

CURRICULUM VITAE

Melissa M. Mills

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EDUCATION

- 2008 **Ph.D., Michigan State University, East Lansing**
Major Area: Music Education
Cognate: Choral Conducting
Dissertation: *The Effects of Participation in a Community Children's Choir on Participants' Identity: An Ethnographic Case Study*
Dissertation Advisor: Sandra Snow
- 2004 **M.M., Brigham Young University, Provo**
Major Area: Music Education
Emphasis: Choral Conducting
- 1999 **B. Mus., University of Utah, Salt Lake City**
Major: Music Education
Emphasis: Choral Conducting

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2025- **Blue Pearl Music Publishing, Farmington, Utah**
Founder, Publisher, and Artistic Director
Responsible for curating the Blue Pearl collection of works
Managing submissions from evaluation through publication
Lead editor and engraver
Sales and marketing manager
Social media manager
- 2025- **Score Doctor, Farmington, Utah**
Founder and Editor
Professional editorial and score engraving for composers and publishers

2024	Elizabeth Academy, Salt Lake City, Utah Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Music Education
2022	Utah Valley University, Orem, Utah Adjunct Instructor, Choral Methods
2022-	The Bel Canto Women's Chorus, Bountiful, Utah Founder and Artistic Director
2020-	The Utah Youth Singers, Bountiful, Utah Founder and Artistic Director
2012-2016	University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Maryland Adjunct Instructor, K-12 Choral Methods Seminar (4 Semesters)
2008-2010	University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Education Taught Introduction to Music Education, Choral Methods, Classroom Vocal Pedagogy, Secondary General Music Methods, Pre-Student Teaching Seminar, Student Teaching Seminar, and supervised student teachers
2005-2008	Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan Taught Introduction to Music Education Assisted with Choral Methods Supervised student teachers
2007-2008	Michigan State University Children's Choir, East Lansing, Michigan Conductor, Preparatory Choir
Spring 2006	Michigan State University Children's Choir, East Lansing, Michigan Co-Conductor, Preparatory Choir
2004-2005	The Waterford School, Sandy, Utah Taught choir classes for students in grades 6-12
2001-2004	Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah Assistant Conductor, BYU Women's Chorus Assistant Conductor, BYU Concert Choir

Assistant Conductor, BYU Chorale
Taught Choral Conducting and Sight-Singing I, II and IV

1999-2002 **North Layton Junior High School, Layton, Utah**

Choral Director
General Music Teacher
Musical Theater Director

1996-1997 **International Children's Choir School, Salt Lake City, Utah**

Assistant Conductor, Concert Choir and Little People's Chorus

RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Books

Mills, M. (2017). *Working with Young Singers: Educational Philosophies of Expert Children's Choir Conductors*, Vol. 1, GIA Publications: Chicago.

Mills, M. (2017). *Working with Young Singers: Educational Philosophies of Expert Children's Choir Conductors*, Vol. 2, GIA Publications: Chicago.

Articles in Refereed Journals

Broomhead, G. P., Eggett, D., Mills, M., & Skidmore, J. (2018). The Effects of a Teacher Directed Pre-Performance Routine on Expressive Performance Mindset. *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, 215 (Winter), 57-74.

Broomhead, G. P., Eggett D., Mills, M., & Skidmore, J. (2012). The Effects of a Positive Mindset Trigger Word Pre-Performance Routine on the Expressive Performance of Junior High-Age Singers. *Journal of Research in Music Education*, 60 (April), 62-80.

Mills, M. (2010). Being a Musician: Musical Identity and the Adolescent Singer. *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, 186 (Fall), 43-54.

Broomhead, P., Skidmore, J. B., Eggett, D. L., & Mills, M. (2010). The Effect of Positive Mindset Trigger Words on the Expressive Performance of Non-Expert Adult Singers. *Contributions to Music Education*, 37 (2), 65-85.

Mills, M. (2009). Capturing Student Progress via Portfolios in the Music Classroom. *Music Educator's Journal*, 96 (2), 32-38.

Draves, T., Sweet, B., Mills, M., & Cruse, C. (2008). Subjects in Music Education Research: 1991-2005. *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, 176 (Spring), 19-29.

