



SHAWN CULLEN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/CONDUCTOR HEARTLAND MEN'S CHORUS KANSAS CITY

Shawn Cullen, educator, conductor and artistic director, has earned a reputation for his dedication to musical excellence and collaborative artistry within the communities to which he belongs. Past leadership includes 8 years as artistic director/conductor for the Reveille Men's Chorus, Desert Voices Mixed Chorus (Tucson, Arizona) and interim artistic director of the Heartland Men's Chorus in 2019. Upon completion of a national search, Cullen was appointed permanent artistic director/conductor in May 2020, two months into the Covid-19 global pandemic.

Recognized as an award-winning music educator, Cullen has held positions in K-12 instrumental/vocal music, adjunct faculty at the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music and most recently graduate teaching fellow at the UMKC Conservatory while completing coursework towards a Ph.D. (ABD). Cullen's research in music education, undergraduate academic achievement and conducting pedagogy has been presented at regional, national and international conferences and symposia. Ensembles under Cullen's leadership have achieved the highest ratings at contests and festivals, traveled throughout the U.S. and abroad and most recently performed on live virtual platforms for thousands of global viewers. Cullen's dynamic skill set has led to a multifaceted career in choral music, instrumental music and regional musical theater serving as principal conductor for the Arizona Repertory Theater from 2011 to 2017. Favorite credits include *Into the Woods*, *The Secret Garden*, *Oklahoma!*, *Evita*, *Avenue Q* and *The Full Monty*.

Cullen holds a bachelor of music education degree and master of music degree in conducting from the University of Arizona and is completing his Ph.D. dissertation contrasting the best practices of choral and instrumental conducting pedagogies. He is a proud member of the national board of directors for GALA Choruses and aims to someday embrace Midwest winters with his dog Cody.

ABOUT THE HEARTLAND MEN'S CHORUS



ABOUT THE HEARTLAND MEN'S CHORUS

The Heartland Men's Chorus was founded in 1986 when a small group of gay men dreamed of forming a choral group in Kansas City. The Chorus' debut concert had 30 singers and it quickly grew, providing a welcome musical outlet and a safe harbor for a community seeking solace and relief from prejudice and the devastating AIDS crisis. Over the years, the Chorus has performed in a host of area venues and is delighted to reach diverse audiences through extensive outreach efforts.

Heartland Men's Chorus is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), the national service organization for LGBTQ+ choral groups. With 10 CDs and two DVDs to its credit, the Chorus is devoted to choral excellence and continues to grow in musical ability and reputation. Blessed with exceptional artistic leadership over the years, the Chorus has commissioned several new compositions and arrangements, advancing men's choral music.

Led by an 18-member Board of Directors consisting of both chorus members and community members, Heartland Men's Chorus continues to evolve, changing hearts and changing lives.