

Therees Tkach Hibbard is Associate Professor of Music at St. Olaf College where she teaches choral conducting, choral literature, voice and serves as the director of the Manitou Singers and St. Olaf Chamber Singers. She holds a bachelor of music honors degree in vocal music education with a minor in dance from Longwood University, Virginia; a master of music degree in voice and choral conducting from Colorado State University; and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral conducting and vocal music education from the University of Oregon School of Music. She trained as a singer and modern dancer, in college and professionally, and first combined her love of music and dance as a performer in music theatre and opera. She has conducted all levels of choirs, and directed musical theatre and dance ensembles ranging from young children to professionals; and has served as adjudicator, workshop leader, choreographer, and guest conductor for numerous choral and dance organizations throughout Great Britain, Western Europe and North America; as well as Greece, Hong Kong and Muscat, Oman.

Dr. Hibbard worked from 1994-2005 as a choral conductor, movement specialist, singing tutor and senior lecturer at several United Kingdom colleges and universities in the London area including the London College of Music [developing a movement course for singers as part of the performance curriculum], the Royal College of Music Junior Department, and Roehampton University where she served as Programme Convener for the M.A. in choral music education, establishing the first BBC Singers Conducting Master Class Residency program. She has also served as a tutor for the Choral Conductors Training Course for the Association of British Choral Directors that she helped develop and implement throughout the United Kingdom. Dr. Hibbard was the artistic director of the Choir and Chamber Choir of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine in London; both non-audition ensembles made up of students, faculty, staff, and alumni who presented three major choral/orchestral concerts each year. Highlight performances have included the Bach “St. John Passion” and *B Minor Mass*, *Requiems* of Brahms, Mozart, and Verdi, Elgar’s “The Dream of Gerontius,” Rachmaninoff’s *Vespers*, and Fanshawe’s *African Sanctus*, as well as premiering a variety of new compositions and chamber works during her eight years of tenure with the choirs.

Her work as a movement specialist in the training of choral singers has created unique opportunities for her to work with singers, dancers, and conductors from around the world. Her research on enhancing choral performance through movement training has led to the development of a comprehensive choral education philosophy, “BodySinging”; most clearly demonstrated through her work with a broad range of vocal ensembles including the Oregon Bach Festival’s Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy, The St. Olaf choirs, The Animato Chamber Choir of Lesvos, Greece, The American Boychoir, and the Los Angeles Children’s Choirs. In addition to her work as a conductor, she has also performed professionally throughout her career as singer, dancer, and professional chorus member in London and the United States. She has sung for composers and conductors such as Aaron Copland, Helmuth Rilling, Mstislav Rostropovich, and Sir David Willcocks; and has had the opportunity to premiere works by Arvo Pärt, Krystof Penderecki, Sven-David Sandström, Richard Danielpour and a vocal chamber piece by Shostakovich conducted by Rostropovich in Carnegie Hall. She has been a member of the Oregon Bach Festival Berwick Chorus for many years, and while under the direction of Helmuth Rilling, were recipients of the Grammy award in 2000 for their performance of *CREDO* by Penderecki. Prior to her

appointment to the St. Olaf faculty, she served for ten years as Associate Director of Choral Activities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.