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CHANGE IN ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP FOR THE WINDY CITY GAY CHORUS AND WINDY CITY TREBLE QUIRE

CHICAGO - The Board of Directors of Windy City Performing Arts, the umbrella organization for the Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire, have made the decision to part ways with Dr. William Southerland who served as the organization's Artistic Director from July 2020 - July 2022. The organization thanks Dr. Southerland for his contributions and talents over the last two seasons of concerts and events.

The Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire plan to move forward with a 2022-2023 season of concerts happening in and around the Chicagoland area. The Board of Directors, staff and chorus members are in conversation about interim plans regarding the upcoming season.

At this time, formal plans for an artistic director search have not been announced, but the Board of Directors will be advised by GALA Choruses on next steps of how to move forward in this process.

For more details about upcoming events and performances by the Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire, visit us at windycitysings.org.

ABOUT WINDY CITY GAY CHORUS AND WINDY CITY TREBLE QUIRE:

Incorporated in 1983, the Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire are the two choruses that operate under the Windy City Performing Arts non-profit umbrella and sing to inspire change, celebrate diversity and honor the dignity of the LGBTQ+ community.

Both choruses comprise four sections, which includes tenors (1 and 2), baritones and basses for the Gay Chorus; and, sopranos, mezzo-sopranos, and altos (1 and 2) for the Treble Quire.

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The separateness of the choruses and their ability to work together coupled with a high degree of technical ability creates an agility that is rare among the LGBTQ+ choral movement.

Each ensemble performs a variety of musical styles from classical to pop with a clear focus on musical excellence regardless of the style of music. The choruses have a long history of performing major choral works including commissioned pieces.

In September 2003, the ensembles made history by becoming the first choruses in a LGBTQ+ organization to sing the National Anthem at an Illinois professional sporting event, at the Chicago Free Press sponsored “Out at the Ballgame” day at U.S. Cellular Field, opening for the Chicago White Sox vs. Cleveland Indians game.

Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire have a rich and rewarding history that has continued to find our singers performing in a number of enriching venues, including the Steppenwolf and Redmoon Theatre companies, at the opening ceremonies of the modern wing of the Art Institute, and at Carnegie Hall as part of the Susan Komen Sing for the Cure project. Members of our choruses have most recently shared the stage with Hugh Jackman as part of his concert in Chicago, performed at Ravinia with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Marin Alsop, and appeared in January at a Chicago Bulls game to sing the U.S. National Anthem.

Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire are members of GALA Choruses.

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