



RIDER UNIVERSITY

College of  
Arts and Sciences

| WESTMINSTER  
CHOIR COLLEGE

**Graduate Study In Choral Conducting At Westminster:  
A Singularly Unique Artistic Education**

For over 50 years, **Westminster Choir College** has been the choice of hundreds of conductors for their graduate study in choral conducting. Graduates of Westminster Choir College have gone onto professional conducting positions and leading doctoral programs. Westminster Choir College is uniquely positioned because of its internationally recognized faculty and its roster of Visiting Artist Faculty that are recognized artist teachers around the world. Westminster is renowned for its intensive graduate conducting program that teaches both artistry and the choral pedagogy that enables its graduates to become artistic leaders in their careers. The Westminster experience is enriched by professional engagements with the nation's great orchestras and conductors. The 2022-23-24 will see collaborations with the Pittsburgh Symphony and the Orchestra of St. Luke's.

A Westminster degree is recognized around the world as one of the most prestigious professional credentials. Renowned for musical excellence, it is estimated that Westminster alumni teach millions of singers each day around the world. Graduates of Westminster Choir College become part of rich legacy that has guided and inspired American choral music since 1928. Every major conductor since Toscanini has conducted a Westminster choir.

The Westminster graduate conducting program is exclusive and highly selective, limiting enrollment to 6 conductors each year. The program is unique in that it teaches artistry and the latest choral pedagogy. Westminster conductors are artist/teachers. Westminster is the American home of innovative voice science, choral pedagogy. This program and school has developed generations of artists holding major choral positions around the country and around the world. A few recent examples:

**Donald Nally**, 4-time Grammy Winner and Conductor of *The Crossing*  
**Andrew Megill**, DCA at The University of Illinois, Champaign, Urbana  
**Heather Buchanan**, DCA Montclair State University  
**Christopher Jackson**, The Bethlehem Bach Choir  
**Charles Brown**, Concordia University  
**Giselle Wyers**, University of Washington  
**Rachel Feldman**, Connecticut College  
**Xiangtang Hong**, Berea College  
**Trey Davis**, Louisiana State University  
**Matthew Mehaffey**, The University of Minnesota  
and  
Conductor of The Mendelsohn Choir of Pittsburgh  
**Elizabeth Braden**: Chorus Master and Conductor: The Philadelphia Opera Company  
**Paul Head**, DCA, The University of Delaware  
**Jeff Vanderlee**, The University of Arizona  
**John Frederick Hudson**: Freelance Conductor, Author and Composer-London, England  
**Gregory Brown**, Composer/Conductor

**Shane Thomas**, McNeese University  
**Dominic Lam**, Hong Kong Baptist University  
**Haochen Wang**, Tianjin-Julliard  
**Alicia Brozovich**, Westminster Choir College

Westminster's Graduate choral conducting program is led by Grammy-nominated conductor, **James Jordan**, Director of Choral Studies at Westminster. His leadership of the Westminster conducting program can be described as an immersive conservatory-style conducting program that focuses on the artistry and pedagogy that uniquely prepares conductors for careers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century musical world. James Jordan has studied with some of the most significant conductors and pedagogues of the past 50 years: Elaine Brown, Wilhelm Ehmann, Frauke Haasemann, Volker Hempfling and Edwin Gordon, who was his Ph.D advisor.

Recognized around the world because of his 65 books that cover subjects from the spirituality of the conductor to his writings in both choral pedagogy and conducting pedagogy that are used around the world. His exclusive publisher is GIA Publications, Chicago. A Comprehensive listing of his works and recordings can be found at [www.Giamusic.com/Jordan](http://www.Giamusic.com/Jordan). A Westminster Master's program is the only program in the country that provides conductors with experiences both in rehearsal and in the conducting classroom with the knowledge, skills and human understandings that will make them stand above all their peers. James Jordan brings his knowledge of the psychology of music learning to every rehearsal in addition to course electives by Westminster's renowned voice pedagogy program. Hundreds of conductors have come to Westminster and to the *Choral Institute at Oxford* to study with him. [www.Rider.edu/Oxford](http://www.Rider.edu/Oxford) His work and approach to choral performance can be heard on 20 CD's on the *Naxos*, *Spiritum* and *GIA Choralworks* labels. James Jordan, in addition to having authored the leading conducting text in America, *Evoking Sound*, has been the "father" of the application of Laban Effort/ Shape that is now used by conducting pedagogues the world over. A Graduate student studying at Westminster receives first hand instruction by the person who is considered the world authority in Laban Pedagogy applied to conducting and honest, humanly connected music-making.

