



Choral Arts *New England*

*Elevating Choral Music and Creativity
through Alfred Nash Patterson Grants*

42nd Annual Awards Ceremony

Sunday, October 4, 2026
3:00 p.m.

St. David's Episcopal Church
284 Stoddards Wharf Road
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Choral Arts New England

Choral Arts New England was formed in 1980 as a memorial to the legendary Alfred Nash “Bud” Patterson, a cultural leader who organized his first civic chorus in the mid-1940s and for the next thirty-five years exerted to the utmost his talent, musical intelligence, charm and élan to the furtherance of the choral arts. He lifted choral music in the Boston area from a kind of doldrums by means of innovative programming, merciless auditioning, and meticulous (albeit merry) rehearsals. Introducing both early liturgical works unheard for generations and daring new compositions heard for the first time, he added to audience enjoyment and brought new excitement to choral singing. In addition to his first invention, the Chorus pro Musica, Bud Patterson conducted, at various times, the Cape Cod Chorale, the Worcester County Music Association, the Worcester Festival Chorus, the Master Singers of Worcester, and the Brandeis University Chorus.

In his teaching at Tanglewood and Brandeis and through his personal example, Bud Patterson inspired a whole generation of singers and choral directors throughout New England. Upon his death in 1979, many spontaneous gifts were received in his memory. A committee of distinguished music specialists was assembled, giving birth to the Alfred Nash Patterson Foundation—today, Choral Arts New England.

Choral Arts New England provides resources to elevate choral music and creativity in New England, through Alfred Nash Patterson Grants, named grants, and other activities. The Alfred Nash Patterson grants support adventurous programming and broaden repertory by encouraging performance of new compositions and long-neglected works, support music education and the training of young choral singers, encourage festivals and other collaborative projects, improve chorus administration, support choral resources, foster career development of choral directors, and encourage educational and public awareness programs concerned with the choral arts.

Alfred Nash Patterson grants, administered by Choral Arts New England, are given annually for outstanding projects that further the choral arts. More than 360 grants to over 180 organizations, totaling some \$490,000, have been awarded since 1985. Choral Arts New England also administers special grants honoring the legacies of two New England choral leaders, David Hoose and John Oliver. The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually by Choral Arts New England to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to choral singing and its culture within New England.

In addition, Choral Arts New England acts to promote and strengthen choral community throughout New England by:

- Compiling a comprehensive, up-to-date online calendar of choral events
- Maintaining a directory of choruses of New England (currently 467 choruses listed)
- Conducting periodic workshops, concerts, and other events to benefit the choral arts in New England

*More information can be found at www.choralarts-newengland.org
or by emailing admin@choralarts-newengland.org*

Choral Arts New England Board of Directors

Thomas Cooke (Clerk) ♦ Henry Danaher ♦ Michael Driscoll ♦ Katie Hart ♦ Joseph Horning (Treasurer)
Irene Idicheria ♦ Emily Isaacson ♦ Fred Jodry ♦ Nathaniel Lew ♦ Amy Lieberman
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Courtney Elf Rowe ♦ Jon Saxton ♦ Lalitha Shivaswamy (Chair)
Janna Walters-Gidseg ♦ Douglas Weeks ♦ Allan Wieman ♦ Elizabeth Woodhouse



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Welcome

Lalitha Shivaswamy, *Chair*

Shower the People

James Taylor (b. 1948), arr. Kirby Shaw

Ledyard High School Chamber Choir
Aiden Williams and Solana Kalbach, soloists
Melanie Cometa, director

Presentation of the 2026 Alfred Nash Patterson Grants

Lalitha Shivaswamy, *Chair*

***O Nata Lux
Salseo***

**Morton Lauridsen (b. 1943)
Oscar Galián (b. 1960)**

University Of Connecticut Chamber Singers
Ellen Gilson Voth, director

Presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award

Ellen Gilson Voth, *Former Board Member*

Jamie Spillane

Retired Director of Choral Studies and Associate Professor of Music, University of Connecticut
In recognition of his exceptional contributions to choral music in New England
and for a lifetime of choral artistry, leadership, and of mentorship
that have shaped generations and inspired singers, conductors and educators.

DEPART IN SONG

"The Ground" from Sunrise Mass

Ola Gjeilo

Everyone is invited to join in singing!
Jamie Spillane, *Conductor*

Please join us for a reception following the ceremony

*Special thanks to Ledyard High School for generously providing the venue
and coordination for this afternoon's ceremony.*

Alfred Nash Patterson Grants for 2026

Boston Arts Academy Foundation, Boston Mass.

