

Matthew Harrison is a vocal music specialist who lives in Hamden, Connecticut. Award-winning educator, arranger, composer, pianist, organist, singer, conductor, wanderer, and all things in between, Matt has enjoyed a career of making connections, trailblazing new paths for choral music, and performing in a rich tapestry of landscapes.

After earning his masters in voice performance from The New England Conservatory (Boston, MA), Matt returned to Virginia to start his teaching career in a large urban high school in Manassas. There, he was awarded the best first year teacher for Manassas City Public Schools after extensive groundwork had been laid for a large rebuilding effort. In three short years, the size of the program doubled. Matt was recognized within VMEA as a future leader, and was asked to sit on the Leadership Symposium.

Leaving his sizable program (200 voices) in Virginia, Matt returned home to begin teaching at Hamden Hall Country Day School. Five years ago, he began with only 13 singers. Hamden Hall's program has grown over 400% since 2014. In 2018, Matt was appointed as the Director of Choirs and Organist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Cheshire, CT. He is the recipient of the 2018 CT ACDA Choir Director of the Year for significant contributions to the Connecticut choral community. In addition, he currently serves the American Choral Directors Association of Connecticut as President-Elect.

Every July, Matt uses his extensive knowledge of music theater and cabaret repertoire to direct and music direct the Madison Beach Club Follies in Madison Connecticut. This musical review has enjoyed a storied 85 year history. Matt writes, arranges, and performs alongside a multigenerational cast in this great Connecticut tradition.

In June of 2018, Matt was granted a residency at Glacier National Park composing choral music (the first of its kind in NPS history!). While in Montana, Matt made connections with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation. He spent one month at a historic cabin on Lake McDonald writing choral music inspired by his adventures in and around Glacier National Park. Matt's Glacier Suite (for accompanied SSA) is published by Pavane, which distributes through Hal Leonard, the world's largest music publisher. The Glacier Suite was featured in the 2019 Voices of Distinction catalogue for Hal Leonard, and just made its Montana premiere through the generosity of The Glacier Conservancy.