

Emilie Amrein, DMA

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX	
• Founding Executive Director of UTSA Arts	2024- present
• Associate Dean for Community Engagement	2024-present
• Full Professor of Community Arts	2024-present
University of San Diego, San Diego, CA	
• Department Chair & Associate Professor of Music	2021-2024
• Director of Choral Studies & Associate Professor of Music	2019-2021
• Director of Choral Studies & Assistant Professor of Music	2014-2019
• Ensembles: Choral Scholars; Concert Choir	
• Academic Courses (Undergraduate): Introduction to Changemaking, Music Fundamentals; We Shall Overcome— Singing for Freedom, Peace, & Justice; Community Music Perspectives; The Art of Teaching Choral Ensembles; Music Education for Social Change; Empowering Song: Music Education from the Margins	
• Academic Advising, Independent Study, Summer Research, Senior Thesis Projects, Graduate Research Support	
Boston University, Boston, MA	2019
• Online Facilitator, Department of Music Education, College of Fine Arts	
• Academic Courses (Graduate): Community Music Perspectives; Power, Marginalization, and Privilege in Music Education; Contemporary Issues in Music Education	
Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL	2008-2014
• Director of Choral Activities & Assistant Professor of Music	
• Ensembles: Men's & Women's Chorus; Concert Choir; Chambers	
• Academic Courses (Undergraduate): Music History I-II; Music Fundamentals; Musicianship; Careers in Music; Music in Chicago; Music Based on a "True Story;" Requiem Seminar	
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN	
• Position: Graduate Teacher of Record	2005-2008
• Position: Graduate Teaching Assistant	2006

RECOGNITION

Fellowships & Grants

External

The Borchard Foundation International Colloquium Grant	2023
Agrigento Grant to The Choral Commons	2022
Creative Community Fellowship, National Arts Strategies	2020

Internal

USD Digital Humanities Grant	2020
International Opportunity Grant	2018
Dean's Supplemental Travel Funding	2018
CEE Travel Grant	2016

Honors & Awards

External

Pearson-Silver Burdett Choral Educator Award, California Music Education Association	2018
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Internal

USD Faculty Changemaker Champion Award	2017
USD Women of Impact Nominee	2017, 2015

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

Publications

Book Series

Bain, B., de Quadros, A., Amrein, E., and Coleman, W., (Eds.), (Provisional Acceptance). *Arts and Abolition*, Bloomsbury.

Books

de Quadros, A. & Amrein, E. (2023). *Empowering Song: Music Education from the Margins*, Routledge.

Peer Reviewed Articles

Amrein, E. & A. de Quadros. (in press, expected publication 2025). "You can't break my soul": Practicing Queer Joy and Resilience with LGBTQ+ Refugees. *Music and Art in Action*.

Chapters in Books

Amrein, E. & A. de Quadros. (in press, expected publication 2025). "Do you see what I see?": Participatory music-making and the limits of bearing witness. In A. Emberly, (Ed.), *Singing Our Stories: Young People, Forced Migration, and Meaning-Making*. Brill.

Amrein, E. & A. de Quadros. (in press, expected publication 2025). Us, Interrupted: Enduring the . In L. Cathcart Frödén, K. Herrity, and A. Mangaoang, (Eds.), *Sound and Detention*. Routledge.

Amrein, E. & A. de Quadros. (2024). Border Transgressions: Song, Story, and Communal. In E. Morgan-Ellis & K. Norton, (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Community Singing*. Oxford University Press.

Amrein, E. & de Quadros, A. (2023). Sounding in, Sounding out: Remembrance and Resistance at the Border. In A. Kenny, D. Pardue, & K. Young, (Eds.), *Sonic Signatures: Music, Migration, and the City at Night*. University of Michigan Press.

Amrein, E., & Chamberlain, B. (2011). The Vivaldi Gloria: A Repertoire Resource Guide. In H. Buchanan and M. Mehaffey, (Eds.), *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume 3* (pp. 567-592), GIA.

Romey, K., Sweet, E. & Wanyama, S. (2009). Building Bridges: Choruses Engaging Communities. In J. Catoni Conlon, (Ed.), *Wisdom, Wit, and Will: Women Conductors on Their Art* (pp. 101-127), GIA.

Repertoire Reviews, Essays, and Responses

Amrein, E. (2017). In response to 'Most Recommended Choral Music from Twenty State Music Lists'. *The Choral Journal*, 58 (4), 6.