Other Articles

Mills, M. (2010). Media Review: Tunes and Grooves for Music Education: Music for Classroom Use, Compact Disc for Tunes and Grooves for Music Education. *Journal of Historical Research in Music Education*, 31 (2); 155-156.

Talks, Abstracts, and Other Professional Papers Presented

a. Invited talks, etc.

“Level Up!”: Second-Level Score Analysis for Choral Conductors

Presentation at the American Choral Director’s Association Annual Conference (Utah Chapter), October 21-22, 2022, Sandy, UT.

“Never Let a Teachable Moment Go Away”: Philosophical Perspectives of Expert Children’s Choir Conductors

Presentation at the 7th International Symposium on the Sociology of Music Education, June 2011, East Lansing, MI.

Being a Musician

Presentation at the 6th International Symposium on the Sociology of Music Education, July 5-9, 2009, Limerick, Ireland.

The Effects of Children’s Choir Participation on Participants’ Musical Identities

Presentation at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Research Forum, April 23-25, 2009, Valley Forge, PA.

The Effects of Children’s Choir Participation on Participants’ Musical Identities

Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, April 13-17, 2009, San Diego, CA.

The Effects of Participation in a Community Children’s Choir on Participants’ Identities

Presentation at the 11th Biennial Desert Skies Symposium, February 2009, Tucson, AZ.

Proactive versus Reactive Teaching

Presentation at the Baltimore County Music Teachers Professional Development Workshop, August 2008, Owings Mills, MD.

Composing and Teaching in the New Millennium: An Interview with William Bolcom

Presentation at the 50th Anniversary College Music Society National Conference, November 15-18, 2007, Salt Lake City, UT.

Dynamic Rehearsals: The Effects of Peer and Student-Conductor Interactions in a Community Children's Choir

Presentation at the 5th International Symposium on the Sociology of Music Education, July 2-5, 2007, St. John's, Canada.

Student Perceptions of Participation in a Community Children's Choir

Presentation at the 10th Biennial Desert Skies Symposium, February 2007, Tucson, AZ.

How to Survive and Thrive in Your First Year of Teaching

Panel discussion member at the Utah Music Teachers' Association State Conference, February 2002, St. George, UT.

b. Refereed conference proceedings

Perspectives from the Podium: A Conversation with Joan Gregoryk

Poster presentation at the Maryland Music Educators Association Research Forum, February 26-27, 2010, Baltimore, MD.

The Effects of Children's Choir Participation on Participants' Musical Identities

Poster presentation at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Research Forum, April 23-25, 2009, Valley Forge, PA.

The Influence of Peer and Student-Conductor Interactions on Participants in A Community Children's Choir

Presentation published in Sociological Explorations: Proceedings of the 5th International Symposium on the Sociology of Music Education, July 2008, St. John's, Canada.

Subjects in Music Education Research: 1991-2005

Poster presented at the Michigan Music Educators' Conference, February 2007, Grand Rapids, MI.

Student Perceptions of Participation in a Community Children's Choir

Poster presented at Committee for Instructional Cooperation (CIC), October 2006, Ann Arbor, MI.

Musical Compositions

a. Awards

First Place Winner

American Choral Directors Association Composition Competition (Utah Chapter), 2021

"Singing," for SSA, organ, and trumpet.

- Premiered by the Brigham Young University Women's Chorus, Dr. Sonja Poulter conducting, ACDA Choral Convention, Cathedral of the Madelaine, Salt Lake City, UT, October 22, 2021. Additional performance by the BYU Women's Chorus, DeJong Concert Hall, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, October 2021.

b. Published works

Think a Sacred Song (2025)

Unison voices, violin, piano. Published by Blue Pearl Music Publishing

Singing (2025)

SSA, organ, and trumpet. Published by Blue Pearl Music Publishing

Premiered by the Brigham Young University Women's Chorus, Dr. Sonja Poulter conducting, ACDA Choral Convention, Cathedral of the Madelaine, Salt Lake City, UT, October 22, 2021. Additional performance by the BYU Women's Chorus, DeJong Concert Hall, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, October 2021.

