



MICHAEL JOHN TROTТА

Class of 1996

As a student at the Borough, Michael was a member of the All Shore Choir from 1992 – 1996; a member of the National Honor Society; and received the National Choral Award in 1996. After graduating in 1996, Michael attended Rowan University and obtained a Bachelor of Music (Music Education) and a Master of Music (Choral Conducting), studying with Dr. Z. Randall Stroope. Michael is a composer, conductor, and clinician regularly accepting commissions and conducting engagements throughout the country. As an educator, he has held positions at the middle school, high school, and university levels. As a composer, he is published with Colla Voce Inc., GIA Publications, Kjos Music Company, MorningStar, Alliance, Walton Music, and Carl Fischer Publications. He is currently the Associate Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma where he is the principal conductor of the University Singers. Prior to his appointment at OSU, he conducted the Chamber Singers and served as the director of the Tiger Glee Club at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he will complete his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting this spring.

While working in the Philadelphia Metro area, Trotta served as the Artistic Director for Hope Lives On, a concert to benefit the pediatric cancer research at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. After teaching for five years in primary and secondary choral music, he served as an adjunct faculty member at Rowan University, where he had

teaching responsibilities in choral music with the Concert Choir, WOCHO (women's chorus) and Statesmen (men's chorus) and in music history.

He has toured Europe three times and has performed in St. Peter's Basilica, Santa Maria Maggiore (Rome), St. Mark's (Venice), Casa Verdi (Milan) and the Santa Maria Del Fiore, the Duomo (Florence) and Carnegie Hall (New York). He has worked with Morten Lauridsen, Sir David Wilcocks, and John Rutter.

A noted composer of choral music, his work "I Will Keep Still" was recently selected as the winner of the Inaugural Composition Contest for the professional eChoir Dayton project. The work is part of a project that is pioneering new methods of recording, performing, and distributing choral music. In 2011, he premiered "Dedication to Life" a multi-movement work for Soprano and Baritone soloists, Choir, French Horn, Strings, and Harp. Over the next two years, he will release eight new pieces of music throughout the country. His works are frequently performed and recorded nationally and internationally. Plans are underway for a professional CD of his compositions in 2014. He regularly collaborates, as both conductor and composer, with Universities, High Schools, community groups, and churches to write music that fits the needs of each ensemble. His compositions have been called "a true choral gem" (JW Pepper) and his work as a conductor has been heralded as "An Outstanding Example" (ChoralNet). In an article on ChoralNet entitled *A Gateway to the Present Moment, A Connection to Something Greater Than Ourselves*, Michael said: "Taking part in choral music, whether as an audience member, singer, conductor, or composer, is an opportunity to slow down time long enough to allow the beauty of life to catch up with you." For more information, a full list of his works, and recorded samples, you can visit his website (www.mjtrotta.com).

Michael lives in Stillwater, Oklahoma with his wife Rachel, an artist, singer, writer, painter, and educator, who is a living reminder of the M.C. Richards quote, "All of the arts we practice are apprenticeship. The big art is our life."