, Bernstein's <i>Chichester Psalms</i> , Conducting Masterclasses	2023

National Activity

Millikin University - Vocal Health, Repertoire Programming 2019

Regional Activity

University of North Texas - Choral Tone in Contrasting Periods and Cultures 2021

State Activity

University of Arkansas ACDA Chapter - Score Study Process 2025

ArkCDA Region 1 - Conducting Masterclass 2021

PUBLICATIONS & RECORDED BROADCASTS**Juried**

Sullivan, R., McNickle, C., Wehner, B., Li, S. (2024, June 14). *Embodying the Music: A Survey of Choral Music Educators on Conducting Injury and Wellness Techniques*. International Journal for Research in Choral Singing, Vol. 12, 43-67.

Stohlman, M., McDonald, J., Plisco, E., Sengin, J., & Sullivan, R. (2024, March-April). *ICEP United States-Germany Recap*. Choral Journal, Vol. 64, No. 7, 39-45.

Sullivan, R. (2020, November). *Choral Music Reviews*. Choral Journal, Vol. 61, No. 4. 51–51.

Invited

Sullivan, R., McNickle, C., Wehner, B., Li, S. (2025, August 21). *Silent Strain: Choral Conducting Injury*. Sing Out: Australian National Choral Association. (Vol. 42, No. 2, 8-10).

Sullivan, R. (2025, June 15). *A Healthy Future*. Southwestern Connection. Digital.

Miles, R. (Producer), Sullivan, R., Ruff, M. (Conductors). (2025, December 21). *5th Annual Sounds of the Season Presented by A-State Department of Music*. KJNB-FOX.

Miles, R. (Producer), Sullivan, R., Ruff, M. (Conductors). (2024, December 22). *4th Annual Sounds of the Season Presented by A-State Department of Music*. KJNB-FOX/CBS.

Sullivan, R., McNickle, C. (2023, December 16, 17). *3rd Annual Sounds of the Season Presented by A-State Department of Music*. KJNB-FOX/CBS.

Sullivan, R. Schreck, W., Schloemer, H. (2023, November 29). *Season 2, Episode 4: Dr. Ryan Sullivan - Leadership - Peer Coaching - Personal/Professional Development*. Relationship Revisions Podcast. <https://spotify.com/show/0txrGX7YIIukm9w1VLAjc4>

Scarborough, M. (Producer), Sullivan, R. (Conductor) (2022, May 2). *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass*. Bluegrass Mondays. Paragould, Arkansas; National Public Radio: KASU.

Gillespie, W. (Producer), Sullivan, R. (Conductor). (2021, February 19). *Legrenzi Suggests...* Harmonia Uncut. Bloomington, Indiana; National Public Radio: WFIU.

Sullivan, R. (Editor). (2020, August). *SWACDA Alternative Choral Resources*.

Adelson, R. (Producer), Sullivan, R. (Conductor). (2018, June). *Le mariage d'Antonio*. Radio Télévision Suisse.

STUDIES & PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

Sullivan, R. *Vesper Psalms in Giovanni Legrenzi's Opera Nona*. Web Library of Seventeenth-Century Music. Vol. 43. Online. (accepted with revisions).

Li, S., Wehner, B., Sullivan, R., McNickle, C. *Conducting Wellness: An Osteopathic Approach to Musculoskeletal Conducting-Related Injuries in Choral Music Educators*. American Academy of Osteopathy Journal. (under review).

Sullivan, R., Wilson, J. *Employment and Benefits Survey of International Conductors Guild Members*.

Daley, C., Sullivan, R., Wehner, B., Marchetti, G. *Musculoskeletal Interference and Injury in Professional Conductors*.

Sullivan, K., Sullivan, R., Taylor, M., McGoldrick, B. *Longitudinal Case Study of Auditory Dose in the Choral Rehearsal Setting*.

