

All-State Chorus Conductor



Mark Myers is a nationally recognized choral conductor and music educator. In his role as Associate Artistic Director, he co-conducts Voice of Chicago, conducts the Austin Neighborhood Choir and in the In-School Program, mentors the Future Music Educators Cohort for aspiring BIPOC music educators and oversees CCC's music faculty. Mark also takes the lead in the coordination and development of the Choir's performance-based culturally responsive curriculum.

Mark began his teaching career as Director of Choral Programs at The Choir Academy of Chicago Children's Choir, a Chicago Public Schools charter school in the McKinley Park neighborhood focused on choral music education. As a first year teacher, Mark built a successful choral program from the ground up, serving over 200 students from across the city in five different vocal ensembles. The auditioned Treble Choir performed for several high profile events and was featured on each of Chicago's four major television stations in addition to national broadcasts of CBS Sunday Morning and National Public Radio.

Mark went on to teach choral music and music theory for twelve years at Waubonsie Valley High School, serving a diverse student population from the western Chicago suburbs of Aurora and Naperville, Illinois. During his tenure at WVHS, the music department was recognized on five occasions as a Grammy Foundation Signature School and twice as a Gold Signature School. Mark helped to develop a large and inclusive program of traditional concert choirs and chamber ensembles, pop a cappella groups, a 135-voice all school unity chorus, and nationally recognized show choirs. He was awarded the Most Influential Educator Award from Waubonsie Valley High School and Indian Prairie School District 204 nine out of his twelve years in the district and was also recognized by the district's Parent Diversity Advisory Council as an Equity Champion.

Under his direction, WVHS vocal ensembles performed across the globe, from New York City to Los Angeles and Australia to South Africa in venues including the House of Blues in both Chicago and Los Angeles, the Sydney Opera House, Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco and Chicago's Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center. The choirs also collaborated with a number of professional artists and ensembles, including Vusi Mahlasela, Sowah Mensah, Kirk Whalum, Anders Åstrand, Dolora Zajick, the Native Jazz Quartet, Chanticleer and the Chicago Sinfonietta.

Mark holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, where he was named the Outstanding Music Major, and a Master of Music in Music Education from Northwestern University, where he was the Program Honors recipient in Music Education. He has also completed graduate coursework in Choral Conducting and Ethnomusicology at UCLA. Mark is highly sought after as a guest choral conductor, clinician and adjudicator throughout the United States, including All-State Show Choirs and Concert Choirs in Alabama, Arizona, Illinois and South Dakota and residencies with high school, middle school and community choral music programs in twenty different states. He has also worked on the faculty of Showchoir Camps of America for the last 23 years as a pianist, choreographer and vocal director.

All-State Orchestra Conductor



Dr. Kevin F.E. Sütterlin is an internationally sought-after conductor and pedagogue. A dedicated 21st century musician, Sütterlin is passionate about exploring new, non-traditional forms of musical experience. Sütterlin belongs to Beyond Artists, a coalition of artists that donates a percentage of their concert fees to organizations they care about. He supports WIRES (Australian Wildlife Rescue) and the Memphis Music Initiative through his performances.

Sütterlin is Director of Orchestral Activities and Opera and professor of Instrumental Conducting at Concordia College, where he and his colleagues received two EMMY awards for the nationally broadcast Concordia Christmas Concert productions in 2016. He is music director and conductor of The Concordia Orchestra and Concordia Opera.

Sütterlin is music director and conductor of the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra, one of Wisconsin's finest professional symphonies, as well as Principal Guest Conductor of the Qingdao Concert Hall Symphony Orchestra in China. Furthermore, Sütterlin is artistic director of the Sinfonietta Academy for Historically Informed Performance Practice, and founding co-music director of Sinfonietta Memphis, an ensemble that provides free concerts and educational experiences for Memphis's most diverse communities. Perhaps the only orchestra in the U.S. with a co-music directorship model, Sinfonietta Memphis's conductors, Dr. Mathias Elmer and Sütterlin, proudly represent the orchestra's credo: friendship through music. Dr. Sütterlin also regularly appears with Fargo-Moorhead Opera; he recently conducted the company's production of Humperdinck's *Hänsel and Gretel* to great acclaim and is looking forward to a return in the spring of 2022, conducting Rossini's *La Cenerentola*.

Considering himself a "citizen of the world," Sütterlin has been building musical bridges across four different continents and has led his ensembles on many successful national and international tours. He has performed and taught across the globe including Austria, China, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, and the United States. Institutions he has taught at include the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Sichuan Conservatory, The University of Hawaii, Lucerne Conservatory Switzerland, The University of Memphis, and Virginia Tech University. This upcoming season, Sütterlin will guest conduct in China, South Africa, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Portugal, Arizona, Alabama, Virginia, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota.

Sütterlin most recently won the prestigious American Prize 2018-19 with The Concordia Orchestra. He is an awardee of the Hirschmann Foundation scholarship of Switzerland, the Hendrickson Fine Arts Grant, the University of Memphis International Research scholarship, and the University of Memphis Creative Achievement Award.

Championing the music of living as well as historically under-represented composers, Sütterlin commits to diverse programming on every single concert with all of his ensembles. He has commissioned and recorded works of numerous living composers, including René Clausen, Adam Hochstatter, Dan Perttu, Stella Sung, Theresa Martin, Christopher Ducasse, Evan Williams, Scott Hines, Paul Cravens, Russ Peterson, and Doug Harbin, among others. He is one of the leading scholars of the music of late American composer Dominick Argento, sharing a close friendship with him until his death in 2019. Sütterlin's recording collaborations include numerous CD and DVD productions.

Before joining the faculty at Concordia College in 2016, Sütterlin served The University of Memphis Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music as acting music director of the Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Opera.

Sütterlin is very passionate about working with young musicians. He holds The Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg Endowed Orchestra Chair as director of Orchestral Activities and Conducting Studies of the Lutheran Summer Music Festival and Academy. He has been artistic director of the Northern Valley Youth Orchestras since 2016. He was conductor of the Minnesota All-State Symphony for the 2018-19 season. Since 2017, he conducted the North Dakota State Orchestra Festival, the Tennessee All-West Symphony Orchestra, Texas El Paso All-Region Symphony, South Dakota All-State Orchestra, and the Thurgau National Youth Symphony (Switzerland), among others. From 2011 until 2018, he served on the board of directors of the Zurich Music Association Switzerland, re-designing training curricula for both amateur as well as professional musicians that fit the needs of the 21st century. Sütterlin further serves on the board of the Miller Family Music Education Scholarship through the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region.

Sütterlin received his doctorate and master's degrees in orchestral conducting from The University of Memphis and a bachelor's degree in conducting from the Hochschule Luzern – Musik (Switzerland).

In his free time, Sütterlin loves to spend time with his partner, April, and their three cats. He loves traveling and learning from different cultures. The introvert's secret life goal is to one day own a lighthouse in which he could get stuck during high tides and study scores while listening to the crashing waves.