### **A Rich Resource**

Westminster is home to one of the most extensive choral libraries in the world. Thousands of titles in multiple copies are available for use in Choral Literature classes, ensembles and conducting recitals. The choral reference stacks have a vast collection of complete works plus one of the most extensive collections of books supporting a choral graduate student. The Westminster archive houses a vast collection of historic scores such as marked scores by Robert Shaw. Westminster is the center in the world for choral studies and the resources of the Talbot Music Library are without parallel.

**James Jordan**  
**Director of Choral Studies**  
**Conductor: The Westminster Choir**  
**The Westminster Symphonic Choir**

GRAMMY®-nominated conductor James Jordan is recognized and praised around the musical world as one of America's pre-eminent conductors, writers and innovators in choral music. The most published performer/author in the world, he has written more than 60 books on all aspects of the choral art. He was described as a "visionary" by *The Choral Journal*, which cited his book *Evoking Sound* as a "must read." The most published musician/author in the world, his books form the canon for teaching of conductors and choirs around the world. At Westminster Choir College he is a professor and senior conductor of the *Westminster Schola Cantorum* and the internationally-acclaimed *Westminster Williamson Voices*.

Dr. Jordan has studied with the legendary conductors and scholars of the past 40 years. He is a student of Elaine Brown, Wilhelm Ehmann, Frauke Haasemann, Volker Hempfling and the renowned music psychologist Edwin Gordon. His career as a conductor began as a finalist in the Leopold Stokowski Conducting Competition with *The Philadelphia Orchestra* under Eugene Ormandy.

He has made two recordings of the music of James Whitbourn with the Westminster Williamson Voices on the Naxos label, which have garnered wide critical acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic. *Gramophone* hailed him as a conductor of "forceful and intimate choral artistry," and regarding the GRAMMY-nominated recording of *Annelies, Choir and Organ* wrote, "Jordan's instinctive understanding of the score makes this a profound and emotionally charged experience." The Westminster *Williamson Voices*, have won acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic by reviewers and composers alike for their compelling sound and artistry. In addition to world premiere recordings by that ensemble on the Naxos label, The *Westminster Williamson Voices* has premiered over 40 choral works by the world's leading composers among them Jaakko Mantyaarvi, Blake Henson, Gerald Custer, Thomas LaVoy, Cortlandt Matthews, Dan Forrest, Paul Mealor and James Whitbourn. James Jordan brings the unique perspective of a recording artist.

Applicants can sample examples of choral sound and music interpretation on the following list of critically-acclaimed recordings:

**Grammy-Nominated -Annelies** (Westminster Williamson Voices)

<https://open.spotify.com/album/6yJevk3inoSwXxIbCWbBvf?si=TK8Mf952QRixFT5Znwo-1g>

**To Hold the Light** (The Same Stream)

<https://open.spotify.com/album/2rpKauUnaSh0QZUKNdDY2O?si=WENpy55hQNS-lucUmlUmgg>

**Sunrise Mass** -Ola Gjeilo (Westminster Williamson Voices)

<https://open.spotify.com/album/04WjMDGTs5ORgtsbIqtuQ?si=omjjQb4jSKuM0fDj4Uvysg>

Aurora: The Westminster Williamson Voices

<https://open.spotify.com/album/7fViGb7fHME48v3XDgsjQc?si=FGWjSb4rTEi8fZKHtEKErw>

