



# THE WASHINGTON CHORUS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **CHRISTOPHER BELL**

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## The Washington Chorus names Stephen Marc Beaudoin as new Executive Director

Beaudoin, who brings over 16 years of leadership experience, most recently served as Executive Director of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Washington Chorus’s Board of Directors announced today that **Stephen Marc Beaudoin** has been named as the next Executive Director of the organization. Beaudoin will assume his new position on February 4, 2019. He succeeds interim Executive Director Rita Shapiro. Immediately prior to The Washington Chorus, Beaudoin served as Executive Director of the Maryland Symphony Orchestra in Hagerstown, MD. Beaudoin, a current member of The Washington Chorus’s tenor section, will work closely with Artistic Director Christopher Bell to guide the direction of The Washington Chorus as it approaches its 60<sup>th</sup> season.

“All my life I have been advocating for music and creative expression as essential tools for social impact and change,” said Beaudoin. “I’m honored and thrilled by the opportunity to serve as Executive Director of The Washington Chorus, which is poised to serve an even more central role in the cultural, educational, and civic life of D.C. and the surrounding region. I’m delighted to be collaborating with the inimitable Christopher Bell, as well as our entire board, staff, singers, and community of supporters, and look forward to making meaningful connections through singing together for years to come.”

“I’m delighted that Stephen has accepted the position of Executive Director at The Washington Chorus,” said Bell. “His unique combination of skills across the board and his proven success throughout his career provides exactly what the organization needs at this moment. In talking with Stephen about TWC I felt a real synergy, and I’m looking forward to exciting times ahead.”

“The Board of The Washington Chorus could not be happier with the appointment of Stephen Beaudoin as our next Executive Director,” commented Christopher Denby, Chairman of the Board of The Washington Chorus. “In partnership with our amazing new Artistic Director, Christopher Bell, the two will make a formidable leadership team who will no doubt take The Washington Chorus to new heights as one of the leading symphonic choruses in the country and a vital member of Washington, D.C.’s vibrant arts culture. We are honored to have as our new ED someone with his deep, career-long experience running and growing artistic organizations across the country and who has had such enormous impact on the communities he has served.”

At the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Beaudoin collaborated with the Board and staff to lead a significant financial turnaround and realignment; increased subscriptions and drove record earned and contributed revenue growth; developed and launched new artistic initiatives (including commissions from composers Michael Daugherty and Michael Brown) and audience development programs; and led

the Orchestra through its first-ever recording project, a world premiere work by composer Chris Brubeck in collaboration with multiple Grammy award winning guitarist Sharon Isbin, recorded at The Music Center at Strathmore.

Prior to his role with the Maryland Symphony, Beaudoin served seven years as Executive Director of PHAME, an innovative Oregon nonprofit serving artists and musicians with intellectual or developmental disabilities and working to build a more inclusive creative world. Through his leadership, PHAME experienced extraordinary financial, programmatic, and social impact growth, leading to marquee artistic collaborations, a robust sustainable business model, and leadership in arts equity and inclusion recognized across the state and the country.

Beaudoin's additional professional experience includes serving as Vice Chair and then Chair as a publicly-elected member of the Board for Multnomah Education Service District, an \$80 million public education agency serving more than 100,000 Multnomah County students; and as Assistant Director of The Fenway Alliance, a regional collective of arts, education, and human service not-for-profit organizations expanding cultural access and community engagement in Boston's Fenway Cultural District. Beaudoin currently serves on the Executive Council of the national Composer Diversity Project, which works to increase representation of historically oppressed and under-represented peoples in classical music.

Beaudoin has performed as a vocalist with Pink Martini on tour and in recordings, as well as with the Portland Cello Project, Trinity Consort, Fear No Music, Opera Boston, and many more ensembles. He serves as a strategic advisor and board member of the HMF Beaudoin Family Foundation, and is an honors alum of Boston's New England Conservatory, where he earned a degree in Vocal Performance.

### **About The Washington Chorus**

Under the direction of Christopher Bell, The Washington Chorus (TWC), now in its 58th season, is one of the foremost symphonic choruses in the nation. Noted for the superb artistry of its performances and recordings of the entire range of the choral repertoire, TWC is widely recognized as a cultural leader in the nation's capital.

A three-time nominated and two-time Grammy Award winner, the 160-voice Washington Chorus presents an annual subscription series at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, regularly performs at the invitation of the National Symphony Orchestra, and is frequently featured in other venues such as the Music Center at Strathmore in Maryland and Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in Virginia.

TWC has the distinction of being the first major Washington area chorus to be founded independent of a church or college. Hugh Hayward—a medical doctor, NIH research scientist, and classically trained musician—founded the chorus in 1961 as the Oratorio Society of Montgomery County. This ensemble, which became known as the Oratorio Society of Washington, is now celebrated under the name of The Washington Chorus. In 1971, Robert Shafer succeeded Hugh Hayward as music director, and he led the chorus for more than three decades with great distinction, including Grammy Awards in 1996 and 2000.

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