

*“Hold on to the love you form for your passions in this time because it will fuel you in the years ahead when it is not always fun or easy.”*

Maddie Brown, LCHS Class of 2013



Maddie at her Cal State-Fullerton graduation

Teachers have an impact and Maddie Brown knows it. At the top of her list is LCHS’s Choral Director. “Dr. Brookey has been a fantastic supporter of me and I know that I can always go to him, which speaks a lot of his character. He is a fantastic teacher.” Maddie performed in Chamber Singers her junior and senior years and believes high school choir was “the best thing she ever participated in.”

After graduating from LCHS in 2013, Maddie enrolled in the School of Music at Cal State-Fullerton. She wasn’t sure what exactly she wanted to do, but knew she wanted to study all areas of music. Maddie admits to being both surprised and humbled by not immediately landing in Fullerton’s highest choir group as a freshman. She worked hard, developed her skills, and was later selected as a member of The University Singers, a nationally recognized premier collegiate choral ensemble. Acclaimed for their exquisite musicianship, The University Singers were invited to perform in Russia, France, and Spain as well as with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl.

Eventually, Maddie chose to major in Music Education, which required a big commitment and an adjustment. It took time for her to accept to the idea of “navigating music now academically and as a job, rather than just for the joy of it.” It also required a rigorous class load. Maddie had to take 19+ credit hours each semester. Her classes included music theory, history, performance, music education, performance ensemble, piano and more. She also continued singing. Maddie worked as a church singer in addition to performing with The University Singers each year. She says it was an ongoing challenge to balance work and academics while keeping her raw passion for music alive. She did it.

After graduating from college in 2018, Maddie set her sights on earning her teaching credential, which she earned in one year. She is now the music teacher at two elementary schools in Garden Grove School District, teaching music to 1200 students a week. Grateful for her intensive education at CSUF and their 100% placement rate for music majors, Maddie is now employed doing what she loves, teaching music, just like the choral director who inspired her. When asked what advice she has for current high school choral students, she took her time before answering. “Know that this stage of life is a very special time. Take note and remember it.”



(L-R) Maddie at Melk Abbey in Austria with Ana Giancola and Julia Tam in 2013.