In support of a comprehensive choral program that serves diverse high school vocalists through rigorous repertoire, collaborative performance, and equitable access to high-quality choral artistry.

Boston Workers Circle, Brookline Mass.

For a performance on May 16, 2027, by A Besere Velt with the Klezmatics, featuring traditional Yiddish songs of labor, immigrant, and civil rights movements as well as contemporary Yiddish music.

Brattleboro Music Center, Brattleboro Vt.

Irving Forbes Centennial Grant

To support collaborative performances throughout New England in Sept.-Oct. of Geoff Hudson's oratorio *A Passion for the Planet* by the Brattleboro Concert Choir with CONCORA/Connecticut Choral Artists.

The Chelmsford Children's Chorus, Chelmsford Mass.

Choral Arts New England Board Grant

For a one-week 2026 Summer Chorus camp for grades 2–8 with Dr. Rollo A. Dilworth, offering high-level choral training, a community performance, and opening the Aug. 9 Red Sox game at Fenway Park.

The Chorus of Westerly, Westerly R.I.

Choral Arts New England Board Chairs Grant

To aid the formation of the "Encore Choir" for older adults. Designed for connection, artistry, and joy, this ensemble offers meaningful music-making, daytime rehearsals, and two concerts annually.

Chorus pro Musica, Boston Mass.

For a performance on Nov. 14, 2026, of Julia Wolfe's *Anthracite Fields* with Bang On A Can All Stars. The work brings to life the working conditions in Appalachian coal mines, their use of child labor, the strength of miners' families, the role of organized labor, and how it all relates to our own use of energy.

Community Chorus at South Berwick, South Berwick Maine

Richard Coffey Grant

For a performance on April 11, 2027, of Robert Cohen's *Alzheimer's Stories* in partnership with the University of New Hampshire Concert Choir, including a community educational event with a local Alzheimer's Association chapter.

Coro Allegro, Boston Mass.

Lorna Cooke deVaron Grant

For the Boston premiere performance on Nov. 22, 2026, of Andrew Yee's *Trans Requiem*, featuring trans soloists Breanna Sinclairé, soprano, and Sam Crosby-Schmidt, tenor.

Greater Middletown Chorale, Middletown Conn.

Hammond Family Grant

For the premiere performance on Nov. 15, 2026 of Tom Brand's *Sing On!* with Benjamin Britten's *St. Nicolas* in celebration of GMChorale's 50th anniversary.

Master Singers of Lexington, Lexington Mass.

For the premiere performance on May 8, 2027, of *No Dream Required* by Michael Weinstein, with a text by Cliff Blake based on the speeches of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Master Singers of Worcester, Worcester Mass.

Saxton Family Grant

For the Connecticut premiere performance on May 15, 2027, of Ellen Gilson Voth's *And My Neighbor is...*, based on the story of the Good Samaritan, in celebration of the chorus's 50th anniversary.

South Shore Children's Chorus, Quincy Mass.

To support "South Shore Sings: One-Night Choir," which brings community members together to learn and sing a piece of music in a single evening. No auditions, experience, or performance required!

Southeastern Mass. Festival Chorus, Taunton Mass.

To support a performance of "The Wonderful World of Stage and Screen" for Taunton's free Music on the Lawn series in August 2026.

The Vernon Chorale, Vernon Conn.

For expansion of the Chorale's Conducting Fellowship program, which advances aspiring conductors' skills and careers through a hands-on community choir experience.

Worcester Children's Chorus, Worcester Mass.

In support of the March 2027 One Voice! Youth Choral Festival, a day-long event in collaboration with One Voice Youth Choral Consortium that provides youth access to exceptional music education.

Choral Arts New England's Named Grants

The Hammond Family grant, instituted by Carrie and Jonathan Hammond, is intended to support a collaborative effort or to celebrate a milestone, preferably in Connecticut.

The Saxton Family grant, instituted by Jonathan Saxton and Barbara Fox, is intended to support a unique, engaging effort in an underserved area or by a non-auditioned choir.

The Irving Forbes Centennial grant is intended to support projects involving community choruses performing large works with orchestra, and/or music that celebrates nature and the outdoors.

The Richard Coffey grant, instituted by friends of the visionary conductor and organist Richard Coffey, seeks to support projects of any kind that are transformative for the funded institution, whether musical, organizational, or experiential.

The Lorna Cooke deVaron grant, named in memory of one of the leading women choral conductors of the 20th century, instituted by Joseph and Fiona Horning, is intended to support new music or adventurous programming.

The Choral Arts New England Board grant, sponsored by contributions from the Board members of Choral Arts New England, is intended to advance the priorities of the Board in any given year.

