

Chapter 6 – Ensemble Model Cornerstone Assessment (co-author)



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Dr. Al Holcomb is department chair and associate professor of music education at Westminster Choir College of Rider University. He guided the development and piloting of the Ensemble MCAs focused on application in choral ensemble classes. Dr. Holcomb regularly presents at national and international conferences on the topics of music assessment, music teacher mentoring and professional development, choral music education, adolescent vocal development, and aural skill development. His articles, papers, and book chapters appear in the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, *The Oxford Handbook of Assessment Policy and Practice in Music Education*, symposia proceedings from *International Symposia for Assessment in Music Education*, and publications by the National Association for Music Education.

As a Scholar in Residence at the Connecticut State Department of Education, Dr. Holcomb was a leader in development of standards and portfolio assessment for beginning music teachers. As co-chair of the Florida Music Assessment Project, he led the development of statewide written tests for music students in grades 8 and 12. Dr. Holcomb served as the choral ensemble research adviser for the development of the 2014 National Core Music Standards and Model Cornerstone Assessments for ensembles. He received his bachelor of music education degree from Texas Christian University and graduate degrees in music education from The Hartt School, University of Hartford.

In addition to teaching middle and high choral music in Texas and Connecticut, he has conducted various choirs at the Hartt School, University of Central Florida, Singing Boys of Houston, Connecticut Children's Chorus and honor choirs around the country.