

A. Jan Taylor, Choral Conductor

A. Jan Taylor, educator, pianist, singer and choral conductor, is Director of Choral Music Activities at Prairie View A&M University. A native of Houston, Texas, and a graduate of the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, she received the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Houston, the Master of Arts degree from Prairie View A&M University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting from the University of Houston.

Prior to her appointment at Prairie View, Taylor taught general music, piano, and trained choirs in elementary, middle, and high schools in the Houston Independent School District. She has served as adjudicator and choral clinician for numerous choral competitions, festivals, and regional choirs throughout the United States. As an authority on the African-American spiritual, Taylor frequently lectures on the performance practices and preservation of the genre.

Dr. Taylor has traveled throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia as a singer with such premier professional choral ensembles as the Houston Chamber Choir and the Houston Chorale. As Assistant Conductor of the Houston Symphony Chorus from 2003 until 2006, she assisted in preparing the chorus for world-class conductors in performances of such choral-orchestral works as Benjamin Britten's War Requiem, Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, the Verdi Requiem, and Leonard Bernstein's Kaddish Symphony. She has prepared choruses and collaborated with such renowned conductors and composers as Barbara Baker, Roland Carter, Nathan Carter, Moses Hogan, Jeffrey Ames, and Adolphus Hailstork. For the Houston Ebony Opera Guild, she has coached and accompanied singers, and has conducted the Guild's Chorus in performances of spirituals, African-American concert music, and operatic works. Dr. Taylor has conducted the "105 Voices of History" HBCU National Choir in performances at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, TN, the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.. In 2018, Dr. Taylor conducted the "105" Choir in Memphis for the performance on the nationally televised MLK50 Commemoration event held by the National Civil Rights Museum.

Under Dr. Taylor's direction, the Prairie View A&M University Concert Chorale and PV Chamber Singers have performed to critical acclaim throughout the United States and abroad, including performances at the Texas Music Educators Association convention, the International Festival Wratislavia Cantans in Poland, and in Colombia, South America. In 2018, the Chorale performed in Berlin, Germany, and returned to Poland for performances of American music with the Toruń Symphony Orchestra's International "Music and Architecture" Summer Festival, and the Orkiestra Kameralna Capella Bydgosciensis, under the baton Mariusz Smolij

The Prairie View A&M University choirs have performed with the Houston Symphony, Houston Civic Symphony, the Acadian Symphony, and have collaborated with several professional and community choruses in the Greater Houston area.

Taylor holds memberships in the Texas Music Educators Association, American Choral Directors Association, Texas Choral Directors Association, and Sigma Alpha Iota, a music fraternity for women.

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