The Choral Arts New England Board Chairs grant is sponsored by contributions from the former Chairs and Vice Chairs of Choral Arts New England.

The David Hoose Commissioning Grant

Established in 2025, the David Hoose Commissioning Grant is a biennial \$5,000 award supporting the commission of meaningful new choral music with instrumental accompaniment that can explore choral music's unique capacity to help us understand our history, reflect on our present, and envision our future. The grant was established in honor of conductor, hornist, and composer David Hoose, who has been an energetic force in the development of choral music in New England for more than 40 years, including a 38-year tenure as music director of the Cantata Singers.

The first David Hoose grant was awarded this year to Nightingale Vocal Ensemble for the composition *Strange Land* by Gregory W. Brown, with text by Todd Hearn, which had its premiere at Boston's Museum of Science on September 23, 2026.

The John Oliver Memorial Grant

Announced this year, the John Oliver Memorial Grant is a biennial \$5,000 award for a performance by a non-professional ensemble of a significant choral work with one or more soloists, with or without instrumental accompaniment, and including interaction of the soloist(s) with the chorus through a masterclass, residency, or similar singer development program. The award celebrates the legacy of John Oliver, founder and director for 45 years of the Boston Symphony's Tanglewood Festival Chorus, leader for 22 years of the John Oliver Chorale, and distinguished faculty member at MIT and at the Tanglewood Music Center's vocal and choral program.

John Oliver grant applications are currently open, with submission deadline January 8, 2027.

JAMIE SPILLANE

2026 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient



Dr. Jamie Spillane recently retired as Director of Choral Studies and Associate Professor of Music at the University of Connecticut, concluding a career that has profoundly shaped the choral landscape of New England.

In his decades of transformative leadership in secondary and collegiate choral programs, Dr. Spillane has taught and conducted thousands of students through his full teaching load, honor choirs, summer festivals, and guest residencies. Each ensemble under his direction reflected his exacting musicianship, expressive artistry, and unwavering belief in the power of choral singing to build community and deepen humanity. His students have gone on to distinguished careers as conductors, educators, professional singers, and arts

leaders, multiplying his influence across the region and the nation.

At UConn, Dr. Spillane built and sustained a vibrant multi-ensemble program, including the UConn Concert Choir and Chamber Singers and five other choirs, mentored undergraduate through doctoral conductors, and led performances of exceptional artistic merit, including major collaborative works and premieres that resonated far beyond campus. Recent performances he has led include a collaboration with CONCORA to present Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Matthew Shepard* throughout New England; the world premiere of Steven Sametz's *A Child's Requiem* about the Sandy Hook tragedy; and a performance with Jacob Collier of *World O World*.

Prior to his collegiate career, Dr. Spillane taught public school music in Puerto Rico and Fairfield, Connecticut. For many years he was chair of the Ledyard, Connecticut, High School Music Department, where he directed a choral program that grew to include over four hundred singers performing in ten award-winning choirs that was twice selected as a Grammy Signature School as one of the top schools for music education in the United States.

In addition to his tenure at UConn, Dr. Spillane previously taught at the University of Arizona; served as Director of Choral Activities at Iowa Wesleyan College, where he was honored as the Chadwick Teacher of the Year; and was also Director of Choral Activities at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester, N.Y.

Dr. Spillane studied conducting under Dr. Bruce Chamberlain, Dr. Peter Bagley, Lawrence Doebler, Helmut Rilling, and Robert Page. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Ithaca College, a Master of Music Education from the University of Connecticut, and a DMA in Choral Conducting from the University of Arizona.

This past year ACDA Eastern Division named Dr. Spillane as the first recipient of **The Jamie Spillane Award**, which recognizes sustained service and leadership, strong character and integrity in a dedicated champion for the choral arts. The citation notes that, "In every capacity he serves, Jamie brings a philosophy of 'cheerful flexibility' and 'easy joy' as he ensures that all choral stakeholders feel a sense of belonging within the organization, and that they can benefit from ACDA."

Dr. Spillane's legacy is measured not only in performances and accolades, but in the generations of singers who learned from him that choral music is an act of service, empathy, discipline, and shared purpose. Choral Arts New England takes great pride in celebrating that legacy and honoring his decades of visionary leadership, transformative teaching, and steadfast commitment to choral excellence.

