



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINDY CITY PERFORMING ARTS
Center on Halsted
3656 North Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60613
773.661.0928

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**WINDY CITY PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES THE SELECTION OF
DR. WILLIAM SOUTHERLAND AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

CHICAGO - Windy City Performing Arts (WCPA), Chicago's premier LGBTQ+ choral arts organization, is proud to announce the selection and appointment of Dr. William Southerland as the artistic Director of Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire.

Southerland joins WCPA following a seven-year run as artistic director of Triad Performing Arts in Greensboro, N.C., where he directed roughly 80 volunteer singers across the organization's three ensembles: Triad Pride Women's Chorus, Triad Pride Men's Chorus, and the small ensemble, Counterpoint.

He holds a bachelor's degree in music from Florida State University, a master's degree in choral conducting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC Greensboro), and is currently completing his doctorate in music education at UNC Greensboro, where he will present his dissertation, *Factors of Motivation to Participation in LGBTQ-Identified Chorus*.

Southerland's background includes certifications, among others, in professional music training and service capacities, conducting and performing roles, and teaching and advising positions across the southern U.S. He currently serves on the Gay and Lesbian Association (GALA) of Choruses Open Table task force and is a community engagement adviser for GALA Choruses, positions he has held since 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Beyond his exciting work at the podium, Southerland is the author of numerous published and peer-reviewed articles, and a regular host of workshops and clinics. He maintains active membership in the National Association of Music Educators, the North Carolina Music Educators Association, GALA Choruses and the American Choral Directors' Association.

Southerland assumes the role of WCPA's artistic director on Saturday, Aug. 1, as the organization kicks-off its 41st year of reaching hearts and minds through the performance of outstanding choral singing. WCPA tentatively expects to return to performing under Southerland's direction in Spring 2021. Please continue to visit us at windycitysings.org for updates on auditions, concerts and events.

Windy City Performing Arts (WCPA) was incorporated in 1983 as the independent not-for-profit umbrella organization for Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire. Windy City Performing Arts sings to inspire change, celebrate diversity, and honor the dignity of the LGBTQ+ community.