



La Habra High School

HiARTS Biography – David V. Montoya – Music

David V. Montoya (b. 1968) received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from California State University, Los Angeles (1992), and a Master of Music degree from the University of Nevada, Reno (1998). He has taught in the Southern California public school system for 29 years, teaching both junior high and senior high school music. He is the director and founder of the one and only La Habra High School Ukulele Ensemble. This ensemble has appeared in newspapers and on television, was a featured performance group at the 9th annual Southern California Ukulele Festival, and played on stage with Bill Tapia and Janet Klein. In the 2009-2010 school year Montoya was named LHHS Teacher-of-the-Year. In November 2017, he was inducted into the Youth-on-theMove International Educator's Hall of Fame in a ceremony where his students sang.

As a composer Montoya's music, including African Processional: "Jambo rafiki yangu," has been performed throughout the world by high schools, colleges, churches, and such prestigious groups as the Choral Arts Initiative, the United States Air Force Singing Sergeants, El Café Chorale (Costa Rica), the Kansas City Chorale, Louisiana State University A Cappella Choir, the Philippine Chamber Singers, and the Grammy Award-winning Phoenix Chorale. His compositions range from a cappella and accompanied choral music (from the silly to the sacred) to works for solo voice, guitar, piano, harp, brass, ukulele, and even harmonica.

Montoya has spent his career making music in various churches around Southern California as a conductor, composer, tenor soloist and cantor. As a choral musician, he has performed with such fine

organizations as the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Pacific Chorale, the Singers of the Chapel of Charlemagne (an all-Gregorian Chant choir) and he has sung under the baton of such great conductors as John Alexander, Carl St. Clair, John Mauceri, Bobby McFerrin, Seiji Ozawa, Paul Salamunovich, and Roger Wagner. He was once invited to prepare a group of his LHHS students to sing with Grammy Award-winning chanteuse, Rickie Lee Jones. Montoya currently serves as the Repertoire and Resources Chair for Choral Composition on the California Choral Directors Association (CCDA) board. In this capacity, Mr. Montoya is the first editor of the newly introduced CCDA Choral Series on Pavane Publishing, giving voice to new choral works generated by CCDA and its composers. He also founded and administrates the CCDA/George Heussenstamm Composition Competition at ECCO which has been running since 2016. Montoya is a member of the Southern California Vocal Association (SCVA), the California Teachers Association (CTA), the California Music Educators Association (CMEA), and the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP). In his work with various professional organizations, he has been a workshop presenter for the national conference of Advanced Placement teachers, California ACDA summer conference at ECCO, and the California Ukulele Festival.

Montoya lives with his wife Patricia, his three sons, David Thomas, Joseph, Matthew and the family canine Dusty. Montoya studies composition with his dear friend and teacher, noted author/composer, William Allaudin Mathieu. He is also a student and friend of composer/author George Heussenstamm and is the caretaker of the entire collection of Heussenstamm scores and recordings. Montoya studied jazz ukulele with the late, great, acclaimed uke master Bill "Tappy" Tapia, who passed away in December of 2012, just one month shy of his 104th birthday.