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 - one sentence or one quick statement

1. *One "instant success" repertoire selection of your choosing.*
    a. **Laney - God Thou Art Love, Craig Courtney, Beckenhorst**
    b. **Ethan - Shenandoah, Russell Robinson, Alfred**
    c. **Jenna - Amani, Audrey Snyder, Hal Leonard**
    d. **Aidan - Au pas, camarades, Emily Crocker, Hal Leonard (French, Song of the Onion)**
    e. **Haley - Child of Song, Herring/Beck, Alfred**
    f. **Marianne - V'Shamru, Robert Applebaum**
2. *One choral selection that falls outside the Western traditionally Eurocentric music that you would recommend.(i.e. World Music)*
    a. **Laney - Cantar!, Althouse, Alfred**
    b. **Ethan - (title??), Samuel Volk?**
    correction: Ta ba solbici (Resian, Slovenian) by Samo Vovk, Gimnazija Publishing
    c. **Jenna - Hashivenu, arr. Michael Ryan, Lorenz**
    d. **Aidan - Bonse Aba, Johnson, Lorenz**
    e. **Haley - Artza Alinu, Rentz, Carl Fischer**
    f. **Marianne - Zikr, A.R. Rahman, arr. Ethan Sperry (written for an Indian documentary)**
3. *One choral selection composed by a living composer who is from an underrepresented group.*
    a. **Laney - Ave Regina Caelorum, Joni Jensen, Mark Foster Music**
    b. **Ethan - (title??), arr. Kim?correction: Jamjari KKongKong arr. Minhee Kim, Pavone Publishing**
    c. **Jenna - Non Nobis, Domine, Rosephanye Powell, Fred Bock Music**
    d. **Aidan - Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride, arr. Mac Huff, Hal Leonard**
    e. **Haley - Ten Thousand Miles, Ruth Morris Gray, Alfred**
    f. **Marianne - Oh Love, Elaine Hagenberg, Beckenhorst Press**
4. *One successful way you have used technology as a tool in teaching.*
    a. **Laney - show choir, recordings are placed in a OneDrive folder or uploaded into Canvas**
    b. **Ethan - Sight Reading Factory and Musescore**
    c. **Jenna - Sight Reading Factory**
    d. **Aidan - Musescore for sight reading purposes to simplify the appearance of music**
    e. **Haley - Chromebooks, Sing through a song together but hold chromebooks in front of them and record**
    f. **Marianne - recording rehearsals and run throughs, giving students a chance to listen and watch themselves. I usually prompt them to reflect on their sound/posture/stage presence and how or what they can do to improve. Sometimes my teenagers didn't realize how noticeable their RBF was until they saw it on film!**
5. *Share a way you have used technology in "managing the business" of being a choral director.*
    a. **Laney - shared OneDrive with lists, copies of music, registration for contests, etc., My Music Office database used for organization**

