



## OUR ARTISTIC STAFF

**Herbert Washington** (*The Harvey K. Smith Artistic Director*) is in his fifth season at the helm of the Grammy-Award winning Phoenix Boys Choir, of which he is also an alumnus. Recognized for his dynamic teaching style and his ability to instill a love for the choral arts, he is a frequent choral clinician, conductor, lecturer, and adjudicator for regional festivals, workshops, and conferences around the country. While earning his dual B.A. in Music and Fine Arts, he was a member of the St. Olaf Choir, conducted by Dr. Anton Armstrong, and directed “Voices of Praise,” the St. Olaf Gospel Choir. Mr. Washington went on to receive an M.M. in Choral Conducting from the University of Arizona. While under the mentorship of Dr. Elizabeth Schauer and Dr. Bruce Chamberlain at University of Arizona, Mr. Washington founded the all-male award-winning ensemble Meow or Never A Cappella before graduating in 2009. Herbert resides in Chandler with his beloved wife, Yadira, and their sons Elian and Yadian.

**Kirk Douglas** (*Town Choir Director/Music Literacy Instructor*) is in his second season as director of our intermediate youth choir. Mr. Douglas is a passionate conductor, performer, and educator. He has directed the award-winning choirs at Boulder Creek High School for fourteen years and is immediate past president of the Arizona Choral Educators (ACE) leadership board. Mr. Douglas earned his education degree at Ottawa University and his performance degree at California State University, Northridge. Along with singing in numerous ensembles, he worked as a professional soloist/actor throughout North America and Europe. Recently he was selected to receive the OM Hartsell “Excellence in Teaching Music” award through the AMEA (Arizona Music Educators Association) and was recognized as the 2017 Deer Valley USD Teacher of the Year. In 2012, Mr. Douglas had the opportunity to work in Italy, singing opera and as the assistant to the music director with the Lorenzo Malfatti Academia Vocale di Lucca. His proudest accomplishment has been conducting his honor choir and performing an aria on the stage at Carnegie Hall in 2017.

**Travis White** (*Cadet Choir Director/Director of Learning & Engagement*) is in his 6th season with the PBC. Mr. White has been a music and choral educator for nine years. A native of Phoenix, singing has always played a significant role in his life. He earned his bachelor’s degree in Choral Music Education from Northern Arizona University and his Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon University. In 2020, he was named the “Westside Impact Teacher of the Year,” and he recently began teaching middle school at Sunset Ridge School in the Deer Valley Unified School District. As music director for Starlight Community Theater, his work on the production “Avenue Q” was nominated for best music direction in the 2019 Phoenix Broadway World awards. He is blessed to have married his wonderful wife Shelbe, a music therapist.

**Mary Price** (*Principal Collaborative Pianist*) is in her fifth season with the PBC. Ms. Price earned her bachelor’s degree in Vocal Music Education, with an emphasis in Collaborative Piano, at Central University of Iowa. She earned a master’s degree in Vocal Music Education at the University of Iowa and

completed an equivalency program in Music Therapy. Ms. Price has more than 30 years in the music education classroom, both as a general music educator and a choral director. She is fully certified in the Kodály method and the Orff process and regularly uses both in her classroom. She was a Special Topics Instructor at the Wichita State University Kodály Certification program. Ms. Price has served as a private piano and voice instructor, church organist, and as a collaborative pianist for the Phoenix Children's Chorus.

**Shara-Dawn Chambers** (*Town Choir Collaborative Pianist/Artistic Programs Manager*) is a highly sought-after Valley collaborative pianist, soloist, and music director who has worked with performers ranging from young school children to nationally-known professionals. In addition to her extensive work with high schools in the Glendale, Paradise Valley, and Cave Creek school districts, her choral experience includes accompanying the Willowbrook UMC Chancel Choir, the Phoenix Police Department Honor Chorus, and numerous elementary and secondary honor choirs. In addition to her PBC contributions at the piano, Shara-Dawn developed and manages our *New Works Rising* competition, is a major contributor to our marketing, graphics, and website efforts, and works closely with Mr. Washington in executing his artistic vision for PBC. She and her husband/best friend, Peter, are the proud parents of three grown children and three wonderful grandchildren. She is in her third PBC season.

**Edward Perrin** (*Cadet Choir Collaborative Pianist*) grew up in California and returned there to teach in private middle and high schools, teaching theater, math, and history. After five enjoyable years in the classroom, he switched careers and went to medical school at UCSD. He came to the Valley for specialty training and has been a family doctor locally for almost 20 years. He has always enjoyed accompanying on the piano, informally as a teenager with his mother on her violin, and over the years with vocalists. He is excited about continuing as an accompanist with Phoenix Boys Choir, where he can check in on his son, Alexander, who is enjoying his third year as a Tour Choir chorister. Ed lives in North Central Phoenix with his wife and two sons, along with 3 cats, 3 tortoises, 2 chickens, a bearded dragon, a turtle, and some fish.

