

BRIAN DEAN SOUSA, B.M., M.M.

[Audio Recordings](#) | [Video Recordings](#)

EDUCATION:

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia:

Master of Music in Choral Conducting (09/08 – 05/10)

Conducting: Patrick Walders

Graduate Assistant to the Director of Choral Activities, *Duties included:*

Conductor, JMU Women's Chorus;

Teacher, Undergraduate Conducting

Westminster Choir College of Rider University, Princeton, New Jersey:

Bachelor of Music in Sacred Music with organ concentration (9/02 – 05/06)

Organ: Ken Cowan (9/02 – 5/03) / Diane Belcher (9/03 – 5/05) / Ken Cowan (9/05 – 5/06)

Piano: Jose Ramos Santana (9/02 – 5/03)

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Dartmouth, Massachusetts:

Liberal Arts (9/00 - 5/02)

SACRED MUSIC EXPERIENCE:

Director of Music and Organist

Mary, Star of the Sea, Beverly, Massachusetts (12/24 - present)

- Play pipe organ for 7:30am and 10:15am Sunday Masses
- Select and play hymns and preludes / postludes
- Conduct choir for 10:15 am Sunday Masses and select appropriate choral repertoire
- Hold rehearsals for choir on Sunday mornings
- Attend meetings as needed and as possible
- Play pipe organ for funerals and weddings
- Ensure maintenance of instruments and organization of choral music library
- Expand choir (currently: from 20 to 36 people) including students from Gordon College, Teens, community members, and children.
- Prepare worship aids every week
- Ensure budget is observed

Substitute Organist

Saint Stephens Episcopal Church, Culpeper Virginia (04/22 – 7/22)

- Selected and played hymns and preludes / postludes
- Conducted choir and selected repertoire

Interim Organist

All Saints Anglican Church, Ivy Virginia (07/20 – 09/21)

- Selected organ repertoire
- Played for all weekend Masses.

Organist and Choirmaster / Handbell Director

Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church, Charlottesville, VA (1/15 - 7/19)

- Planned repertoire for organ, handbells, and choir
- Conducted choir
- Conducted handbell choir
- Played organ for once service each weekend
- Held one weekly choir rehearsal and bell choir rehearsal

Organist and Choirmaster

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charlottesville, VA (1/09 – 6/13)

- Planned music for organ and choir
- Conducted choir and held one rehearsal a week
- Played for Sunday Liturgies

Director of Music Saint Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church serving UVA, (10/06 – 06/20)

- Directed all aspects of liturgical music ministry for a major Catholic parish serving the University of Virginia community
- Built the parish music program from the ground up, establishing seven choirs involving university students, children, and community members
- Founded and led the principal parish choir, which grew to as many as 45 university student singers
- Rehearsed and conducted choirs for regular liturgies, Holy Days, and major parish celebrations
- Served as organist for three Masses each weekend, Holy Days, weddings, funerals, memorial liturgies, and other special services
- Provided organ and choral leadership for weddings, funerals, and memorial liturgies, including services for prominent civic, academic, and community leaders
- Planned sacred music for Holy Mass and throughout the liturgical year with attention to pastoral, musical, and liturgical appropriateness
- Organized and expanded major seasonal liturgies and devotional services, including Vespers, Tenebrae, Advent and Lenten Penance Services, candlelight student Masses, and the Baccalaureate Mass
- Established highly successful Advent and Christmas Lessons and Carols services
- Organized a school-wide Lessons and Carols service at Charlottesville Catholic School involving approximately 400 students
- Created a concert series featuring distinguished guest artists and ensembles from around the country, including the Schola Cantorum of Westminster Choir College conducted by Dr. James Jordan
- Hired, rehearsed, and conducted professional instrumentalists and orchestras for major feasts and special events
- Auditioned and hired cantors, soloists, and section leaders as needed
- Prepared choral and instrumental scores
- Maintained the music library and ordered or rented choral and orchestral materials as needed
- Managed scheduling for choirs, cantors, rehearsals, and special music

personnel

- Created printed programs and supporting materials for liturgies and events
- Managed the music budget and assisted with fundraising efforts in support of the sacred music program
- Facilitated a \$200,000 organ donation to advance a major musical and liturgical resource for the parish
- Produced regular audio recordings in support of the music program and its promotion
- Organized educational offerings in sacred music, including classes on Gregorian chant, sight-singing, sacred music, and vocal development
- Established a class in Greek Orthodox chant led by a University of Virginia student as part of the program's broader educational offerings
- Facilitated guest lectures and presentations on sacred music and related topics
- Supported additional parish and community music formation through homeschool co-op chant instruction and Vacation Bible School music leadership