Ledyard High School Chamber Choir

The Ledyard High School music program includes eleven choral ensembles led by alumna Melanie Wade Cometa, all dedicated to musical excellence and connection. The Ledyard High School Chamber Choir is the school's premier choral ensemble. This auditioned group of students in grades 10–12 has a long tradition of musical excellence, performing throughout the United States and Europe and earning recognition at choral festivals and competitions across the East Coast. The ensemble has performed in Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall in New York City and has appeared as a guest ensemble with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Chorus, Shoreline Chorale, Mystic River Chorale, CONCORA, and Voce.

Chamber Choir has built a remarkable tradition of collaboration and new music. The ensemble has premiered works by composers including The Podd Brothers, Rob Dietz, Tehilla Alphonso, Jared Gravely, Shawn Kirchner, Stacey Gibbs, and Jim Papoulis.

Each June, alumni return to Ledyard to sing alongside current students, with many traveling from across the country and returning year after year. The summer of 2027 will mark the 34th Annual Chamber Choir Reunion, bringing retired directors Russell Hammond and Dr. Jamie Spillane together with generations of Ledyard singers.

Chamber Choir is especially proud to be part of this celebration honoring Dr. Jamie Spillane, whose influence on Ledyard's choral tradition and generations of singers continues to resonate long after his years in the classroom.

University of Connecticut Chamber Singers

The UConn Chamber Singers is a highly select choir comprised of advanced vocal students. Chamber Singers performs primarily a cappella vocal music from the Renaissance through the present day. The ensemble presents concerts and workshops on and off campus, often traveling to Connecticut's high schools to collaborate and share their passion for choral singing; they have collaborated with professional and collegiate ensembles from throughout the world. Earlier this year, the Chamber Singers were invited to sing for one of the conducting masterclasses at the ACDA Eastern Region Conference in Providence, Rhode Island; this fall, the Chamber Singers will perform a piece side by side with VOCES8 at their upcoming performance at Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

Members of the Chamber Singers are often drawn from UConn Concert Choir but membership is open by audition to all singers of outstanding talent who are dedicated to performing the best in choral music.

The Chamber Singers are deeply honored to take part in this CANE Awards Ceremony, celebrating Dr. Spillane's years of teaching at the University of CT and the impact of his energy, artistry, and belief in the power of singing to transform our daily lives.

Previous Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

Jane Ring Frank, 2025	E. Wayne Abercrombie, 2013	Roberta Humez, 2002
André de Quadros, 2024	Sonja Dahlgren Pryor, 2012	Mary Whitney Rowe, 2001
Dan Perkins, 2023	John Oliver, 2011	Blanche Moyse, 2000
Peter Bagley, 2022	Jameson Marvin, 2010	George Kent, 1999
John Finney, 2020 (<i>awarded 2021</i>)	Richard Coffey, 2009	Allen Lannom, 1998
Maggie Brooks, 2019	David Hoose, 2008	Florence Dunn, 1997
Gwyneth Walker, 2018	Craig Smith, 2007	Daniel Pinkham, 1996
Johanna Hill Simpson, 2017	Robert De Cormier, 2006	Lorna Cooke DeVaron, 1995
Joshua Jacobson, 2016	Donald Teeters, 2005	Elliot Forbes, 1994
Ann Howard Jones, 2015	Alice Parker, 2004	
Gerald R. Mack, 2014	John Bavicchi, 2003	

