

CITATION OF
Joshua Rohde
FOR THE
**Romeo L. Moruzzi Young Faculty Award
for Innovation in Undergraduate Education**

WPI is pleased to present the 2021 Romeo Moruzzi Young Faculty Award to Professor Joshua Rohde of the Humanities and Arts Department, for his work on transforming and improving choral studies through his innovative programming and teaching. Joshua uses music as an important educational device to broaden students' worldview and encourage their personal engagement with important social issues.

From singing Japanese lullabies, Muslim greetings, and Baltic folk songs, to singing works in Hebrew, Joshua integrates music with thematic material that addresses critical social issues such as homelessness, refugee crises, gender equality, and racial violence. In the performance titled "Music Composed by Women, Performed by Women," the Women's Alden Voices sang music featuring female composers and female artists. The performance addressed the gender discrepancy seen throughout the music world and at WPI. A faculty member recalled that watching the performances of at least one hundred of WPI's talented female undergraduates was educational, inspirational, beautiful, and fun. When the Men's Glee Club performed the piece "The Seven Last Words of the Unarmed," it highlighted the last statements of seven men of color who were unarmed yet killed by law enforcement. By discussing the stories and dreams of these men with his students, Joshua helped students discover the profound similarities they shared with these young men. Thus, creating a relatable and meaningful connection for his students that through performing the music, they were able to amplify those lost voices. As one audience member remarked after attending this concert: "It was breathtaking to see WPI's chorus performing this shattering music beautifully."

As Director of Choral Activities, Joshua humanizes music in an impactful way. During the choir's tour in Berlin and Prague, he arranged for students to visit Terezin concentration camp to help them understand the impact and history of a particular piece they were going to perform. One student reflected, "I was incredibly moved to be conducting and portraying to the audience something so powerful."

For developing a progressive music curriculum and his contributions in creating change for his students, the department, the music program, and the university, we are proud to present the 2021 Romeo L. Moruzzi Young Faculty Award for Innovation in Undergraduate Education to Professor Joshua Rohde.

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
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