BRANDON CHASE DI NOTO

Conductor | Vocalist | Educator | Composer

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Education

In Progress D.M.A. Choral Music, University of Southern California Thornton School of Music

Major Field: Choral Music Academic Field: Musicology

Minor Fields: Composition & Instrumental Conducting

Instructors:

Composition: Veronika Krausas

Choral Conducting: Cristian Grases and Tram Sparks

Orchestral Conducting: Larry Livingston

2021 M.M. Choral Music, University of Southern California Thornton School of Music

Concentrations: Composition, Conducting & Music Education

Instructors:

Composition: Neal Desby and Frank Ticheli

Choral Conducting: Cristian Grases, Jo-Michael Scheibe, Tram Sparks and

Nick Strimple

Orchestral Conducting: Larry Livingston

Voice: Mary Mattei Scheibe

2019 B.A. Music, Point Loma Nazarene University

Concentrations: Composition, Conducting & Vocal Performance

Instructors:

Composition: Victor Labenske

Choral Conducting: Daniel Jackson and Keith Pedersen

Orchestral Conducting: Philip Tyler Vocal Coach: Melva Morrison

Voice: John Craig Johnson, Amy Mein and Michael Sokol

2019 B.A. Managerial & Organizational Communication, Point Loma Nazarene University

Concentrations: Marketing, Organizational Management

Independent Other Major Instructors

Composition: Z. Randall Stroope, Dale Trumbore

Choral Conducting: Michelle Jensen

Choral/Orchestral Conducting: Jo Anne Wasserman

Education – Continued

Independent Other Major Instructors – Continued

Opera Conducting: Bruce Stasyna

Voice: Isabel Bayrakdarian

Professional Certifications

2024 Kodály Pre-Certification Level II

Courses: Choral Conducting, Choral Experience, Pedagogy & Musicianship

Professional Experience

Academic Appointments

2024 - Present	Teaching Assistant, Apollo Chorus University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA
2023 - Present	Adjunct Professor of Choral Music, Conducting & Musicology, School of Music Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA
2023 – 2024	Director of Choral & Vocal Ensembles, Classical Academy High School The Classical Academies, Escondido, CA
2022 – 2023	Interim Conductor & Instructor of Record, UCSB Singing Gauchos Choral Ensemble University of California Santa Barbara Department of Music, Santa Barbara, CA
2022	Assistant School Director Bach to Rock: America's Music School, Encinitas, CA
2021	K-12 Substitute Music Teacher Maranatha Christian Schools, San Diego, CA
2019 – 2021	Associate Conductor & Teaching Assistant, USC Thornton University Chorus University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA
2017 – 2019	Associate Conductor & Teaching Assistant , Point Loma Nazarene University Orchestra Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA
2017 – 2019	Associate Conductor & Teaching Assistant, Point Loma Nazarene University Chorale Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA

<u>Professional Experience – Continued</u>

Professional Appointments

2022 – Present	Assistant Director Sterling Ensemble Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA	
2023	Assistant Conductor Santa Barbara Choral Society, Santa Barbara, CA	
2022 – 2023	Sing! Children's Choral Director , Music Academy of the West Santa Barbara, CA	
2022	Assistant Conductor , San Diego Opera San Diego, CA	
2020 – 2022	Founder & Artistic Director, Pacific Harmonix San Diego, CA	
2021 – 2022	Executive Development & Production Assistant , Bach Collegium San Diego San Diego, CA	
2021 – 2022	Director of Choral Music , Oceanside First Presbyterian Church and Preschool Oceanside, CA	
Other Relevant Employment History		
2019 – 2021	Cover Conductor, USC Thornton Chamber Singers University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA	
2015 – 2019	Realtor®, Di Noto Properties Team Pacific Sotheby's International Realty, Rancho Santa Fe, CA	
Conducting Activities		
Awards, Grants, Fellowships and Competitions		