Organist and Choirmaster

Saint Bernadette Roman Catholic Church, Parlin, New Jersey (7/05 – 7/06)

- Full-Time Principal Organist and Choirmaster
- Directed adult choir
- Played organ for two Masses per weekend
- Held one weekly choir rehearsal
- Planned Sacred Music for Holy Mass
- Maintained the choral sheet music library
- Kept a budget

Organist and Choirmaster

Saint Andrew's Roman Catholic Church, Avenel, New Jersey (09/04 – 07/05) ● Part-Time Principal Organist and Choirmaster

- Directed the adult choir
- Played the organ for two Masses per weekend
- Held one weekly choir rehearsal
- Planned Sacred Music for Holy Mass
- Maintained the choral sheet music library
- Rehearsed and scheduled cantor

Organist and Choirmaster

Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church, Trenton, New Jersey (09/03 – 08/04) ● Part-Time Principal Organist and Choirmaster

- Director of adult choir
- Played organ for two Masses per weekend
- Held one weekly choir rehearsal

- Planned Sacred Music for Holy Mass
- Maintained the choral sheet music library
- Rehearsed and scheduled cantors

Interim Organist and Choirmaster

Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church, Newport, Rhode Island, (6/03 - 8/03)

- Part-Time summer position
- Directed children's choir for summer religious education program
- Directed Summer, adult choir on Sundays
- Played organ for one Mass per weekend

Organist and Choirmaster

Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church, Fairhaven, Massachusetts (1/01 - 1/02)

- Part-Time
- Played organ for one Mass per weekend
- Held one choir rehearsal per week

Organist and Choirmaster

Saints Peter and Paul Parish at Holy Cross Church, Fall River, MA (7/00 -7/01)

- Part-Time
- Established children's choral program
- Played organ and conducted choir for one Mass per weekend

Interim Assistant Organist

Holy Family Parish, East Taunton, Massachusetts (12/98 - 6/99)

- Part-Time
- Played organ for one Mass on Sundays

Organist and Choirmaster

Saint Anne Roman Catholic Church, New Bedford, Massachusetts (2/97 - 8/02)

- Organized a Christmas concert with a combined choir of Saint Anne Parish in New Bedford and Saint Mary Parish in Fairhaven with solo organ music, and brass quartet
- Held one weekly choir rehearsal
- Planned Sacred music for Holy Mass
- Played organ for two-three Masses per weekend
- Maintained the choral sheet music library

CLASSROOM TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Bishop Stang High School — Dartmouth, MA (September 2022 – June 2023)

- Directed choral program across multiple grade levels, fostering ensemble cohesion and vocal development.
- Designed and implemented choral curriculum aligned with institutional and state standards.
- Led full production of the annual school musical, overseeing rehearsals, performance preparation, and coordination with faculty and technical staff.

- Prepared students for concerts, liturgical services, and school-wide special events.
- Collaborated with administration and faculty to strengthen the visibility and integration of the performing arts within the broader academic program.
- Initiated plans for expanded arts programming and interdisciplinary events

Long-term Substitute teacher of general music & choir,
Charlottesville Catholic School, Charlottesville, Virginia (03/14 – 5/15)

- Taught general music and choir for K – 8
- Prepared all grades for multiple spring concerts
- Selected appropriate Repertoire
- Conducted four concerts
- Created lesson plans
- Enrichment Activities
- Organized instrumentalists to come for show and tell (Harp, Flute – bass, soprano, alto, Cello, French Horn, Violin, Bassoon, Trombone)
- Arranged for a field trip to the U.VA. Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library to view and sing from many old Gregorian Chant Manuscripts.
- Invited and scheduled a violinist and dance instructor to help lead the dancing of the Virginia reel for “Colonial Day”.
- Equipped the children with the knowledge of various musical symbols and arranged for them to make artwork using those symbols for “Grandparents Day” to hang in the classroom.
- Planned new Christmas Concert format Lessons and Carols
- The Catholic School students sang with University of Virginia students and community members accompanied by an orchestra filled with students from the school and players from around the community including the University of Virginia.

