

IlluMen Premier Men's Professional Chorus

April 21, 2024 3:00 pm

ILLUMEN, Premier Men's Professional Chorus

IlluMen was founded in 2012 and originated by a handful of charter members who expressed the same dream... to have a professional men's chorus in Texas. While most large cities have professional symphonies, instrumental chamber ensembles, and mixed professional choruses, it's rare to have an all-professional choral group of men. IlluMen is composed of vocal coaches, choir teachers, opera singers, and other musical professions. IlluMen seeks men who display characteristics of spirituality, friendship, and a strong desire to advance music in education, service, and performance. IlluMen is dedicated to instilling in all people an awareness of music's important role in the enrichment of the human spirit.

GRANT LYONS (Artistic Director & baritone)

is currently working as a Choral Consultant in the Southwest ISD and is in his nineteenth year of choral directing. Currently, Grant also sings at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. He holds his Bachelor of Music in Education from the University of North Texas and Master of Arts in Choral Conducting & Pedagogy from the University of Iowa.

JORDAN D. BOYD (baritone)

is the Assistant Director of Choral Activities at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Jordan holds a Bachelor in vocal performance and music theory/composition from the College of Charleston, a Master of Music in choral conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts in choral conducting from the University of North Texas.

CHRISTIAN N. CRUZ (tenor 1),

a San Antonio native, Christian is a music educator, countertenor, and collaborative artist specializing in sacred liturgical music. Christian holds a Bachelor of Music in Choral Music Education from Sam Houston State University and a Master of Music in Choral Conducting from Texas State University. Christian is currently the Director of Choirs at Anne Frank Inspire Academy.

LEO GARCIA (tenor 2)

is currently celebrating his 20th year of teaching, and his 3rd year as Choir Director at Lehman High School. He earned both Bachelors and Masters of Music degrees from Baylor University. Leo is currently the choir director and cantor at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Seguin.

CARSON KOCH (bass 2)

Born and raised in Austin, Texas, Carson is a recent graduate of Trinity University where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Neuroscience with honors and a minor in Chemistry. While at Trinity, he took vocal lessons under Dr. Chia-Wei Lee, Dr. Mark Covey, and Dr. Jacquelyn Matava. With their help, Carson won the 2022 Rosalind Phillips Vocal Excellence Competition.

ALEXANDER MONTALVO (tenor 1)

is currently studying Vocal Performance at the University of the Incarnate Word and will be set to graduate this upcoming spring (2024). At just 27 years of age, Mr. Montalvo has performed solos at both Carnegie Hall (2018) and the famed Sydney Opera House (2019). He also works closely with Opera San Antonio as a part of their Opera chorus, and has been a part of OSA's Apprenticeship program for Young Artists for the last three summers (2021-2023).

STANLEY A. MOODY (bass 2),

currently in his eighteenth year directing choirs, holds the position of Head Choir Director at Veterans Memorial High School. Moody holds a Bachelors of Music with an emphasis in education from the University of Texas at San Antonio where he studied voice with Dr. Gary Mabry and Choral Conducting with Dr. John Silantien. In addition to conducting, Stan is a staff singer at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church.

VINCENT PENA (tenor 2)

is currently the choir director at Eisenhower Middle School in the NEISD. He studied at Del Mar Community College before transferring to Texas State University, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education.

OTONIEL RODRIGUEZ (baritone)

is pursuing a degree in Music Education and aspiring to become a Texas music educator. He is quite active in the music community, currently singing with the San Antonio Chamber Choir, Opera San Antonio, and IlluMen. He is currently the Choir Director at The Light of the World Church in Kirby, Texas - where he has been active in the music ministry for 10 years.

MICHAEL ZUNIGA (baritone), received his education from both Texas Tech University and the University of Texas at San Antonio. As a solo performer, he has sung with the San Antonio Chamber Choir, IlluMen, Texas Bach Choir, San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers, and Texas Mid-Symphony Orchestra. He has also performed with San Antonio Opera, Alamo City Opera, Alamo City Baroque Festival, the Austin Bach Festival, and Victoria Bach Festival. He also serves as a Bass staff singer/soloist at St. Mark's Episcopal Church as well as maintaining a music studio that he founded in 2005 called the Sinfonia Studio.