Amrein, E. (2011). Hotaru Koi. In. H. Buchanan and M. Mehaffey, (Eds.), *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume 3* (pp. 463-468), GIA.

Amrein, E. (2011). Les etoiles. In. H. Buchanan and M. Mehaffey, (Eds.), *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume 3* (pp. 483-487), GIA.

Amrein, E. (2011). Prayer Before Sleep. In. H. Buchanan and M. Mehaffey, (Eds.), *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume 3* (pp. 315-320), GIA.

Sweet, E. (2009). Music Old and New. *Lutheran Forum*, 43 (3), 33-34.

Sweet, E. (2007). Love Walked In. In. H. Buchanan and M. Mehaffey, (Eds.), *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume 2* (pp. 371-375), GIA.

Sweet, E. (2007). O aula nobilis. In. H. Buchanan and M. Mehaffey, (Eds.), *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume 2* (pp. 611-615), GIA.

Sweet, E. (2007). Song for the Mira. In. H. Buchanan and M. Mehaffey, (Eds.), *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume 2* (pp. 183-187), GIA.

Sweet, E. (2007). The Choir Invisible. In. H. Buchanan and M. Mehaffey, (Eds.), *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume 2* (pp. 657-653), GIA.

Sweet, E. (2007). The Silver Swan. In. H. Buchanan and M. Mehaffey, (Eds.), *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume 2* (pp. 415-419), GIA.

Sweet, E. (2007). Ubi Caritas. In. H. Buchanan and M. Mehaffey, (Eds.), *Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volume 2* (pp. 427-431), GIA.

Audio Productions

"Gather: Here, There, and Everywhere, Part 4 with Erin Guinup, Maurice Lekea, & Thierry Ruboneka 2021

"Gather: Here, There, and Everywhere, Part 3 with Emilie Amrein, Dzaya Castillo, & John Tekou" 2021

"Gather: Here, There, and Everywhere, Part 2 with Con Fullam & Fatimah Lamloom 2021

"Gather: Here, There, and Everywhere, Part 1 with Elise Witt, Khatera Barati, & Meh Sod Paw" 2021

"Gather: Singing on the Street, Part 3 with Jonathan Palant & London Alexander"	2021
"Gather: Singing on the Street, Part 2 with Leeav Sofer & Marilyn Irizarry"	2021
"Gather: Singing on the Street, Part 1 with Sophie with Javier Rodríguez, Sophie Wingland, and Ron Yokely"	2021
"Gather: Singing in Prisons, Part 4 with Jody Kerchner and Jerome Thompson"	2021
"Gather: Singing in Prisons, Part 3 with Amanda Weber and Natalie Pollard"	2021
"Gather: Singing in Prisons, Part 2 with Mary Cohen, Simone Frierson, & Karletta White"	2021
"Gather: Singing in Prisons, Part 1 with Cathy Roma and Michael Powell"	2021
"Engender: Nicky Manlove, Bradford Dumont, Emilie Amrein & André de Quadros"	2021
"Engender: The Only Honest Option with Mari Esabel Valverde"	2021
"Engender: Trans Existence is Resistance with Abdullah Hall"	2021
"Engender: In Pursuit of Healing with Michael Bussewitz- Quarm"	2021
"Engender: Trans*forming Choral Communities with Logan Bradford"	2021
"Engender: Decolonizing Gender with Jace Kaholokula Saplan"	2021
"Engender: World-Opening with Erik Peregrine"	2021
"Engender: Do I Belong Here? with Bex Bagnato"	2021
"Engender: Trans Vision and Voice with Lindsey Deaton"	2021
"Engender: Gender Love"	2021
"Surge: We Sing the Great Turning with Kyle Lemle"	2021
"Surge: Making, Keeping, Knowing with Rukhsana Nezam"	2021
"Surge: Singing Freedom Futures with OnRaé LaTeal"	2021
"Surge: The Choir as Dreamspace with Aisha Shillingford"	2021
"Surge: Cultural Strategy and the Choral Imaginary with Sage Crump"	2021
"Surge: Collective Imagination for Healing with Michael Rohd"	2021
"Surge: Taking Up Space for Peace with Monica Curca"	2021
"Surge: Cultural Democracy with Arlene Goldbard"	2021
"Liberation Theology, Poverty, and the Choir" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Intercultural Understanding and the Choir" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Borders, Bridges, and the Choir" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Multiculturalism, Authenticity, and the Choir" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Racial Justice, Activism, and the Choir" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Indigeneity and Decolonial Choral Practice" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Girl Power, Creative Youth Development, and the Choir" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Reimagining the Choir" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Empowering Song, Incarceration, and the Choir" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Race, Mass Incarceration, and the Choir" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Disability Justice, Radical Inclusion, and the Choir" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Refugees, Forced Migration, and the Choir" The Choral Commons Podcast	2020
"Scaling Walls/Building Bridges" sound sculpture with CGV / La Frontera	2020

