

Beethoven 250

Choral Festival

Marc Foster, Artistic Director



Dr. Marc Ashley Foster is Chair of the Department of Music and Director of Choral Activities at High Point University (HPU). In his nine years at HPU, Dr. Foster has overseen a significant expansion of the Department of Music, with the addition of 23 new music faculty, 90 music majors/minors, 133 students singing in choirs, 13 new instrumental ensembles, and over 375 students in private lessons. Dr. Foster has taught at the University of Texas at Arlington in Arlington, Texas and Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi and comes to High Point after serving as the Director of Worship Arts Ministries at Galloway Memorial United Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi and as the Artistic Director of the Mississippi Chorus.

Dr. Foster received a Doctor of Music Arts degree (DMA) in Choral Conducting from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a Master of Sacred Music degree (MSM) from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and the Bachelor of Music Education degree (BM Ed) in Choral Conducting and Voice from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dr. Foster has served as the Research and Standards Chair for College/University Choirs for the North Carolina American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and has served as the Music in Worship Chair for the Mississippi chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Dr. Foster has lectured, conducted clinics, workshops, and honor-choir events internationally in Prague, Czech Republic; York, England; and Vienna, Austria; and nationally throughout Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Georgia, Mississippi, and North Carolina. Dr Foster was the conductor for the 9th/10th grade North Carolina All-State Chorus in May, 2015.

His choirs have been honored to perform solo concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York; recent conference and convention performances include being the featured collegiate choir performing at the North Carolina Music Educators Association (NCMEA) Conference in 2013; the regional conference of the College Music Society (CMS) in March 2015; the North Carolina American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Conference in September, 2015 and 2018; the Southern Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) in Chattanooga, TN in March, 2016; and was honored to be one of the featured collegiate choirs at the Quadrennial General Conference of the United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon in May, 2016. January through May 2017, Dr Foster and a choral ensemble from High Point University spent the semester in Prague, Czech Republic, studying and performing concerts and recitals throughout Europe. The HPU Chamber Singers have also been featured on several compact disc recordings from Hinshaw Music Inc., and have been honored to premier choral works by Dan Forrest, Richard Waters, James Green, David Schwoebel, and others.

His church choirs have appeared at such venues as the Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church of South Georgia, the dedication service for the Mississippi United Methodist Bishop, Hope Morgan Ward, and the Annual Conferences of the Mississippi United Methodist Church. His youth choirs have been featured at events for the William Winter Institute on Racial Reconciliation and the Annual Civil Rights Pilgrimage of United States Congressmen and Congresswomen to Mississippi.

Dr. Foster is the proud father of Michael and Pearson, who attend Ledford High School in Davidson County and is married to Dr. Catheryn Shaw Foster, professor and coordinator of Music Education at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, NC.



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