



MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY CHORUS

Celebration of Music



Monday May 8 2023 • 7:30pm

Performing Arts Center • Odessa High School

570 Tony Marchio Drive • Townsend DE

ARTISTIC STAFF

Artistic Director Rocky F. Tejada



Rocky F. Tejada has been working in Delaware since 2014 when he came to teach music in the Appoquinimink School District. He is currently on the performing arts faculty at Odessa High School, where he teaches choral music, piano, and musical theater. Mr. Tejada was the choral director at Middletown High School, where he enjoyed a fruitful tenure. His students regularly performed major works with orchestra, and performed on community stages throughout the state of Delaware and the east coast.

Mr Tejada is an active choral conductor and singer, and regularly performs in chamber groups and choirs throughout the U.S. and abroad. He has performed with Delaware

Choral Scholars, Delaware Choral Arts, Kent Chamber Choir, the Northern Delaware Choral Society, and the Memphis Chamber Choir among others. Recently, he has performed with the Alpenkammermusik chamber music festival in Washington D.C., and conducted in Granada, Spain with the Coro Ciudad de Granada in 2019. He is the artistic director for the Delaware Choral Society in Dover, and the Middletown Community Chorus where he enjoys performing in such a vibrant and talented communities.

Mr. Tejada received his bachelor's degree in music from Jacksonville State University where he studied vocal performance and opera. He received his master's degree in choral conducting from the University of Alabama in 2011. Over the past decade, he has conducted works such as Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Requiem, Vivaldi's Gloria, Rutter's Gloria, Pinkham Christmas Cantata, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, and a variety of early and modern works for large ensembles and chamber choirs.

Under Mr. Tejada's baton, the Middletown Community Chorus seeks to contribute to the community singing culture in the MOT area. The immense talent and love for music among our community members demonstrates a great need for a choral organization like this. We aim to provide our singers and our community with a valuable outlet for quality and enriching choral music, and we hope that MCC will become an important influence in our town for many years to come.

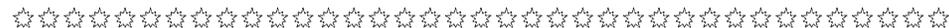
ARTISTIC STAFF CONTINUED

Pianist Nick Ronaghan



Nick Ronaghan - a native from the heart of PA Dutch Country in Lebanon, PA - has been teaching music since 2006, leading liturgical music since 2004, and directing ensembles and staged productions since 2001. He has worked with singers from elementary to retirement age as a director and obtained practical experience as a professional actor, singer, and keyboard player. Nick holds a Bachelor's of Music Education degree from West Chester University, and holds

several Master's of Education degrees, including Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Technology. He is the choir director at Alfred G. Waters Middle School and the organist at Christiana Presbyterian Church in Newark. Nick resides in Landenberg, PA with his wife, Amy, and two boys, Owen and Levi.



NDOS/MCC BOARD

We are in the middle of our Board transition so the officers and directors from the outgoing and incoming Boards are both listed.

Officers

President

Amy Davis*; Mary Reppy***

Vice-President

Mary Reppy***; Mark Shaffer**

Secretary

Anne Sewell*; Cat Chamlee**

Treasurer

Judy Fullhart*; Dana Schenk**

Directors

Karen Andrea*

Board Advisor

Rocky Tejada***

Kathy DeLong**

Christopher Elliot***

Krista Liebman**

Laura Sebastiano**

Margaret Wisler*

* = outgoing board

** = incoming board

*** = both

The Northern Delaware Oratorio Society (NDOS), doing business as Middletown Community Chorus (MCC), is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

WELCOME MESSAGE

We are very excited to be presenting our first concert, *Celebration of Music*, as the Middletown Community Chorus! Thank you for coming to support us and share this wonderful moment! And now, a little background:

The Middletown Community Chorus (MCC) is a non-audition community chorus in the Middletown/Odessa/Townsend area. MCC was born out of the Northern Delaware Oratorio Society (NDOS). NDOS was formed in 1970 as a non-audition chorus specializing in major classical repertoire accompanied by organ; you can learn more about its history at ndos.org. NDOS thrived for many years, however, the Covid-19 pandemic greatly affected the group. In late 2021, the NDOS board evaluated the situation and made the difficult decision that the chorus, as it stood, was not viable. However, we hoped that it would be possible to reinvent the group or to pass the assets of the organization on to another chorus.

