

Amelia LeClair received her Bachelor's in Music Theory and Composition from UMass Boston in 1975. Having noticed throughout her education the dearth of female composers in the historical canon, she lost faith in her own ability to compose and moved on to raising a family and owning a business.

Luckily for her, and all of us, curious and unencumbered musical scholars in the 70's were busy unearthing the works of female composers which had for too long moldered in libraries: Robert Kendrick, Craig Monson, Candace Smith, Judith Tick, Jane Bernstein, and so many more. At long last the Norton Grove Dictionary of Women Composers appeared on university shelves. The work of these scholars became the impetus for the ensemble that would perform the music they discovered. In 2001 she entered the masters program at New England Conservatory, studying with Simon Carrington in choral conducting. She made her conducting debut in Jordan Hall in March of 2002.

Shortly after gaining her masters, she founded Cappella Clausura, an ensemble of voices and period instruments specializing in music written by women from the 8th century to the present day. She has presented and premiered the music of Hilary Tann, Patricia Van Ness, Abbie Betinis, Emma Lou Diemer, and many more. Now in its seventh year, Cappella Clausura has to date received annual local cultural council grants from the city of Newton, 3 grants from Choral Arts New England, and a grant from the PatsyLu fund of Open Meadows Foundation.

Ms. LeClair greatly enjoys the discovery and presentation to the public of music not in the standard repertoire, such as women's early music and works that expand on Euro-centric strictures. Ms. LeClair directs Vermilion in Newton, and the choirs at the Church of St Andrew in Marblehead. She formerly directed Coro Stella Maris, a renaissance a cappella choir in Gloucester, Schola Nocturna, a compline choir at the Episcopal Parish of the Messiah in Newton, and children's choirs for First Unitarian Society in Newton and Revels. She lives in Newton with her husband. Her two children live in Shanghai, China and Brooklyn, New York City.