

# BRANDON C. DI NOTO

## Conductor | Vocalist | Educator | Composer

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### Education

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- 2021 **M.M. Choral Music, University of Southern California Thornton School of Music**  
Concentrations: Composition, Conducting & Music Education  
Instructors:  
Composition: Neal Desby and Frank Ticheli  
Choral Conducting: Cristian Grases, Jo-Michael Scheibe, Tram Sparks and Nick Strimple  
Orchestral Conducting: Larry Livingston  
Voice: Mary Mattei Scheibe
- 2019 **B.A. Music, Point Loma Nazarene University**  
Concentrations: Composition, Conducting & Vocal Performance  
Instructors:  
Composition: Victor Labenske  
Choral Conducting: Daniel Jackson and Keith Pedersen  
Orchestral Conducting: Philip Tyler  
Vocal Coach: Melva Morrison  
Voice: John Craig Johnson, Amy Mein and Michael Sokol
- 2019 **B.A. Managerial & Organizational Communication, Point Loma Nazarene University**  
Concentrations: Marketing, Organizational Management
- Independent **Other Major Instructors**  
Composition: Z. Randall Stroope  
Choral Conducting: Michelle Jensen  
Choral/Orchestral Conducting: Jo Anne Wasserman  
Opera Conducting: Bruce Stasyna  
Voice: Isabel Bayrakdarian

### Professional Experience

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#### Academic Appointments

- 2022 – 2023 **Conductor & Instructor**, UCSB Singing Gauchos Choral Ensemble  
University of California Santa Barbara Department of Music, Santa Barbara, CA

## **Professional Experience – Continued**

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- 2022           **Assistant School Director**  
Bach to Rock: America's Music School, Encinitas, CA
- 2021           **K-12 Substitute Music Teacher**  
Maranatha Christian Schools, San Diego, CA
- 2019 – 2021   **Associate Conductor & Teaching Assistant**, USC Thornton University Chorus  
University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA
- 2017 – 2019   **Associate Conductor & Teaching Assistant**, Point Loma Nazarene University Orchestra  
Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA
- 2017 – 2019   **Associate Conductor & Teaching Assistant**, Point Loma Nazarene University Chorale  
Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA

## **Professional Appointments**

- 2023 – Present **Assistant to the Conductor**  
Santa Barbara Choral Society, Santa Barbara, CA
- 2022 – Present **Sing! Children's Choral Director**, Music Academy of the West  
Santa Barbara, CA
- 2022           **Assistant Conductor**, San Diego Opera  
San Diego, CA
- 2020 – 2022   **Founder & Artistic Director**, Pacific Harmonix  
San Diego, CA
- 2021 – 2022   **Executive Development & Production Assistant**, Bach Collegium San Diego  
San Diego, CA
- 2021 – 2022   **Director of Choral Music**, Oceanside First Presbyterian Church and Preschool  
Oceanside, CA

## **Other Relevant Employment History**

- 2019 – 2021   **Cover Conductor**, USC Thornton Chamber Singers  
University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 – 2019   **Realtor®**, Di Noto Properties Team  
Pacific Sotheby's International Realty, Rancho Santa Fe, CA
- 2010 – 2015   **Music & Theatre Instructor**  
Maranatha Christian Schools, San Diego, CA

## **Conducting Activities**

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### **Awards, Grants, Fellowships and Competitions**

- 2020 Participant, USC Thornton School of Music Mentorship Program, a program matching USC students with professionals in the same field, was mentored by Grant Gershon, USC Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 Recipient, Thornton School of Music Conducting Scholarship, USC Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA

### **Conducting: Regional**

- 2022 **“Divine Encounters”**; a two-concert production of Schubert’s *Mass in G Major* & Courtney’s *Divine Encounter* in a collaboration between Oceanside & Solana Beach Presbyterian Churches, served as Conductor and conducted the Schubert
- “Mozart, *Cosí fan tutte*, K. 588”**; a four-production run of Mozart’s opera, served as Assistant Conductor and conducted the offstage chorus