PROFESSIONAL TOURS:

Guest Accompanist — International Concert Tour

Avon Old Farms School — Greece & Turkey (2014)

Invited by Dr. Bryan Zaros, Director of Choral Activities

- Selected as accompanist for an international performance tour featuring choral repertoire presented in historic and culturally significant venues throughout Greece and Turkey.
- Collaborated closely with the director and student musicians in intensive rehearsal and performance settings.
- Supported artistic preparation and performance execution in diverse acoustic and cultural contexts.
- Contributed to the musical and educational mission of the tour through professional accompaniment and ensemble leadership.

Guest Accompanist - Tour to New Orleans, Louisiana

University of Virginia Choirs (2010)

Star Wars in Concert (2009)

- Sang tenor in choir

Royal Christmas Tour (2005)

- Sang bass / baritone in choir
- Performers included: Andrea Bocelli, Denyce Graves, and Robin Fullman
- Accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

American Guild of Organists (AGO)
 Church Music Association of America (CMAA)
 American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)
 National Pastoral Musicians (NPM)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

Vocalist – Tenor

Plena Voce, Chamber Chorale, Charlottesville, Virginia (2013 – 2014)

Vocalist (Tenor) / Choral Conductor / Pianist

U.Va. University Singers, Charlottesville, VA (2007 – 2008 / 2010 –2011)

- Sang with, conducted, accompanied on piano, and ran sectionals on occasion for Michael Slon, Director of Choral Activities

Vocalist – Bass/Baritone

Saint Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church Choir in Acushnet, MA (1999 – 2000)

Organ Tuner Assistant (with Raymond Whalon)

Delisle Pipe Organ Company, Fall River, MA (1998 - 2006)

- Tuned organs from Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod to Newport, RI

Vocalist – Bass/Baritone

Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption, Fall River, MA (1998 - 2002)

Choir Director / Organist and Cantor,

Saint Anne Roman Catholic Church, New Bedford, Massachusetts (1997 - 2002)

MASTER CLASSES:

ORGAN

Peter Richard Conte – Bristol Chapel at Westminster Choir College (12/05) Olivier Latry – Princeton University Chapel (10/05)

Thomas Murray – Institute of Sacred Music at Yale (6/03)

Joan Lippincott – Performs throughout the U.S. and Europe (6/03)

CHORAL CONDUCTING

Philip Cave – Harrisonburg, VA (10/09) Jerry Blackstone – Harrisonburg, VA (10/08)

Simon Carrington – Sarteano, Italy (08/08)

LECTURES GIVEN:

The Liturgical Year; A, B, C – Saint Thomas Aquinas (11/14) What Makes Music Sacred? –

Saint Thomas Aquinas (06/13) Dominican Chant – Sacred Music Colloquium XXIII (06/13)

INSTRUMENTAL PROFICIENCY:

Pipe Organ (Primary Instrument)

Piano

Voice (Baritone / Tenor / Countertenor)

Timpani (and other Auxiliary Percussion)

Handbells

ORGAN PERFORMANCES:

Sergei Rachmaninoff — All-Night Vigil (Vespers), Op. 37

April 29, 2022 - National City Christian Church — Washington, DC

May 1, 2022 - Saint Thomas Aquinas University Parish - Charlottesville, VA

• Offered organ improvisations on selected melodies drawn from the Vigil.

Coventry Cathedral, Coventry England - July 7, 2009

The Fatima Shrine / Basilica Fatima, Portugal July 17, 2006

Sé (The Cathedral) / Lisboa, Portugal July 14, 2006

St. Peter und Paul / Straelen, Germany June 15, 2005

VOCAL PERFORMANCES:

Sergei Rachmaninoff — All-Night Vigil (Vespers), Op. 37 - Tenor in Choir

April 29, 2022 - National City Christian Church — Washington, DC

May 1, 2022 - Saint Thomas Aquinas University Parish - Charlottesville, VA

Together in Song - Aldersgate Methodist Church, Charlottesville, VA, (03/22) Tenor in Choir

Oratorio Society of Virginia, Dr. Michael Slon - Music Director

Johann Sebastian Bach — Cantata 140, Wachet auf ("Sleepers Awake")

Margaret Bonds — Credo

Prayer for Ukraine

Bach Around the Clock, Staunton, VA (03/22) Bass in Choir

BWV 12, 140

Bach Around the Clock, Staunton, VA (03/19) Bass in Choir

BWV 29, 137, 147

Bach Around the Clock, Staunton, VA (04/18) Tenor in Choir

BWV 182, Himmelskönig, sei willkommen

University of Virginia - Old Cabell Hall (2011) Tenor in Choir

Igor Stravinsky: Symphony of Psalms / Leonard Bernstein: Chichester Psalms

James Madison University Chorale, Harrisonburg Baptist Church - (03/10)