Sullivan, R., Daley, C, McCrary, J.M. Walker, S., Marchetti, G., Brooks, S., Switzer, S. *Occupational Health & Safety Guidelines for Choral Conductors*. A collaborative publication of ACDA / Chorus America / NAFME / Choristers Guild.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Juried International

Sullivan, R. (2026, August). *Reimagining Conductor Health*. World Symposium on Choral Music, Macau, China.

Daley, C., Sullivan, R. (2026, May 1). *Musculoskeletal Interference and Injury in Professional Conductors*. International Research in Choral Singing Symposium, Chicago, IL.

National

Sullivan, R. (2025, March 6). *Barbara Strozzi's Gender-fluid Agency*. Music by Women Festival, Columbus, MS.

Sengin, J., Sullivan, R. Murdock, J., Plisco, E., McDonald, J. (2024, February 28). *Cultural Bridges: Developing International Exchanges*. Southwestern American Choral Directors Conference, Denver, CO.

McNickle, C., Sullivan, R. (2023, October 13). *Embody the Music in You: Injury Prevention*. Society for Music Teacher Education Conference, Salt Lake City, UT. [co-author presented in my absence]

Sullivan, R. (2020, April 23). *Sound and Score: Practical Decision-Making for the Performer/Editor*. Las Vegas Baroque Festival, Las Vegas, NV. (Covid)

Regional

Sullivan, R. (2019, July 20). *The Conductor's Singing Voice: A Health Guide*. Missouri Choral Directors Association Conference, Jefferson City, MO.

Sullivan, R., Bjella, R. (2016, March 9). *Reimagining the Renaissance for Beginning Singers*. Southwestern ACDA Conference, Kansas City, MO.

Sullivan, R. (2009, January 25). *Two Masters: Case Studies in Renaissance Patronage*. Missouri Music Educators Association Conference, Osage Beach, MO.

State

Sullivan, R. (2025, July 28). *Embody Your Music: Conducting Health Masterclass*. Arkansas Choral Directors Association, North Little Rock, AR.

Murdock, J., Sullivan, R., Harris, C. (2022, July 11). *The Choral Rehearsal in Real Time: Best Practices*. Arkansas Choral Directors Association, North Little Rock, AR.

Invited

National

Sullivan, R. (2024, January 26). *Embody the Music in You: Injury Prevention Conducting Masterclass*. Colorado Music Educators Association Conference, Colorado Springs, CO.

Sullivan, R. (2024, January 25). *The Vocal Music Teacher's Singing Voice: A Health Guide*. Colorado Music Educators Association Conference, Colorado Springs, CO.

Regional

Sullivan, R., McNickle, C., Wehner, B., Li, S. (2023, July 20). *Embody the Music in You: Injury Prevention Conducting Masterclass*. Missouri Choral Directors Association, Springfield, MO.

Sullivan, R. (2020, October 25). *Singing Through the Ages*. SWACDA Interest Sessions, Online.

State

Sullivan, R. (2025, July 7). *The Choir Director's Singing Voice: A Health Guide*. Arkansas Choral Directors Association, Conway, AR.

Sullivan, R. (2025, July 7). *Score Study at Sight: Fast & Effective Rehearsal Preparation*. Arkansas Choral Directors Association, Conway, AR.

Sullivan, R. (2024, February 16). *Pitch Perfect Pedagogy: Compelling Rehearsals for Student Engagement*. Arkansas All State Music Conference, Hot Springs, AR.

SERVICE & INDUSTRY

President

ACDA Southwestern Region

2020 - 2022

- As executive for a seven-state region, I assembled the most diverse boards in the organization's history to plan a conference for ~4,000 attendees and participants. The theme of this conference,

“Together,” served as a reminder of the value of re-joining in-person, but also the value of our unity of purpose.

- The conference budget of mid-six figures prioritized inclusivity, growth, and student engagement to matriculate into long-term membership in the organization.
- Our board initiated its first-ever advocacy/teaching resources and online webinars for membership in an era defined by COVID-19 and solving achievement gaps in diverse populations.
- Hosted inaugural Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Honor Choir in the Region.
- As a member of the ACDA National Board, I...
 - Approved the hiring of Executive Director and adjusted the budget process to reflect post-pandemic revenue variables.
 - Reviewed a nationwide survey about the organization’s values and goals for DEIB.
 - Reviewed and implemented recommendations of the national Diversity Initiatives Committee regarding structure, procedure, and content in the organization.
 - Revised the national constitution and by-laws.

