

April 6, 2022

Dear Choristers, Parents, Alumni and Supporters of Northwest Choirs:

After nearly four decades of selfless service to our community, Joseph Crnko has decided it is time to retire from his duties as Music Director as of April 30.

Joe has asked for a minimum of pomp and circumstance around his retirement, and we will respect that. Besides, our words could not come close to expressing the gratitude, admiration and respect we feel for Joe, nor can they fully describe his positive impact on our choristers, families, friends and arts community.

So we make this brief announcement, knowing its readers share our deep appreciation. The greatest thing we can do in support of Joe is to meet the vision he shares in his attached letter.

Fundamental to Joe's vision is the future success, growth, and evolution of the Northwest Boychoir and Vocalpoint! Seattle. Our Board has approved a go-forward plan and is pleased to announce the appointment of Jacob Winkler as our next Music Director. Jake is an alum of the Northwest Boychoir & Vocalpoint and well known to our community. Jake served on the staff of the Northwest Choirs for twenty years as an accompanist and instructor, advancing to the position of Associate Music Director before joining the Seattle Girls Choir in 2009 as their Artistic Director.

We feel so fortunate to be associated with this wonderful organization, and recognize Joe's indispensable contributions to it. We also feel fortunate to have a clear path forward that we can undertake with confidence.

Joe is beginning an exciting new phase in retirement. He will do so with our complete support and warmest wishes. If you'd like to express your own appreciation, feel free to address any cards or notes to the Choirs' office. Please join us in thanking Joe and his family, wishing them well, and working toward an even greater future for Northwest Boychoir and Vocalpoint!

Very Truly Yours,

Maria Johnson, Executive Director

Northwest Choirs

Mark Man Non

Mark Gargett, President Northwest Choirs Board of Directors