Charles Ives Psalm 90 (Organist) / Sang Tenor for other pieces: Let the People Praise Thee, O God - Mathias / Hear my Prayer O Lord - Percell / Sanctus - Walders / I Love My Love - Marvin / Madrigal - Faure / Animal Crackers, vol. 2 - Whitacre

University of Virginia - Old Cabell Hall (2009) Tenor in Choir
J.S. Bach: Mass in B minor / Michael Slon: I am the Way (world premiere) / Eric Whitacre: little man in a hurry (regional premiere)

University of Virginia - Old Cabell Hall (2009) Tenor in Choir
Maurice Gustave Duruflé, Requiem

Holy Rood Church, Swindon, Wiltshire, England (07/09) Tenor in Choir
Various Repertoire with Wessex Male Choir

Coventry Cathedral - Lady Chapel, Coventry England (07/09) Tenor in Choir
Various Repertoire

Ely Cathedral - Lady Chapel, Ely England (07/09) Tenor in Choir
Various Repertoire

Saint George's Cathedral, London, England (07/09) Tenor in Choir
Maurice Gustave Duruflé, Requiem with the University of London - conducted by Colin Durrant

Saint Bartholomew the Great, London, England (07/09) Tenor in Choir
Maurice Gustave Duruflé, Requiem

Providence Presbyterian Church, Fairfax, VA (06/09) Tenor in Choir
Maurice Gustave Duruflé, Requiem

Staunton Music Festival, Staunton, VA (05/09) Tenor in choir
Various a cappella madrigals: *Pastime* \ *Blow Thy Horne* \ *Now is the Month* \ *Sing We and Chant It* \ *Mother I Will Have a Husband* \ *April is in My Mistress' Face* / *As Matchless Beauty*

The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC (04/09) Baritone and Tenor in choir
The Unicorn, the Gorgon, and the Manticore by: Gian Carlo Menotti

Mills E. Godwin High School, Richmond, VA (10/08) Tenor in choir
Pastime, with Good company - Henry VII / Sing We and Chant it - Morley / Lay a Garland - Pearsall / No Is the Month of Maying - Morley / Blow Thy Horne Hunter - Cornysh / Vier Quartett - Brahms / The Unicorn Gorgon, and Manticore - Manotti / Am Scheideweg, op. 28 Nr. 1 - Schönberg / Dreimal tausend Jahre - Schönberg / Innisfree - Custer / Ezekiel Saw De Wheel - Dawson

Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA (10/08) Tenor in choir
Various Pieces (as above)

Christ Episcopal Church, Rockville, Maryland (10/08) Tenor in choir
Various Pieces (as above)

University of Virginia - Old Cabell Hall (2008) Tenor in Choir
Ludwig van Beethoven: Choral Fantasy / Franz Haydn: Theresienmesse / Stephen Paulus:
Psalm 46 (world premiere)

University of Virginia - Old Cabell Hall (2007) Tenor in Choir
Carl Orff: Carmina Burana / Francis Poulenc: Gloria

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center with New York Philharmonic (2005) Bass
in choir Daphnis and Chloé, Suite No. 2 by Maurice Ravel - conducted by:
Lorin Maazel

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center with New York Philharmonic (01/06) Bass in choir
Mass in C major, "Coronation," K. 317 (1779) by W.A. Mozart - conducted by: Lorin
Maazel

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center with New York Philharmonic (04/05) Bass in choir La
Damnation de Faust (The Damnation of Faust), Dramatic Legend in Four Parts, op. 24 by:
Hector Berlioz - conducted by: Lorin Maazel

Philadelphia Cathedral (04/04) Bass in choir
Palm Sunday Evening Concert

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center with New York Philharmonic (10/03) Bass in choir
Symphony No. 9 in D minor, op. 125 "Choral" by: Ludwig Van Beethoven -
conducted by: Lorin Maazel

SPECIAL CONDUCTING ENGAGEMENTS:

Interfaith Vigil of Blessing for Teresa A. Sullivan, April 13, 2011
Repertoire included: Abide with me / Glory to Thee My God This Night / Dominican "Salve
Regina" / God Be In My Head, Composed by Brian Dean Sousa for this event

Lighting of the Lawn, University of Virginia 2010
University Singers of UVA
My Spirit Sang All day, Gerald Finzi & Carol of the Bells Mykola Leontovych

