



Kula Kāko'o: A Choral Conductor's Institute **All Sessions Are Offered During Hawai'i Standard Time**

Thursday— July 9th, 2020

5:00 PM-7:00 PM Wehena (Opening)

A virtual happy hour to welcome participants, meet our clinicians, and prepare potential panel questions

Friday— July 10th, 2020

10:00 AM-12:00 AM One-on-one sessions

1:30 PM-2:00 PM Piko

Piko is a place to bring our vulnerabilities to a brave place of learning as we reflect and respond to a prompt or idea as a community

2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Isometric rehearsal pedagogy

Isometric, from Greek isometria 'equality of measure' (from isos 'equal' + -metria 'measuring').

Dr. Arian Khaefi— Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities at San Diego State University

What we say matters, how we say it matters, how we unconsciously ask others to perceive us matters. Let's discuss how language, gesture, and rehearsal behavior help foster or impede a sense of shared community in ensembles. Topics will include altered language and micro-exclusions, release of bias through study and preparation, and utilizing rehearsal mechanics to foster community and meta-awareness.

3:30 PM-4:30 PM

On Listening & Taking Up Space

Dr. Corie Brown— Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at San Jose State University

Dr. Corie Brown will share how listening from the podium to listening to herself has opened doors into and inspired her about the choral profession. Dr. Brown will speak about harnessing one's past, power, and imperfections to not only bring our whole selves to our work, but to do so in a sustainable manner, where we learn to and model "taking up space", both literally and figuratively.

5:00-6:00 PM

Closing Piko/Closing Q&A Panel

Saturday— July 11th, 2020

10:00 AM-12:00 AM One-on-one sessions

1:30 PM-2:00 PM Reading Session/Packet Discussion with Dr. Khaefi

2:30 PM-3:30 PM

Getting to the Heart of It: Focused Rehearsal & Vocal Pedagogy

Dr. Corie Brown— Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at San Jose State University

Often, we as conductor-teachers try to employ pedagogy that reaches a majority of our students, unintentionally leaving some out. What if we were to reimagine how we approach the art of rehearsing- flip our focus to the students who need us the most? Could the rehearsal and vocal pedagogy we choose to teach our most vulnerable students, in fact, be beneficial to the entire ensemble? In this stimulating session, we'll explore practical tools aimed at better serving our marginalized students. Clinician Dr. Corie Brown will share techniques she has found useful when working with a wide variety of singers, including neurodiverse students and transgender students. These tools have turned out to be not only healthy strategies focused on supporting individual students, but are beneficial to the entire ensemble.

4:00 PM-5:00 PM

When Tokenism is an Entry Point: Authenticity, Appropriation, and Agency Dr. Jace Saplan—

Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Hawai'i

Artistic Director, Nā Wai Chamber Choir

As our craft continues to create room and spaces to support and champion minority conductors we find a sympathetic side effect—where the identities that are marginalized become an entry point, a ticket to admission into the craft. Our Native-brown-black-queer-other (ness) consumes our entire professional identity. While the elevation of our under/mis/represented identities are important, they do not necessarily equate to the sum of our parts. How do we step into all of who are in this field? How do acknowledge our privilege within the realm of our personal and public oppression? Together, we will find learning through these questions.

5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Closing Piko/Closing Q&A Panel

Sunday— July 12th, 2020

10:00 AM-12:00 AM One-on-one sessions

1:30 PM-2:00 PM Reading Session/Packet Discussion with Dr. Brown

2:30 PM-3:30 PM

Leveraging Learning: Navigating Neglect and Marginalized Memories

Dr. Jace Saplan— Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities at the University of Hawai'i

Artistic Director, Nā Wai Chamber Choir

The knowledge of neuroscience can be a powerful tool to building engaging rehearsals. However, the current applications of practical neuroscience tends to neglect the phenomena of how brains navigate microaggressions, generational trauma, anxiety, and neglect... all common phenomena of marginalized learners/musicians that deter from the mechanics of profound musicking and learning. Together, we will explore how our scaffolding and current rehearsal techniques can empower everyone through a synthesis of pedagogy, neuroscience, and social justice.

4:00 PM-5:00 PM

Under pressure

Dr. Arian Khaefi— Assistant Professor of Music, Director of Choral Activities at San Diego State University

The path to a career in music can be fraught with impediments. They delay and derail our progress as musicians and artists. These roadblocks include familial expectations, conflicting cultural norms, and self-imposed narratives. Using personal reflection as a means to foster dialogue surrounding these issues, we will attempt to learn from one another's stories. We chip away at the harmful notion that professionals cannot be simultaneously exceptional and flawed.

