



NORTHWEST BOYCHOIR
& VOCALPOINT! SEATTLE

April 6, 2022

Dear Northwest Choirs Families, Alumni and Supporters,

Joseph Crnko
Music Director

Maria Johnson
Executive Director

In 1984, as a favor to a friend, I assumed the temporary leadership role with the Northwest Choirs. At that time I had no idea that I was accepting a position I would enjoy for the next 38 years, nor that the job would become my life's work. It is with mixed emotions that I am announcing my decision to retire. Over these many years I have been blessed to work with the most amazing young people, an incredible staff, enthusiastically supporting board members and hundreds of wonderful families who have made this an absolutely magical journey.

This is a decision I've been pondering for more than a year. I have gone back and forth, not wanting to walk away from this organization that I dearly love. But one cannot halt the progression of time, and the truth is that I am no longer able to bring the energy to this position that is needed to sustain and improve our artistic mission. It is time to literally pass the baton!

This is the best news! I am thrilled to see my dear friend and colleague, Jacob Winker, move into the role of Music Director of the Northwest Choirs. Jacob was in the Boychoir when I took over and at an early age displayed significant musical talent. I had the pleasure of watching him mature from the time he entered Performing Choir through the end of his Vocalpoint career. Jacob joined our music staff in 1994, while a music student at the University of Washington. He worked directly with the Performing Choir for more than 15 years as my assistant until 2009, when he accepted the position as Artistic Director of the Seattle Girls Choir. Throughout this entire time Jacob has maintained his role as Staff Instructor with Vocalpoint, and has been a key player in this ensemble's continued success. He is an excellent musician and a top-tier educator. His wealth of knowledge and deep connections to the Northwest Choirs make him the perfect person to take over the musical helm of this wonderful organization.

Words cannot adequately express my gratitude to all of the people who have given so much to the Northwest Boychoir and Vocalpoint during my tenure. I want to express my deepest thanks to Maria Johnson, who works tirelessly on behalf of this organization. She has been a true friend and a valued colleague. Her presence in my daily life will be deeply missed.

I'm a person who believes that change is good. I am confident that the future of the Northwest Choirs is in excellent hands. I'm excited to see what our wonderful groups will accomplish next!

Sincerely,


Joseph Crnko