

Rebecca Raber was born in 1971, and grew up on the Lovcik Family Farm in Pisek, North Dakota. In 1994 she graduated Summa Cum Laude with Departmental Honors from Jamestown College, where she studied with Dr. Richard Harrison Smith, and earned degrees in Vocal/Instrumental Music Education, History/Political Science and Asian Studies. She was awarded College Fellow Awards in both Music and History. She has been a dedicated vocal and instrumental music educator since that time. Ms. Raber's choir was designated the 2005 ND Governor's Choir, and she was recently named "Outstanding Music Educator" through the National High School Activities Association.

Ms. Raber graduated from the University of North Dakota with a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting, studying with Dr. James Rodde and Dr. Susan McMane. Ms. Raber then served on the UND faculty as conductor of their popular men's choir, the Varsity Bards, until 2005. She served as the director of the ND Girls State Chorus for nine years, and in 2007, she conducted the Northern Ambassadors of Music Mixed Chorus which toured in England, France, Italy, Germany and Switzerland. Ms. Raber directed choral ensembles at Shanley High School for 14 years, growing the program into two large mixed choirs and traveling on performance tours throughout the United States.

A mezzo-soprano, she has been a featured soloist in Mozart's Requiem as well as several shorter choral works. Ms. Raber maintains a private voice studio and is an active adjudicator and guest clinician. She was the 2015 MTNA Commissioned Composer and premiered her newest work, "Jesu dulcis memoria" last June at the University of North Dakota. Ms. Raber is very active in the American Choral Director's Association, previously having served as State President, ND Repertoire & Standards Chair for Male Choirs, and Membership Chair. She has presided and presented at state and regional ACDA conferences, in addition to organizing and facilitating them. She is a webmaster for the NDACDA website and has also served as editor/publisher of the NDACDA professional journal, *The Chorister*.

Ms. Raber is currently in the Choral Conducting DMA program at North Dakota State University and studies with Dr. Jo Ann Miller, Dr. Michael Weber and Dr. Charlette Moe. The subject of her research is African American Spirituals, with a special interest in Gullah Geechee Musical Culture and "escape/signal songs."

Rebecca is currently Assistant Professor of Music and Catholic Studies, and Directs the Chapel Choir at the University of Mary in Bismarck.