Panel of Choral Educators Who Just Completed Year 1

Jenna Crafts, Laney De Luna, Haley LeJune, Marianne Marten, Ethan Schopp, and Aiden Strain

Introduction: 5 minutes

Lightning Round: 30 minutes

Lightning Round Explanation- One sentence or one quick statement.
1. *One "instant success" repertoire selection of your choosing.* Please state selection, arranger or composer, and publisher.

2. One choral selection that falls outside the Western traditionally Eurocentric music that you would recommend.(i.e. World Music)
Please state selection, arranger or composer, and publisher.

3. One choral selection composed by a living composer who is from an under represented group.
Please state selection, arranger or composer, and publisher.

4. One successful way you have used technology as a tool in teaching.

5. Share a way you have used technology in "managing the business" of being a choral director.

6. What was your biggest surprise during this first year in the choral classroom?

7. *What was one "AH Ha" moment during your first year where you felt you changed a life or made a difference.*

8. *What was one musical experience that you had during your musical career before teaching that helped prepare you for your first year.*

Questions: (7 minutes each) Approximately one minute response for each panel member. You can say pass if you do not want to speak on this topic.

1. *What from your perspective, are the future trends in Choral Music Education based on your observations in your first year?*

2. *What support or mentorship have you received during your first year and how do you suggest that ICDA support early educators in Indiana?*

3. *What do you wish you would have learned during your years as a student musician that would have better prepared you for your first year of teaching?*

4. *What are some ways that we can advocate for Choral Music Education?*

5. *What are the main benefits to your students for participating in choral music?*

One minute announcement:
The Indiana Choral Directors are piloting a free mentoring program this Fall for Indiana Early Career Choral Educators with 5 or less years experience who are ICDA members starting August 1, 2024. Please look at the ICDA website for a link to sign-up to express interest in becoming a mentor or mentee. Please share any ideas with our committee members who are wearing a special ribbon on their name tags.

The Early Career Choral Educators Panel:

Jenna Crafts is in her first year at Decatur Central serving as Director of Choirs where she teachers a beginning treble choir, an intermediate mixed choir show choir and concert choir, an advanced chamber choir, and two varsity show choirs. She is also assistant director at Decatur Middle School and serves as musical director for the musical. Her ensembles qualified for ISSMA State Show Choir Finals and earned many honors throughout the season. Her chamber ensemble earned “Gold with Distinction” at the ISSMA Vocal Jazz festival.

Jenna graduated with a degree in Choral Music Education with top honors from University of Indianapolis in 2023. She was awarded the Outstanding Future Music Educator Award in 2023. She also works semi-professionally as a studio vocalist, and she teaches private voice lessons. Jenna is thrilled to be on the panel of first year music educators at ICDA this year!

Haley LeJune teaches 6th, 7th and 8th grade choir, 6th grade general music, and 7th and 8th grade guitar at Mt. Vernon Middle School. She has been singing and her whole life and first started choir in 5th grade! In middle school and high school she was in show choir, musicals, jazz choir and concert choir. She went to Ball State to get her degree and was in the top two choirs there, concert and chamber choir. She was also performed with the student ran a cappella organization. In her free time she enjoys spending time with her cat, hanging out with friends and family, and relaxing. She has really enjoyed her first year of teaching so far and is excited to continue growing as a music educator.

Laney De Luna is a Choral Director at Fishers High School in Fishers, IN. Laney is a graduate of Indiana Wesleyan University with her Bachelor's in Music Education. During her time at Indiana Wesleyan, she served as the Student Conductor for the IWU Women's Chorus, in addition to performing in featured and principal roles with the IWU Lyric Theatre. Laney has also been given the opportunity to sing with various ensembles in the Indianapolis area, including the chance to sing with artists like Andrea Bocelli.

During the 2024 show choir season, Laney led Fishers Sound (Tier I Univoiced Ensemble) to an undefeated season against nationally ranked ensembles. Their season culminated in a third consecutive ISSMA State Championship title for the group. When not teaching, Laney enjoys spending time with her friends and family – preferably over a great meal or while exploring new places! She loves all types of music, museums, and a great cup of coffee.

Marianne Marten graduated from Butler University ('23) receiving a Bachelor of Music Education and Vocal Performance with distinction. During her time at Butler, she participated in the Butler Chorale, Chamber Singers, Jordan Jazz, and Butler Opera Theatre, as well as served as choral assistant for all-treble ensemble "Spectra" and media coordinator of the Zeta chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity. She is a first-year choral director at Lafayette Jefferson High School, where she mostly works with treble voices of varying knowledge levels grades 9-12 in both traditional choral as well as show choir settings. She assists three other choirs comprised of treble and bass singers at both intermediate and advanced levels of music making. When she is not in front of the choir, she teaches beginning piano class.

Her schedule includes; Piano 1, Accents (beginner-intermediate concert choir, 9-12), Expressions (advanced treble concert choir and show choir, 10-12)
Acapella* (intermediate mixed concert choir and show choir, 10-12),Varsity Singers* (advanced level mixed concert choir, 10-12), First Edition* (advanced mixed show choir, 10-12), * assistant director with Mark Myers.

Ethan Schopp is a first year teacher from the small town of Minier, IL. After studying Vocal Music Education at Butler University and graduating in 2023, he began his teaching career at Penn High School in Mishawaka, IN alongside fellow Butler grad Andrew Nemeth and Allison Secaur, a Ball State grad and exceptional pianist and accompanist. At Penn, Ethan is the head director of the Singing Kingsmen, the program's beginning/intermediate TB group, and Rhapsody, Penn's show choir. He also co-directs the Gold Standard concert choir, teaches general and AP music theory, and supervises a section of Freshman study hall. Outside of school, Ethan also sings in the South Bend Chamber Singers.

Aidan Strain graduated from Ball State University in the spring of 2023, with a degree in Music Education. He has completed his first year of teaching at New Castle Middle and High School alongside Ethan Hutchinson, another first year teacher. Aidan is in charge of the 6th grade boys choir, the 7th grade girls choir, the 8th grade mixed choir, and a show choir at the middle school. At the high school he is in charge of a non-auditioned men's chorus, he co-teaches an intermediate auditioned women's chorus, and teaches an extracurricular jazz choir that does madrigal theater and caroling during the winter. New Castle received the ISSMA all choir award this year and Aidan and Ethan had many learning opportunities like hosting Circle the State with song and being a host site for ISSMA HS organizational. Aidan was also asked to be a guest clinician at Yorktown this spring.

Joyce Click will serve as the panel moderator.

For more information on ICDA Mentorship Initiative:



Joyce Click, Mentorship Program Coordinator:

Committee:
Matthias Murphy
McKenzie Martin
Issac Denniston
Christina Huff
Kathryn Lee
Andrea Drury
Melissa Walsh
Sarah Kavanagh
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