2020	Participant, USC Thornton School of Music Mentorship Program, a program matching USC students with professionals in the same field, was mentored by Grant Gershon, USC Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA
2019	Recipient, Thornton School of Music Conducting Scholarship, USC Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA

Conducting Activities – Continued

Conducting: Regional

2023

"The Tide"; Sterling Ensemble Los Angeles' spring concert, conducted the World Premiere of *One Heart*, by GRAMMY-WINNING composer Danaë Xanthe Vlasse, featuring GRAMMY-WINNING soprano Sangeeta Kaur as the soloist

"Mythologies"; a live production of the GRAMMY-WINNING Album *Mythologies* by Danaë Xanthe Vlasse, featuring GRAMMY-WINNING Sopranos Hila Plitmann and Sangeeta Kaur, one of the rehearsal conductors who prepared the singers and instrumentalists for their performance in Huntsville, AL

"Gala Concert"; a fundraising concert for the Santa Barbara Choral Society featuring the 11-voice a cappella ensemble, VOCTAVE, one of the conductors who prepared the Santa Barbara Choral Society for the event

"Eden"; a touring production of mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato's album of the same name, one of the conductors who prepared the Sing! Children's Choir for the event on the song, Seeds of Hope

2022

"Divine Encounters"; a two-concert production of Schubert's *Mass in G Major* & Courtney's *Divine Encounter* in a collaboration between Oceanside & Solana Beach Presbyterian Churches, served as Conductor and conducted the Schubert

"Mozart, Cosí fan tutte, K. 588"; a four-production run of Mozart's opera, served as Assistant Conductor and conducted the offstage chorus

Conducting: Guest Clinics & Workshops

2024 Berean High School

Clinic with the Berean High School Advanced Choir; workshopped *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* by Thomas A. Dorsey, *My Life is in Your Hands* by Kirk Franklin, and *You Are My Refuge* by Michael John Trotta

2022 University of San Diego Department of Music

Clinic with the USD Choral Scholars; workshopped *Steal Away* by Stacey V. Gibbs, *I Love You/What a Wonderful World* by Craig Hella-Johnson, and *My Heart Be Brave* by Marques L.A. Garrett

2021 Oceanside Presbyterian Church

Clinic with the Oceanside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, workshopped *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by Peter Lutkin and *O Clap Your Hands* by Kevin McChesney

Conducting Activities – Continued

Conducting: Guest Clinics & Workshops - Continued

2018 Solana Beach Presbyterian Church

Clinic & performance with the SBPC Chancel Choir, workshopped and conducted *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by John Rutter

Conducting: Azusa Pacific University

2024 "Charity & Love"; the APU Bel Canto Women's Choir spring concert, conducted works by Britten, Forrest, Hagenberg, Leek, Panufnik, Stroope, others, and a world premiere by Lauren Biggs

2023 "Celebrate Christmas 2023"; the APU Choral Studies combined holiday concert, conducted *Breath of Heaven* arranged by Roger Emerson with the Bel Canto Women's Choir & women of Chamber Singers

"Sir Charles Villiers Stanford: His Music & Legacy"; the APU Choral Studies combined fall concert, conducted *The Sky in the Pool* by Thomas Frederick Dunhill, *Ave Maria* by Rebecca Clarke, and *Hymn to the Waters* by Gustav Holst with the Bel Canto Women's Choir

"Amazing Grace: Men's Chorale Command Performance"; the APU Men's Chorale spring concert, conducted *Bound for Jubilee* by Joyce Elaine Eilers

Conducting: Classical Academy High School

2024 "Spring Sing!"; the CAHS Choral & Vocal Department end of year concert, conducted works by Hamlisch, Keen, Monteverdi, Mozart, Strimple, and a world premiere by Brandon Chase Di Noto

"Frostiana: Men's & Women's Ensemble Showcase"; the CAHS Choral & Vocal Department early spring concert, conducted *Frostiana* by Thompson and works by Bennett, Brahms, and DuFay

