

2022 SD-ACDA Women's Junior Honor Choir Dr. Laura Diddle, Director



Dr. Laura Diddle is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at South Dakota State University (SDSU) where she conducts the Concert Choir, Madrigal Singers and Choralia (the Women's Choir). In addition to her conducting duties, Diddle is recognized as an accomplished voice teacher. Dr. Diddle also enjoys teaching vocal music education courses, and relies on her seven years of teaching public school in Indiana prior to arriving in South Dakota. Dr. Diddle received her Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance, and Master of Arts at the Indiana University School of Music and her Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Diddle began her career at SDSU in 2003 as Associate Director of Choral Activities after holding a similar position at Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN. After several years of success in the Associate position, Diddle was promoted to Director of Choral Activities in fall 2012. Under Dr. Diddle's direction, the select 70 voice Concert Choir has performed regionally and internationally. The Concert Choir tours regionally every year, and performs a fully staged Madrigal Dinner every other year. Under Diddle's direction the Concert Choir has performed in some of the most beautiful cathedrals in London, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Madrid, Barcelona, Rome, Florence, Venice and Assisi. Their next international tour will be in Sweden and Norway in 2023.

In addition to her work with the concert choir, Dr. Diddle also leads the 100-voice SDSU University Women's Ensemble Choralia. The ensemble toured Moscow and St. Petersburg Russia during 2012 and regularly performs in Women's Choir festivals across the region yearly. Her private voice students regularly compete and place highly in state and regional voice competitions. Many of her students chose to attend graduate school in voice performance in schools such as Indiana University, the University of Michigan, Baylor University the University of Missouri, Kansas City, and the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

In addition to her conducting duties at SDSU, Dr. Diddle is active as a guest conductor, adjudicator and clinician in the Midwestern and Southeastern United States. She was co-conductor of Midwest Ambassador's Tour to Western Europe for summers 2007-2019. She conducted of the North Dakota Junior Honor Choir in 2010. Dr. Diddle is sought after to present interest sessions in her areas of research which include Repertoire Selection Practices of Beginning Choral Music Educators, Curriculum Development, and Early Childhood Music Education.

Dr. Diddle lives in Brookings with her husband Brian Hildebrant and celebrates the successes of their four grown children who live in all corners of the United States.