**Justine Koontz, Biography:**

Seventh generation Marylander Justine Koontz is a composer, conductor and scholar whose compositions and  arrangements focus on choir and chamber music that is accessible yet explores a variety of diatonic idioms.

Justine’s compositions have been recognized at the international level, including performances  at the 2010 International Festival of Women Composers (Indiana, PA) and the 2012 World Choir Games  (Cincinnati, OH.) As a conductor, Justine is an advocate for new music; she premiered “Somewhere in Europe” for voice and chamber orchestra by Butler composer Harriet Steinke, and, as a conducting fellow at the Oregon Bach Festival Composers’ Symposium in 2016, premiered works by fellow participants. She recently completed an M.M. in choral conducting and composition at Butler University in  Indianapolis where she studied with conductors Dr. Eric Stark, Dr. John Perkins and Henry Leck, and  composers Dr. Frank Felice and Dr. James Aikman. Additionally, she has also worked as a church musician; guest conducted her choral works with local ensembles; and taught a wide range of subjects, including piano and guitar. Curious about many facets of music, she recently completed a year of study on a Fulbright scholarship in Rīga, Latvia during the 2016-2017 academic year, where she researched the choral culture of the Baltic region.

Justine is an active member of ASCAP and the American Choral Directors Association, and was awarded membership to both Phi Beta Kappa (the National Liberal Arts Society) and Pi Kappa Lambda (National Music Honors Society.) Her compositions are  self-published through her company Wild Garden Music.