

Joseph Ohrt, conductor, serves as Director of Choral Activities and Chairman of the Music Department at Central Bucks High School-West. His unique teaching style has not only challenged thousands of students over the years but has also inspired an unprecedented number of collaborations with composers from around the globe. His passionate vocation is being advanced throughout the world with the *Joseph Ohrt Choral Series*, published by Santa Barbara Music Publishing in California. Dr. Ohrt is a contributing author to several choral textbooks including: *The School Choral Program*, *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume III*, and *Brothers, Sing On! Conducting the Tenor-Bass Choir*. He is the choral arranger for the new musical by Christopher Smith, *Amazing Grace*, which is being prepared for Broadway, and has arranged music for *Las Vegas Celebrates the Music of Michael Jackson* which was performed by the Las Vegas casts of *Jersey Boys* and *Phantom of the Opera*. His adventuresome programming, involving new compositions and movement, is serving to create a new paradigm in standards for high school choral performance.

Dr. Ohrt holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of South Carolina. He has also earned a teaching certificate from the Kodály Musical Training Institute at the University of Hartford and an Artist/Teacher Diploma from the Choral Music Experience Institute at Northern Illinois University. He is currently pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Zoology at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo/Miami University. He has studied under master teachers: Joseph Flummerfelt, Frauke Haasemann, Margaret Hillis, Dennis Keene, Doreen Rao, and Gregg Smith. He has served as an adjunct faculty member at University of South Carolina and Westminster Choir College. Ohrt has served as choral conductor at the Westminster Vocal Institute in Princeton and at Cseh Summer School of Music in Houghton, New York. Dr. Ohrt has guest conducted the Messiah College Choir, the West Island Symphony Youth Orchestra (Quebec), the Bucks County Symphony, and has led a retreat for the Kona Music Society on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Dr. Ohrt has prepared children's choruses for performances at the American Guild of Organists National Convention and with the Curtis Institute Opera, the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, and an internationally released recording with the Voices and Orchestra of Ascension and Dennis Keene.

Dr. Ohrt serves as a mentor to many young composers and contemporary artists. He appeared on MTV shows *School Days* and *Who Knows the Band*, the VH1 show *Driven*, the M4 show *Real Stories* in the UK, and sung backup in the choir for Barbra Streisand's concerts held at Madison Square Garden. As a member of the Westminster Choir, he has sung opera professionally in the United States and Italy, and has performed with many of the world's leading orchestras. Ohrt is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society and is listed in multiple editions of *Cambridge Who's Who*, *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*. He is currently on the American Choral Directors Association of Pennsylvania Board of Directors where he has served for many years in many positions. Dr. Ohrt was nominated for the prestigious 2006 Disney Teacher Awards and was selected in the top one hundred finalists out of the seventy-five thousand nominated.