

Dr. Phyllis W. Anderson

Augusta Chorale Music Director

Dr. Phyllis W. Anderson, 2007 - present

A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Dr. Phyllis Anderson first stepped on the red clay of Georgia in 1978. While completing her master's degree at Ohio State University, she was asked to apply for the position as choir director of Paine College. During the interview with the then president, Dr. Julius S. Scott, Jr., she felt an instant connection with the college. In her words, "I came. I fell in love (with Paine College). I stayed." Dr. Anderson was choir director at Paine College for 13 years and produced acclaimed performances including Vivaldi's Gloria; Mozart's Regina Coeli, and Handel's Messiah. A master teacher, she was gifted to teach students new to the classics. Within a few months, her students were performing Bach and Beethoven with poise and confidence. Her standard of choral excellence is evident in the choir's 1984 live recording of Handel's Messiah. After working with the Paine Choir, Dr. Anderson headed for her next great challenge – motherhood and teaching little children. The warm, caring staff at Grovetown Elementary School was just the place for the former professor and new mother. The staff embraced her and she learned from them. It was at Grovetown Elementary that Dr. Anderson's 2-year old son began taking Suzuki violin from a Grovetown parent.

Dr. Anderson is now music specialist at Euchee Creek Elementary where she offers exemplary music instruction for ages 4 to 11. Dr. Anderson was voted "Teacher of the Year" at Euchee Creek Elementary and during her tenure at Paine College. One of her visions became a reality when the Augusta Ballet allowed the students at her school to see the Nutcracker Ballet from 1992 to 1994.

It was she who inspired the ballet to launch its New Visions Dance Education Program which brings thousands of children to the ballet each year. Dr. Anderson has earned three degrees: B. S. Norfolk State University; M. A., Ohio State University; and the D. M. A., University of Georgia. She is a member of Friendly Church of God in Christ and serves as music consultant and director of the Children's Choir at Good Hope Baptist Church. She is a member of Music Educators National Conference, American Chapter of the Links, Inc., Delta Kappa Gamma Society, and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators. She is married to Walter Anderson, Supervisor, Augusta Service Company; their son, Joseph, is student at Augusta Technical College. Dr. Anderson returned to the podium as the artistic director of the Chorale in August 2007. She has implemented Three Initiatives: #1– Moving From Good to Great; #2 – Getting the Word Out! and #3 – Attracting Singers Who Want More! Through the Into the Community Initiative, the Chorale makes annual visits to local churches, nursing homes, museums, and schools. During her first year, the pre-concert workshop was a hit! Approximately 50 children attended the workshop and waved American flags as we saluted veterans during our program. Dr. Anderson is excited about being back on the podium and is looking forward to making more beautiful music with the Augusta Chorale.