Recordings

<i>Windband Mass & "Heilig" Mass.</i> OBF Orchestra and Choir, Helmuth Rilling, conductor Hänssler Classic CD98538	2008
<i>First Day: Highlights of 2006-2007.</i> Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Linda Mack, conductor. Clarion Records CLCD-933	2007
<i>Christmas in Santa Fe.</i> Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Linda Mack, conductor. Clarion Records CLCD-926.	2006
<i>Live from Loretto Chapel.</i> Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Linda Mack & Matthew Tresler, conds. Clarion Records CLCD-930	2006

Editorial Positions

Arts and Abolition Book Series (Bloomsbury). Bain, B., de Quadros, A., Amrein, E., and Coleman, W., (Eds.).	2026
International Journal of Community Music (IJCM) Special Issue Music Making and Sustainable Futures	2023-2024
Music and Social Justice eJournal Social Science Research Network https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/sample_issues/1802071_CMBO.html	2019-2023
Music, Culture, and Social Change eJournal Social Science Research Network https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/sample_issues/1802071_CMBO.html	2019-2023

Professional and Public Presentations

International/National

International Society for Music Education “You can’t break my soul”: Practicing Queer Joy and Resilience with LGBTQ+ Refugees.	2024
MayDay Group International Colloquium “In Struggle, In Song: Uncovering Community Music’s Carceral Terrain”	2023
National Collegiate Choral Organization Keynote Address to Ninth National Conference	2022
National Alliance for Music in Vulnerable Communities Keynote Address to Fourth National Conference (Cancelled due to COVID-19)	2022
The Choral Commons Engender Roundtable with Nicky Manlove & Bradford Dumont Abdullah Hall, Erik Peregrine, Jace Kaholokula Saplan, Lindsey Deaton, Logan Bradford, Mari Esabel Valverde, & Michael Bussewitz-Quarm Forced Migration Roundtable with André de Quadros Dzaya Castillo, Con Fullam, Erin Guinup, Maurice Lekea, Thierry Ruboneka, & Elise Witt Singing on the Street Roundtable with André de Quadros Marilyn Irizarry, Jonathan Palant, & Leeav Sofer Singing in Prison Roundtable with André de Quadros Mary Cohen, Jody Kerchner, Cathy Roma, Amanda Weber, & Wayland Coleman Envision 2021 Roundtable with André de Quadros Catherine Dehoney, Maria Guinand, Mackie Spradley, Elizabeth Swanson, & Andre Thomas Building the Beloved Community Roundtable with André de Quadros Alexander Lloyd Blake, Arreon Harley-Emerson, Alysia Lee, Zanaida Robles, & Tesfa Wondemagegnehu	2021
Association for British Choral Directors “Dreaming and Transgressing” with André de Quadros	2021

Imagine Productions (UK) Together Twilight Session "Reimagining the Choir" with André de Quadros	2020
Global Migrant Festival Singapore "Borders and Brutality: Music, Story, Power" with André de Quadros	2020
Festival Coralifornia Mexico "Common Ground Voices / La Frontera" with André de Quadros	2020
The Choral Commons "Talkback with Ahmed Anzaldúa" with André de Quadros "Talkback with Tesfa Wondemagegnehu" with André de Quadros "Talkback with Jace Kaholokula Saplan" with André de Quadros "Talkback with Alysia Lee" with André de Quadros "Talkback with Emily Howe and Bobby Iacoviello" with André de Quadros "Talkback with Halim Flowers" with André de Quadros "Talkback with Andy Clark and Kristina Gillis" with André de Quadros "Talkback with Jeremy Haneman" with André de Quadros "Talkback with Halim Flowers" with André de Quadros	2020
Chorus America National Convention "Reimagining the Choir" with André de Quadros	2020
Chorus America Leadership Development Forum "Common Ground Voices / La Frontera: Community Engaged Choral Praxis"	2020
Festival Coralifornia Mexico "Empowering Song" with André de Quadros	2019
American Choral Director's Association National Convention, Kansas City, MO Finding Common Ground: Choirs Engaging in Conflict Transformation	2019
Chorus America National Convention, Chicago, IL Justice Choir Movement: The Transformative Power of Group Singing	2018
National Service Learning Conference / NYLC, Minneapolis, MN Peregrine Music: Community Engagement & Creative Youth Development	2016
National Service Learning Conference / NYLC, Minneapolis, MN Service Learning and Community Engagement	2008
College Music Society National Convention Poster Session, Salt Lake City, UT Sing Me A Home: Empowering the Arts to Transform our Community	2007
Regional ACDA-MN Virtual Conference "Reflecting, Imagining, Transgressing: The Choral Commons as Dream Space" with André de Quadros	2020
Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus "Intentional Community Collaboration"	2020

