

October 27, 2008

To Our Princeton Girlchoir Families:

Earlier this fall, the Princeton Girlchoir Board of Directors received notice that Founder and Artistic Director Janet A. Westrick intends to step down in July 2009 at the conclusion of the organization's 20th season. While we received this news with sadness, the Board fully understands and supports Ms. Westrick's desire to have more time to devote to personal interests.

Ms. Westrick will continue her leadership of the Concert Choir and its select Ensemble throughout the remainder of the 20th season. She is also looking forward to taking her choir on their annual summer tour before shifting into an advisory capacity as Artistic Director *emerita*.

It is the responsibility of the Board to assure smooth transitions in times of change, and we are very confident in our ability to do so. Past Board President Lorraine Seabrook is chairing a ten-person Search Committee and they are in the process of conducting a national search for Ms. Westrick's successor. The committee plans to recommend an excellent candidate to the Board for approval by April 2009. A complete list of committee members and their biographical information may be found on our website, princetongirlchoir.org.

By all measures, the Princeton Girlchoir has flourished under Ms. Westrick's leadership. What she founded in 1989 as an after-school activity for a small number of middle school girls has since grown into the area's premier girls' choral training and performance organization. There are currently over 200 choristers ages 8 to 18 in five auditioned choirs. The organization's alumnae number almost 400 young women, many of whom continue to sing in their schools, churches, communities, and on stages around the world. The bottom line is that Princeton Girlchoir is thriving and will continue to do so.

The partnership between our parent body and the Girlchoir has never been stronger. We enjoy a stellar reputation both locally and within the broader world of the choral community. Because of Ms. Westrick's high standards, our organization enjoys a well-earned reputation for performing choral music of the highest caliber, covering all genres and periods. We are proud of our active collaborations with noted composers, conductors, and musical organizations throughout the world. The choristers we serve are remarkable girls and young women who inspire us with their confidence, character, and love of making music together. We believe we will have little difficulty in attracting an excellent successor who will welcome the opportunity to work with our organization.

As part of our effort to publicize this opportunity, we have created a document that details our organization, outlines the job description and requirements, and states our timeline of action. The full Opportunity Statement can be found on our website. Please encourage anyone you know who might be interested in this position to review the statement. If you know of someone with whom we should be in touch, please contact any member of our Search Committee.

The Board is grateful to Ms. Westrick for giving us ample time to conduct a proper search. We thank her for creating, nurturing, and strengthening the excellence of Princeton Girlchoir, and we wish her all the best as she embarks on the next chapter of her life.

Sincerely,

Vicki H. Krampf
President, Board of Directors

Lorraine M. Seabrook
Chair, Search Committee