Vocalise No. 1 (2025)

Unison voices, 2 violins, piano. Accepted at Blue Pearl Music Publishing

Partner song blending an original melody and Beethoven's "Sonata Pathétique." Premiered March 14, 2023, with Jenny Oaks Baker, the Utah Youth Singers, and the Bel Canto Women's Chorus, Assembly Hall, Temple Square, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Ah, Poor Bird (2025)

Unison/2-pt (opt. divisi), piano, viola. Accepted at Blue Pearl Music Publishing
Traditional round with accompaniment. Premiered by The Utah Youth Singers, Bountiful Community Church, Bountiful, Utah, Fall 2020. Additional performance by The Utah Youth Singers, Bountiful Davis Arts Center, Bountiful, Utah, May 2021.

Silent Night (2025)

Version 1: *Unison, piano (opt. audience participation).* Accepted at Blue Pearl Music Publishing.

Version 2: *Unison, piano (opt. audience participation), and string orchestra (orchestration by Richard Nobbe).* Accepted at Blue Pearl Music Publishing.

Piano accompaniment version premiered by The Utah Youth Singers, Bountiful Davis Arts Center, Bountiful, Utah, December 2021. String orchestra version premiered by The Bel Canto Women's Chorus and The Utah Youth Singers, Bountiful Davis Arts Center, Bountiful, Utah, December 2023.

Additional performances:

- The Salt Lake Singers (*Jane Fjeldsted, conductor*) and The Utah Youth Singers, St. Ambrose Catholic Church, December 2022.
- The Salt Lake Symphonic Choir (*Erin Pike Tall, conductor*) and The Utah Youth Singers, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, December 2023.
- Bountiful Davis Arts Center, Bountiful, Utah, December 2022.
- The Farmington 15th Ward Choir, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Worship Service, Farmington, Utah, December 2023.

Come, We that Love the Lord (2025)

SATB, piano. Accepted at Blue Pearl Music Publishing.

Original composition, lyrics by Isaac Watts.

c. Premiered Works

When I Come to the Temple (2023)

3-part (any combination), piano, violin. Unpublished manuscript.

Premiered January 2023, by the Farmington 15th Ward Young Women's Choir, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Worship Service, Farmington, Utah. Incorporating parts of "Come to the Temple" by

Jeanmarie Bassett (*unpublished manuscript*), “I Love to See the Temple” by Janice Kapp Perry, “Love at Home” by John Hugh McNaughton, and an original melody.

I Feel My Savior’s Love (2005)

SSATTB, children’s choir, piano, organ, violin. Unpublished manuscript

- Song arrangement (music and lyrics by K. Newell Dayley (*by permission*), Laurie Huffman, and Ralph Rodgers).
- Premiered by the Centerville 6th Ward Choir, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Worship Service, Centerville, Utah, 2006.
- Additional performances:
 - o The College Park Ward Choir, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Worship Service, College Park, Maryland.
 - o Farmington Utah South Stake Choir, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Worship Service, Bountiful Regional Center, Bountiful, Utah, 2018.

Because I Have Been Given Much (2004)

SSAATTBB, organ. Unpublished manuscript

- Hymn arrangement (original music by Philip Landgrave, lyrics by Grace Noll Crowell). Premiered by a stake choir in a worship service for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Provo, Utah, 2004.

Winter Solstice (2001)

SATB, piano. Unpublished manuscript.

- Text by Scott Isaacson (1956-). Premiered by the North Layton Jr. High School Choirs, Davis School District Choral Festival, Spring 2002.

Additional Fellowships, Prizes, and Awards

Dissertation Fellowship Award, Michigan State University, 2007

Graduate Merit Fellowship Award, Michigan State University, 2007

Graduate Assistantship, Michigan State University, 2005-2008

Travel Awards (multiple), MSU School of Music and Graduate School, 2006-2007

Who’s Who Among America’s Leaders, 2007

Who's Who of American Women, 2007, 2008

Graduate Assistantships, Brigham Young University, 1999-2004

Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2000

Apple for the Teacher Award, North Layton Jr. High School (student-nominated), 2000

TEACHING, MENTORING, AND ADVISING

Utah Valley University

- Choral Methods (4 students), 2022

University of Maryland (Baltimore County Campus)

- K-12 Choral Methods Seminar (3-6 students), 2012-2016

University of Maryland (College Park Campus)

- Vocal Pedagogy (2 students), 2009
- Choral Methods (1-5 students), 2009, 2010
- Secondary General Music Methods (10), 2009, 2010
- Pre-Student Teaching Seminar (3-7 students), 2008-2010
- Student Teaching Seminar (10 students), 2008
- Introduction to Music Education; Pre-Professional Experiences (12-19 students enrolled), 2008, 2009
- UNIV 101 (12-19 students), 2008, 2009
Taught concurrently with Introduction to Music Education, this freshman-level course emphasized career exploration, self-reflection, diversity, technology, and using university resources.

