

MAKINSEY ROSSER

SOPRANO, DIRECTOR, TEACHER



678-682-5647



mrosser1200@gmail.com

SKILLS

- Proficient in piano, guitar, sight singing, strong in ear training, improvisation, studio recording, directing, conducting, teaching/lessons, coaching
- Mastered elements of many styles of singing including classical, gospel, choral, soul and more
- Recognized for thinking outside of the box for creating effective and moving musical experiences

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Valdosta State University

Bachelor of Arts in Music with a Concentration in Education, 2018

Michigan State University

Masters in Vocal Performance, start fall 2025

Director of Worship Arts, Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, Grand Rapids

2024-present

- Lead and coordinate all aspects of worship arts, including choral direction, music selection, and the integration of traditional and contemporary elements to support meaningful worship experiences.
- Manage worship arts logistics and budget, overseeing purchases for seasonal decor and music while maintaining an organized music library, preparing marked scores, and designing creative visual elements to enhance the worship environment.
- Plan and execute special musical events, collaborating with guest artists, hiring musicians, and managing all related logistics to produce high-quality concerts and seasonal worship programs.

Minister of Music, First United Methodist Church, Cordele

2020-2024

- Gather, recruit, coordinate and lead ensembles including but not limited to handbells, childrens choir, adult chancel choir, youth praise dance and contemporary praise band
- Plan music and musical experiences around the church calendar like concerts, cantatas, and special music/solos for Christmas, Easter, All Saints Sunday, Black History Month, Veterans Day, Food Drives, etc.
- Communicate with other staff members and volunteers on a daily basis as a moving puzzle piece, taking on new or different responsibilities when needed, including finance and budget work, writing newsletters/articles, moving equipment, creating flyers and advertisements, collaborating on ideas like music camp and Vacation Bible School, combined worship services, etc.

Music and Band Director, Sumter County Intermediate School

2020-21

- Teach general music course for 4th and 5th graders while organizing 6th Grade Band and other extracurricular performance opportunities for all students
- Organize fundraisers, concerts and recruitment opportunities for all students
- Successfully prepare 6th grade band students for middle and high school level music by pushing music independence and literacy from fourth grade and up

Middle and High School Choir Teacher, Color Guard Coach, Worth County

2019-20

- Successfully run two separate choir programs, operate two separate budgets and prepare and teach curriculum of different levels to grades 6-12, 120 students (middle school; 6th-8th grade and high school 9th-12th grade)
- Plan fundraisers, field trips, rehearsals and concerts while using various teaching methods and strategies that allow learning to be accessible to all students
- Prepared all students for Large Group Performance Evaluation and Allstate auditions, successfully taking one student to Athens, Georgia for 7th and 8th Grade Allstate Chorus
- Choreograph and teach routines for the auxiliary line of the Marching Band (make up, dance, flag work, uniforms, props etc). Attend practices, football games and competitions including events over the summer, on weekends and on some school breaks. Led the flag line in receiving all Superiors at every competition/evaluation for the 2019-2020 school year



ACCOLADES

Set to conduct Poulenc's "Gloria" at Carnegie Hall in summer of 2026 with MidAmerica Productions.

Served as Choir Director of the South Georgia UMC Conference, tasked with combining local choirs, communicating with directors, picking accessible music, and rehearsing and leading the opening nights worship service (2023 and 2024).

Received the National Honor to perform at Southern Division ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) with Palmetto Voices Spiritual Ensemble, 2020; Performed at Carnegie Hall in June 2022; performed with John Rutter in London, England, June 2023

Selected as the 2018-2019 Undergraduate "Most Outstanding Musician" by Valdosta State music faculty and was honored to sing the National Anthem and Alma Mater at 2018 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony, Valdosta State University.

Valdosta State University Opera program (2017-2019), Lead roles in 2018 and 2019 productions. Placed 1st in category at State National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Classical Voice competition, 2018.

Opening Act for Waka Flocka Flame, VSU's Spring 2018 concert.

Professional Studio Recording with Mark Neill, Grammy Award winning producer (2017-present).

REFERENCES

Donna Farwell: (229) 269-1305, farwell4dees@mchsi.com (Former Youth Choir Director at Saint John Catholic Church)

Dr. Sonja Sepulveda: (803) 316-3487, sonjasepulveda@hotmail.com (Director of Choral Activities Salem College and Academy, Artistic Director of Palmetto Voices Spiritual Ensemble)

Dr. Carol Krueger: (803) 397-5334, ckruegermusic@gmail.com (Former Director of Choral Activities; Valdosta State University)

Larry Rollins, Senior Pastor Cordele FMC
Relationship: current supervisor
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