2023 "Winter Wonderful 2023"; the CAHS Choral & Vocal Department holiday concert, conducted works by Barber, Bonds, Brahms, DuFay, Hogan, Leek, Persichetti, Rossi, Schumann, and others

Conducting: SING! Children's Choir

2022 "Winter Concert"; a concert showcasing works related to the aforementioned title, conducted *Haida*, by Henry Leck

Conducting Activities – Continued

Conducting: University of California: Santa Barbara

2022

"Choose Something Like a Star"; a concert showcasing works related to the aforementioned title, conducted works by Adam, J.S. Bach, Hairston, and others with the UCSB Singing Gauchos

Conducting: Pacific Harmonix

2021

"Canticles & Carols on the Coast: A Holiday Choral Spectacular"; a concert showcasing works related to the aforementioned title, conducted works by Britten, Hairston, Lauridsen, Smith-Moore, Walton, Wieck-Schumann, and others

"Sing the Earth to Sleep: Songs of Morning, Elements & Evening"; a concert showcasing works related to the aforementioned title and two world premieres, conducted works by Boulanger, Gibbs, Hailstork, Lauridsen, Rheinberger, Thompson, and others

"Peace, Love & Joy Everlasting"; a concert showcasing works related to the aforementioned title and two world premieres, conducted works by Lauridsen, Liszt, Mozart, and Wieck-Schumann

2020

"Quarantunes"; a concert showcasing works related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, conducted works by Barber, Hairston, Lauridsen, Rachmaninoff, Reger, Rheinberger, and Walton

Conducting: University of Southern California

2021

"Virtual Spring Choral Festival"; a concert showcasing the work of the USC Thornton School of Music Choral Ensembles, conducted *Under the Willow Tree* from *Vanessa*, Op. 32 by Barber with select members of the USC Thornton Chamber Singers

2020

"Joint Conducting Recital"; a concert showcasing the work of first year graduate students, conducted the third movement of *Chichester Psalms* by Bernstein and *Rorando coeli* by Vodnansky

Conducting: Point Loma Nazarene University

2019 "All About Felix"; a concert of works composed or inspired by Felix Mendelssohn, conducted Symphony No. 2 in Bb Major "Lobgesang"

2018 "Handel's *Messiah*"; a performance of Handel's masterpiece, prepared the university Chamber Orchestra for the performance

Conducting: Point Loma Nazarene University – Continued

2018

"Idyll"; a performance of Classical & Romantic era orchestral and concerti music, rehearsed Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major*, Janacek's *Idyll*, Mozart's *Andante in C for Flute and Orchestra* and Saint-Saëns' *Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor*

"Scheherazade"; a performance of orchestral pieces concluding with Rimsky-Korsakov's masterpiece, conducted the Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings

2017

2019

"Schubert's *Mass in G* and Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*"; a performance of the Schubert and Ray masses, prepared the university Chamber Orchestra for the performance

"Handel's Messiah"; a performance of Handel's masterpiece, prepared the university Chamber Orchestra for the performance

"Viva Vivaldi"; a performance of Vivaldi's orchestral music, conducted the Violin Concerto in A Minor and the Double Violin Concerto in A Minor

* A complete list of conducting repertoire is available upon request

Masterclasses Attended

2023 **Anton Armstrong**, Choral Conductor and Professor in the Department of Music at St. Olaf College, participated in a Masterclass and conducted *Sing O Ye Heavens* by Handel, Azusa, CA

2020 **Grant Gershon**, Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, participated in a Masterclass and conducted *Arbolucu*, *te sequeste* by Chávez, Los Angeles, CA

Jerry Blackstone, Choral Conductor and Lecturer, participated in a Masterclass and conducted *The Dark Eyed Sailor* by Vaughan Williams, Los Angeles, CA

Rodney Eichenberger, Choral Conductor and Lecturer, participated in a Masterclass and conducted *Barechu* by Rossi, Los Angeles, CA