   b. **Ethan - Google forms for repertoire selection, committees, voting, GroupMe for quick communication with each ensemble**
   c. **Jenna - My Music Office for fees / online payments, GroupMe for ensemble organization, Remind is helpful for parents**
   d. **Aidan - Remind, Google Suite**
   e. **Haley - Parent Square, Canva**
   f. **Marianne - Microsoft Excel can be used for budgeting, flow charts, attendance lists and more…**
6. *What was your biggest surprise during this first year in the choral classroom?*
   a. **Laney - There is a lot of trial and error, but students respond well to owning up to mistakes.**
   b. **Ethan - Always be open to every student. Don't be so quick to write them off because of poor behavior.**
   c. **Jenna - Costuming is more difficult than I thought.**
   d. **Aidan - It's a joy to walk into YOUR classroom.**
   e. **Haley - It is very different having your own classroom as opposed to being in someone else's classroom.**
   f. **Marianne - How open and willing to share my students are… they say some WILD things that I would never have told my teachers.**
7. *What was one "AH Ha" moment during your first year where you felt you changed a life or made a difference.*
   a. **Laney - students that have come to talk with me or said that they feel safe in my classroom**
   b. **Ethan - young men are more insightful than I was expecting or gave them credit for**
   c. **Jenna - one of her students was excited that the choir was singing a song in her language**
   d. **Aidan - received an award from admin with a student that was impacted by his willingness to show mistakes**
   e. **Haley - was the one teacher a student was comfortable with, did not function well in any other class**
   f. **Marianne - I caught a student smoking weed during rehearsal and sat her out for a show. She ended up being hospitalized for it because the habit ended up so severe she couldn't eat or drink; at a competition one day, she proudly showed me a calendar on her phone showing that she was 6 weeks sober. Her mom said I saved her life even if it meant being harsh.**
8. *What was one musical experience that you had during your musical career before teaching that helped prepare you for your first year.*
   a. **Laney - student director at IWU for the women's chorus**
   b. **Ethan - had the opportunity to conduct in high school, worked with and had a group sing at his senior recital**
   c. **Jenna - Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, worked with and learned from new directors and teachers**
   d. **Aidan - fear-free environment in the programs he came from, solid school background**
   e. **Haley - worked in a theater in her hometown, helped her realize how capable she was**
   f. **Marianne - forgetting words to a song for the first time in my career during my senior recital - I felt like a huge failure and could not get past it. In hindsight, it**

really helped me to get over my fear of being "perfect" or embarrassing myself in front of an audience. In teaching you are bound to fail and embarrass yourself and that's ok! Try new things!

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?*
    a. **Ethan - It can be easy to miss out on literacy when focusing too much on performance.**
    b. **Jenna - Meet students where they are at in terms of their attention span. Also, more demand for diverse literature.**
    c. **Aidan - Attention spans are cooked. Enforce reading music. Streaming music is a positive trend, because students will look things up on their own.**
    d. **Haley - Social media is used more in a negative way, and bullying is easier, so students need more love.**
    e. **Marianne - integrating cell phones / other technology, TikTok, social media exposure as a recruiting tool!**
2. *What support or mentorship have you received during your first year and how do you suggest that ICDA support early educators in Indiana?*
    a. **Marianne -**
        i. **I accepted a position in which I am both a director of my own choirs as well as an assistant director to others. In turn, I asked my colleague Mark Myers (been teaching for 20 years) to observe my lessons. He provides important critiques, great advice, and challenges me to get out of my comfort zone.**
        ii. **My corporation/school has a mentor-teacher program for all first-year teachers, as well as meetings every month with other first-year teachers within my school! It has been helpful to have a community that shares similar struggles in their first year!**
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?*
    a. **Laney - would have liked to have an FAQ for things like ISSMA and IMEA registration**
    b. **Ethan - would have benefitted from an ICDA sponsored Zoom meeting for first year teachers**
    c. **Jenna - wishes veteran teachers wouldn't wait to be asked to help as a mentor**
    d. **Aidan - EdTPA, did not know about $300 payment for EdTPA, would have loved to have a mentor**
    e. **Haley - EdTPA, licensure help**
    f. **Marianne - I wish that my university had gone more in-depth about applying for jobs, and other legalities associated with becoming an educator (licensure, unions, etc.) especially because I student taught at the beginning of the school year.**
4. *What are some ways that we can advocate for Choral Music Education?*
    a. **Laney - community engagement**
    b. **Ethan - school events, social media outreach**
    c. **Jenna - stand up for your field**

    d. **Aidan - stay aware of what is going on politically**
    e. **Marianne - reach out to other people in your school and community**
5. *What are the main benefits to your students for participating in choral music?*
    a. **Ethan - humans are social creatures, and choral music is a way to develop community at every level**
    b. **Haley - students learn to regulate emotions and learn to connect emotions with music they are singing**

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 teaches 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 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 also performed with the student-run 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 composed 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 organization. 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: