

## Dr. Mark Munson



Mark Munson retired in 2024 as Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music Education at Bowling Green State University where he conducted choruses and taught classes in choral literature and conducting. Prior to joining the university faculty, he taught eight years of junior and senior high school choral music, primarily in his home state of Pennsylvania. During the 2005-06 academic year he participated in a faculty exchange to Sweden where he was a visiting professor of music at Musikhögskolan i Malmö of Lund University, a choral music specialist at Fröknegårdskolan in Kristianstad, and visiting conductor of Christianstads Motettkör.

BGSU choruses under Dr. Munson's direction toured both domestically and internationally, and they made appearances at professional conferences. He conducted the Toledo and Lima Symphony Orchestras in holiday performances, and prepared major choral/orchestral works for a number of internationally renowned conductors. Among other offices held in professional organizations, he served as president of the Central Region of the American Choral Directors Association and of the Ohio Choral Directors Association. He authored articles published in several periodicals, most notably ACDA's Choral Journal, and he continues to be active as a guest conductor, choral clinician, and church musician.

Dr. Munson attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he studied piano and earned his undergraduate degree in music education. He holds a Master of Music degree in choral music education from the University of Michigan and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting from the University of Cincinnati. As a young teacher he sang in the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh under the direction of Robert Page for six seasons.

## Dr. Marcel Ramalho



Dr. Marcel Ramalho is currently Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Voice in the Department of Music at Augusta University. Before joining the faculty at AU, Dr. Ramalho held teaching positions at Earlham College, where he served as Adjunct Instructor of Voice, and at Ball State University, where he served as Applied Voice Instructor, as well as Graduate Assistant Conductor of Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, and Women's Chorus.

As a conductor, Dr. Ramalho has led performances of works such as Fauré's *Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Magnificat RV610*, Handel's *Messiah*, Stephen Paulus' *Christmas Tidings*, José Maurício Nunes Garcia's *Requiem* and *Missa Pastoril para a Noite de Natal*, Duke Ellington's *Sacred Concert*, Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*, Benjamin Britten's *Choral Dances from Gloriana*, Vincent Persichetti's *Flower Songs*, and Franz Schubert's *Mass no.2 in G*. As an opera singer, Dr. Ramalho has sung Thomas Putnam in *The Crucible* (Robert Ward), the titles roles in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, Peter in *Hansel and Gretel* (Humperdinck), and Captain Corcoran in *H.M.S. Pinafore* (Gilbert and Sullivan). Concert appearances include the bass solos in J. S. Bach's *cantatas Ich habe genug* (BWV 82), *Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir* (BWV 38), *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (BWV 4), and *Weinen, klagen, sorgen, zagen* (BWV 12), W. A. Mozart's *Freimaurerkantate*, and G. Fauré's *Requiem*. A recipient of several academic awards, scholarships, and grants, Dr. Ramalho's research focus on the music of Brazilian composer José Siqueira (1907-1985). Dr. Ramalho has published articles in the *Journal of Singing*, *Opus*, *Per Musi*, *Revista da ABEM*, and has presented lecture recitals at Source Song Festival, the 31st National Conference of the Brazilian Association for Graduate Studies in Music, and at the 2022 Southeastern Region NATS conference, as well as research papers/posters at the

63<sup>rd</sup> College Music Society National Conference and the 2024 Southern ACDA Conference. Other activities include voice recitals, voice masterclasses, and choral clinics in Georgia, Tennessee, and Brazil, as well as performances (as a singer and conductor) with Orpheus Men's Ensemble of Georgia since 2022.

Dr. Ramalho holds a Doctor of Arts degree from Ball State University (Vocal Performance and Choral Conducting), a Master of Music (Vocal Performance) from Indiana State University, and a Bachelor of Music Education from Universidade Federal da Paraíba (Brazil).

## **Dr. Sonja Sepúlveda**



Sonja Sepúlveda is the Artistic Director of the Palmetto Voices Spiritual Ensemble and former Director of the Winston-Salem Youth Chorus. She was the Director of Choral Activities and professor of Theory at Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina for 11 years where she conducted the Salem College Chamber Choir, Chorale and SuperTonix. Dr. Sepulveda also conducted Salem Academy ensembles Glee Club and Spirit. She came to Salem following positions at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky and Brewton Parker College in Mt. Vernon, Georgia.

Graduating from Winthrop University with a Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees, she studied conducting and sang under Dr. Robert Edgerton. Sonja Sepúlveda earned a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Conducting from the University of South Carolina where she studied under Dr. Larry Wyatt and Dr. Carol Krueger. Dr. Sepúlveda's choirs have performed concerts at the National Cathedral, Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center, and the Lincoln Center as well as performed concerts in Europe,

Canada, and Mexico. Her choirs have had the honor of presenting solo concerts for National American Choral Directors Association Conferences as well as Southern Division ACDA and the Music Educators National Conferences. She sang with the Robert Shaw Festival Chorus for eight years and is in demand as a choral adjudicator and clinician, as well as being known for her TEDx Talk "Being a Woman Conductor and Overcoming the Prejudice."

Dr. Sepúlveda is Conductor-in-Residence/Program Development Associate and Director of Program Development for MidAm International of MidAmerica Productions that is partnered with Carnegie Hall.

**Early Years:** Sonja Sepúlveda grew up in an all-musical family. Everyone sang or played an instrument such as guitars, fiddles, mandolins, piano or organ. She gave private piano recitals starting at age 10 and sang in school choirs from the first grade. Later she danced in a dance company and spent a decade doing musicals for community theater which led her to overseeing the choral music and appearing in the ABC miniseries "North and South." Growing up in the church, Sonja became church organist at 13 and still finds church music an anchor in her life. Teaching music in public schools from elementary to high school allowed her to find her calling and true passion for choral music."