Jo-Michael Scheibe, Choral Conductor and Emeritus Professor in the Department of Choral & Sacred Music at the USC Thornton School of Music, participated in a Masterclass and conducted *The Coolin* by Barber, Los Angeles, CA

2015 - 2019

Awards, Grants, Fellowships and Competitions: Voice 2018 Recipient, Chester C. and Alice E. Crill Endowed Vocal Scholarship, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA Recipient, Keith and Betty Pagan Endowed Scholarship for Outstanding Music Student of the Year, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA 2015 - 2019**Recipient**, Department of Music Voice Scholarship, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA **Selected Choral Experience** 2024 – Present Chamber Singers, sung Baritone under Dr. Tram Sparks University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 2023 – Present **Chamber Singers**, sung Baritone under Dr. Michelle Jensen Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA 2022 – Present **Sterling Ensemble**, sung Baritone under Dr. Michelle Jensen Los Angeles, CA 2021 & 2023 High Holy Days Choir, sung Tenor & Baritone, and acted as section leader under Myles Mayfield & Cantor William Tiep Temple Solel, Encinitas, CA 2021 - 2022Sacra/Profana, sung Tenor & Bass under Juan Carlos Acosta, Aaron Burgett & Krishan Oberoi San Diego, CA 2022 - 2023Santa Barbara Choral Society, sung Tenor II and acted as section leader under Jo Anne Wasserman Santa Barbara, CA 2021 Chancel Choir, sung Tenor and acted as section leader under Dr. Keith Pedersen La Jolla Presbyterian Church, La Jolla, CA 2019 – 2021 Chamber Singers, sung Tenor II & Bass I under Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA

Choral Union, sung Tenor and acted as section leader under Dr. Keith Pedersen

Selected Choral Experience – Continued

2015 – 2019 **Concert Choir**, sung Tenor I and acted as section leader under Dr. Daniel Jackson Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA

2017 **Bach Collegium San Diego**, sung Tenor under Dr. Ruben Valenzuela Bach Collegium San Diego, San Diego, CA

Vocal Performances – National/International

2023 **National Collegiate Choral Organization Conference**, performed with the Azusa Pacific University Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Michelle Jensen

Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, competed for Choir of the World & Pavarotti Trophy, sung Bass I and in a solo quartet with the Azusa Pacific University Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Michelle Jensen

Daniel Jackson Conducts in Carnegie Hall, performed and served as Tenor II section leader with current and alumni Point Loma Nazarene University Concert Choir singers under the direction of Dr. Daniel Jackson

American Choral Director's Association National Conference, performed with Sterling Ensemble Los Angeles under the direction of Dr. Michelle Jensen

Vocal Performances – Regional

- 2024 American Choral Director's Association Western Division Conference, performed with Sterling Ensemble Los Angeles under the direction of Dr. Michelle Jensen
- 2022 **Point Loma Nazarene University**, hired as a Tenor soloist in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*

San Diego Comic-Con 2022, selected as one of sixteen singers to sing for the preview of *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* Amazon Prime TV Show with series composer, Bear McCreary, conducting

- 2021 **Point Loma Nazarene University**, hired as a Tenor soloist in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*
- 2019 **Point Loma Nazarene University**, hired as a Tenor soloist in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*

University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, selected as the Tenor soloist in a performance of Pachelbel's *Nun Danket alle Gott*

Vocal Performances – Regional – Continued

2019 **Point Loma Nazarene University**, selected as the Tenor soloist in a performance of J.S. Bach's *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* and Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*

Senior Voice Recital, gave a 60-minute solo voice recital including works by Bernstein, Mendelssohn, Poulenc, Vaughan Williams, and others.