### **Conducting: Guest Clinics & Workshops**

- 2022 **University of San Diego Department of Music**  
Clinic with the USD Choral Scholars; workshopped *Steal Away* by Stacey V. Gibbs, *I Love You/What a Wonderful World* by Craig Hella-Johnson, and *My Heart Be Brave* by Marques L.A. Garrett
- 2021 **Oceanside Presbyterian Church**  
Clinic with the Oceanside Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, workshopped *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by Peter Lutkin and *O Clap Your Hands* by Kevin McChesney
- JSerra Catholic High School**  
Clinic with the JSerra Chorale, workshopped *The Star-Spangled Banner* arr. Smith & Clark
- 2018 **Solana Beach Presbyterian Church**  
Clinic & performance with the SBPC Chancel Choir, workshopped and conducted *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by John Rutter

### **Conducting: University of California: Santa Barbara**

- 2022 **“Choose Something Like a Star”**; a concert showcasing works related to the aforementioned, conducted works by Adam, J.S. Bach, Hairston, and others with the UCSB Singing Gauchos

## Conducting Activities – Continued

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### Conducting: Pacific Harmonix

- 2021            **“Canticles & Carols on the Coast: A Holiday Choral Spectacular”**; a concert showcasing works related to the aforementioned title, conducted works by Britten, Hairston, Lauridsen, Smith-Moore, Walton, Wieck-Schumann, and others
- “Sing the Earth to Sleep: Songs of Morning, Elements & Evening”**; a concert showcasing works related to the aforementioned title and two world premieres, conducted works by Boulanger, Gibbs, Hailstork, Lauridsen, Rheinberger, Thompson, and others
- “Peace, Love & Joy Everlasting”**; a concert showcasing works related to the aforementioned title and two world premieres, conducted works by Lauridsen, Liszt, Mozart, and Wieck-Schumann
- 2020            **“Quarantunes”**; a concert showcasing works related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, conducted works by Barber, Hairston, Lauridsen, Rachmaninoff, Reger, Rheinberger, and Walton

### Conducting: University of Southern California

- 2021            **“Virtual Spring Choral Festival”**; a concert showcasing the work of the USC Thornton School of Music Choral Ensembles, conducted *Under the Willow Tree* from *Vanessa*, Op. 32 by Barber with select members of the USC Thornton Chamber Singers
- 2020            **“Joint Conducting Recital”**; a concert showcasing the work of first year graduate students, conducted the third movement of *Chichester Psalms* by Bernstein and *Rorando coeli* by Vodnansky

### Conducting: Point Loma Nazarene University

- 2019            **“All About Felix”**; a concert of works composed or inspired by Felix Mendelssohn, conducted *Symphony No. 2 in Bb Major “Lobgesang”*
- 2018            **“Handel’s Messiah”**; a performance of Handel’s masterpiece, prepared the university Chamber Orchestra for the performance
- “Idyll”**; a performance of Classical & Romantic era orchestral and concerti music, rehearsed Beethoven’s *Piano Concerto No. 4 in G Major*, Janacek’s *Idyll*, Mozart’s *Andante in C for Flute and Orchestra* and Saint-Saëns’ *Piano Concerto No. 2 in G Minor*
- “Scheherazade”**; a performance of orchestral pieces concluding with Rimsky-Korsakov’s masterpiece, conducted the Tchaikovsky *Serenade for Strings*
- 2017            **“Schubert’s Mass in G and Robert Ray’s Gospel Mass”**; a performance of the Schubert and Ray masses, prepared the university Chamber Orchestra for the performance

## Conducting Activities – Continued

### **Conducting: Point Loma Nazarene University – Continued**

“**Handel’s *Messiah***”; a performance of Handel’s masterpiece, prepared the university Chamber Orchestra for the performance