Consultant

Carus-Verlag

2024 - current

- Create data-driven strategy for expanding services and sales in the U.S. market.
- Target new product development with culturally relevant material to U.S. markets and create connections to existing catalogue.
- Communicate with choral directors and organizations about relevant products.
- Represent Carus through webinars, conferences, and reading sessions, including:
 - American Choral Directors Association - Southern Region Conference
 - Webinar for American Guild of Organists
 - Webinar for American Society of Lutheran Church Musicians

Chair for Youth/Student Activities *Southwestern ACDA Conference*

2020

Plan programming for pre-service teachers to cover practical content that is often covered lightly in music education degrees, coordinate guest speakers, and market to college students in a seven state region.

Youth/Student Repertoire & Resources Chair *Missouri Choral Directors Association* 2011 - 2013

Oversaw student and new teacher membership growth by 200%, planned collegiate track at conference, during which attendance grew from ~15 to ~85 individuals, wrote articles for publication in state journal, and coordinated charitable pilot-program for student conference scholarships. This program has since been adopted by three regional conferences of ACDA.

Chorus Administrator

Dallas Symphony Orchestra

2017 - 2019

- Managed communications and record keeping with 215-member volunteer chorus.
- Planned semi-annual auditions for new and returning chorus members and kept historical audition records.
- Liaised with Dallas Symphony Association Operations and City of Dallas staff.
- Point-person for logistics planning and operations during a four-country tour of 150 participants.

Board Member at Large

Delta Symphony Orchestra

2019 - 2022

Passed and implemented the first budget in several seasons; created a sponsorship program and supported home concert series that quadrupled event revenue in one season; integrated information management of donor base, giving, ticket sales, mailings, etc., hired Executive Director to manage day-to-day operations.

AWARDS/HONORS

Music Educator of the Year (Quarterfinalist)	GRAMMY Recording Academy	2026
President's Trailblazer Award	Arkansas Chapter of ACDA	2025
Research Mentorship Program	Performing Arts Medical Association	2025
Professional Service Award	Arkansas State University	2024
Fellow - U.S.A. Delegation	Int'l Conductor Exchange Program (ACDA)	2023
Outstanding Graduate Student	University of North Texas College of Music	2018
Adams-Nordstrom Early Music Award	University of North Texas	2018
Conducting Finalist	Santa Fe Desert Chorale Masterclass	2017
Kansas City Metro Director of the Year	Missouri Choral Directors Association	2014
Prelude Award	Missouri Choral Directors Association	2014

SELECTED PERFORMANCE CREDITS

Professional Choir Work

Sullivan, R. (2023, June 10). *Kammerchor der Künste Berlin*, directed by Bühle, M. Deutsche Chorwettbewerb. Congress Centrum. Hannover, Germany.

Sullivan, R. (2021, December 21). *Santa Fe Desert Chorale*, directed by Habermann, J. Online.

Sullivan, R. (2019, April 30). *Santa Fe Desert Chorale*, directed by Habermann, J. Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. Santa Fe, NM.

Sullivan, R. (2017, January 17). *San Antonio Chamber Choir*, directed by Bjella, R. San Fernando Cathedral. San Antonio, TX.

Sullivan, R. (2012, June 1-2). *Simon Carrington Chamber Singers*, directed by Carrington, S. Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral. Kansas City, MO.

Sullivan, R. (2011, June 11-12). *Simon Carrington Chamber Singers*, directed by Carrington, S. Grace Cathedral. Topeka, KS.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Choral Directors Association	2005 -
International Conductors Guild	2016 -
International Federation for Choral Music	2021 -
Performing Arts Medicine Association	2025 -

LANGUAGES

English: native fluency

Français: independent user (CEFR: B1)

Deutsch: basic proficiency (CEFR: high A1)