Bernstein Centennial Concert, selected as the Tenor soloist in an all Bernstein concert including selections from *Candide, Chichester Psalms, Mass, Trouble in Tahiti* & *West Side Story*

2018 **Point Loma Nazarene University**, selected as the Tenor soloist in a performance of Schubert's *Mass in G Major*

Point Loma Nazarene University, selected as a Tenor and Bass soloist in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*

Junior Voice Recital, gave a 30-minute solo voice recital including works by Bach, Donizetti, Handel, Mozart and others

2017 **Bach Collegium San Diego**, selected as one of four Tenors in a performance of Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass

2016 **Point Loma Nazarene University**, selected as the Tenor soloist in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*

Masterclasses Attended

2019 **Ginger Costa-Jackson**, Opera Singer, participated in a Masterclass and sung *A Simple Song* by Bernstein, San Diego, CA

2018 **Dominic Chenes**, Opera Singer, participated in a Masterclass and sung *Die Forelle* by Schubert, San Diego, CA

Recordings

2024 Echoes of Grace: Choral Music of Patti Drennan

Sterling Ensemble Los Angeles, Dr. Michelle Jensen, director, sung Bass I

American Choral Director's Association Western Division Conference 2024 (LIVE), Sterling Ensemble Los Angeles, Dr. Michelle Jensen, director, sung Bass I

^{*} A complete list of voice repertoire is available upon request

Voice Activities – Continued

Recordings – Continued

2023 National Collegiate Choral Organization Conference 2023 (LIVE), Azusa Pacific

University Chamber Singers, Los Angeles, Dr. Michelle Jensen, director, sung Bass I

American Choral Director's Association National Conference 2023 (LIVE), Sterling

Ensemble Los Angeles, Dr. Michelle Jensen, director, sung Bass I

2021 Gregorian Meditations: Choral Works of Forgotten French Masters Desenctos and

Langlais, USC Thornton Chamber Singers, Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe, director, sung Tenor II

Composition Activities

Awards, Grants, Fellowships and Competitions

2024 **PREMIERE|Project Festival,** participated as a Fellow in Choral Arts Initiative's Annual

Summer Festival with faculty members Dale Trumbore, Derrick Skye and Matthew Lyon

Hazzard, Irvine, CA

Masterclasses Attended

2020 **Stephen Hartke**, Chair of the Composition Department at Oberlin Conservatory,

participated in a Masterclass and presented Violin Concerto in Bb Major, Los Angeles, CA

Research Activity

Invited Presentations

2023 "A Brief Analysis of Gondoliera by Clara Schumann"

Azusa Pacific University School of Music, Azusa, CA – October 23

"Post-Tonal Choral Repertoire: History, Analyzation and Preparation"

Azusa Pacific University School of Music, Azusa, CA - April 13 & 18

2021 "Irish Influences on Samuel Barber's *Reincarnations*, Op. 16"

University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA – April 26

2020 "Looking Back: A Fresh Perspective on Three Standard and Four Overlooked Choral

Works - Lecture Recital"

University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA – October 23

^{*} A complete list of original compositions is available upon request

Research Activity - Continued

Invited Presentations – Continued

2020 "The Choral Music of African American Composers"

University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA – October 7

"The Choral Music of Sergei Prokofiev"

University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA – April 23

2019 "The Choral Music of Heinrich Schütz"

University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA –

December 5

Publications: Writings

"Sir Charles Villiers Stanford and His Legacy." Program notes for Azusa Pacific University Chamber Singers' performance at the 2023 NCCO Biennial Conference. Program notes on Stanford's *The Train & Beati quorum via*; Coleridge-Taylor's *The Evening Star*; and Vaughan Williams' *Three Shakespeare Songs* by Brandon Chase Di

Noto.

"Stories we Should Tell Program Notes." Program notes for Sterling Ensemble Los Angeles' performance at the 2023 ACDA National Conference. Program notes on Trumbore's *Lodestar* and Coleridge-Taylor's *Summer is gone* by Brandon Chase Di Noto.

