



Choral Arts *New England*

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

41st Annual Award Ceremony

Sunday, October 26, 2025
3:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
21 Church Street
Winchester, MA 01890

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 340 grants to 180 organizations, totaling nearly \$460,000, have been awarded since 1985. 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. Choral Arts New England also administers two named grants honoring the legacies of New England choral leaders.

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](#)
- 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*



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Welcome

Lalitha Shivaswamy, *Chair*

CONCORD WOMEN'S CHORUS

Beth Welty, *Violin*; Simon Andrews, *Piano*

Grown Wild

Melissa Dunphy (b. 1980)

Text: Melissa Apperson

Commissioned by Concord Women's Chorus in 2021

Presentation of the 2025 Alfred Nash Patterson Grants

Lalitha Shivaswamy, *Chair*

CONCORD WOMEN'S CHORUS

Simon Andrews, *Djembe*

Siyahamba

South African Folksong

Arr. Ruth Morris Gray (b. 1961)

Presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Jane Ring Frank

Michael Driscoll, *Board Member*

Depart in Song

Everyone is invited to join in singing!

Jane Ring Frank, *Conductor*

Dona Nobis Pacem from Mass in B Minor (BWV 232)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Jeffrey Mead, *Organ*

Following the ceremony, please join us for a reception in the Tucker Room.

Choral Arts New England Board of Directors

Mary Brody ♦ Tom Cooke (Clerk) ♦ Michael Driscoll ♦ Holly Druckman ♦ Katie Hart ♦ Jonathan Harvey
Joe Horning (Treasurer) ♦ Irene Idicheria ♦ Emily Isaacson ♦ Fred Jodry ♦ Nathaniel Lew ♦ Amy Lieberman
Beckie Markarian (Vice-Chair) ♦ Carol Marton ♦ Lisa Nappi ♦ Laura Nevitt ♦ Peter Pulsifer ♦ Jon Saxton
Courtney Elf Rowe ♦ Lalitha Shivaswamy (Chair) ♦ Janna Walters-Gidseg ♦ Douglas Weeks ♦ Elizabeth Woodhouse

Alfred Nash Patterson Grants for 2025

Barbershop Harmony Society, Greater Boston Chapter (Wayland, Mass.)

Singspiration 2025 and Beyond

To support the purchase of high-quality audio and power equipment that will enable small a cappella groups to perform in active public spaces and other non-traditional venues, bringing the inspiration of song and of live performance to a wide variety of audiences.

Burlington Baroque Festival (Burlington, Vt.)

2025 Burlington Baroque Festival

For operational support to the second Festival, scheduled for September 2025, which features works by Purcell and Handel, Bach, Vivaldi, Charpentier, Mondonville, and Brossard, performed on period instruments.

Cantilena (Arlington, Mass.)

I Rise: Women in Song

For a May 2026 performance of Reena Esmail's multi-movement work "I Rise: Women in Song," in collaboration with the Worcester Chorus. The composition features the writings of women that reflect their experiences as women.

Cappella Clausura (Newton, Mass.)

Worthy of the Highest Praise: Bembo's "Te Deum" and Vivaldi's "Gloria"

For a performance in May 2026 featuring a rare gem, Antonia Bembo's "Te Deum," together with a well-known work by her contemporary, Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria."

Celebrity Series of Boston (Boston, Mass.)

Langston Hughes and Phillis Wheatley: I Dream a World

For a concert in April 2026 by Boston Children's Chorus, Boston City Singers, and Handel and Haydn Chamber Choir that features texts by Langston Hughes and Phyllis Wheatley, contemporary choral works, and a newly commissioned work by B.E. Boykin, who will participate in workshops and choral rehearsals.

CODA Chorus (Winthrop, Maine)

Women's Correctional Center Collaborative Choir

To support formation of a collaborative choir at the Women's Correctional Center in Windham, Maine. A joint effort by women inmates, prison staff, and CODA Chorus members, the project includes six rehearsals and two concerts, one for the prison population and one for the broader community.

Concord Women's Chorus (Concord, Mass.)

Still Heard Round the World: A Celebration of Music Written by and for Women

To support the recording of works commissioned by the chorus: Libby Larsen's "Concord Fragments", Beth Denisch's "The Tree House", and Melissa Dunphy's "Grown Wild".

Consonare Choral Community (Mansfield Ceter, Ct.)

Dare to Hope

For a collaborative performance in May or June 2026 with the Willimantic Orchestra of the recently discovered "Song of Hope" by Florence B. Price and "Toward the Unknown Region" by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Coolidge Corner Community Chorus (Brookline, Mass.)*Revision*

For the June 2026 premiere of Jackson E. Alfrey's "Revision," a response to the events of the pandemic, which was commissioned by the chorus and developed in collaboration with them.

Counterpoint Chorus (Montpelier, Vt.)*An Act of Remembrance*

For a series of free choral performances in April 2026 celebrating National Poetry Month in collaboration with libraries and retirement communities throughout Vermont, focusing on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and including a new work commissioned from Vermont composer Don Jamison.

Ensemble Altera (Johnston, R.I.)*Declarations*

For the June 2026 premiere of "Declarations" by Piers Connor Kennedy, with a libretto curated by William Ashford. The work weaves together historical texts, American poetry, and newly commissioned writings from diverse voices to reexamine the ideals of the U.S. Declaration of Independence 250 years after its creation.

Halalisa Singers (Harvard, Mass.)*Community Concert: "Together We Sing/Si Somos Americanos"*

For an April 2026 concert with the Pan-Latin ensemble Sol y Canto that includes improvisational circle singing with the audience.