**Serenity: The Music of Paul Mealor.** The Same Stream

[https://open.spotify.com/album/0x3kcANE2RUD29qcRbapIA?si=WiElu7wNTfGzd\\_gKgFWR3A](https://open.spotify.com/album/0x3kcANE2RUD29qcRbapIA?si=WiElu7wNTfGzd_gKgFWR3A)

**Living Voices- Son of God Mass** (Westminster Williamson Voices)

<https://open.spotify.com/album/13PiJxtzxwKd1DNvTNsPhD?si=qyuIZ-7iRCS-8dFxaTJSVg>

**Songs of The Questioner** (The Same Stream)

<https://open.spotify.com/album/5XhA6vmhZ0kJ6H5FkSZS0u?si=erGumJssS2GBrFJgLW5Jjg>

**A Scattered Light In Winter** (Williamson Voices)

[https://open.spotify.com/album/0Nxdv6dsxTkJNUvPakuWYu?si=sEZM5ZBOTt6dWDP\\_6x1jwQ](https://open.spotify.com/album/0Nxdv6dsxTkJNUvPakuWYu?si=sEZM5ZBOTt6dWDP_6x1jwQ)

**Silence Into Light-Westminster Williamson Voices**

<https://open.spotify.com/album/0lVHOYYGd2fua6LTdC3YY4?si=hiG8RgPCTDCZD3MA7wGL6w>

**The Westminster Choir In Live Concert (2022)** conducted by **James Jordan; Gregory Stout,** Accompanist.

Music by Tallis, Arvo Pärt, Howells, Brahms, Britten, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Paul Mealor and Stephen Paulus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNDuUXx2ZVc>

Dr. Jordan's career and publications have been devoted to innovative educational changes in the choral art, which have been embraced around the world. His writings have shaped far-reaching changes in the philosophy of music teaching and learning, conducting pedagogy, and the teaching of rhythm applying Laban Effort/Shape to both music teaching and conducting. In 2012, he received the *Iorio Research Prize* from Rider University. His exclusive publisher is GIA Music (Giamusic.com), Chicago. He is executive editor of the *Evoking Sound Choral Series* (GIA), whose extensive catalog of over 300 works stands as among the largest and most comprehensive choral series in world. The most recent publications, *Discovering Chant*, *Sound as Teacher* and *The Musician's Breath* have received wide critical acclaim. In 2022, Dr. Jordan published *Intonational Solfege*, the first such textbook that provides a method for teaching ensembles to sing "in-tune." His new book to be published in 2023, *The Essentials of The Choral Warm-Up: Science, Method and Pedagogy (with Westminster Colleague Sean McCarther)* provides choral musicians with a method for building choral sound that is aligned with Voice Science.

His residencies, master classes and guest conducting have taken him throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia. Among the institutions where he has taught master classes are The Curtis Institute, Rhoades College, The University at North Texas, the University at Buffalo, Temple University,

the University of Arizona, the University of Aberdeen and the U.S. Army Soldiers Chorus. He has conducted more than 30 all-state choirs, and in 2009 he was named to the choral panel for *The National Endowment for the Arts*. Dr. Jordan serves as director of the *Westminster Conducting Institute* ([www.Rider.edu/ConductingInstitute](http://www.Rider.edu/ConductingInstitute)), one of the nation's leading summer programs for the training and education of conductors. In the summer of 2013 he inaugurated, with Co-Director James Whitbourn, the *Westminster Choral Institute at Oxford*, a unique partnership with St. Stephen's House, one of the Halls of Oxford University. ([www.Rider.edu/Oxford](http://www.Rider.edu/Oxford)) Since its establishment in 2013, this program has quickly established itself as one of the world's recognized programs for the teaching of choral artistry to over 150 choral conductors from ROUND THE WORLD.

Dr. Jordan has been honored as a distinguished alumnus at both Susquehanna University and Temple University. He was awarded the distinguished Doctor of Music by the *University of Aberdeen* in Scotland in 2014 to honor his contributions to choral music throughout the world. Only the second American since 1485 to receive this degree, he shares this honor with Gustav Holst, Benjamin Britten, Dame Joan Sutherland and Morten Lauridsen.