5:00 PM-6:00 PM

Final Piko/Closing Q&A Panel

Clinician Bios:

Dr. Corie Brown

Dr. Brown serves as Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at San José State University. She currently leads the SJSU Concert and Treble Choirs, and brings diverse teaching experience in both public and community settings. Prior to graduate studies in Colorado and Oregon, then moving to California, Dr. Brown taught in Colombia with the *Fundación Nacional Batuta* from 2012–2014, where she aided in the creation of the organization's choral department and mentored choir teachers throughout the country. She also taught in public schools in Chicago and Michigan.

As a mezzo-soprano, Dr. Brown has appeared with the Ad Astra Music Festival and Oregon Bach Festival Choirs, as well as the award-winning University of Oregon Chamber Choir, University of Colorado Boulder University Singers, and the prestigious Chicago Chorale. She has sung under the baton of Helmuth Rilling, Matthew Halls, Sharon Paul, and Andrea Ramsey, among others, and has toured internationally throughout Argentina, Colombia, and Europe.

Dr. Brown was a semi-finalist in the SWACDA conducting competition and enjoys performing everything from early music to contemporary works, especially by underrepresented composers. She has recently published an arrangement for treble voices with Hal Leonard in the Andrea Ramsey Choral Series, and is active as a clinician and guest conductor, presenting sessions at numerous conferences, most recently at the California State Music Educators Conference, and conducting the Ad Astra Music Festival High School Honor Choir in Kansas. Dr. Brown holds degrees in choral music from Alma College, the University of Oregon, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting and Literature from the University of Colorado Boulder. She is an active member of ACDA, NCCO, CMEA, and NAFME, and serves on the boards of the CCDA and CMEA.

Dr. Arian Khaefi

Arian Khaefi is Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies at San Diego State University where he conducts the San Diego State Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, University Chorus, teaches choral literature, and directs the graduate program in choral conducting. Previously, Khaefi served as director of choral activities at Fullerton College and Towson University. He holds D.M.A and M.M degrees in conducting from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and the University of California, Los Angeles, respectively. Khaefi maintains an active schedule leading ensemble and conducting workshops for high-schools, colleges, and universities across the country. While he has forged partnerships within each educational community he has served, Khaefi has been particularly passionate about accelerating the advancement of choral arts within secondary schools in partnerships with district teachers and administrators. In 2017, Khaefi was appointed as the Director of the Cornish American Song Institute Choral Scholars Program, a month-long intensive summer conducting program held in the United Kingdom in conjunction with Oxford University. Khaefi is nationally and internationally recognized for his accomplishments as a conducting pedagogue and guest conductor. In addition to regularly leading regional and all-state honor choirs, he has guest-conducted throughout Asia, Europe, and South America. Choruses under his direction have toured nationally and have performed in concert halls across the United States. Khaefi has prepared choruses for leading conductors including Michael Tilson Thomas, Leonard Slatkin, Christopher Warren-Green, and James Conlon.

Dr. Jace Kaholokula Saplan

Dr. Saplan serves as the Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where he oversees the graduate program in choral conducting and conducts the UH Chamber Singers. Dr. Saplan received his Bachelor of Arts in Music from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, his Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Concordia University-Portland, his Master of Music in Choral Conducting from the University of Oregon, and his Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting with cognates in Music Education and Ethnomusicology from the University of Miami Frost School of Music.

Known for his work in celebrating the intersection between Hawaiian music and choral performance, he is the artistic director of Nā Wai Chamber Choir, a professional vocal ensemble based in Hawai'i dedicated to the preservation and propagation of Hawaiian choral music. Under his direction, Nā Wai has commissioned and mentored emerging Native Hawaiian composers and conductors, toured throughout rural Hawaiian communities, and led workshops on the performance of Hawaiian choral music at schools and universities throughout the country.

Prior to his appointment to the University of Hawai'i, Dr. Saplan served as the Director of Choral Activities at Hamilton College and the chorus master for the Frost Opera Program at the University of Miami where he prepared a number of contemporary works such as Golijov's *Ainadamar*, Kuster's *Old Presque Isle* (done in collaboration with the John Duffy Composer's Institute and the Virginia Arts Festival), and a premiere work by Grammy-nominated composer Shawn Crouch. He also served as an instructor of choral music at Florida International University where he directed of the FIU Master Chorale and taught courses in undergraduate and graduate choral conducting.

His work in preparing choruses and as a festival clinician are vast, resulting in performances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Hall, The Oregon Bach Festival, Old South Church (Boston), Church of the Holy Trinity (Philadelphia), La Madeline (France), and the Harrogate Music Festival (UK).

Dr. Saplan's research focuses on the performance practice of Queen Lili'uokalani's choral compositions; multicultural perspectives in the choral rehearsal; intersections of choral pedagogy, gender, and sexuality in communities of color; and Native Hawaiian agency in music. His scholarship on these topics have also led him to lead clinics at the state, regional, and national level for the American Choral Directors Association, National Association for Music Educators, National Collegiate Choral Organization, and the LGBTQ Studies in Music Education Conference. He is a frequent clinician and adjudicator for state, regional, and national conferences and festivals.