CCM's Chamber Choir is a graduate-based ensemble of 40-voice and choral majors under the direction of Earl Rivers that performs masterworks with chamber orchestra and miniatures from the historical standard repertory and contemporary periods. The Chamber Choir rotates the cycle of J.S. Bach's masterworks - Mass in B Minor, Christmas Oratorio, St. John Passion and St. Matthew Passion. Last season the Chamber Choir performed a 400th Anniversary Celebration of Monteverdi’s Vespers of 1610 at Cincinnati’s Christ Church Cathedral, Stravinsky’s L’Histoire deee en CCe, and the regional premiere of Schnittke’s a cappella masterwork, Concerto for Choir. This past November the Chamber Choir collaborated with the CCM Opera Department with a staged production of J.S. Bach’s St. Matthew Passion at Cincinnati’s St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. National activities of the Chamber Choir in the most recent decade include acclaimed performances of Handel’s Dixit Dominus at the 2001 ACDA National Convention in San Antonio and of si placet works of Josquin and his contemporaries at the 2002 American Musicological Society National Convention. In 2003 the Chamber Choir presented Bach’s Mass in B Minor and an all-American program on a concert tour of Portugal, and in 2008 performed the Midwest premieres of Tan Dun’s Water Passion after St. Matthew and Bach’s Mass in B Minor with the Midwest and collegiate premieres of Bastian Clevé’s film, The Sound of Eternity. Four ACDA Central Division Convention appearances by the Chamber Choir in recent seasons have included J.S. Bach’s Mass in B Minor; a program of American composers Carol Barnett, Cary John Franklin, William Hawley, and Aaron Jay Kernis; Interest Sessions on “Performance Practices of J.S. Bach exhibited through the Christmas Oratorio”; and “Music for chorus and mixed instruments” featuring works of David Brunner, Libby Larsen, Morten Lauridsen, Louise Talma, and Jeffrey Van. The Chamber Choir combines with the CCM Chorale annually to perform choral/orchestral masterworks, and last month presented Berlioz’s Damnation of Faust, with a film created for the event by CCM Electronic Media faculty member Raul Barcelona.

CCM’s Voice Department boasts one of the most comprehensive training programs for singers of any school in the United States. Students work with some of the most renowned teachers and artists who are also celebrated professionals in their own right, widely and currently active in their respective areas. The most important aspect of the program is the weekly private lesson with faculty. The low student-to-teacher ratio allows teachers to serve as advisors and mentors. Performance opportunities abound in solo, ensemble and dramatic settings. At least one solo recital is required as the capstone of the program, and students have the option of performing non-required recitals. Frequent studio recitals, master classes and opera scene workshops are scheduled, and CCM houses two auditioned choirs. There are six full-length opera productions yearly offering ample stage exposure, plus an additional opera project limited exclusively to undergraduates. Language instruction and elective opportunities are critical aspects of the study. CCM also offers an artist diploma in opera and opera coaching, which trains young performers in the art and craft of opera with one of the most comprehensive programs available anywhere in the world. The aim of this program is to help a singer, coach or director develop the skills necessary to move with confidence onto the professional stage with a full understanding of the demands of the career.

CCM on the Web at ccm.uc.edu
St. Matthew Passion, BWV 244
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

A Conductor’s Guide to the Preparation of J.S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion

Ian McEuen, Evangelist
Shawn Mlynek, Evangelist
Edward Nelson, Jesus

Aria and Arioso Soloists
Kerrie Caldwell, soprano
Kate Wakefield, mezzo-soprano
Eric Jurenas, counter-tenor
James Onstad, tenor
Wesley Brax, baritone
Derrell Acon, bass-baritone

Character Soloists
Nicholas Ward, Caiaphas
William Tvrđik, Peter
Jasmine Habersham and Erin Keesey, maids

Chamber Choir
Earl Rivers, conductor
Michael A. Ciavaglia and Kenneth Tice, assistant conductors
Sujin Kim, accompanist

Choir I
Soprano
Kerrie Caldwell
Jasmine Habersham
Kathryn Papa

Alto
Melisa Bonetti
Jessine Johnson
Eric Jurenas

Tenor
Andrew King
James Onstad
Joshua Wheeler

Bass
Wesley Brax
Michael Ciavaglia
Edward Nelson

Choir II
Soprano
Erin Keesey
Nicole Spoltore
Charbrelle Williams

Alto
Lindsey Grebeldinger
Reilly Nelson
Andrea Spencer

Tenor
Douglas Easterling
Wayne Shuker
Matthew Swanson

Bass
Derrell Acon
Will Tvrđik
Nicholas Ward

Philharmonia Chamber Orchestra
Mark Gibson, music director, CCM Philharmonia Orchestra

Orchestra I
Violin I
Haoli Lin

Violin II
Elisabeth Franks

Viola
Stephen Goist

Cello
Christian Schrock

Bass
P. J. Cinque

Flute
Elizabeth Lu
Chia-Jui He

Oboe/English horn
Katelyn Kyser
Lindsey Kleiser

Bassoon
Travis Peplinsky

Orchestra II
Violin I
Dan Wang

Violin II
Emma Peters

Viola
Christopher Lape

Cello
Bo Zhang

Bass
Kyle Elkins

Flute
Megumi Nomura
Soo Jee Yoo

Oboe/Oboe d’amore
Katherine Stites
Julie Collins

Bassoon
Josh Wang

CCM’s Choral Studies Program is internationally recognized for over forty years of excellence in training conductors for successful, lifelong careers in the choral arts. The Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts programs provide professional level experiences in rehearsals and performances, developing musicianship and technique, and acquiring knowledge of styles, performance practices and repertoire. MM and DMA graduates of CCM’s Choral Studies Program are conducting and administrating highly successful professional, collegiate, symphonic, secondary, children’s and church choir programs throughout the world. CCM Choral Department maintains five choral ensembles - the 40-voice Chamber Choir, 50-voice Chorale, 50-voice Chamber Singers for MM and DMA choral conducting majors, and the 120-voice UC Men’s and Women’s Choruses, both directed by DMA choral majors. Choral majors are engaged as assistant conductors, professional singers, accompanists, and administrators for Cincinnati’s Vocal Arts Ensemble, a professional ensemble, and the Cincinnati Children’s Choir, Ensemble-in-Residence at CCM, of over 300 children and youth in six ensembles. Faculty include Dr. Earl Rivers, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Studies, and Dr. Brett Scott, Assistant Professor of Ensembles and Conducting.

CCM Choral Department on the Web at ccm.uc.edu/choral

CCM has become an All-Steinway School through the kindness of its donors. A generous gift by Patricia A. Corbett in her estate plan has played a key role in making this a reality.