“**Viva Vivaldi**”; a performance of Vivaldi’s orchestral music, conducted the *Violin Concerto in A Minor* and the *Double Violin Concerto in A Minor*

**\* A complete list of conducting repertoire is available upon request**

### **Masterclasses Attended**

2020        **Grant Gershon**, Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, participated in a Masterclass and conducted *Arbolucu, te sequeste* by Chávez, Los Angeles, CA

2019        **Jerry Blackstone**, Choral Conductor and Lecturer, participated in a Masterclass and conducted *The Dark Eyed Sailor* by Vaughan Williams, Los Angeles, CA

**Rodney Eichenberger**, Choral Conductor and Lecturer, participated in a Masterclass and conducted *Barechu* by Rossi, Los Angeles, CA

**Jo-Michael Scheibe**, Choral Conductor and Professor in the Department of Choral & Sacred Music at the USC Thornton School of Music, participated in a Masterclass and conducted *The Coolin* by Barber, Los Angeles, CA

## Voice Activities

### **Awards, Grants, Fellowships and Competitions: Voice**

2018        **Recipient**, Chester C. and Alice E. Crill Endowed Vocal Scholarship, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA

**Recipient**, Keith and Betty Pagan Endowed Scholarship for Outstanding Music Student of the Year, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA

2015 – 2019    **Recipient**, Department of Music Voice Scholarship, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA

### **Selected Choral Experience**

2022 – Present    **Santa Barbara Choral Society**, sung Tenor II and acted as section leader under Jo Anne Wasserman  
                          Santa Barbara, CA

## Voice Activities – Continued

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### Selected Choral Experience – Continued

- 2022 – Present **Sterling Ensemble**, sung Baritone under Michelle Jensen  
Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 – Present **Sacra/Profana**, sung Tenor & Bass under Juan Carlos Acosta, Aaron Burgett & Krishan Oberoi  
San Diego, CA
- 2021 **High Holy Days Choir**, sung Tenor and acted as section leader under Myles Mayfield & Cantor William Tiep  
Temple Solel, Encinitas, CA
- Chancel Choir**, sung Tenor and acted as section leader under Dr. Keith Pedersen  
La Jolla Presbyterian Church, La Jolla, CA
- 2019 – 2021 **Chamber Singers**, sung Tenor II & Bass I under Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe  
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 – 2019 **Choral Union**, sung Tenor and acted as section leader under Dr. Keith Pedersen  
Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA
- 2015 – 2019 **Concert Choir**, sung Tenor I and acted as section leader under Dr. Daniel Jackson  
Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA
- 2017 **Bach Collegium San Diego**, sung Tenor under Dr. Ruben Valenzuela  
Bach Collegium San Diego, San Diego, CA

### Vocal Performances – Regional

- 2022 **Point Loma Nazarene University**, hired as a Tenor soloist in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*
- San Diego Comic-Con 2022**, selected as one of sixteen singers to sing for the preview of *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* Amazon Prime TV Show with series composer Bear McCreary
- 2021 **Point Loma Nazarene University**, hired as a Tenor soloist in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*
- 2019 **Point Loma Nazarene University**, hired as a Tenor soloist in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*
- University of Southern California Thornton School of Music**, selected as the Tenor soloist in a performance of Pachelbel's *Nun Danket alle Gott*

## Voice Activities – Continued

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### Vocal Performances – Regional – Continued

- 2019      **Point Loma Nazarene University**, selected as the Tenor soloist in a performance of J.S. Bach's *Actus Tragicus* and Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*
- Senior Voice Recital**, gave a 60-minute solo voice recital including works by Bernstein, Mendelssohn, Poulenc, Vaughan Williams, and others.
- Bernstein Centennial Concert**, selected as the Tenor soloist in an all Bernstein concert including selections from *Candide*, *Chichester Psalms*, *Mass*, *Trouble in Tahiti* & *West Side Story*
- 2018      **Point Loma Nazarene University**, selected as the Tenor soloist in a performance of Schubert's *Mass in G Major*
- Point Loma Nazarene University**, selected as a Tenor and Bass soloist in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*
- Junior Voice Recital**, gave a 30-minute solo voice recital including works by Bach, Donizetti, Handel, Mozart and others
- 2017      **Bach Collegium San Diego**, selected as one of four Tenors in a performance of Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*
- 2016      **Point Loma Nazarene University**, selected as the Tenor soloist in a performance of Handel's *Messiah*