Alphabetical list of grant recipients, 1985–2026

A Cappella Singers	Consonare Choral Community	Nashua Symphony Orchestra and Choral Society (2)
Acadia Choral Society	Convivium Musicum (2)	New England Classical Singers (3)
Alice Parker Choral Festival	Coolidge Corner Community Chorus	New Hampshire Master Chorale (4)
Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Center, Inc	Coro Allegro (10)	New Hampshire Music Festival
Amare Cantare (2)	Counterpoint (6)	New Haven Chorale (4)
American Choral Directors Association	Crescendo (2)	New Haven Oratorio Choir (2)
American Choral Directors Association, Massachusetts Chapter (2)	Da Camera Singers (3)	New Haven Oratorio Choir and Orchestra
American Choral Directors Association, New Hampshire Chapter	Danbury Music Centre (2)	Newburyport Choral Society
American Choral Directors Assoc., VT Chapter	Elm City Girls' Choir	Newton Choral Society (3)
Andover Choral Society	Emmanuel Music (3)	Nightingale Vocal Ensemble
Assabet Valley Mastersingers (3)	Ensemble Altera (3)	North Country Chorus
Back Bay Chorale (4)	Exsultemus	Northampton Community Music Center
Bagaduce Music Lending Library (9)	Fairfield County Children's Choir	Northeast Kingdom Chorus
Bella Voce Women's Chorus of Vermont (3)	Friends of The Music Hall	Northern Harmony
Berkshire Lyric Theater	Genesis Chamber Singers	Ogontz Arts Foundation
BHS Greater Boston Chapter	GMChorale/Greater Middletown Chorale (4)	Old Stoughton Musical Society
Blanche Moyse Chorale (2)	Grand Monadnock Youth Choirs	Onion River Chorus
Blue Heron Renaissance Choir (5)	Granite State Choral Society	Onion River Music Festival
Boston Arts Academy Foundation	Greater Boston Choral Consortium	Oratorio Chorale (2)
Boston Baroque	Greater Newburyport Children's Chorus	Outer Cape Chorale
Boston Cecilia (4)	Greater New Haven Community Chorus	PALS Children's Chorus (3)
Boston Cecilia and Coro Allegro	Greenwich Choral Society	Pioneer Valley Symphony and Chorus
Boston Children's Chorus	Guilford Chamber Singers (2)	Portland Community Chorus
Boston Choral Ensemble	Halalisa Singers	Portland Concert Association
Boston City Singers (4)	Hampshire Young People's Chorus (2)	Portsmouth Women's Chorus (3)
Boston Gay Men's Chorus (2)	Handel and Haydn Society	Pro Arte Singers, CT
The Boston Secession	Hartford Chorale (2)	Pro Arte Society, MA
Boston Workers Circle	The Heritage Chorale	Providence Singers (9)
Brattleboro Music Center (2)	Hopkinton Center for the Arts	Renaissance Men
Brattleboro Music Center Community Chorus	Island Community Chorus	Rhode Island Children's Chorus
Brattleboro Music Center's Repertory Singers	John Oliver Chorale	Rhode Island Civic Chorale & Orchestra (4)
Brookline Chorus	Journey Song Charitable Trust	RPM Voices of Rhode Island (2)
Burlington Baroque Festival	Joyful Noise Inc. (2)	Russian Chamber Chorus (2)
Burlington Choral Society (2)	Jubilate Chorale	Schoodic Summer Chorus
Cambridge Chorale	The Keene Chorale (2)	The Seraphim Singers (2)
Cambridge Community Chorus	Keene State College Music Department	Sharing a New Song
Cambridge Madrigal Singers (3)	Kent Singers	Solaris Vocal Ensemble
Cantata Singers (5)	King's Chapel Concert Series	Somerville Community Chorus
Cantemus Chamber Chorus (3)	Koleinu, Boston's Jewish Community Chorus	Souhegan Valley Chorus
Cantilena (3)	Labyrinth Choir	South Shore Children's Chorus (3)
Cantilena Chamber Choir (3)	Lawrence Choral Arts	Southeastern Mass. Festival Chorus
Cappella Clausura (5)	Lorelei Ensemble (5)	Special Needs Arts Programs, Inc.
Celebrity Series of Boston	Mad River Chorale for Counterpoint	The Spectrum Singers (4)
Chatham Chorale (2)	The Main Street Singers (3)	St. Mary Schola
Chelmsford Children's Chorus	Maine Gay Men's Chorus	Treble Chorus of New England
ChoralArt (Choral Art Society) (5)	Manchester NH Choral Society (4)	Una Voce Chamber Choir
Chorus of Westerly (7)	Manchester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale	The Vermont Choral Union (2)
Chorus pro Musica (5)	The Master Singers of Lexington (6)	Vermont Symphony Orchestra Chorus (3)
Classical Uprising (2)	Master Singers of Worcester (4)	Vernon Chorale
CODA Chorus, Maine	Masterworks Chorale	Voce
Collegium Ancora	Metropolitan Chorale (3)	VOICES 21C
Commonwealth Chorale (2)	Middlebury Community Music Center	Voices of Concinnity
Community Chorus at South Berwick (3)	Middletown Choral Society	Wescustago Youth Chorale (2)
Con Brio Choral Society	Milford (NH) Middle School Chorus	Westford Chorus
CONCORA/Connecticut Choral Artists (7)	Monadnock Chorus and Orchestra (2)	West Hartford Women's Chorale
Concord Chorale (MA)	Montpelier Community Gospel Choir	Winchester Community Music School
Concord Chorale (NH)	Mount Desert Summer Chorale	Women in Harmony (3)
Concord Chorus (2)	Music on the Hill	Worcester Children's Chorus (3)
Concord Women's Chorus (4)	Music Worcester, Inc. (The Worcester Chorus)	Worcester County Mechanics Association
Connecticut Early Music Society	Musica Sacra	Youth pro Musica (4)
	Mystic River Chorale (2)	Zamir Chorale of Boston (4)