

**Gary Packwood** is a distinguished figure recognized for his inspirational and motivational contributions as a conductor, pedagogue, author, and lecturer. His influence has reached audiences across North and South America, Europe, and Asia, showcasing his global impact in the realm of music education.

Dr. Packwood's extensive teaching career spans over 30 years, marked by notable engagements conducting all-state and honor choirs in 40, as well as leading large festival choirs across the United States. Other noteworthy conducting appearances include 4 performances at Carnegie Hall (2 juried and 2 invited); American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Regional Conference Conductor for Northwest, Eastern, Midwestern, and Southwestern; The White House; 6 with the Federal Universities of Campina Grande, Piaui, and Uberlandia; serving as "Headliner" for ACDA conferences in Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, South Dakota, Alabama, Kentucky, Arkansas, and South Carolina; and residencies at Berry College, Southeastern Louisiana University, Sultan Idris Education University (Perak, Malaysia), Aswana Conservatory of Music (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), East Tennessee State University, Rowan University, Northern Colorado University, University of West Florida, and Federal Universities in Campina Grande and Piaui (Brazil). His leadership as the director of choral studies has left an indelible mark on schools in Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, and Mississippi, and his mentorship has touched the lives of hundreds of his own students and "non-students" alike, who contact him almost daily for music, career, and life advice.

In addition to his prowess as a conductor and educator, Dr. Packwood is an active composer with a notable presence in the choral music scene. His compositions and series can be found with reputable publishers such as Gentry Publications, Santa Barbara Music, Alliance Music, and MusicSpoke. His dedication to advancing the field is further evident in his written contributions, including articles in the *Choral Journal*, *Teaching Music*, the 2nd Edition of the *AmeriGrove Dictionary*, and book chapters in GIA's *Conducting Men's Choirs* and Hal Leonard's *Choral Reflections: Insights from American Choral Conductor-Teachers*.

A lifetime member of the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association), Dr. Packwood has served in leadership roles including the presidency of the Southern Region of the ACDA. This attests to his commitment to the professional development and advancement of choral music on a regional and national level.

Originally from Baton Rouge, Gary Packwood commenced his teaching career with general music for K-5th grades before achieving success as a high school choral director in the Palm Beach School District (FL). He currently works at Lubbock ISD in Texas as the Head Choral Director at Estacado High School and District Choral Facilitator where he mentors new choir directors to become their very best.