Michigan State University

- Introduction to Music Education (30 students), 2008

- Graduate Assistant, Introduction to Music Education (28 students), 2007
Taught classes, organized fieldwork assignments.
- Graduate Assistant, Choral Methods (10 students), 2007
Taught classes on repertoire selection, changing voices, warm-ups

Brigham Young University

- Assistant Lecturer, Choral Conducting, 2004
- Assistant Conductor, BYU Women's Chorus, 2003-2004
A 180-voice auditioned women's chorus
- Assistant Conductor, BYU Concert Choir, 2003-2004
A 100-voice auditioned mixed chorus
- Assistant Lecturer, Sight-Singing I, II and IV, 2002-2004

Independent Study, Internship Supervision

University of Maryland

- Choral Music Field Experiences (5 students), 2009, 2010
- Vocal Pedagogy Field Experiences (2 students), 2009
- Independent Study (1-2 students/semester), 2008-2010
- Pre-Student Teaching Supervision (1-7 students/semester), 2008-2010
- Student Teaching in the Elementary School (1-7 students/semester), 2008-2010
- Student Teaching in the Secondary School (1-7 students/semester), 2008-2010

Michigan State University

- Student Teaching Supervisor, (1-3 students/semester), 2005-2008

Advising: Other Than Research Direction

- Advised 7-13 music education majors each semester regarding course selection and academic matters, 2008-2010
- Advisor, MENC: The National Association for Music Education Student Chapter, Michigan State University, 2005-2006.

Advising: Research Direction

- i. **Doctoral**
 - Kathy Gabriele (2010)
- ii. **Master's**
 - Jonathan Kur (2009)
 - Leah Belin (2009)
 - Stephanie West (2009)
 - Carrie Jean Rathmell (2009)
 - Tricia Wya (2009)
 - Jane Sitarz (2010)

SERVICE

Professional, reviewing activities for agencies

Submissions Reviewer, New Hymnbook Committee, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Salt Lake City, UT; August-October 2022.

Proposal Reviewer, American Education Research Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 2009.

Other unpaid services to local, state, and federal agencies

Presenter, Baltimore County Public Schools Music In-Service, Owings Mills, MD; August 2008.

Session Chair, Community Engagement Forum, 50th Anniversary College Music Society National Conference, Salt Lake City, UT; November 2007.

Paid consultancies

Adjudicator, *UHSSA State Solo and Ensemble Festival*, Woods Cross High School, Woods Cross, UT, April 27, 2024.

Adjudicator, *Region III Large Choir Festival*, Westlake High School, Saratoga Springs, UT, April 15, 2024.

Adjudicator, *Jordan School District Intermediate Choir Festival*, West Hills Middle School, West Jordan, UT, March 6, 2024.

Adjudicator, *Davis High School Solo and Ensemble Festival*, Davis High School, Kaysville, UT, February 29, 2024.

Adjudicator, *Jordan School District Solo and Ensemble Festival*, South Jordan Middle School, South Jordan, UT, February 7, 2024.

Adjudicator, *Davis School District Jr. High Concert Choir Festival*, Syracuse Junior High School, Syracuse, UT, March 8-9, 2023.

Adjudicator, *Davis School District High School Training Choir Festival*, Layton High School, Layton, UT, March 8, 2023.

Adjudicator, *Utah Music Teacher's National Association (MTNA) Vocal Performance Competition*, Daynes Music, Midvale, UT, October 22, 2022.

Adjudicator, *UHSSA State Solo and Ensemble Festival*, Woods Cross High School, Woods Cross, UT, April 30, 2022.