Hopkinton Center for the Arts (Hopkinton, Mass.)*Junior Treblemakers: Expanding and enhancing Youth Choral Education and Ensembles*

To help expand a youth choral program in size and resources, and to support expanding the choral programming to children in grades K-2.

Keene State College Music Department (Keene, N.H.)*"Glass Balloon" Commissioning Project*

To commission Heather Gilligan to set "Glass Balloon," by Becky Hemsley for SATB chorus, and to support its premiere Spring 2026. In Fall 2026, the work will be performed by some 150 middle and high school students in collaboration with the Keene State Concert Choir.

Koleinu, Boston's Jewish Community Chorus (Brookline, Mass.)*Kol Echad/Eyn Kol/One Voice*

For a November 2025 concert of Jewish choral music for the Boston area in collaboration with Zamir Chorale of Boston, A Besere Velt Yiddish Chorus, and local Jewish youth ensembles.

Providence Singers (Providence, R.I.)*Hidden: A new work by Reena Esmail*

To support the commissioning and premiere performance of a work by Reena Esmail for SATB chorus, string quartet, and piano. The text, by poet Rebecca Gayle Howell, has a theme of hidden labor—workers whose efforts are seldom acknowledged.

JANE RING FRANK

2025 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient



Conductor **Jane Ring Frank** stands among Boston's most accomplished and sought-after choral conductors. Known for her unerring ear for intonation and color, her command of both choral and orchestral repertoire, and her uncompromising musical scholarship, she has spent more than three decades shaping the region's choral landscape with vision, artistry, and care.

Ms. Frank began her conducting career at California State University, Long Beach, where she became Associate Conductor of the premiere 70-voice University Choir, staff pianist, and musical director/conductor for the Department of Theatre Arts. She also worked as a *répétiteur* with professional opera companies in Los Angeles, including the Los Angeles Music Center Opera and the Long Beach Opera Company. Artistic mentors include Paul Salamunovich, Frank Pooler, Randall Behr (former conductor and music director of the Department of Vocal Arts, Juilliard Opera Center, and former resident conductor, Los Angeles Music Center Opera) and Michael Carson (conductor, Lake George Opera).

Ms. Frank moved to Boston in 1991 to conduct at Harvard University. For twelve years, she was also the critically acclaimed Founding Artistic Director of Boston Secession (1998–2009), hailed by *The Boston Globe* as an “extraordinary chorus, notable for its beautiful balance, musical surety, and English-styled straight-toned singing.” With Boston Secession, she conducted and produced two recordings—*Afterlife: German Choral Meditations on Mortality* and *Surprised by Beauty: Minimalism in Choral Music*—both widely praised by *The New York Times*, *Gramophone*, and *American Record Guide*.

Since 2003, Ms. Frank has also held the position of Minister of Worship and the Arts at the First Congregational Church in Winchester. She has recently retired from Brandeis University, after 21 years as a Senior Resident Scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center. From 2011-22, Ms. Frank was Artistic Director of Cantemus Chamber Chorus on Boston's North Shore. For a number of years, she served as Conductor of E.C.S. Publishing Company's professional recording choral ensemble, Philovox, and was a 10-year voice faculty member at Emerson College. She is currently in her 32nd year as Artistic Director of the Concord Women's Chorus, a 45-voice ensemble based in Concord, Massachusetts. The chorus prides itself on commissioning and performing challenging, new music written especially for women's voices by women composers. Ms. Frank has conducted ensembles across Europe, Australia, and New Zealand and spent six years as a guest conductor and educator at the Gitameit Music Centre in Yangon, Myanmar.

For her lifelong dedication to excellence, innovation, and the transformative power of choral music, and for the artistry, mentorship, and community she has nurtured throughout New England and beyond, Choral Arts New England is profoundly honored to award Jane Ring Frank the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Previous Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

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

The Concord Women's Chorus

The **Concord Women's Chorus** began in 1960 as the Concord Madrigals, a small group of women who expressed, through song, the strength of female community. Over the years the group has increased in size and capacity and greatly expanded its repertoire. In 2005, the Concord Madrigals became Concord Women's Chorus, a name that reflects not only the evolution of the chorus but the abiding power of women's voices. Their mission is to perform music for women's voices with artistry, strength, and joy and to advance the choral repertoire for women.

In addition to their regular concert season, the chorus has engaged in special projects, including benefit concerts for Wayside Hospice and the Bethke Cancer Center, and collaborations with the Concord-Carlisle High School Girls Chorus, the Concord Orchestra and the Concord Festival of Authors. They have taken several concert tours in the U.S., Canada and Great Britain. In furtherance of their mission, they have commissioned three new works: *Concord Fragments* by Libby Larsen (2010), *The Tree House* by Beth Denisch (2017), and *Grown Wild* by Melissa Dunphy (2021), and, with the assistance of an Alfred Nash Patterson Grant, will be professionally recording those works in 2026.

Last Chance: Applications close on October 31 for the inaugural David Hoose Commissioning Grant!

Don't miss your opportunity to earn \$5,000 to help bring bold, expressive choral music into the world! This grant is designed to encourage meaningful compositions that broaden the accompanied choral repertoire. Find the application on our website: www.choralarts-newengland.org/david-hoose-commissioning-grant.

Upcoming workshops with Choral Arts New England

Three successful workshops were recently held to help the choral community "Drive Engagement and Belonging in the Choral Arts Using Data Science." We are excited to announce that additional workshops are now being organized! Keep an eye on our upcoming newsletters or visit our website for more information.

Alphabetical list of grant recipients, 1985–2025

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