



CATHEDRAL
CHORAL
SOCIETY

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

3101 Wisconsin Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20016

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September 24, 2024

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CATHEDRAL CHORAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Washington, D.C. – Sarah Holmes, President of the Board of Trustees of the Cathedral Choral Society, announced the forthcoming departure of the chorus’s executive director, Dr. Christopher Eanes. Eanes will depart following the opening concert of the season, Brahms’ *Requiem*. On November 1st, he will become President & CEO of **Chorus America**, the national advocacy and membership organization for choruses throughout North America.

Ms. Holmes stated, “Chris Eanes has led the Cathedral Choral Society with a keen strategic vision, dedication to excellence, and a deep passion for collaboration across the arts. We will miss his leadership greatly, yet we celebrate his many contributions to our organization, and the opportunities he now faces.

Dr. Eanes came to CCS in 2019 and quickly reoriented the organization to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. In his time at CCS, Eanes oversaw the creation and implementation of a strategic plan focused heavily on access, diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as a re-branding of the organization and substantial investment in expanded programming and collaboration. During his tenure, working alongside Music Director Steven Fox, the organization was nominated for GRAMMY Award, and offered collaborations with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Ballet, Pershing’s Own U.S. Army Blues, the Washington Bach Consort, and more. Together, Eanes & Fox launched the multi-year I, Too, Sing America initiative in partnership with the Heritage Signature Chorale. Under Eanes’ leadership, ticket sales have consistently outpaced national post-COVID trends.

Steven Fox, music director of the Cathedral Choral Society, noted the following: “At the same time as we are sad to see Chris moving on from Cathedral Choral Society, we are also thrilled for him and for this extraordinary new chapter in his career. Chris is a natural leader and has been an ideal executive director for CCS. He has built a first rate staff and board that will continue to lead the organization to new heights and will always be a part of his legacy. Personally, I am grateful for the partnership Chris and I had over five seasons together. We hit it off right away, and I only felt our

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working relationship, and friendship, strengthen throughout these years. I learned a tremendous amount from him and have grown from our collaboration.”

The Cathedral Choral Society has assembled a transition team and will name an interim executive director in the coming weeks.

ABOUT THE CATHEDRAL CHORAL SOCIETY

As Washington, DC’s oldest symphonic chorus, the GRAMMY-nominated Cathedral Choral Society sets the standard for vibrant, engaging concerts in the nation’s capital. Each season, CCS presents mainstage concerts at its home, Washington National Cathedral, inviting concertgoers on exciting musical journeys that reflect the rich diversity of musical traditions in our local community and throughout our nation. The aims of the chorus are to invite more people into the art of choral singing, elevate emerging voices, and steward the art for future generations.

Since its inaugural performance of Verdi’s Requiem in 1942 at the outset of the Second World War, CCS has performed in times of national celebration and in times of mourning. The chorus has performed with some of the most extraordinary musicians of the last century, including Robert Shaw, Marin Alsop, Leonard Slatkin, Dominick Argento, John Rutter, Dave Brubeck, J’nai Bridges, and more. In collaboration with New York’s Clarion Music and the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, CCS was nominated for a 2021 GRAMMY Award for its recording of Alexander Kastalsky’s Requiem for Fallen Brothers.

CCS has embarked on numerous other collaborations, often with today’s finest performing ensembles. These have included the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Atlanta Ballet, the Washington Bach Consort, Kansas City Chorale, Washington Ballet, and more. A multi-year collaboration with the Heritage Signature Chorale, called I, Too, Sing America, has resulted in performances and documentary videos – available on CCS’s YouTube channel - and will culminate in a concert of new commissions from African American composers in 2026. The Cathedral Choral Society is heavily invested in fostering emerging voices by regularly commissioning up-and-coming composers and featuring outstanding young soloists.



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CCS offers educational opportunities through ongoing partnerships and digital initiatives. An annual High School Choir Festival brings more than 200 students from around the region together for a day of learning and singing together; 2025 will mark the 18th annual festival.

The Cathedral Choral Society was founded by the Cathedral's music director Paul Callaway in 1941, just days before the United States entered World War II. Since that time, only two other music directors have led the chorus: J. Reilly Lewis from 1985 to 2016, and, since 2018, Steven Fox.

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