COMPETITIONS:

CHORAL

Choir of the World Competition in Llangollen Eisteddfod, Wales (07/09) with the choirs of James
Madison University

TELEVISION APPEARANCES:

NBC 29 / CW 29 Charlottesville, Virginia (12/18 & 12/19) Conducted, Children's Choir of Central Virginia Charlottesville Grand Illumination

NBC 29 Charlottesville, Virginia (01/18)

Conducted, Children's Choir of Central Virginia Martin Luther King Celebration

ABC Harrisonburg, Virginia (10/09)

Conducted, JMU Women's Chorus on ABC Morning Show

COMPOSITIONAL EXPERIENCE:

CHORAL - A CAPPELLA

God Be in My Head, written for the Inauguration of Teresa A. Sullivan as the 8th president of The University of Virginia for the Interfaith Vigil 2011 (S.A.T.B.)

CHORAL - ORCHESTRAL

Come, Labor On, arrangement of the hymn tune "ORA LABORA" written for the Catholic Student Ministry Baccalaureate Mass of 2011 & dedicated to class of 2011 (3 trumpets, 4 horns, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, auxiliary percussion, soprano descant, organ, & unison choir)

OTHER CHORAL CONDUCTING EXPERIENCE:

SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY (Starting Fall 2026)

Choral Director / Lecturer

- Direct the university chorus, and Madrigal Singers in rehearsals and performances
- Develop engaging and collaborative performances

FALMOUTH CHORALE (Starting July 1, 2026)

Artistic Director

- Direct artistic operations for a premier 100-singer community chorale and its elite 16-member Chamber Singers ensemble.
- Sustain a 62+ year performance legacy on the Upper Cape by curating complex, diverse repertoires and coordinating full orchestral accompaniment.
- Champion regional music education by administering the organization's annual youth scholarship fund for aspiring music students.
- Oversee ensemble operations, pivoting seamlessly between live concert productions and community outreach events.

GREATER NEW BEDFORD CHORAL SOCIETY (2025 - present)

Artistic Director

- Direct a historic, non-audition SATB choir with a 62+ year legacy of bringing classical choral music to southeastern Massachusetts.
- Produce and program dual annual concert series featuring complex classical repertoires in the winter and spring seasons.
- Cultivate strategic regional partnerships to execute major choral works alongside the

- New Bedford Symphony and UMass Dartmouth Chorus.
- Foster an inclusive, high-standard musical environment that trained and elevated singers of diverse technical backgrounds

MUSICA SACRA VIRGINIA, INC. (2020 – 2025)

Founder and Artistic Director

- Founded and directed a nonprofessional non-profit choir dedicated to performing sacred choral music at the highest technical level.
- Built the organizational infrastructure from inception in 2020, establishing the non-profit's mission, governance, and artistic vision.
- Curated and programmed rigorous repertoires of well-crafted sacred choral works, maintaining an exceptional standard of musical excellence.
- Recruited and trained talented vocalists, cultivating an environment of precision, blend, and high-level musicianship.
- Managed all artistic and operational functions, balancing non-profit compliance, rehearsal schedules, and public performance logistics.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA (2017-2022)

Founder and Artistic Director

- Founded and directed a regional youth choral organization serving students in grades 1–8 over a successful five-year tenure.
- Established the complete operational infrastructure and artistic vision for the ensemble, driving organizational growth from inception.
- Designed and implemented a progressive music curriculum tailored to elementary and middle school students to build foundational vocal technique, music literacy, and ensemble skills.
- Programmed and conducted public performances, cultivated a high standard of youth musicianship and expanded community engagement across Central Virginia.
- Managed collaborative leadership operations, overseeing student recruitment, parent communications, rehearsal logistics, and event planning.

CHARLOTTESVILLE CAMERATA (2017-2022)

Founder and Artistic Director

- Founded and served as Artistic Director for a premier semi-professional choral ensemble, driving all musical and operational growth over a five-year tenure.
- Spearheaded the organization's high-profile debut in Fall 2017, launching the ensemble via a benefit concert that raised vital funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.
- Recruited, auditioned, and led elite vocalists to achieve a superior standard of blend, precision, and high-level ensemble musicianship.
- Curated and conducted repertoire for public concerts, establishing the ensemble as a prominent fixture in the regional arts community.
- Managed end-to-end production logistics, balancing artistic programming with community partnerships, nonprofit fundraising collaborations, and event coordination.