\* A complete list of voice repertoire is available upon request

### Masterclasses Attended

- 2019      **Ginger Costa-Jackson**, Opera Singer, participated in a Masterclass and sung *A Simple Song* by Bernstein, San Diego, CA
- 2018      **Dominic Chenes**, Opera Singer, participated in a Masterclass and sung *Die Forelle* by Schubert, San Diego, CA

### Recordings

- 2021      **Gregorian Meditations: Choral Works of Forgotten French Masters Desenclos and Langlais**, USC Thornton Chamber Singers, Jo-Michael Scheibe, director, sung Tenor II

## Composition Activities

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### Masterclasses Attended

2020            **Stephen Hartke**, Chair of the Composition Department at Oberlin Conservatory, participated in a Masterclass and presented *Violin Concerto in Bb Major*, Los Angeles, CA

\* A complete list of original compositions is available upon request

## Research Activity

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### Invited Presentations

- 2021            **“Irish Influences on Samuel Barber’s *Reincarnations*, Op. 16”**  
University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA – April 26
- 2020            **“Looking Back: A Fresh Perspective on Three Standard and Four Overlooked Choral Works – Lecture Recital”**  
University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA – October 23
- “The Choral Music of African American Composers”**  
University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA – October 7
- “The Choral Music of Sergei Prokofiev”**  
University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA – April 23
- 2019            **“The Choral Music of Heinrich Schütz”**  
University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, Los Angeles, CA – December 5

### Publications: Writings

- 2021            Dillane, Aileen; O’Malley, Michael; Neely, Daniel; and Spencer, Scott (eds). **“Captain Francis O’Neill Crowdsourcing Project.”** Paragraphs on Sgt. James Early by Brandon C. Di Noto. Irish Traditional Music Archive.

### Selected Original Research

- 2021            **“Irish Influences on Samuel Barber’s *Reincarnations*, Op. 16”**
- 2020            **“The Choral Music of Alberto Ginastera”**
- 2019            **“An Annotated Guide to R. Vaughan Williams’ *Songs of Travel*, Movements II – IV”**  
  
**“The Importance and Significance of Handel’s English Oratorios”**



## **Research Activity – Continued**

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### **Selected Original Research – Continued**

2016            “The Similarities of Gluck’s *Alceste* and Handel’s *Admeto*, Two Operas on the Same Libretto”

## **Teaching**

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### **Elementary School Courses**

Band (Choir Levels)  
Band (All Levels)

### **Middle School Courses**

Band (All Levels)  
Choir (All Levels)  
Jazz Band  
Theatre

### **High School Courses**

Band (All Levels)  
Choir (All Levels)  
Jazz Band  
Musical Theatre Production  
Music Appreciation  
Music Theory  
Orchestra (All Levels)  
Private Composition  
Private Voice  
Theatre

### **Collegiate Courses**

Beginning Conducting  
Choir (All Levels)  
Choral Arranging  
Choral Conducting (All Levels)  
Choral Literature (Medieval Era to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)  
Choral Methods & Pedagogy  
Instrumental Conducting (All Levels)  
Introduction to Music  
Music Administration & Materials  
Music History (Medieval Era to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)

## Collegiate Courses – Continued

Music Theory (All Levels)  
Orchestra (All Levels)  
Orchestration  
Private Choral Conducting  
Private Composition  
Private Instrumental Conducting  
Private Voice  
Vocal Pedagogy  
Vocology  
World Music (General & Choral)