**Stephanie Brewer** (*Madison Neighborhood Choir Director*) teaches General Music to K-4th graders at Madison Simis Elementary School. She earned a Bachelors of Music Education with Vocal Emphasis from Northern Arizona University and her Masters in Music Education from Arizona State University. She has been educating young musicians for more than 20 years, from Kindergarten through high school. Mrs. Brewer has certification in both the Kodály method and the Orff process of teaching music. Mrs. Brewer sings with various choirs around the Valley and plays flute and sings with a jazz combo. Her husband, Paul, is also a musician; they are blessed to have two amazing daughters.

**Jolene Warner** (*Tempe Neighborhood Choir Director*) holds a master's in Music Education from Arizona State University. She embraced teaching at multiple Tempe Elementary schools for twelve years, including Broadmor Elementary, as a general music educator, simultaneously directing beginning singers at Phoenix Boys Choir. After becoming a mother, she taught two years part-time in the Great Hearts Academies, and she currently operates and teaches a homeschool hybrid as the founder of Cultivate Education, LLC. Jolene has a passion to ignite enthusiasm for learning, and she integrates multiple methodologies and techniques to engage students holistically, while maintaining high expectations for cognitive development. She and her husband Josh have a son and a daughter, Jack and Jane.

**Laura Stevens** (*Buckeye Neighborhood Choir Director*) is a music teacher and performer from Phoenix, Arizona. She holds a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Ottawa University. She is also an avid

performer and loves to perform almost as much as she loves to teach. Ms. Stevens works as an elementary music teacher at Great Hearts Roosevelt Archway Academy and also teaches private piano lessons. She is a firm believer that there should be a space available for anyone wanting to make music. She encourages exploration through learning music theory, leading in performance, and loving the process.

## OUR ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**Cheryl Lynn Klock McNeill** (*Interim Managing Director*) was elected to two terms as Chair of the PBC Board of Trustees, prior to assuming her current position. She has over 25 years of experience in non-profit, business, and public affairs, having coordinated major fundraising events, managed a successful commercial real estate venture, served in a senior role with a major Presidential campaign in New Hampshire, and managed successful Congressional and statewide campaigns. She also ran her own successful campaign for public office. Cheryl helped found and open Victory Collegiate Academy, a public charter school for underprivileged youth in Phoenix. She has received several awards for her many leadership roles and achievements, has had her work published, and was recognized as a “Rising Star” in her field. She holds a BA in Political Science from Emory University and a Paralegal Certificate from the University of Hartford.

**Allison Brown** (*Operations Director*) is a native of Phoenix. She lived in the San Francisco Bay area for 24 years where she earned her BFA from the California College of the Arts. Her career in California and Arizona included residential real estate sales, operation of her own licensed childcare facility, retail store management, and set up and organization of multiple new and existing offices. Allison has enjoyed her work in Membership and Development in the non-profit sector for the past nine years.

**Sarah Privee** (*Development Manager*) was born and raised in KCMO (Kansas City Chiefs). She moved to Arizona in 1986 and began a career in commercial real estate. This ended in 2012 when her faith community, the Franciscan Renewal Center, undertook a \$22 million capital campaign. Being a community member already, Sarah was invited to join the Development team to raise the money - and the rest is history. She has always said that she made less money than she ever had but enjoyed it more than any job prior. She’s looking forward to helping the Phoenix Boys Choir grow their legacy as they chart a new path into the future.

**Jessica Farley** recently joined Phoenix Boys Choir as its staff accountant. She has been in the accounting field for 16 years and loves what she does. Her previous experiences includes work for a public school district and for a large HVAC company. She and her family moved to the Phoenix area in 2022. Her favorite pastime is watching her children play sports and do what they love.

**Claudia Morales** (*Volunteer Coordinator*) graduated from the University of Guadalajara as a dental surgeon. Ms. Morales and her husband, Hector, moved to Arizona in 2000. She served the St. Francis Xavier Parish, after two years of training, as a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a program that supports children ages 3 to 9. Her children include Danny, a Brophy graduate and ASU student, and Karen and Angel, both professional dancers at Tradiciones Dance Company. Her youngest son, Santiago, is a member of PBC’s Tour Choir. Ms. Morales is active in the arts community, serving as a Spanish language translator for Arizona Opera and the Phoenix Symphony.