University of Minnesota Graduate and Undergraduate Conducting Symposium	2020
Boston University Empowering Song Course	2020
California All State Music Education Conference, Fresno, CA Towards a Diverse, Inclusive, and Equitable Choral Practice	2019
University of Minnesota Morris Visiting Artist/Scholar Program, Morris, MN Good Trouble: The Social Impact of Group Singing in Protest Contexts and in Engaged Choral Practice	2018
California Choral Director's Association Fall Retreat Good Trouble: The Social Impact of Group Singing in Protest Contexts	2018
University of Minnesota Graduate and Undergraduate Conducting Symposium	2018
Ball State University Graduate Conducting Symposium	2016
American Choral Directors Association- NW Division Convention, Seattle, WA Exploring the Efficacy of Various Kinesthetic Diction Tools in the Choral Rehearsal	2012
American Choral Directors Association- National Convention Session, Oklahoma City, OK Building Bridges: Choruses Engaging Communities	2009
American Choral Directors Association- North Central Division Convention, Fargo, ND The Alchemy Project and Bridges	2008
Local	
San Diego Choral Consortium Conductor Conversations	2021
San Diego County Arts Empower Mega Conference Keynote Address	2020
USD STEAM Academy "Even Here I am at Home"	2020
San Diego Unified School District VAPA Teachers Preservice Day, San Diego, CA Voice Building: Technique for Teaching Adolescent Voices in Choir	2016
The Art of Peace: Creative Approaches in Conflict Transformation, San Diego, CA We Shall Overcome: Protest Songs in Retrospect	2015
Sacra/Profana Summer Choral Intensive	2015, 2016
Choral Consortium of San Diego	2016
University of San Diego University of the Third Age	2016
San Diego Summer Choral Festival Conducting Workshop	2015
Internal	
Cluster-Theme Symposium: Climate Change, Borders and Technology	2022

Of Moments and Movement: Storying Migration and Memory at the Border

LLC Dive into Changemaking "Freedom Dreaming: Arts, Culture, and Radical Imagination"	2021
Faculty 5x5 "Singing Our Way to Freedom: Transgressive Choral Practice as Praxis"	2019
International Impact Award Luncheon and International Opportunity Grant (IOG) Panel "YMCA Jerusalem Youth Chorus: Finding Common Ground"	2019
More Human Event "This is to Mother You"	2019
CCTC Faculty Travel Immersion Seminar Presentation "Finding Common Ground: Conflict Transformation in the Choral Ensemble"	2018

PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Conducting Positions

Artistic Director & Co-Artistic Director

Common Ground Voices / La Frontera, San Diego, CA & Tijuana, BC 2018-present

- Responsibilities
Promote, create, and manage weeklong cross-border community music residencies; Administrate and co-facilitate short *encuentro* programs with refugee shelters in Tijuana; Develop and execute performance programs and creative workshops; Engage with San Diego and Tijuana-based community partners | Recruit and retain members from across Mexico and the United States

Peregrine Vocal Ensemble, Chicago, IL 2012-2014

- Responsibilities:
Promote, create, and manage semi-professional choral ensemble
Develop and execute programs
Lead fundraising campaign
Recruit and retain members

The Alchemy Project, Minneapolis, MN 2007-2009

- Responsibilities:
Promote, create, and manage an interdisciplinary arts organization
Develop and execute programs
Liaise with community and university partners
Lead fundraising campaign

Guest Conductor

San Diego Unified School District Honor Choir (SSAA), San Diego, CA	2020
San Diego Independent School Choral Festival, Carlsbad, CA	2020
Festival Coralifornia, Tijuana, BC, Mexico	2019
SACRA/PROFANA, San Diego, CA	2019
California Music Educators Association, South Border Section, San Diego, CA	2018
Real Women Sing Middle School Honor Choir, Bakersfield, CA	2017
SACRA/PROFANA Summer Choral Intensive, San Diego, CA	2017