We were very pleased in the spring of 2022 to learn that Rocky Tejada was interested in starting a non-audition community chorus in the Middletown area and would be happy to work with us. We felt that the non-audition aspect of NDOS was an important part of its identity and we were excited about using the NDOS organization and assets to begin a new community chorus in a rapidly growing part of Delaware. Many meetings followed through the summer and fall of 2022 as we worked out the timeline for the first semester, set up a new website and social media, picked out a logo, found rehearsal space, and other details of creating a new chorus.

We began rehearsing in February 2023 and were ecstatic at the interest and number of singers who joined. It is a wonderful group of all ages from high school students to octogenarians and from music professionals to those haven't sung since they left high school (but have always missed it). It has been short but intense semester and we are very pleased at how the group has come together. We are looking forward to next fall and the next chapter in our journey. Please visit our website mccmusic.org and sign up for our contact list to learn about our plans for the fall and future concerts.

A final note about the phoenix image, which has appeared on our publicity materials this winter and spring - it represents the rebirth of NDOS as MCC.

Now, please sit back and enjoy our *Celebration of Music*!

CELEBRATION OF MUSIC

How Can I Keep From Singing? Gwyneth Walker
(Traditional Quaker Hymn)

Hallelujah Ludwig Van Beethoven
(From Mount of Olives) (1770-1827)

Flight Song Kim André Arnesen

Even When He is Silent Kim André Arnesen

Hallelujah, Amen George Fredric Handel
(From Judas Maccabaeus) (1685-1759)

They Can't Take That Away From Me George & Ira Gershwin
Arr. Mark Hayes

My Soul's Been Anchored In the Lord Moses Hogan
(Traditional Spiritual)

John the Revelator Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory
(Traditional Gospel Blues)

Raise Your Voice Alan Menken, Glenn Slater (lyrics)
(From Sister Act) Arr. Roger Emerson
Soloists: Caitie Layton, Annika Ly, Kaliyah Weldin,
Suzan Sappington and Amanda Ostrusky

☆☆

THANK YOU!

The Middletown Community Chorus is very grateful and gives many thanks to Odessa High School and the Appoquinimink School District for their support in providing rehearsal and performance space.

MCC SINGERS

Alto

Wanda Allison
 Karen Andrea
 Judy Appleton
 Cat Chamlee
 Gianna Cinque
 Janet Cornwell
 Amy Davis
 Kimberly Duus
 Laryn Fletcher
 Aubrey Free
 April Garthwaite
 Ra'naa Hawkins
 Joyce Hayes
 Joyce Irwin
 Kyra Kimbrough
 Caitie Layton
 Krista Liebmann
 Annika Ly
 Maria Parks
 Rachel Perkowski
 Dana Schnek
 Laura Sebastiano
 Ruth Smith
 Shauna Sullivan
 Jane VanValkenburg
 Janet Vines
 Margaret Wisler
 Laura Wright

Bass

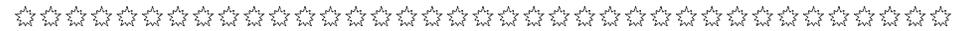
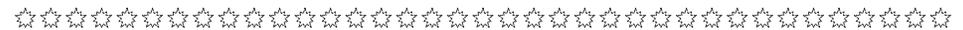
William Anthony
 Dario Cinaglia
 Christopher Elliott
 Glenn Everhart
 Dale Irwin
 George Kusel
 Bill Rakay
 Mark Shaffer
 Matthew Shapiro
 Paul Vines
 Kevin Young

Soprano

Beverly Blanchard
 Kathy DeLong
 Mecina Fellin
 Denitza Kalcheva
 Kristina Kalcheva
 Carol Kusel
 Abbie Martino
 Gretchen Medon
 Janice Mezier
 Emma Moyer
 Christine Giglio Nanni
 Tara O'Connor
 Amanda Ostrusky
 Mary Reppy
 Susan Sappington
 Gabby Saylor
 Anne Sewell
 Kathy Shaffer
 Kaliyah Weldin

Tenor

Page Boyce
 Bruce Ersek
 Shane Hurley
 Jeremy Medon
 John Nanni
 Debbie Zimm
 Jack Zimm

We'll Be Back!

The Middletown Community Chorus will return to rehearsing next fall! Exact timing is to be determined; check out our website mccmusic.org for updates and sign up for our email list!

*Want to Sing with Us?
Like to Learn More about MCC?
Interested in Future Concerts?*

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!



**Scan the QR code to go to
www.mccmusic.org
and fill out the contact form
Or sign up at the will call table**