\* **Concert Recordings, Lecture Recordings, and Syllabi available upon request**

## Courses Taught at Maranatha Christian Schools

Beginning Band (Elementary School Level)  
Concert Band (Middle & High School Levels)  
Choir (Middle & High School Levels)  
Jazz Band (Middle & High School Levels)  
Theatre (K-12 Levels)

## Courses Taught at University of California, Santa Barbara

Lumina SSAA Choral Ensemble (Undergraduate & Graduate Levels)  
Singing Gauchos TTBB Choral Ensemble (Undergraduate & Graduate Levels)

## Service

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### Service to Maranatha Christian Schools

2021 – 2022 **Committee Member**, Musical Audition Committee, responsible for auditioning and aiding in casting and admission for the elementary, middle and high school music ensembles and musical theatre productions

### Service to Point Loma Nazarene University

2022 – Present **Graduate Thesis Committee Member**, PLNU School of Education, responsible for advising music education graduate students on their final research project/thesis

2017 – 2019 **Committee Member**, The Vice Provost's Committee for Major Exploration, responsible for advising university leaders on how to help undergraduates choose a major

## **Service – Continued**

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### **Service to the USC Thornton School of Music**

2020 – 2021 **Committee Member**, Department of Choral & Sacred Music Graduate Student Audition Committee, responsible for advising the Choral & Sacred Music faculty on what to look for in the incoming graduate student auditions

### **Service to the San Diego Community**

2010 – Present **Worship Leader**, The Church at Rancho Bernardo, Horizon Christian Fellowship, La Jolla Presbyterian Church, Oceanside First Presbyterian Church, Solana Beach Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church, responsible for leading congregations in song during weekly worship services

### **Service to the Santa Barbara Community**

2023 – Present **Guest Worship Leader & Singer**, Coast Community Church of the Nazarene and San Roque Catholic Church, responsible for leading congregations in song during weekly worship services

## **Professional Affiliations**

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### **Organizations**

American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)  
Chorus America  
College Music Society (CMS)

## **References**

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### **Dr. Daniel Jackson, Department of Music, Point Loma Nazarene University**

**Email:** [DanielJackson@pointloma.edu](mailto:DanielJackson@pointloma.edu)

**Phone:** (619) 733-7275

**Position:** Professor & Music Department Chair

**Relationship:** Mentor; Former Academic Advisor, Choir Director & Professor

### **Professor Michelle Jensen, School of Music, Azusa Pacific University**

**Email:** [mjensen@apu.edu](mailto:mjensen@apu.edu)

**Phone:** (626) 833-9050

**Position:** Associate Professor & Director of Graduate Choral Studies

**Relationship:** Mentor; Sterling Ensemble Los Angeles Choir Director

## References – Continued

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**Dr. Nicole C. Lamartine, Department of Music, Central Washington University**

**Email:** [nlamartine@gmail.com](mailto:nlamartine@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (307) 399-0042

**Position:** Director of Choral Activities

**Relationship:** Mentor

**Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe, Department of Choral & Sacred Music, USC Thornton School of Music**

**Email:** [jscheibe@usc.edu](mailto:jscheibe@usc.edu)

**Phone:** (562) 637-3381

**Position:** Emeritus Professor of Practice

**Relationship:** Mentor; Former Choir Director & Professor

**Dr. Tram Sparks, Department of Choral & Sacred Music, USC Thornton School of Music**

**Email:** [tram.sparks@usc.edu](mailto:tram.sparks@usc.edu)

**Phone:** (310) 614-1580

**Position:** Chair of the Department of Choral & Sacred Music

**Relationship:** Mentor; Former Professor & Thesis Advisor

**Dr. Ruben Valenzuela, Bach Collegium San Diego**

**Email:** [rv.hypodorian@gmail.com](mailto:rv.hypodorian@gmail.com)

**Phone:** (760) 715-7956

**Position:** Founder & Artistic Director

**Relationship:** Mentor