First United Methodist Summer Sing, San Diego, CA	2017
University of Cologne Collegium Musicum Kammerchor, Cologne, Germany	2016
Ball State University Women's Chorus, Muncie, IN	2016
San Diego Choral Consortium Summer Chorus	2015
Chicago Choral Artists, Chicago, IL	2011-2012
WomanVoice Festival, St. Paul, MN	2007-2008

SERVICE

Professional Affiliations & Committee Work

Alliance for Arts in Research Universities	
National Guild for Community Arts Education	
Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life	
American Choral Directors Association	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity Initiatives National Standing Subcommittee Western Division Diversity Initiatives Committee 	2017-2024 2020-2024
International Federation for Choral Music	
National Collegiate Choral Organization	
National Association for Music Education	
National Youth Leadership Council	
Choral Consortium of San Diego	

Administrative Positions

Associate Dean for Community Engagement, College of Liberal and Fine Arts	2024-present
Executive Director of UTSA Arts	2024-present
Chair, Department of Music	2021-2024
Program Director for USD Performing Arts Entrepreneurship Minor	2021-2022
Interim Program Director for USD Performing Arts Entrepreneurship Minor	2017-2018

Committee Positions

Faculty Senate	2024-present
Faculty Council on Community Engagement	2019-2024
Dean's Advisory Council on Space Priorities	2022-2023
Dean's Advisory Council on Arts Engagement	2019 - 2021
Dean's Advisory Council on K12 Initiatives	2019, 2020
Core Curriculum Committee	2017, 2018
SURE Creative Works Committee	2017, 2018
Core Curriculum Committee	2017, 2018
Core Area Task Force, Chair	2015-2017

Curriculum Development

UTSA Masters of Fine Arts in Community Arts	2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracks: Arts Leadership, Community Arts Education, Public Practice in the Arts 	
UTSA Bachelor Arts in Community Arts	2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracks: Arts Leadership, Community Arts Education, Public Practice in the Arts 	
UTSA MFA in Community Arts Courses	2024-2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts Organizations: Innovation & New Models Executive Leadership in the Arts Cultural Strategy for Social Change Issues in the Arts in the Contemporary World 	

- Equity-Centered Curriculum Design and Program Evaluation
- Transdisciplinary Approaches to Community Arts Education
- Arts Education in Intercultural Contexts
- Ethical Facilitation for Teaching Artists
- Crafting Counter-Stories: Arts-Based Research Methods I
- Embodied Approaches to Practice: Arts-Based Research Methods II
- Graduate Studio Seminar: Public Practice
- Special Problems in Public Practice
- Special Problems in Community Arts

UTSA BA in Community Arts Courses 2024-2025

- Community Arts Practicum
- Imagining San Antonio: How Arts and Culture Drive Change
- Topics in Community Arts
- Foundations in Arts Leadership
- Arts and Community
- Community Arts Education in Theory and Practice
- Arts Education Geographies
- Foundations of Public Practice and Arts-Based Research
- Place and Civic Imagination
- Directed Research
- Field Experience
- Special Problems in Community Arts

USD Bachelor of Arts in Music Teaching and Learning Major 2014-2017

USD Minor in Performing Arts Entrepreneurship 2014-2017

USD Department of Music Courses: Various

- Empowering Song: Music Education from the Margins
- Conducting and Musical Leadership
- Diction for Singers (four semester sequence)
- The Art of Directing Choral Ensembles
- We Shall Overcome: Singing for Freedom, Peace, and Justice
- Music Education for Social Change
- Introduction to Music Teaching and Learning
- Community Music Perspectives
- Music in San Diego
- Gospel Choir

EDUCATION

Academic Degrees

Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting (3.9 GPA) 2008

- University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
- Thesis: The Alchemy Project— Mapping an Aesthetic Imperative for the Future of Choral Music

Master of Music in Choral Conducting (4.0 GPA) 2003

- University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ

Bachelor of Science, Vocal Performance with an Outside Field, Italian (3.8 GPA) 2001

- Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Awards and Honors

University of Minnesota Departmental Award	2007
University of Minnesota Graduate Research Partnership Program Grant	2007
University of Minnesota Burris Fellowship in Musicology	2006-2008
University of Arizona Graduate Tuition Scholarship	2001-2003
University of Arizona Music Fellowship	2001-2003
Indiana University Faculty Award and Honors Division	1997-2001