

## WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE ARE DOING

*Every potential partner deserves to understand who Chorosynthesis is,  
where we have been, and where we are headed...*

### Vision & Ultimate Success.

The **vision** of Chorosynthesis is *to create a world where the choral art and its communities are thriving and preeminent*. We believe this vision is possible by connecting the highest level of choral performance and composition with the most important issues of our world and its communities.

### Values.

The core **values** (also known as the “Pillars of Success”) of Chorosynthesis are as follows: *Collaboration, Innovation, Sustainability, and Excellence*. The balance of these core pillars of success guides us in accomplishing our own mission and in creating models of success for other choral communities. It is our **goal** that we demonstrate and help illuminate innovative ways of achieving healthy success and forge the way for the ongoing advancement of the choral art.

### Mission & Goals.

Chorosynthesis Singers, an ensemble of Chorosynthesis, is a professional, project-based chamber choir with the mission of connecting excellent performances of high-quality compositions to the community by way of social consciousness and modern-day issues. For our next few projects, we seek to provide these quality performances of well-crafted new music with a social justice message or theme. Through these projects, we accomplish our mission while achieving the following goals:

- Engage with contemporary social justice issues by way of advocacy, artistic expression, and/or community. In this way, we provide possible bridges for connecting with community groups and alliances whose social causes may be directly or indirectly represented in the content of the art.
- Honor the craft of skilled composition and demonstrate a passion for new music. These projects allow modern composers with quality compositions (including texts and musical settings) an opportunity to have their work premiered or performed anew by a group of professional singers.
- Fill a void in the Seattle choral and social justice community. Currently Seattle-area community and church ensembles seek to address social justice issues by way of community music-making, but there is no known professional ensemble that focuses primarily on social justice messages. Composers sometimes NEED to write music that is more complex or challenging than what skilled amateurs can perform in order to fully depict what their compositional masterpiece demands. By providing a professional ensemble that performs music with a social justice theme, we give composers the freedom to write authentically and more innovatively, advancing both the composition and performance of choral music alongside the various causes that might be labeled “social justice.”

By accomplishing these goals, we are using the art of choral music to also connect with real issues in the greater community of Seattle, Washington state, and around the world. The fusion of the best choral

compositions with a social justice message and the utmost quality in performance of those compositions will provide a platform for transforming both the art of music and the hearts/minds of those who encounter this “missional” music.

## Strategic Vision.

When ultimate success is achieved, Chorosynthesis will have contributed to developing national awareness of the ways in which the choral art and its communities might broaden and deepen their understanding of **C**ollaboration, **I**nnovation, **S**ustainability, and **E**xcellence, and consequently, to the prominence and flourishing of the choral art in education, community, and professional contexts. We believe success is dependent on both collaborative dialogues from an idealistic standpoint and wisdom born out of hard labor from the trenches. For this reason, we seek to engage in conversations offered by research and conference presentations, as well as project-based endeavors, such as our the 2016-2017 season’s activities.

## Background.

The organization was conceived when Wendy and Jeremiah realized that some important issues of the day were not being addressed in the choral field. Chorosynthesis was formed in order to supplement and complement the work of other national choral organizations. From its conception, Chorosynthesis has sought to encourage the development of more music-minded businesspersons and more business-minded musicians. Bridging the gap between business and art, Chorosynthesis will effect the changes necessary to advance the choral art and fill the gaps not being fully addressed by other organizations. For this reason, the bulk of Chorosynthesis’ work is to redefine the way the musical community—particularly choirs—understand the role of innovation, collaboration, sustainability, and excellence within their individual contexts.

In its first six years, Chorosynthesis has organically identified several specific ideals around which dialogues and projects have taken place. The following are examples of those ideals and the actions that have ensued:

1. Chorosynthesis desires a change in the composing and publishing industry, where standards and true creativity help to drive the creation of choral music, not publisher marketing gimmicks.

**ACTION:** Jeremiah is recently served on a committee of people who are developing a system of national standards for evaluating education in the choral classroom, assessing the compositional integrity and skill level of repertoire, and creating a platform for ongoing accountability with publishers and composers of choral music.

**ACTION:** Jeremiah is actively engaging in choral composition and arranging.

2. Chorosynthesis seeks to bridge the gap between mission-based music and art music, bringing the best of both together in choral composition and performance.

**ACTION:** In March 2015, Chorosynthesis put out a Call for Scores for compositions of the

highest quality centered on the theme of Social Justice.

**ACTION:** In March 2016, Chorosynthesis Singers performed 10 premieres of high-quality choral works by living composers, all of which addressed themes of social justice (“Empowering Silenced Voices”).

**ACTION:** In January 2017, Chorosynthesis Singers will perform 17 high-quality choral works by living composers throughout Washington state—Tri-Cities, Washington, and Seattle—in a concert tour entitled “Empowering Silenced Voices.”

**ACTION:** In January 2017, Chorosynthesis Singers will record a double CD of some of these high-quality works—to be published by Centaur Records, Inc.

