



**GUEST CONDUCTOR FOR PMEA DISTRICT 7
CHORUS FESTIVAL 2017**

RYAN BEEKEN

BIOGRAPHY

Ryan Beeken proudly serves as director of Choral Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he conducts the University Chorale, Chorus, and Chamber Singers. In addition, he teaches graduate and undergraduate choral conducting and supervises student teachers. Beeken also serves as artistic director for the Blair Concert Chorale, whose mission includes fostering a growing appreciation of quality choral music for the population of south-central Pennsylvania. He received a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Bachelor of Music Education degrees from Drake University and Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts Degrees in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University.

Dr. Beeken's choirs have performed at state, regional, and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association. His collaborations include projects with Simon Estes, Cantus, the King Singers, David Dickau, James Mulholland, and Andrea Ramsey. A frequent clinician and festival director, Dr. Beeken is regularly engaged as a conductor, clinician, and adjudicator throughout the United States; recent engagements include All-States and Honor Choirs in Iowa, Arkansas, Louisiana, Ohio, Maryland, Mississippi, Michigan, Missouri, New York, and Pennsylvania. He has served on the executive committee of the American Choral Directors Association at both the state and regional level and is currently serving as Northwest Region chair for Pennsylvania ACDA. Beeken regularly presents sessions for symposia on topics that include repertoire, rehearsal techniques, motivation, conductor-student relationships, and program building.

Prior to his appointment at IUP, Dr. Beeken taught at Michigan State University, where he conducted the Women's Glee Club, and, while residing in Des Moines, Iowa, directed the Drake Chorale at Drake University. He also taught elementary, middle school, and high school music for 16 years, most recently serving as director of Vocal Music for Waukee Schools in suburban Des Moines, where he led a program of over 300 students and 12 ensembles to national distinction.