Adjudicator, *UHSSA Region V Solo and Ensemble Festival*, Clearfield High School, Clearfield, UT, March 22, 2022.

Adjudicator, *UHSSA Region V Training Choir Festival*, Bountiful, UT, March 18, 2021.

Adjudicator, *Davis School District Junior High Concert Choir Festival*, South Davis Junior High (Bountiful), West Point Junior High (Westpoint), and Shoreline Junior High (Layton), UT, March 15-17, 2021.

Adjudicator, *Treble Choir Festival*, The Noorda Center for the Performing Arts, Utah Valley University, Orem, UT, May 8, 2019.

Adjudicator, *UHSSA Region II Large Choir Festival*, Hunter High School, West Valley City, UT, April 24, 2019.

Adjudicator, *Salt Lake School District Junior High Solo and Ensemble Festival*, Salt Lake City, UT, February 6, 2019.

Instructor, *The Salt Lake Children's Choir Summer Camp*, Salt Lake Choral Artists Building, Salt Lake City, UT, July-August, 2018.

Adjudicator, *Howard County School District Middle School Choral Adjudication and Assessment*, Columbia, MD, April 2015.

Adjudicator, *Howard County School District Middle School Choral Adjudication and Assessment*, Columbia, MD, April 11- 12, 2013.

Adjudicator, *Howard County School District Middle School Choral Assessments*, Columbia, MD, April 2012.

Adjudicator, *Howard County School District Concert Choir Assessments*, Ellicott City, MD, March 23, 24, 2010.

Conductor, *Howard County School District Middle School Gifted and Talented Honor Choir*, Ellicott City, MD, November 2009.

Presenter, *Howard County School District Middle School Choral Reading Session*, Howard County Music Teachers' Professional Development, Columbia, MD, September 2009.

Conductor, *University of Maryland Summer Youth Music Vocal Camp*, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, July 2009.

Adjudicator, *Maryland State High School Choral Festival*, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD; April 2009.

Adjudicator, *Howard County Middle School Choral Adjudications*, Clarksville, MD, April 2009.

Adjudicator, *Baltimore County High School Music Assessments*, Owings Mills, MD, March 2009.

Conductor, *University of Maryland Summer Youth Music Camp Chorus*, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, July 2008.

Accompanist, *Michigan State University Children's Choir Camp*, Michigan State University Community Music School, East Lansing, MI, June 2007.

Clinician, *Farmington Public Schools District Elementary Choral Festival*, Farmington Hills, MI, February 2006.

Assistant Conductor, *Michigan State University Children's Choir Camp*, Michigan State University Community Music School, Lansing, MI, June 2006.

Instructor, *University of Utah Summer Music Workshop in General Music*, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, Summer 2000, 2001.

University Service

Member, University of Maryland Student Affairs Committee, 2008-2010.

Community, State, National

Parent-Student Teacher Association (PTSA) Board member, Davis School District, Farmington Jr. High School, September 2024-May 2026. In charge of staff appreciation and Reflections competition.

Type II Teacher, Davis School District, Centerville Elementary, Jan. 26-Feb. 23, 2024. Taught a weekly special-interest music class (6 students).

Choral Director, *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints*, Hyattsville, MD, 2008-2009; *Farmington, UT*, 2021-present.

Church Organist, *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints*, Farmington, UT; Hyattsville, MD; East Lansing and Lansing, MI; Provo, UT, 2002-2020.

Congregational Music Supervisor, *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints*, Hyattsville, MD, 2008-2009; *Farmington, UT*, 2020-present.

Conductor, *Quoque*, a non-auditioned community vocal ensemble (45 singers), Provo, UT, 2003-2004.

Conductor, *Alpine Children's Choir*, an auditioned elementary school choir for students ages 8-11, Alpine, UT, 2002.

LIST OF REFERENCES

Cherilyn Worthen

Associate Professor of Choral Music Education
Utah Valley University
Cherilyn.Worthen@uvu.edu
(801) 863-8693

Michelle McConkey

Professor, Music Education Program Coordinator
California State Chico
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Derek Myler

Assistant Professor of Music Theory
East Carolina University
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Mitchell Robinson

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Michigan State University
mrob@msu.edu
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Paul Broomhead

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