



## Press Release

*For Immediate Release*

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## **MYAC Welcomes New Choral Director!**



MYAC is excited to welcome **Andrew Dahan** as our new choral director of VocalPoint! Dahan holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Northwestern University (Evanston, IL), and a Master's in Jazz Pedagogy from the University of Miami (Coral Gables, FL).

Dahan is from Skokie, IL, and the Director of Choirs and Vocal Jazz at Niles North High School. He directs all of the curricular choirs, as well as the award-winning vocal jazz ensemble Take One. From 2014-2018, he was Head of Music Education at Illinois Wesleyan University (Bloomington, IL), where he taught courses in the Music Education program, and also founded and directed the IWU vocal jazz ensembles - *Unlicensed Syncopation and Vocal Jazz Lab* - during his tenure there. He has also previously served as the Choral Director at Highland Park High School and Addison Trail High School.

Dahan has served as an adjudicator and clinician at various choral and vocal jazz festivals nationally and internationally. In 2017, he had the privilege of serving as the guest conductor for the Glenbrook Festival of Music. He presented a session at the 2019 Jazz Education Network conference (Reno, NV) about effective assessment for vocal jazz ensembles. In 2020, he directed the ILMEA All State Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and at the 2023 Illinois Music Education Conference, presented a session about vocal improvisation in different jazz styles. Most recently, he was an adjudicator at the 2022 Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships. He currently serves as the ILMEA District 7 Vocal Jazz Representative.

In addition to his teaching career, Dahan has also had the privilege of singing the National Anthem for the Miami Heat, and has sung as a background vocalist for notable performers such as George Benson, Gloria Estefan, Ben Folds, Raul Midón, and Steve Miller. He was also a member of the Grant Park Festival Chorus, and has performed with the Final Fantasy Distant Worlds Chorus. You may see him performing around the Chicago area with the American Caroling Company and the Lola Bard Holiday Carolers.