



Wednesday, October 17, 2023

Dear ACDA Members,

I hope this message finds you in high spirits and good health.

We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. André de Quadros for his dedication and significant contributions during his two terms on the Diversity Initiatives Committee. As a founding member of the DIC, Dr. de Quadros's work has been foundational in setting forth the direction of this committee. We are ever thankful for the expertise and passion he brought to our work, and his legacy will surely continue to inspire us.

Dr. André de Quadros's stellar reputation precedes him. As a professor of music at Boston University, with a vast and interdisciplinary list of affiliations ranging from African, African American, Asian, to Jewish and Muslim studies, prison education, and Antiracist Research, his work has truly been a beacon for many, myself included. His vast experience, from leading choirs and choral projects in various parts of the world to engaging in projects focused on human rights, trauma, and peacebuilding, has enriched the DIC in numerous ways.

It is with immense pleasure and excitement that we announce the appointment of Dr. Joshua Palkki to the DIC as a full voting member. Prior to this recent appointment, Dr. Palkki has been instrumental as an ex-officio advisor to our committee, and we are enthusiastic about the expertise and fresh perspective he will continue to offer in this new role.

Dr. Palkki's credentials speak volumes of his dedication to transforming the choral ecosystem. Currently serving as the Assistant Professor of Music Learning and Teaching/Choral Conducting and Associate Director of Choral Activities at Arizona State University, Dr. Palkki's contribution to the research literature, especially with his co-authored work "Honoring Trans and Gender-Expansive Students in Music Education," is commendable. His educational journey, from Michigan State University to Northern Arizona University and Ball State University, coupled with his vast guest conducting experience and contributions to research, choral, and music education, make him an invaluable addition to our team.

We also wish to express our deep appreciation to the many ACDA members who expressed interest in this position. Your enthusiasm and commitment to the cause are genuinely commendable. We're excited to mention that we aim to stay engaged with you all through a new task force that the DIC will launch in the upcoming months.

Together, as we move forward, we remain committed to the values of access, diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and the enriching power of music that binds us all.

Warm regards,
Arreon A. Harley-Emerson
Chair, Diversity Initiatives Committee
American Choral Directors Association