Dillane, Aileen; O'Malley, Michael; Neely, Daniel; and Spencer, Scott (eds). "Captain

Francis O'Neill Crowdsourcing Project." Paragraphs on Sgt. James Early by Brandon

C. Di Noto. Irish Traditional Music Archive.

Publications: Editor

2023 **"A Physiological Approach to Teaching Conducting."** A Dissertation written by Dr.

Michelle Jensen in partial fulfillment of the D.M.A. in Choral Music at the USC Thornton

School of Music. Edited and formatted by Brandon Chase Di Noto.

Selected Original Research

2021 "Irish Influences on Samuel Barber's Reincarnations, Op. 16"

2020 "The Choral Music of Alberto Ginastera"

2019 "An Annotated Guide to R. Vaughan Williams' Songs of Travel, Movements II – IV"

"The Importance and Significance of Handel's English Oratorios"

Research Activity – Continued

Selected Original Research – Continued

2016 "The Similarities of Gluck's Alceste and Handel's Admento, Two Operas on the

Same Libretto"

Teaching

Courses Taught at Azusa Pacific University

Graduate Level

Graduate Choral Conducting for Non Majors

Graduate Choral Conducting Lessons (Multiple Lessons)

Graduate Choral Conducting Seminar (Multiple Sessions)

Undergraduate Level

Bel Canto Women's Choir

Introduction to Conducting

Writing 3: Baroque, Classical and Early Romantic Music

Chamber Singers (Rehearsal Conductor)

Choral Literature (Multiple Guest Lectures)

Choral Music Methods (Multiple Guest Lectures)

Men's Chorale Club (Conductor & Faculty Advisor)

Courses Taught at Classical Academy High School Escondido

Caiman Chorale

Chamber Singers

Men's Ensemble

Women's Ensemble

Courses Taught at Maranatha Christian Schools

Beginning Band (Elementary School Level)

Concert Band (Middle & High School Levels)

Choir (Middle & High School Levels)

Jazz Band (Middle & High School Levels)

Theatre (K-12 Levels)

Courses Taught at University of California, Santa Barbara

Lumina SSAA Choral Ensemble (Rehearsal Conductor, Undergraduate & Graduate Levels)

Singing Gauchos TTBB Choral Ensemble (Undergraduate & Graduate Levels)

Teaching – Continued

* Concert Recordings, Lecture Recordings, and Syllabi available upon request

Service

Service to Azusa Pacific University

2023 – Present **Committee Member**, School of Music Undergraduate Student Audition Committee, responsible for conducting undergraduate voice area auditions

Service to Music Academy of the West

2022 – 2023 **Sub-Committee Member**, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, responsible for assisting Music Academy of the West leadership with responses and initiatives to increase DEI resources throughout the campus and programs

Service to Point Loma Nazarene University

- 2022 Present **Graduate Thesis Committee Member**, PLNU School of Education, responsible for advising music education graduate students on their final research project/thesis
- 2017 2019 **Committee Member**, The Vice Provost's Committee for Major Exploration, responsible for advising university leaders on how to help undergraduates choose a major

Service to the USC Thornton School of Music

2020 – 2021 **Committee Member**, Department of Choral & Sacred Music Graduate Student Audition Committee, responsible for advising the Choral & Sacred Music faculty on what to look for in the incoming graduate student auditions

Service to the San Diego Community

2010 – Present Worship Leader, The Church at Rancho Bernardo, Horizon Christian Fellowship, La Jolla Presbyterian Church, Oceanside First Presbyterian Church, Solana Beach Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church, responsible for leading congregations in song during weekly worship services

Service to the Santa Barbara Community

2022 – 2023 **Guest Worship Leader & Singer**, Coast Community Church of the Nazarene and San Roque Catholic Church, responsible for leading congregations in song during weekly worship services

Professional Affiliations

Organizations

American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Chorus America College Music Society (CMS) National Collegiate Choral Organization

References

^{*} References available upon request