Sherry Blevins – Long Bio

Sherry Blevins is an award-winning music educator, conductor/clinician, and

more recently, a lyricist and composer. She discovered her ability to compose

when on a whim, she offered to compose her first piece for the 2015 Durham All-

County Choir. That same piece, If You Heard My Voice for 2-part treble, piano,

and cello, was published in 2018. Since then, she has enjoyed composing for a

variety of singers and ensembles across North America. Past-President of the

American Choral Directors Association and Artistic Director of the Chattanooga

Boys Choir, Vincent Oakes writes, “Sherry Blevins’ music is as engaging and

enriching for the singer as it is enjoyable for the listener. Her writing is smart,

accessible, and well-balanced, advancing the aims of every text fortunate enough

to receive her musical treatment. With beautifully crafted melodies, tuneful

harmonies, and supportive accompaniments, her compositions should find a

preferred place with more choirs in the near future.”

In 2018, she was selected the winner of the international Claremont Chorale’s

Composition Contest and is thrilled to announce that her winning composition, A

Tapestry of Music (SATB) was published in the fall of 2019 in Tesfa

Wondemagegnehu’s series. (The SSA version is already published with Hinshaw

Music, Inc.) She was recently honored to conduct A Tapestry of Music (SSA) for

the President’s Concert at the Southern Regional American Choral Director’s

Association Conference in Mobile, Alabama in March of 2020.

In the summers of 2018 and 2019, as her composing career was just beginning, she

was one of seven composers nationwide to be selected as a composing fellow at

the CORO Composer’s Institute in Iowa, where she premiered (now a Hinshaw

Music SATB release), Breath of Life. A newer release, I Dream of a World, was

recently selected for Editor’s Choice on J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc., and was selected

as a featured piece for North Carolina’s Music in Our Schools Month as well as for

the National Association for Music Education’s Music in Our Schools Month

2020.

Many of her works including A Tapestry of Music, Watch Me Fly, Moment by

Moment, Fly Away, and others have been selected to be performed by many all-

state choirs since their publication. Sherry was especially elated when her TB

version of “If You Heard My Voice” was recently performed by The Viking Choir

or St. Olaf College under the direction of Tesfa Wondemagegnehu and her SATB

“A Tapestry of Music” was selected to be performed for the All-State Honor Choir

in her home state in North Carolina AND to be conducted in November, 2022 by

her former professor, Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt.

In a composing competition, one of her pieces, Illuminate the Night (SATB) was

selected to be performed by Santa Monica College Choirs in collaboration with

Chorosynthesis in June of 2020. Due to the impact of the Coronavirus, the live

performance was canceled. Instead, her piece was one of three selected to be

performed by a virtual choir in its stead. The music of these virtual performances is

described as Beethoven and Beyond: Breaking the Silence project and focuses on

music championing the work of those who leverage their disabilities to make the

world better.

In November of 2021, Sherry was invited by Dr. Jeremiah Selvey to attend Santa

Monica College&#39;s first post-pandemic performance as guest composer where five

of her works were performed and two were premiered. This winter, she will join

them again for a collaborative composing project and for the premiere of this new

work.

In 2020, at the height of the Coronavirus Pandemic, Sherry was delighted to

collaborate via Zoom on a composing project with Suzanne Fulton and each of the

choirs in The West Vancouver School’s Honour Choirs of British Columbia,

Canada. To date, two of these completed works have been published and more are

currently under consideration for publication. More recently, Sherry has been

invited to work with these choirs in person in the fall of 2022. In October she will

travel to West Vancouver to finally meet these wonderful people!

In 2022 she joined two more publishing houses that are publishing more of her

works. One is in a series by Jocelyn Hagen Music highlighting women composers

called “Compose Like a Girl”. The pieces in this new series include Looking for

Light (SSA) and If I Call to You, My Love (SATB). The Star Riddle (2-part treble)

by BriLee Music is a collaboration with her niece, Marian Blevins with poetry

written by Marian when she was 8 years old.

Sherry has a Bachelor’s degree in Music Education with a concentration in voice

from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Master’s degree in

Music Education with a concentration in Choral Conducting from Appalachian

State University. She frequently serves as a clinician for honor choirs and leads

workshops on composing, conducting, choral techniques, and the motivation of

singers, across North America. She is currently a Supervisor of Student Teachers

for Appalachian State University where she was twice selected for the Outstanding

Adjunct Teaching Award for the College of Education. Sherry also enjoys teaching

private piano and voice lessons in her home studio in Huntersville, North Carolina

where she lives with her wife, Ruth and their beloved pets. Her hope is that

whether through composing or teaching, that the music she shares will bring hope,

life, and light to others.