3. Chorosynthesis engages in broadening the understanding of collaboration.

**ACTION:** In its infancy, Jeremiah served on the Steering Committee for the founding of the Greater Seattle Choral Consortium, which aims to bring together for mutual benefit the choirs of the greater Seattle area. Jeremiah also helped draft the paperwork to apply for 501(c)3 status and instituted the master calendar document for cross-marketing Seattle area choirs.

**ACTION:** Chorosynthesis brought together 2 conductors, 16 singers, 2 churches, and 2 universities in an exquisite chamber performance of the Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem* in Seattle. By engaging in this collaboration, Chorosynthesis modeled innovation at all levels.

**ACTION:** Chorosynthesis sponsored networking events for Emerging Leaders at two national Chorus America conferences. Young conductors, arts leaders, and composers had the opportunity to meet one another and share ideas regarding the profession.

**ACTION:** Chorosynthesis presented *Enlarging the Circle: A Long-Term Investment in the Choral Art* at the 2011 National Association for Music Education regional Northwest conference.

**ACTION:** In June 2015, Chorosynthesis hosted a New Music Reading Session to solicit feedback from potential singers regarding selections from that Call for Scores. Most of Chorosynthesis Singers’ program in March 2016 came from scores submitted to the Call for Scores and evaluated in part by the singers at the reading session.

**ACTION:** In October 2015, Chorosynthesis executed a second reading session for future performances. These reading sessions also demonstrated an innovative form of collaboration in the selection of performance repertoire.

**ACTION:** In July 2016, Chorosynthesis hosted its third New Choral Music Reading Session at Seattle Pacific University. Not only was this a collaborative environment for singers, but it was also opened up to composers to Skype with us.

**ACTION:** In October 2016, Chorosynthesis will host its 4<sup>th</sup> New Choral Music Reading Session—in collaboration with the University of Washington School of Music. These reading sessions provide resources to the community and ask the community to use dialog as a form of collaboration and learning.

4. Chorosynthesis advocates for composers and performers in the innovation of the choral art.

**ACTION:** In November 2011, Chorosynthesis performed the Brahms' *Requiem* using Jeremiah's edited version of Brahms' own four-hands piano score and a chamber choir. This performance not only allowed for incredible transparency of the voices, particularly in the fugal sections, but also included the structure of a modified liturgy for All Souls' Day in which the structure of the seven movements of the *Requiem* took place—a truly uniquely innovative collaboration.

**ACTION:** Chorosynthesis regularly advocates for its composers by championing their works and helping composers find additional performances for their works. In 2017, we will be a part of sharing their work with the world by way of the internationally distributed CD "Empowering Silenced Voices" with Chorosynthesis Singers.

**ACTION:** Chorosynthesis Singers values the work of its singers by paying them for their time and covering their expenses when on tour. We believe in striving to make this art sustainable.

## **Role of the Organization in the Community**

Chorosynthesis Singers adds to the Seattle area's community of professional choral ensembles and yet we are distinct in the following ways:

1. We engage with relevant, social issues.
2. We encourage the development of new choral composition that is musically exemplary and extra-musically driven by community issues.

Our role in the community is that we empower, inspire, and advocate for music teachers, social justice leaders, and musical performers by way of our performances. We lead the way for these groups of people to do something similar in their own individual contexts. Additionally, because of our focus on social justice, we are able to partner with local organizations to find ways to advance their cause (e.g., the Brahms' *Requiem* Project).

Chorosynthesis performers are not only expected to be top-notch, but also to be supportive of the mission of the organization. This allows the "joy factor" (beyond merely getting paid) to be present in the rehearsal and performance process and significantly impacts the way the performances are received.

Music is the common language that tells the stories of our community, encouraging our audience to find relevance in and connection to what we sing with events from their own lives, bringing us closer together. Chorosynthesis staff fulfill Chorosynthesis' mission by engaging in projects consistent with its values and goals. Additionally, Chorosynthesis Singers contributes to the success of the mission by providing excellence in artistic expression, performing topics that interact with the community, and inspiring social interaction through public concerts. In addition to being both an ambassador and a gathering place for the musical and social justice communities, Chorosynthesis also changes lives through the performance

of significant music. Our repertory of choral music stretches and transforms both performers and audiences artistically and humanly.

## **How Your Partnership Helps Chorosynthesis.**

Our staff and Board donate all of their time to the mission/vision of Chorosynthesis. Equally, the Artistic Directors choose to donate back their entire salaries back however, Chorosynthesis prioritizes paying our other performers and providing the best possible performances by way of quality venues, recordings, etc. Any form of partnership with the organization allows us to further our work in creating a world where choral music is relevant and where humanity is confronted with art that has the power to transform. Join us to help us further our impact on the world.

## **Conclusion.**

Chorosynthesis uniquely blends social justice and community with professional choral music performance and the advancement of choral composition. We seek partners who resonate with this distinct unity and balance. Supporters will be contributing to the development of quality choral composition, excellent performances, and thoughtful interactions with messages involving equality, peace, and/or justice.