



DIRECTOR OF CHORAL & VOCAL MUSIC

Joel C. Hill is currently serving in his second year as Director of Choral & Vocal Music at Holmes Community College, where he directs the *Concert Chorale* and *Coachmen Singers*. His other teaching duties include private and class voice lessons, *Fundamentals of Music*, and *Music for Elementary Teachers*.

A native of Grenada, Mississippi, Hill has served as Minister of Music at his home church, Central Baptist Church, since 1996. He has led worship music for special church service events in Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Missouri.

Prior to coming to Holmes, Hill taught for five years at the high school and junior high levels. Most recently, he served from 2003-2007 as Choral Director at Forest High School in Forest, Mississippi, where his choirs consistently received superior ratings and first-place awards at the district, state, and national levels. While at Forest, Hill directed musical theatre productions, madrigal dinners, and variety talent shows, and performed in local community theatre productions and community music events.

In 2004, Hill received special recognition by the Southern Division of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), as he was presented with the *Colleen Kirk Memorial Award*. This award is given annually to an outstanding young choral music educator who is chosen to represent the entire 11-state region of the Southern Division.

Hill is a 1999 graduate of Holmes Community College in Goodman, Mississippi. In 2002, he received the *Bachelor of Music* degree with an emphasis in Vocal Music Education from the University of Mississippi in Oxford. In 2006, he earned the *Master of Music* degree in Choral Conducting from Mississippi College in Clinton.

While at Ole Miss, Hill participated in concert tours of Russia, Finland, Austria, and Germany. During these tours, he helped the *Concert Singers* and *The Spirit of Ole Miss* vocal jazz ensemble to earn two gold medals at the inaugural *World Choral Olympiade* in Linz, Austria, in 2001.

Hill also was co-music director and charter member of the student-led, all-male, a cappella ensemble, *Blue Ten Harmony*. "*Blue Ten*" rapidly gained local and regional notoriety, performing across six states within their first year of inception, and were broadcast internationally when they sang our national anthem at the 2001 National League Baseball Championship Game in Atlanta.

Active in local, state, and national organizations, Hill is a member of the (ACDA) American Choral Directors Association, (MENC) Music Educators National Conference, (MMEA) Mississippi Music Educators Association, and (NFIMA) National Federation Interscholastic Music Association. He is frequently called upon to adjudicate school and church festivals, competitions, and auditions.

Hill resides in Goodman with his wife and three children.