



April 1, 2017

NEW CONDUCTOR ANNOUNCEMENT

The board and staff of Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs are thrilled to announce the hiring of Rachel Lucius as Conductor of our Cantabile Choir, singers in grades 4-6, and Michelle Gehrz as Conductor of the Con Brio Choir, grades 2-4. Both conductors will join the artistic staff at the beginning of the 2017-18 concert season, concurrent with Elizabeth Egger's transition from Con Brio to Concert Choir.

Rachel Lucius, who will assume leadership of the Cantabile choir in September, is a K-6 vocal and general music teacher at Rahn Elementary School of Arts & Technology in Eagan. Rachel holds a B.A. in Vocal Music Education from St. Olaf College, and an M.A. in Music Education from the University of St. Thomas. She served for eight seasons on the artistic staff of Northfield Youth Choirs, directing young singers at many grade levels. Rachel is currently in Finland for five months where she is studying Children's Choirs on a Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching grant, working closely with the Tapiola and Vox Aurea youth choirs.

Last month, **Ann Schrooten**, announced her departure as Cantabile Conductor at the end of this season. Ann has directed Cantabile since 2006. A recent expansion in her role on the staff at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis has led her to bid us farewell.

Michelle Gehrz, who will assume leadership of the Con Brio choir, is now in her fifth year as music instructor in Wayzata's Birchview Elementary School. She brings to our youngest singers her experience as a classroom teacher in Wayzata and Stillwater. Michelle earned her B.M. in Music Education from St. Olaf College, an M.M. in Organ Performance and Literature from the University of Notre Dame, and an M.A. in Music Education from the University of St. Thomas. Michelle directs the Women of Song adult choir in Wayzata and has appeared as organist and/or choir director at many Twin Cities area churches.

Elizabeth Egger, will move from Con Brio choir to Concert Choir, as **Nancy Grundahl** retires after 25 years of directing our 6-8 grade singers. Nancy will continue to conduct Angelica's adult Encore Choir, whose members include alumni singers and friends.

For updates and further information contact Audrey Riddle, Executive Director at angelicayouthchoirs@gmail.com or by calling the office at 952-563-8572.

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