



Cincinnati Youth Choir

BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS, ONE VOICE AT A TIME

Robyn Lana

Founder, Artistic Director Emerita

Robyn Reeves Lana has dedicated her career to interpreting choral music for diverse audiences in ways that resonate with young people, all while upholding the highest standards of music education and performance. For 32 years, she served as the Founding Artistic Director of the Cincinnati Youth Choir (CYC), Ensemble-in-Residence at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), inspiring generations of young singers.

Throughout her career, Mrs. Lana has been an acclaimed conductor and clinician across the United States and internationally. She has led performances at prestigious venues such as The Forbidden City Concert Hall (Beijing), The World Expo (Milan), St. Peter's Basilica (Vatican City), and Minatomirai Hall (Yokohama). Her international work also includes clinics and workshops in Malacca, Malaysia; Singapore; Italy; Ireland; Greece; and China. In the U.S., she has been a featured guest conductor at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Cincinnati's Music Hall, as well as at numerous state and regional choral festivals.

Mrs. Lana's academic contributions include serving on the choral faculty at Xavier University, guest professorships at CCM, and her current position on the choral faculty at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

She is the editor of a choral series with Santa Barbara Music Publishing, and her book, *Voices in Harmony*, is a collaborative publication that celebrates diverse and effective philosophies in choral education. Her writings have been featured in *The Chorister* (Choristers Guild), *CMA Matters* (Chamber Music America), and *Choral Journal* (ACDA), where she also served as guest editor for three issues. An advocate for collaboration and innovation, Lana has worked extensively with esteemed conductors such as Craig Hella Johnson, John Adams, Louis Langrée, John Morris Russell, Robert Porco, Marcus Huber, James Conlon, Earl Rivers, and Mark Gibson. She regularly prepares choirs for collaborations with major ensembles including the Cincinnati Symphony, Cincinnati Pops, Cincinnati May Festival, Cincinnati Opera, and various CCM ensembles. Under her direction, CYC participated in two Telarc recordings with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra conducted by the late Erich Kunzel.

Nationally, Lana has served on the Chorus America Board of Directors and held leadership roles within the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), including Chair of Repertoire & Standards for Children's Choirs and Community Youth Choirs, and Chair of Advocacy and Collaboration. She currently serves as Southwest Region Chair for the Ohio Choral Directors Association.

Mrs. Lana holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education with a cognate in voice and a concentration in choral conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She also holds Level III Orff-Schulwerk Certification and completed focused study in children's choir pedagogy at Butler University with Henry Leck.

Her excellence has been recognized with numerous honors, including:

- The American Prize in Choral Performance (2024, 2015)
- Chorus America Award for Education and Community Engagement (2018)
- Chorus America ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming (2016)
- Distinguished Alumna Award, CCM (2012)
- Gold Medal, World Choir Games (2012) – First in the U.S.
- Chorus America ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming (2016)
- Chorus America Education and Community Engagement Award (2018)
- Best Local Vocal Arts Group, Cincinnati CityBeat (2015, 2017, 2024 second place)

Most recently, Robyn Reeves Lana was honored in the book *Imagineers • Impresarios • Inventors: Cincinnati's Arts and the POWER OF HER*, which highlights the inspiring contributions of women who have shaped Cincinnati's dynamic artistic legacy.